



المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO  
Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)  
Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



## *Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO* *Annual Report 2006*

*This report covers the period January to December 2006*



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



## About this Report

The Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO Annual Report for the period 2006 documents PHRO's carried activities and initiatives within its 6 programs' areas. It reflects PHRO's efforts in monitoring and documenting human rights violations that Palestinians experienced throughout this year. Also, the report presents PHRO's educational and raising awareness actions in the field of human rights and other related themes such as conflict resolution, good governance, dialogue ...etc. Moreover, it updates PHRO's information regarding research topics taking place and its potential aims. Furthermore, it spots the light on the advocacy, dialogue and legal aid schemes and presents their results, effects and the potential plans for auxiliary achievements. PHRO's Annual Report 2006 consists of 50 Pages and its presentation will be taking place in 3 Sections accordingly:

- Section 1: Introductory and includes a brief definition about the PHRO, the Organization's Preface and Acknowledgment
- Section 2: Programs Overview
- Section 3: Financial Statement

## Who we are?

The Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO is an independent Human Rights NGO working for defending the rights of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. PHRO raises the awareness of the Palestinian Refugees as to their rights in the international law and encourages the community to translate this knowledge into legitimate peaceful campaign to obtain recognition of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in Lebanon. PHRO is a staunch supporter of UN Resolution 194, and appeals for the international pressure on Israel until Resolution 194 is implemented and the occupation of the Palestinian territories ends.



PHRO was established in 1997 to address the human rights situation of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. Starting from 4 February 2006, and under the registration no. 36/AD, the PHRO became an NGO OFFICIALLY recognized in Lebanon.

PHRO's initiatives are carried out on local, national, regional, and international levels. Where as our main objectives are:



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- to raise awareness among the Palestinian Refugees communities with their Human Rights and peaceful means of civil struggle (Dialogue, Conflict Prevention, Good Governance ..etc) in order to enhance the structural development amongst the community
- to conduct researches on Palestinian Refugees situations in Lebanon and other hosting countries
- to advocate for the improvement of the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon
- to provide legal aid for Palestinian Refugees

The PHRO works to raise the profile of the Palestinian Refugees, to address the discrimination against them and to raise the awareness of human rights principles amongst both the refugee and host communities.

PHRO's work is based on the declarations relevant to the International Human Rights Conventions, namely International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), The Association Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Lebanon, and on UN Resolution 194 which calls for the Right of Return.

PHRO is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN).



# المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



## *Table of Content*

ORGANIZATION'S PREFACE .....	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	8
I. RESEARCH, MONITORING & DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS .....	10
II. EDUCATION & RAISING AWARENESS .....	18
III. ADVOCACY.....	26
IV. DIALOGUE .....	36
V. LEGAL RESEARCH & AID.....	41
VI. NETWORKING PARTICIPATION .....	45
VII. CONCLUSIONS .....	46
VIII. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 .....	48



المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



## Organization's Preface

This year as well and as an introduction for PHRO's 2006 Annual Report, I hereby briefly introduce to your attention the circumstances that we have passed through and experienced during this blistering year.

As Lebanon, and as each section in Lebanon, the PHRO greatly experienced the vast tension that endured the country as well as the most muddled cycles that the country lived and still. Lebanon in 2006 has been in the headlines of the world's news. The events that raved the country have been numerous and full with human rights violations. In 2006, the terrorist series of assassinations and bombardments continued to take place.

Also, Lebanon this year had a very complicated summer due to the 33 war days (from 12 July to 14 August) between Israel and Hezbollah, where cease fire was achieved by UN Security Council Resolution No.1701.

One of the consequences that directly affected the organization during this war was the forced stay of Mr. Mohammad El-Najjar (Researcher and Legal Aid Program Coordinator) in Malta since the war erupted few days before his trip back to Lebanon from the summer school training course that he was attending with University of Malta, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)

Due to this emergency, PHRO had to find the suitable funds that support its member's forced stay, which was prolonged until 11 September 2006, as well as find a safe and possible evacuation methodology to return to his family.

We have not forget that last year was hectic as well, and with this regards, I remember that PHRO members agreed that nothing could prevent us from enduring our missionary objectives. Yes, if "war occurred", our priorities could change, we could be delayed and hindered in some stages, but all the members especially the staff ones will show insistence and all together will achieve our goals. This was revealed last year, and experience in 2006 showed how much strong the PHRO is and how its members continued to work for better human rights even under siege and bombardments.

As a follow up to threats incidents that PHRO received in 2005, I should mention that these threats continued to take place in early 2006. Despite that, we filed a lawsuit where investigations took place, however, till now we do not have any clues about what is going to happen! This leads us to think seriously about which parties are standing behind intimidating and threatening us, and what are their linkages with the Lebanese Judiciary System and how they are effecting its decisions.

On a different context, it is noteworthy to mention that on 4 February 2006, the PHRO received its official registration, as an NGO in

Lebanon. According to the Lebanese Laws, the Minister of Interior Affairs and Municipalities affirmed the registration that holds the



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



number 36/AD. Starting from here, PHRO can now officially hold its General Assembly Meetings and organize elections for the Board

Members where as the first General Assembly and Board Elections should take place at latest in February 2007.

Since we became registered, then it should befall legal to have an organization's bank account, however several obstacles and difficulties took place. Directly after officially receiving the registration affirmation and after it has been published in Lebanon's Official Gazette, we directly started the procedures in order to get a bank account in the name of the Palestinian Human Rights Organization – PHRO. We were astonished by the restrictions that we faced not in a single bank but in numerous ones. Each time we check for the procedure cycle, we get informed that there is no legal hindrance that prevents opening the account, but the higher administration department shall take the decision after the legal one gives its opinion. Within this perspective, PHRO struggled from March until end of September 2006 when finally we received an approval, but in mysterious circumstances. Such dilemma led to delays in receiving our funds, which was an additional factor that delayed the conductance of some activities, or approving some partnerships with local NGOs and Centers.

Another obstacle that PHRO undergone this year was the arbitrary detention of the PHRO Member, Mr. Edward Kattoura, who plays and active role in the Dialogue Program, in Jordan at one of the Intelligence Apparatus Prisons. Mr. Kattoura was visiting the country in a private business where he has legally entered the Jordanian territories according to a visa that was issued by the Jordanian Authorities, where he spent almost a week there. Where as, during his way back to Lebanon, on 2 November 2006, via the Queen Alia International Airport, and after he finished all the departure-checking procedures and went into the plane, soldiers from the intelligence went into the aircraft and asked him to get down where he was arrested and then detained without even knowing what is the reason behind such action.

During his detention period that last for 22 days, the PHRO member was investigated about his relations in Lebanon, the Palestinian Territories in addition to his opinion about the recent situations in Lebanon. PHRO carried out an extensive action in defending the rights of its member and asked for the high level intervention at the local, regional and international concerned bodies especially those who defend the Human Rights Activists and protect detainees from Torture. PHRO's efforts were fruitful, but until now, neither him nor we get to know the real reasons that stand behind such detention circumstances, despite we asked for it!

Mr. Kattoura was not accused by any thing and also not a single explanation about why this happened took place!!!

As I said at the beginning of my foreword, 2006 held enormous incidents that shed it heavy burdens





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



on our performance, but in general we are still and will continue acting for better human rights for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon and we hope that the upcoming years will be enhanced at all the levels. Next year the PHRO will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I hope that by that time better situation could be achieved. We hope that programs that were run within our organization for the year 2006 had sufficiently contributed to the human rights march that is still so long ....

**Ghassan S. Abdallah**  
**PHRO General Director**



# المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



## *Acknowledgement*

PHRO would like to extend its gratitude to all the networks, organizations, and individuals who have supported our activities, accredited and appreciated our initiatives and over all expressed their solidarity with us during experiencing the intimidations and threats. In addition, the PHRO extends its gratitude to who have financially and morally supported the forced stay of our member in Malta as well as whom interfered and defended our member who was detained in Jordan

Within this context, we would like to express sincere thanks to:

- Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) – Copenhagen Secretariat and Brussels office
- International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH)
- The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)
- University of Malta, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)
- The National Center of Human Rights in Amman – Jordan
- International Red Cross – Lebanon & Jordan Offices
- Human Rights Watch – Lebanon & Jordan Offices
- EU Embassies in Lebanon especially the Embassy of the Netherlands, Embassy of France and the EU-Delegation to Lebanon

Further frank gratitude is extended to:

- Ambassador Khalil Mekkawi – President of the Lebanese Governmental Committee to Dialogue with Palestinians
- Mr. Richard Cook – Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon
- Mrs. Sylvia Hadad – Director of the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services (JCC)
- Mr. Kamal El-Batal – Director of Multi-Initiative on Rights: Search, Assist and Defend (MIRSAD)
- Mr. Omar Gregh - University of Malta, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC)
- Minister Shaher Bak, Commissioner of the National Center of Human Rights in Amman
- Mrs. Natasha Shawarib – Board Member of Sisterhood is Global

And continued to our Donors and contributors for this year

- Ford Foundation
- Global Ministries Uniting Protestant Churches in the Netherlands (Kerkinactie)
- Embassy of the Netherlands in Lebanon
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- European Union and the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR)  
– AFKAR PROJECT
- The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF)
- PHRO members and the Incorporeal Personalities

Finally yet importantly, PHRO extend its gratefulness to the honor of:

- The councilor sections representatives at the EU and Arab Embassies in Lebanon who facilitated issuing the visas for the PHRO members who conducted advocacy missions and attended different meetings and conferences in the international and regional countries
- All local, regional and international NGOs who dedicated their time to meet with PHRO especially with regards to its Advocacy initiatives
- To all who follow up on our news and dedicate time to read our reports and publications

PHRO cordially thanks the Palestinian Refugees who always support PHRO's initiatives on democracy and building inclusive civil structures in addition to minor Palestinian political Parties representatives who expressed their solidarity with us during the intimidations and threats time and did not accept to be accused with such complaints.

*Where as we express our apologies in advance if other names  
were descend due to over sightedness*



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



### **I. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

As in 2005, this year as well, monitoring and documenting human rights violations program did not have the sufficient funds to cover all the Palestinian Camps and Gatherings over the Lebanese territories. Four monitors including the unit's coordinator who was covering the area “Beirut and Mountain Lebanon” in addition to several volunteers were holding the monitoring actions where they succeeded to document 55 cases, which exceeded the number of cases documented last year by 13, despite being unable to document individual cases of violations during the war time, nevertheless, a general monitoring for the violations during that time was documented

#### **1-CONSULTATION AND BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS:**

In order to ease the analysis process for the potential documented violations, the PHRO has planned to establish a computerized data base that could be used for data entry about the discussed violations as well as could be an electronic indicator that we could refer to when reporting about these violations. Such data base is considered an essential internal resource which could be developed later on to the public access in order to view the detailed circumstances of the violation and how did it take place, taking into consideration not to violate the cases' privacy as well.

In order to design it out, the PHRO conducted several consultation meetings with experts in introducing the process and meaning of monitoring and documenting violations whom contributed a lot to the content of this planned out data base especially if special links could be created that directly analyze what rights were violated in according with the International Human Rights Bill.

Starting from February 2006 and continued to June, 6 group consultations took place in the following areas: Beirut, Saida, Tyre and Tripoli. These group consultations took place in the form of brainstorming sessions and which targeted PHRO monitors and monitoring volunteers at the targeted area in addition to activists within youth centers, especially those who previously had benefited from PHRO trainings on monitoring and documenting violations, in addition to representatives from the targeted camps and whom are aware about violations taking place. Each group consultation session addresses between 18 and 20 participants from different ages in order to stand on the maximum kinds of violations that several groups amongst the community (youth, women, children ...) is subjected to. It is essential to mention that these sessions' participants were from the males and females amongst the Palestinian community in Lebanon and it addressed several topics where we all consider it violations such as (domestic violence, children abuse and child soldiers, armed conflicts in the camps and their advanced consequent violations ...).

Within the same context, and for much efficiency, the computerised data base programmer attended most of the groups' brain storming sessions in order to get the specific knowledge that assist him in conducting this work where he will be providing the training on how to use this data base when finished and update it when there is a necessity.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



It is crucial to mention that consultation meetings did not take place on groups' level only. Several meetings in the form of updating the methodologies we use in monitoring violations and documenting in order to keep tracking essential renovations within this field took place as well.

### **2- 2006 VIOLATIONS BRIEFING - THE GENERAL LEVEL**

Through analyzing the documented violations especially when comparing them to previously documented ones in 2005, 2004 and 2003, we distinguished that violations are similar in type, however, the rate of violent behavior is accelerating.

The crime conductance within the Palestinian communities in Lebanon is increasing and highly hasten. Hereby we mention that 2006 monitored cases included a remarkable number of thefts, prevalence of drug abuse, family disintegration, misuse of weapons, psychological complexities and even more.

It is important to mention that PHRO do not investigate upon each single case, however, PHRO uses several methodologies with its monitors and the victims in order to exactly indicate the violation that took place. Within this context, PHRO depends on building the capacity of its monitors especially in means of monitoring and documenting violations. Also, the PHRO benefits from the wide contacts with representatives from the camps whom could inform about violations taking place and request the humanitarian interference.

The underneath briefing illustrates the types of violations that were documented by PHRO's monitoring Unit:

- Domestic violence against children and women is increasing due to lack of adequate living conditions and the advanced deterioration in the economic situation
- Drinking water pollution in some camps was witnessed this year and lead to the poisonous and sickness for a number of people especially at Naher El-Bared and Ain El-Hilweh Camps
- Drugs addiction amongst the youth in the camps is picking up the pace, even more, this fact started to be accompanied with crimes conductance as murdering and theft
- Restriction on entering building materials to southern camps is still taking place. On another level, but within the same context, several cases were monitored where the Lebanese Internal Forces interfered and demolished sections that Palestinian refugees build in front their houses or within it such as balconies, kitchens...etc. Note that these cases took place in gatherings<sup>1</sup> and not in camps
- Sometimes, alerts amongst Palestinian armed political factions in the camps, in particular Ain El-Hilweh Camp, led to preventing people from entering or exiting the camp, which is considered

<sup>1</sup> Camps are located on pieces of lands that are rented by UNRWA however, gatherings are not



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



an illegal restriction on the right to free movement. Several armed clashes inside the camps took place, particularly between Fateh Movement and some fundamentalist Militias such as Jound El-Sham, Osbat El-Ansar ..., which led to several casualties and loss in property. It also stimulated fears amongst camps 'inhabitants as well as generates instability

- The results of the elections that took place in the Palestinian Territories and the afterwards tension between Hamas and the PLO reflected itself negatively on Palestinians refugees in Lebanon especially on economic, social, and health sectors particularly when blockade was imposed on PLO budgets. This led the PLO political parties in Lebanon to stop paying the salaries of their members/soldiers for several months on which the later are dependent on it. This caused a case of rumble amongst them, which led to an instance of shops theft amongst several camps. Also, some hospitals put an end to accepting the medical transmission guarantied by PLO due to fear of deficit
- UNRWA's medical budget do not cover all kinds of diseases and thus not all treatment features can be covered by UNRWA which causes turmoil amongst the refugees whom can not succeed in collecting the supporting money. One case of suicide was monitored since she cannot afford to pay her treatment expenses.
- The disintegration among families, aggressiveness, and violence within communities is ever-escalating leading to psychological complexities amongst families and their individuals

Ordinarily, and through monitoring the general circumstances and conditions in the country, in particular those related to the Palestinian Refugees, PHRO perceives that:

- **The absence of a Unified Political Reference**, the **armed conflicts** that occurred in the camps – especially Ain El Hilweh Camp – in addition to the **noticed growth in the Extremists and Fundamentalists**, all are directing towards more complexities with the Palestinian Community and considered to be continuous violations.
- Add to this, the maintained violations taking place from the hosting country “Lebanon” starting from the non-stopped discrimination against the Palestinians in Laws that prohibit Palestinian Refugees from “owning property, working, benefiting from the social security, ...” and continued to treat Palestinian Refugees as foreigners, where as they do not benefit from foreigners laws due to the "Reciprocity Policy clause"

However, on the affirmative level of monitoring, the PHRO highly considers the Lebanese government initiative in permitting the reopening of the PLO representative office in Lebanon and the government's correspondences, communication and dialogue with this office in an attempt to solve some of the Palestinians' problems.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



Also, the PHRO decidedly appreciated and welcomed the Ministers' visit to the Palestinian Camps which was conducted in the second semester of 2006, and hopes that such visit will have fruitful results in improving the living conditions at the camps to meet the adequate standards

As well, PHRO appreciates the efforts of the Ministerial Committee to Dialogue with the Palestinian which is headed by the Ambassador Khalil Mekkawi and this committee's efforts and collaboration activities that it undertaken in 2006 in order to improve the situations of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon especially the Non-Identified category amongst them, where we had extensive cooperation between each others.

Furthermore, the PHRO looks with deep appreciation at the Prime Minister, Mr. Foud Siniora initiative in:

- Canceling the decision about obliterating Palestinian Refugees records in case they got other nationalities and his orders to return into records those who were removed as an implication to the decision.
- Permitting the foreign nationals who are from Palestinian origins to own property in Lebanon, which they were previously prohibited from in a contradiction with the law

### **3- 2006 VIOLATIONS BRIEFING – THE PARTICULAR LEVEL**

The summer war (July – August 2006) highly marked Lebanon's 2006 year with violations. Being a human rights organization, the PHRO was deeply concerned about such catastrophic situation, which was highlighted by the crucial escalation on the level of human rights violations namely the wide- scale killing of civilians, destruction of civilian property and infrastructure, methods of collective punishment, and the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and security situation.

The PHRO documented the first 15 days war violations (12 – 27 July 2006) in 23 pages report titled **"Lebanon Crisis ... Israel Severe Breaches to the International Law"**

This report reflects the humanitarian situations in Lebanon under the Israeli continuous Assault and provides a legal analysis to the International Humanitarian Law violations conducted by the Israeli Military Forces through its attacks on Lebanon, which have severely irritated the humanitarian situations. The report reflects as well the numerous losses in the civil population, civil property and infrastructure and provides statistical figures about the deterioration in the humanitarian circumstances in the country.

**"Lebanon Crisis ... Israel Severe Breaches to the International Law"** aims to provide an overview about the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon relevant to the Israeli violations to the International Human Rights Declarations and Conventions especially the International Humanitarian Law with its four Geneva Conventions and their related protocols. It describes the military disproportionate actions used by the



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



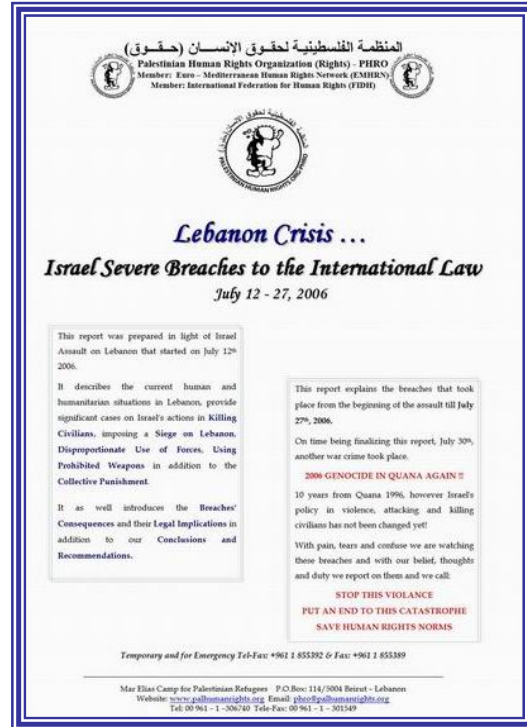
Israeli forces in its assault on Lebanon and the implications of such use of power against the civilians where extremely serious occurred incidents will be deliberated in addition to the consequences of these measures on the infrastructure and the vital means of survival in Lebanon.

The report provided the Lebanese Government, UN, EU, local, regional and international human rights organizations and institutions with a tool that includes a legal analysis of the measures used by the Israeli Military Forces and introduces conclusions and recommendations about the urgent and emergency actions that should be addressed in order to halt the impunity and the ongoing violence that is utmost directed towards civilians, threatening them causing lots of humanitarian loss, expatriation and casualties.

Afterwards, and within the context of the summer war 2006, PHRO joined the **Network against War Crimes**<sup>2</sup> that was formed in early August 2006 from the Human

Rights Parliamentary Committee in addition to several relief, development and human rights organizations. This network formed a joint effort aimed at documenting the several war crimes that took place during the summer. PHRO highly participated in this action and its monitoring team from members and volunteers were responsible to document the war crimes that took place in "Quana, Sryfa, Burj El-Shamali, Abaseyeh, El-Housh; Maaroub; Shohour; Nakoura; Saidon Institute". Documenting the war crimes included previewing these crimes scene, interviewing witnesses and victims' relatives, villages' mayors as well as computing the martyrs and the casualties.

PHRO's appeals, press releases and reports reached the high-level key persons in both UN and EU institutions. The report together with a joint statement prepared by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights was presented during the special session meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Moreover, positive replies about such efforts were received from several Ministries in Lebanon, several EU Embassies in Lebanon; EU institutions in Brussels, UN institutions in Geneva and Parliament Members in London ....



<sup>2</sup> The network aims at consolidating the official and the civil society efforts in documenting Israeli war crimes for Lebanon's further benefit [www.israelicrimes.net](http://www.israelicrimes.net). The network's efforts was coordinated by Mr. Ghassan Mokhaiber, Parliamentary Member and Raportuer of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

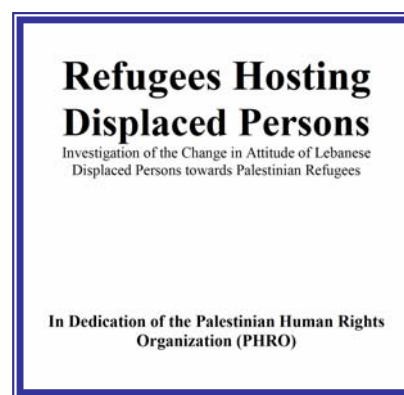


Furthermore, PHRO met several delegations<sup>3</sup> during war times who had inquiries that benefit disseminating Lebanon's catastrophe to the abroad especially the impacts of the war and living under siege.

#### 4- RESEARCH WITHIN MONITORING VIOLATIONS

Prepared by Ms. Nienke Smit, in dedication of the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO), and under supervision of the University of Groningen (RuG), in the Netherlands, a research about the change in attitude of Lebanese Displaced Persons towards Palestinian Refugees took place between September and November 2006 on which its outcomes were published in December 2006.

- ❖ **RESEARCH CONTEXT:** In the summer of 2006, an armed conflict took place between Hezbollah in Lebanon and Israel. During this conflict, approximately one fourth of the Lebanese population has been displaced to neighboring countries, to the mountain areas of Mount Lebanon and to different Lebanese cities<sup>4</sup>. The Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) were coming from the south of Lebanon, the southern suburbs of Beirut and from the Beqaa Valley<sup>5</sup>. The Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon contributed to the hosting of displaced persons, especially the camps in Tyre (Rashidieh, El Buss, Burj El-Shemali) and the camps in Sidon (Mieh Mieh, Ain El-Hilweh) hosted many IDPs who fled from the southern villages.



The Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon contributed to the hosting of displaced persons, especially the camps in Tyre (Rashidieh, El Buss, Burj El-Shemali) and the camps in Sidon (Mieh Mieh, Ain El-Hilweh) hosted many IDPs who fled from the southern villages.

For many Lebanese IDPs it was the first time that they entered a Palestinian camp, and even the first time that they came in contact with Palestinian refugees<sup>6</sup>. Many Lebanese during the conflict of 2006 did not have other options than going to a Palestinian camp, since other shelters were already full with other IDPs<sup>7</sup>. Being in a camp for a certain period can change the attitude of Lebanese towards Palestinians. This research was done to answer the following question:

*"Did something change in the attitude of Lebanese Displaced Persons towards Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, due to their stay in the Palestinian camps during the summer 2006 conflict? If yes, could this change have possible implications for the future of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon?"*

<sup>3</sup> The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Euro-Mediterranean Non-Governmental Platform (EMNGP), and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) Report of the solidarity mission to Lebanon titled "Collective Punishment" [http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id\\_article=3591](http://www.fidh.org/article.php3?id_article=3591)

<sup>4</sup> Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Higher Relief Council <http://www.lebanonundersiege.gov.lb>

<sup>5</sup> OCHA, September 2006, Lebanon Crisis 2006, Interim Report, Humanitarian Response in Lebanon 12 July to 30 August 2006

<sup>6</sup> Outcome of this research: interviews with 30 former IDPs, 13 Palestinian refugees, and several NGOs

<sup>7</sup> Interview Amne J. Sulieman, General Union of Palestinian Women. 05/10/2006



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- ❖ **RESEARCH REPORT, GENERAL OVERVIEW:** This report starts with a brief summary of the history of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, and their changing relationship with some different Lebanese sectarian groups. After this section, an overview will be given of how the humanitarian aid to the IDPs in the camps was organized. In the third section, the actual research and the outcome will be discussed. To analyze possible changes in the attitude of former IDPs who stayed in the camps, interviews have been conducted with 30 IDPs, all living in the southern villages of Lebanon. Although it is a very small sample, something can be said about this topic. Finally, a final conclusion is formulated, with some suggestions for those interested in changing the relationship between Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon and Lebanese people, and for future researches. The full text of this report can be downloaded from PHRO website.

### 5- 2006 VIOLATIONS BRIEFING - ON THE PRISONS LEVEL

As an advanced continuation to PHRO's efforts that took place in 2005 regarding this important section in monitoring and documenting its violations as well as providing the suitable legal assistance, the PHRO succeeded to issue three Certificate IDs from the Lebanese Republic – Ministries of Justice and Interior Affairs – that allows three of its staff members to enter to Prisons on the Lebanese territories where two of them could have access to men prisons on time that one could have access to both men and women prisons. It is noteworthy to mention that in 2005, PHRO had only one delegate to the Prisons and this year, efforts were intensified and we guess that the results were so as well.

In 2006 there were 366 Palestinian Refugees Prisoners<sup>8</sup> distributed over the 13 prisons over the Lebanese territories according to the underneath table details:

Prison's Name	No. of Prisoners	Prison's Name	No. of Prisoners
Romieh Central Prison	219	Gizeen Prison	6
Nabatieh Prison	16	Tebnien Prison	13
Alay Prison	9	Jbiel Prison	7
Tripoli Prison	50	Batroun Prison	11
Zgharta Prison	1	Halba Prison	7
Babda Prison for Women	1	Beirut Prison for Women	1
Courts and Detention Centers	10	Al-Fanar Prison for Juveniles	15

<sup>8</sup> By prisoners we mean refugees who are imprisoned whether already sentenced or did not undergo the trial yet



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



In addition to providing legal aid/assistance and other miscellaneous services to Palestinian Refugees Prisoners “see *Legal Research and Aid Section, Page 37 & Beyond*”, PHRO monitored the human rights violations taking place within there Prisons especially Romieh Prison<sup>9</sup> and these violations can be briefly illustrated in:

- Sentenced Prisoners, detainees and arbitrary arrested (politically, ...etc) are not separated from each others
- Most detainees underwent physical torture while being investigated
- Prisoners living conditions are considered below the Humanitarian Standards
- Prisoners do not know their rights and duties (some prisoners have been living under detention for several months without being trialed)
- Most cells within the prison are overcrowded and prisoners sleep on floor
- Prisoners’ Psychological situations are not taken into consideration
- Medications, Nutrition, Education, Sports are not convenient and to some extent are not available
- Family visits are difficult to access, and even if it took place, then meeting family is not humanitarian (several barriers exist to an extent that one can not clearly see the other)
- Prisoners are not separated in groups according to the body building of each. This is leading to have weak persons amongst strong ones causing continuous threats amongst the later whom cannot defend themselves
- Cases of violations and abuse (e.g. sexual harassment) are taking place amongst the prisoners which in some times are not dealt with on the level of the prisons' administration

On February 2006, and within the context of Prophet Mohammad Cartoon that has stimulated the religious belongings amongst Muslims in numerous countries, a demonstration in Beirut took place towards the Danish Embassy location in Tabaris - Ashrafeieh where it turned to a non peaceful demonstration and actions of burning, breaking and attacking property took place. This incident was referred to as Ashrafeieh Events. Consequently, several arresting orders for citizens and foreigners took place, amongst which Palestinians were included. Not all memos were issued by depending on evidences related to wanted persons; however a wave of arresting started to take place directly. It is very essential to mention that amongst the vast number of Palestinian Refugees who were arrested, only two were sentenced for their participation in the non peaceful actions during the demonstration.

PHRO delegates to prisons succeeded to interview many of the Ashrafeieh Event detainees who were transferred to Romieh Prison. Below is a briefing from their testimonies:

---

<sup>9</sup> Romieh prison is the central prison in Lebanon, was established in 1962, and consists of four buildings. It is located in "Romieh" - northern eastern Beirut



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- Most of arrests took place in various times and dates. Some of the interviewed detainees said that they were arrested after midnight or with the first hours of the dawn
- Some of the detainees certified that they had been beaten during the first investigation and before their transfer to the detention center in Romieh Prison, which lead to browses on the face and other parts of the body. One detainee was interviewed and he was suffering from a snatch in his shoulder and another one had a broken nose.
- Some detainees certified about being described by bad words, swearing against them and Palestine as well

The PHRO interference at such violations did not take place only for monitoring violations and interviewing detainees, however it extended to provide with suitable legal aid assistance “see *Legal Research and Aid Section, Page 37 & Beyond*” as well as it raised an urgent report to the OHCHR<sup>10</sup> regional representative who visited the prison the second day and accomplished several meetings that called for justice, fair investigation and trial in addition to human rights respect for the detainees.

For the PHRO, prisons are considered an important field to work within. Two years of experience now, and we still look forward more coverage so as not only to cover as much as we could from monitoring the violations and providing the legal assistance, but as well to attain the full coverage to the prisons where we could keep on monitoring violations, provide the legal aid and other care services through partnerships with development and services organizations. In 2006, we succeeded to have three delegates for the prisons who covered Beirut, Romieh, Bequaa and Southern Lebanon including the women prisons and such widening impacts are precisely reflected in the section related to *Legal Research and Aid Section, Page 37 & Beyond*,

It is imperative to cite that during summer war 2006 it is impossible to visit the prisons especially those at the south since they were evacuated as per the emergency and the prisoners' protection alert. Also, plans for providing legal education sessions for prisoners so they could know their rights and duties and call for it, did not take place due to the general turmoil in the country and which hindered the practical arrangement especially regarding the prior permission that is essential before conducting such activity, and thus such plans' implementation get postponed till 2007.

## II. EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

Due to the fragile situation in Lebanon, the Education and Raising Awareness Program in 2006 did not has the proper opportunities and chances to continue in accelerating its effects and amplifying its beneficiaries from youth amongst the cultural clubs, centers, NGOs and universities.

---

<sup>10</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

This doesn't mean at all that this program did not work in 2006. On the contrary several module training courses including exemplary workshops were held, but Lebanon's summer war in 2006 was blowing up with the bombardments which hindered all the planned activities for the summer that were wide due to the dependency of schools and universities long vacation. It is worthy to mention that the 2006 summer war started while being in a mid of a residential training course where as a consequence we faced several obstacles and the details of this incident will be presented later in this report.

### 1. Training Workshop titled "Dealing with Conflict and Respecting Human Rights"

5 to 7 May 2006; Merry Land Hotel; Bekfaya – Na'as

This training workshop was a continuation activity of the project titled "**The Lebanese and Palestinian Youth Dialogue on Conflict Resolution**" where it introduced the techniques of dealing with Conflicts "*Dialogue and Negotiation Skills*" in addition to the different aspects of Human Rights and its respect. The training workshop also included evening sessions that presented through documentaries different topics based on the current living situations, which was followed by discussions.

The training workshop was run by Mr. Fadi Abi Allam – Permanent Peace Movement Director – and professional trainer and facilitator in Dialogue and Conflict Resolution Process. It aimed to bridge building between the Lebanese and the Palestinian university students and to capacitate their



knowledge in-group work and its continuity. It also intended at providing the youth with the techniques of Dialogue, Negotiations, Prosecution, Arbitration as peaceful means and techniques of dealing with the conflicts. The training also discussed "*conflict resolution: a mean to build peace and attain democracy*". It created a platform to discuss and experience the

introduced techniques through different group and individual exercises. Also, the training introduced the principles of Human Rights and the necessity of respecting it, where it showed the various levels of discrimination occurred within our societies and the different human rights aspects.





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



Evenings of the training workshop were main items on its schedule where documentaries related to the current situation were screened "discrimination, categorical" and later on were discussed. Also, informal debates for both Lebanese and Palestinian issues were brought up and discussed among the youth themselves which increased the understandings between them and was a bonding and relationship building catalyst as well.

20 students, males and females, "balanced Lebanese and Palestinians" from different universities at different levels participated in the training workshop. Amongst this group, 10 students have joined and attended the project's previous activities. A great diversity amongst the participants in their social and political backgrounds; in their affiliations and in their level of knowledge of historical events existed as well.

The training's location was very tranquil, relaxing, and calm where it allowed a climate of undisturbed discussions and dialogue activities. Being working in day and evening sessions and since one of the training's objectives was to create an atmosphere of interaction between the attendees and enhance cooperation and dialogue between them, so facilitation to the creation of a youth core group is achieved, the training methodology took place as per the following items:

- ❧ Brain storming
- ❧ Discussion in large groups
- ❧ Working in small groups
- ❧ Simulations
- ❧ Film screening and conversations

During the training days, Mrs. Irene Lorfing – Emergences<sup>11</sup> Chef De Projet d'Assistance Technique a' l'OMSAR – visited the training workshop where she attended most of its workshops. She got to know the students who were asked about their views with regards to this workshop. Also, the EU Parliament



Member Mr. Miguel Portas – Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Culture and Education, Delegation for Relations with the Mashreq Countries – visited the training workshop where he had several discussions with the partner organizations and Mrs. Lorfing about this project and educational projects for youth in general. Discussions were not vacant from the difficulties that this project experienced during its execution period where an analytical study for such purposes was taking place *"for more details, see Dialogue Section, Page 33 & Beyond"*.

<sup>11</sup> Emergences is a French organization and was dedicated by the EU and OMSAR to provide the technical assistance to AFKAR 1 project





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



### 2. MODULE TRAINING COURSES

As stated in PHRO Strategy Paper for the Period 2006 – 2008 and its 2006 Annual Action Plan, the PHRO and in the field of Education will be conducting a series of module training courses, in a way that each target group will benefit from two successive trainings which are integral in their topics.

The PHRO, and through an experience in 2005, concluded that follow up is an important methodology to depend on which essentially ensure the continuity of interaction between the collaborated partners as well as between the participants. It creates strong bonding between them and thus eases similar potential plans.

Within this context, the PHRO in 2006 conducted 4 module training courses with two NGOs/Cultural Clubs in Burj El-Barajneh<sup>12</sup> Camp in Beirut. The target group over each two successive training's within the same collaborated partner consisted of 25 youth from the centers' avant-garde aged between 18 and 25 years old. The underneath table provides the calendar of these module trainings:

<i>Module Training Course</i>	<i>NGO/Cultural Club</i>	
	Fraternity Association for Social and Educational Work	Majedo & Galilee Cultural Club
Human Rights, Refugees Rights, Rights of Youth to participate and the Concept of Dialogue	12 to 16 May 2006	9 to 13 June 2006
Dialogue, Democracy and Good Governance <sup>13</sup>	* 21 to 25 December	26 to 30 December 2006

\* Since this training was designed to introduce the topics of Dialogue, Democracy and Good governance especially from the perspective that dialogue is one of the means to resolve conflicts and that good governance is one of the methods to enjoy democracy, the PHRO together with the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue and the Permanent Peace Movement (PPM) who were hosting a training for youth from Iraq planned to dedicate one day in the mid of our training days where we could join the two groups (Palestinians and Iraqis) in order to share experience especially in the dialogue section.

23 December was dedicated to be the joint day, so that participants from each group and in the first two days (21 & 22) were separately introduced to the meaning and means of dialogue as well as prepared to meet another group from different country but has a catastrophe like them.

<sup>12</sup> In accordance with its strategy Paper 2006 – 2008, the PHRO was condensing the raising awareness activities with youth in Burj El-Barajneh Camp since it was planned to arrange for popular committee elections within this camp

<sup>13</sup> These two module training courses supposed to take place in July 2006, but since the war erupted within such planned period, their accomplishment were postponed and later conducted in December 2006



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

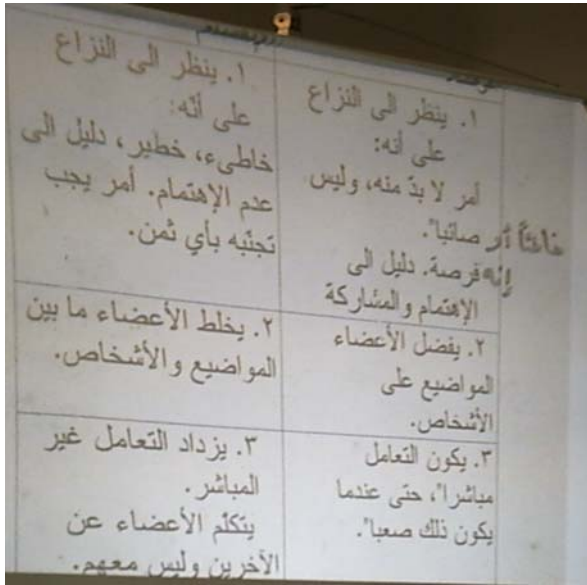
Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



23 December was a long day of discussion, sharing opinions and learning in practice. Despite being from different countries and each has his own catastrophe, however, the two groups meet on learning the same concepts and methodologies in addition to experiencing the same instances in order to make a comprehensive use of them within their communities.



23 December was rich in activities, in group working and conversational discussions. Several planned actions were run by Mr. Fadi Abi Allam<sup>14</sup> who was providing the training to the Iraqi group and Ms. Rola Badran who was providing the training to the Palestinian group with the aim of creating strong bonding between the two cultures. Joining the two groups left a positive feature amongst the attendees who not only even shared opinions, but even souvenirs from their countries. Palestinians from the target group haven't meet Iraqis beforehand and so as the Iraqis.

They only hear about each others devastation from the media corporations. After this experience, now both have relations amongst the two diverse communities that are similar in gloom.

### 3. Training Course on UN & EU Mechanisms of Protection and Organizing Advocacy Campaigns; 7 to 20 July 2006; Merry Land Hotel; Bekfaya – Na'as

PHRO within its project titled "Joint Lebanese & Palestinian Advocacy Practicum Supporting the Right to Work for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon", has organized this training course with the aim to develop theoretical knowledge and practical skills for activists in the targeted NGOs and Youth Centers about UN & EU Mechanisms of Protection, International Systems of Human Rights and the International Standards in reporting to the various UN Committees.

The training course was complementary for last year's initiative within the same scheme; however, this year it targeted Lebanese and Palestinian



<sup>14</sup> Permanent Peace Movement Director and professional trainer and facilitator in Dialogue and Conflict Resolution Process



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



NGOs & Youth Centers Members, and Activists amongst the Universities. It was attended by 24 gender-balanced participants who represented 18 NGOs and Youth Centers. With a focus on the joint participation between Lebanese and Palestinians, efforts were condensed in order to reflect the neutral Human Rights aspects, perspectives and believe which calls for the equality and the non-discrimination between individuals in Laws and treatment.

The main goal of the training was to empower the participants with tools for Defending and Protecting Human Rights and it was instructed by 3 trainers:

- Mr. Mahmoud El-Masri - Training Expert Consultant to Local and International Organizations who was the essential trainer and who covered the UN System for Human Rights and Reporting to the various UN Committees and supposed to continue to cover Advocacy Campaigns to UN Institutions.
- Mrs. Joumana Merie - Arab Institute for Human Rights - Representative in Lebanon who covered Women's Rights and Reporting to CEDAW Committee
- Ms. Rola Badran - Member and Trainer with the Palestinian Human Rights Organization - PHRO who covered the EU system for Human Rights where Dr. Yousry Moustafa supposed to join the training later on to provide Advocacy to EU institutions but the summer war emerged one day before his arrival.

Dr. Hussien Kassem, a PHRO member assisted in preparing for the training and was its Facilitator.

The course was divided up into 6 parts, International System of Human Rights, European System of Human Rights, International Standards in Writing International Reports, Human Rights Special Reports, Reporting to International Human Rights Committees, Non Governmental Organizations' Role in Spreading and Protecting Human Rights "organizing advocacy campaigns". It was as well scheduled to include several debate sessions<sup>15</sup> with UN, International Organizations and Parliamentary Committees Members and Staff according to the following details:



<sup>15</sup> Only the first session took place during the training. The other sessions was scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and both didn't take place due to the emergency in the country



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- Session 1: Debate about Refugees and the differences between the two UN agencies “UNRWA & UNHCR” in the mandate and in the treatment of a refugee. Speakers were:

- Mr. Richard Cook, *Director of UNRWA Affairs in Lebanon*
- Mr. Daniel Khal, *UNHCR Senior Protection Officer* representing Mr. Stephane Jaquemet, *UNHCR Regional Representative*

*This session took place with the accompany of Mr. Kees Sibinga – First Secretary at the Embassy of the Netherlands – and was moderated by Mr. Ghassan Abdallah – PHRO General Director –*



- Session 2: Debate about the Human Rights Situations in Lebanon. Speakers were
  - Mr. Ghassan Mokhaiber – *Parliament Member and Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee*
  - Mr. Ahmad Karoud – *Regional Representative of Amnesty International*
- Session 3: Debate about the Palestinian refugees right to work in Lebanon. Speakers were representatives from the *International Labor Organization* and the *Arab Labor Organization*

Also it was planned to reveal the experience of the year 2005 within the same project where the members of the Advocacy Mission took place to UN, EU institutions and the Netherlands during June 2005, will present the experience they gained through participating within this project.

### ❖ EMERGENCY DURING THE TRAINING

Since the summer war erupted in 12 July 2006, while being conducting this training course, the PHRO faced several obstacles concerning the participants, trainers and the training's process. However, this was all practically solved in consultation with the training's committee as well as with the trainees.

The training continued its schedule as planned until 16 July, where each day, an overall conversation between all the training parties was taking place in order to evaluate the situation and decide on how to continue. From 12 to 16 July, all were hoping that this situation will end soon and we can continue on the training where the trainees were so enthused, however the conditions were deteriorating and all saw that evacuation for people who could safely reach their homes shall take place. Hence, participants' evacuation started to take place gradually.

As a result of the gradual decrease in the number of trainees due to evacuation as well as the diminish in interests' UN & EU Mechanisms of PROTECTION due to trust lessens with these





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



systems as per the war in Lebanon, it was impossible to continue with the section on organizing advocacy campaigns. Accordingly, the training committee together with the PHRO decided to amend the training schedule, and work on introducing Monitoring and Documenting Violations in order:

- ❖ not to lose the efforts that has been implemented in raising awareness about the systems of UN & EU especially in POTECTION
- ❖ not to aggrieve trainees who were seriously interested in the training and involved within its works and who decided to leave due to the deterioration in the situations
- ❖ not to be wasting time with participants who compulsory stayed since they could not reach their homes

Mr. El-Masri, welcomed this idea and since he shares us the responsibility, he decided to stay until we secure the situation of trainees where he shared the PHRO in providing the training on Monitoring and Documentation, so we had effectively invested the time.

Along the 3 days " 17 to 19 July" and being working intensively, participants gained the knowledge of such techniques and as a mean of having experience, they started to monitor the different TV stations while watching

different  
gather statistics  
wounded,  
expatriated  
result of the war  
Moreover,  
interview at the  
families who  
from their homes  
Lebanon,  
of Beirut and



news, the  
newspapers and  
about martyrs,  
displaced and  
people as a  
in Lebanon.  
trainees went to  
hotel several  
were displaced  
in southern  
southern suburb  
other areas

because of fear of getting attacked or because warnings they received through leaflets that was thrown over their areas of residency. Also, they started to contact their NGOs and centers, especially those in the south, in order to report about violations taking place there.

On a parallel phase, PHRO was searching to rent a furnished apartment in a safe place in Beirut within PHRO's scope of movement to be the residency for the participants and training committee who are unable to reach their homes "Southern Lebanon and Southern Suburb of Beirut".

After moving to Beirut, PHRO together with the Southern trainees agreed to benefit from the time during the wartime. As a human rights organization, and running a Monitoring and Documenting



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



Violations Program since 1999, PHRO involvement in assistance during the war will be initiated within such framework. Thus, it was agreed to capacitate trainees knowledge who were forced to stay in Beirut within such field. Activating this initiative was taking place from PHRO's General Director Private Home.

Firstly, an introduction about International Humanitarian Law<sup>16</sup> was provided to the participants, so when documenting any violation, a reference to the suitable articles within its conventions, protocols, declarations ...etc should take place as a legal base and supporting evidence for what was documented.

Moreover, newspapers were an essential source for the documentation that was conducted during the war times besides the different local and international TV stations in addition to the reports mainly from our district coordinators in Saida and Tyre.

The trainees together with the educational staff formed a working group that worked during the war on documentation. Other trainees who reside in Beirut were also assisting in this initiative. A wise use of time was made, and all efforts were joined together where the report titled "**Lebanon Crisis ... Israel Severe Breaches to the International Law**" was produced " *see Monitoring Violations Section, Page 9 & Beyond*" together with other<sup>17</sup> press releases and appeals. Also this group together with PHRO district coordinators in the south was part of the Network against War Crimes where they played a vast role in documenting war crimes in southern villages "*for more details, see Monitoring Violations Section, Page 9 & Beyond*"

Despite being a difficult experience, however it was very useful (working under pressure, did not lose control within insecure situations, group discussion and involving youth in decision making ...). It also presented an alternative within PHRO mandate that benefited from the youth efforts and capacitated their knowledge in order to make a good use of time where the country was under siege and all works were hindered unless within relief and monitoring the implementation of the International Humanitarian Laws.

### III. ADVOCACY

#### 1- IN COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP SEMINARS & ADVOCACY MISSIONS

- In January 2006, the PHRO participated in the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) seminar on the **European Neighborhood Policy: Human Rights in the EU-Egypt Relations, Recommendations of Egyptian NGOs for the EU-Egypt Action**. Since it is included with our strategy, and in order to enhance our experience and capacitate the knowledge within

<sup>16</sup> International law applicable during war times

<sup>17</sup> The report together with the press releases and appeals are available on PHRO's website





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



the European Union's Association Agreements establishment and its related regulations

"Neighborhood Policies, Action Plans ...etc" the PHRO participation took place. Moreover, PHRO is going to EMHRN's essential partner on the potential seminar regarding Lebanon's case, where its first preparatory meeting took place parallel to this seminar.

On time that Action Plans with Mediterranean partners have regrettably been elaborated and negotiated secretly between the EU and Mediterranean governments without proper consultation of human rights NGOs. Since it is essential that NGOs are properly informed, consulted and involved in the implementation of the Action Plan, if it is meant to become an important platform for promotion of

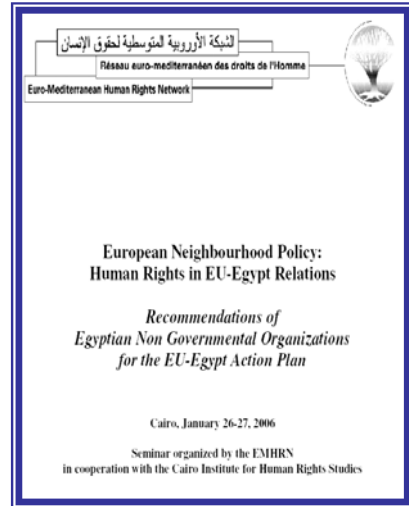
democracy, human rights and the rule of law, this seminar was held in partnership with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) in Cairo-Egypt during 26 & 27 January 2006 and aimed at providing NGOs' inputs to ongoing negotiations between Egypt and the EU on an ENP Action plan, and to discuss the wider perspectives of the ENP in terms of its human rights and democracy agenda.

To view more information about the seminar or to download its full report, please visit the following link <http://www.emhrn.net/pages/338>

- The PHRO and la Défense des Droits et Libertés (ADDL) has collaborated with the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), whom within its program designated to address the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, organized Media Workshop about "The Humanitarian Crisis in Darfur and the Arab Media Responsibility", in Beirut-Lebanon on 25 and 26 March 2006.

Despite that, PHRO's collaboration with the CIHRS falls within its networking initiatives, however, after participating in Against Racism

Durban Conference<sup>18</sup>, the PHRO started to pay more attention and concern about the regional and international solidarity even more it became a standard item within its strategy policy.



<sup>18</sup> While attending this conference, we sensed the blame of other marginalized groups who showed their distress since Palestinians don't show the high solidarity with them on time that all support Palestinians and defend their rights



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



40 participants from newspapers editors, columnists, journalists and media groups who represented 20 newspapers and 4 television channels and radio stations partaken the workshop's activities and discussions. Also, writers and academics from 11 Arab countries (United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Egypt and Qatar), as well as representatives of a number of international organizations, legal activists and jurists who witnessed the disaster in Darfur and who came specially to spot the light on their testimonies.

The workshop targeted the respond to the Arab Media needs in:

- providing a true image of the real situation in this catastrophic Darfur
- attracting the attention of the reader and the viewer in the Arab region in order to create awareness and Arab solidarity against the tragic abuses suffered by Darfur citizens for years
- accessing the political motives, economic and social development that led to the aggravation of the crisis
- Standing on the developments of the negotiations between the parties to the conflict
- Raising awareness about the role of the regional and international institutions who are interested in the



case, the justice crisis in Darfur, the dispute between the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Sudanese judiciary, and the role of the Arab media towards the Darfur crisis

Participants also discussed a number of issues, the most notably are:

- The United Nations warning from an expected humanitarian crisis in Darfur due to lack of aid and the exposure of relief convoys to constant attacks
- Is Darfur in need for the intervention of international forces?
- Clarification of the controversy about the justice crisis and Darfur need for the intervention of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the efficiency, effectiveness and impartiality of the Sudanese judiciary as an alternative to the application of justice in crimes committed in Darfur
- Comparing the information published by international institutions and the western media about the violations range in Darfur, and the adverse reports made by some Arab and Islamic institutions.

To view more information about this seminar or Darfur Crisis, please visit the following link:

[http://www.cihrs.org/darfur/Darfur\\_Report\\_details.aspx?rep\\_id=68&pr\\_year=2006&Class\\_id=1](http://www.cihrs.org/darfur/Darfur_Report_details.aspx?rep_id=68&pr_year=2006&Class_id=1)

It is important to mention that on a parallel level to the seminar a number of the participants' seminar, especially Sudanese, requested to organize a field visit to Sabra and Chatila Camp. This took place on 26 March where the delegation walked in the camp and witnessed the daily life living conditions there. Also, they visited the Sabra & Chatila Massacre Martyrs Cemetery where they place a flowers corona on the remembrance statue.

- As an accomplishment to the preparatory meetings that took place in Cairo (in January 2006) and later on in Madrid (May 2006)<sup>19</sup>, the PHRO together with Solida, and the René Moawad Foundation (RMF) collaborated in organizing the seminar titled **"European Neighborhood Policy: Human Rights in the Lebanon Action Plan. Which Recommendations from Lebanese NGO?"** where they were partners to the EMHRN. The Seminar titled took place on 2 & 3 June 2006 and gathered International NGOs, NGOs from Lebanon, the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus, as well representatives from the Lebanese government and the EU embassies as well as the EU Delegation.



A large section of the civil society in Lebanon took part in the seminar's debate on future relations with the EU. Some 50 associations and groups involved in the promotion of human rights were represented. The main object of the civil society frustration had to do with its desire to be more and better involved in the ENP process. This seminar aimed at:

- Raising awareness and training NGOs on the ENP and how to act in this framework to improve human rights
- Strengthening dialogue between Lebanese NGOs and representatives of the EU and the Lebanese government on the human rights and democratization aspects of the EU-Lebanon Action plan in view of its implementation

The seminar's recommendations were presented in a report<sup>20</sup> which outlined a more participative vision of the process for the future. This report is available on the following link <http://www.emhrn.net/pages/335>

<sup>19</sup> Parallel to the EMHRN General Assembly Meeting that took place in May 2006 in Madrid - Spain, the preparatory Committee of the ENP seminar that has met once before in January 2006 during the ENP – Egypt Seminar, met again in order to negotiate the actions that shall take place next month (June 2006) concerning the conductance of ENP-Lebanon Seminar.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



Within this seminar, the PHRO and according to its plans stated in its strategy paper worked concerning actions with respect to the Association Agreement with Lebanon worked hardly during the preparations of this seminar, its conductance and afterwards when preparing its report and presenting it in the advocacy mission to Brussels (presented underneath) worked hardly to portray the Palestinian Refugees issue in Lebanon specially that the Association Agreement and the Action Plan were vague from considering this issue.

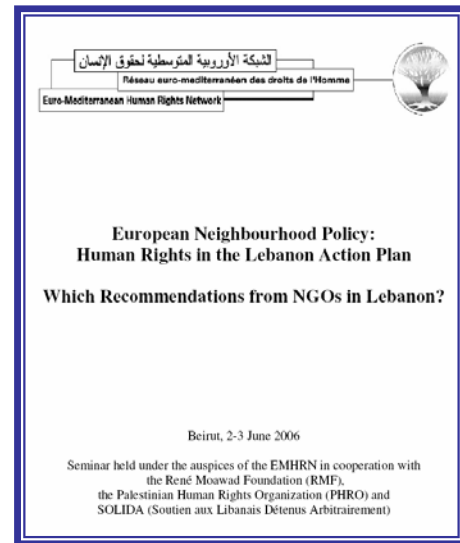
- Following the seminar on the **European Neighborhood Policy: Human Rights in the Lebanon Action Plan**, partner NGOs' representatives from Lebanon went to Brussels from 8 to 11 October 2006 to present and discuss the seminar's report with representatives of the EU institutions.

The delegation presented NGOs' recommendations for the implementation of the ENP Lebanon action plan in view of its adoption. 10 NGOs<sup>21</sup> from Lebanon volunteered at the seminar to prepare the detailed report's recommendations together and they met several times for this purpose. These recommendations were drawn on the basis of the seminar's discussions

and conclusions before the NGOs officially received the action plan from the EU delegation in 12 July 2006.

The action plan was expected to be formally adopted by the EU Council without modifications in 2006 autumn. This action plan, contrary to some others, was extremely quickly negotiated between the EU Commission and the Lebanese government (less than a month and a half). As regards, its human rights chapter, it is quite developed and it broadly addresses the main issues. However, it stays vague and general on how these issues needs to be tackled and how the action plan's priorities will be turned into concrete measures. The aim of the delegation's visit in Brussels was therefore focused on the future implementation of the action plan and on ensuring that proper follow up and monitoring mechanisms will be set up.

The war in Lebanon this summer and the need for reconstruction and humanitarian assistance were addressed during the meetings but the delegation emphasized that while the reconstruction



<sup>20</sup> More details about this report will be elaborated in page 27

<sup>21</sup> The working group created at the end of the seminar comprised the following NGOs: René Moawad Foundation, Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO), SOLIDA, MIRSAD, Association pour la Défense des Droits et Libertés (ADDL), LebYouth, Caritas, Association des Familles de Disparus au Liban, Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union and the Lebanese Association for Human Rights.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



issues have to be faced, the work on human rights and political reforms has to continue in Lebanon.

The delegation highlighted issues of concerns and their recommendations, in particular on:

- Democratic Reform and Fundamental Freedoms
- Justice and the Independence of the Judiciary
- Detention Conditions and the Rights of Detainees
- Abolition of Torture and Ill Treatment
- Abolition of the Death Penalty
- Respect for the Rights of Women
- Children's Rights
- Enforced Disappearances
- Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Respect for and Protection of the Rights of Migrants
- Rights of Palestinian Refugees

As regards mechanisms, the delegation emphasized the need to have a *real action plan* including benchmarks, indicators and a clear calendar. In order to establish an efficient monitoring mechanism of the action plan, it urged the EU to set up a specific Sub-Committee on Human Rights in the framework of the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement.

The delegation reaffirmed NGOs' will to be involved in the ENP as expressed during and after the seminar. It asked for systematic consultation and involvement of civil society in the implementation and monitoring phases. NGOs would like to be considered as a fully-fledged partner in the ENP. The delegation also stressed the need to define the adequate financial resources devoted to the implementation of the action plan.

According to the EU institutions, human rights and political reforms will remain high on the agenda in parallel to reconstruction efforts. They will closely monitor the implementation process: a sub-committee on human rights should be established.

## **2- PRODUCING AN ADVOCACY AND VISIBILITY AUDIO VISUAL TOOL ABOUT NON IDENTIFIED PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON**

### **• DOCUMENTARY TITLED REFUGEES FOR LIFE**

Early in 2006, the PHRO provided the field assistance to the Documentary Director Mr. Hadi Zakak who was working on directing a documentary about the Lives of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon and their Descendents Lives in Germany which was titled later on "Refugees for Lives" and screened





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



for the first time on Al-Arabia TV on September 8, 2006. The assistance provided to Mr. Zakak could be summarized by the following actions:

- Dedicating the field monitor and documenter – Mr. Jaber Abo Hawash – to help out Mr. Zakak and his team on the filed “issue the permissions for shooting within the camps and gatherings, introduce the team to Palestinian families ...”
- We discussed with Mr. Zakak the situation of the Non Identified Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, where he presented one case of them into his documentary
- Since the documentary idea was to be shoot in Lebanon and Germany, Mr. Abo Hawash assisted even in Germany “where he traveled with the team on February 2006” with his connections with families from the Palestinian Refugees who used to live within the Palestinian Communities in Southern Lebanon and later on the sought asylum in Germany.

Having a role within this documentary, capacitated the knowledge of Mr. Abo Hawash which benefited a lot PHRO team who worked in shooting the documentary produced by the PHRO and which is detailed in the underneath part of the report. Also, the section that was shoot with PHRO representatives concerning the Non-IDs strengthened the importance of finding a solution for this category of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. It is crucial to say that the work by itself served PHRO's objectives in transmitting Lebanon's Palestinian Refugees sound to the concerned parties.

- **DOCUMENTARY PRODUCED BY THE PHRO TITLED "REFUGEES WITHOUT PAPERS ... DO THEY EXIST?!!"**

As part of the project titled **Legal Aid, Advice & Advocacy Program For Non-ID Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon** the PHRO produced a 24 minutes documentary that illustrates and presents the situations and conditions of the Palestinian Non-Identified refugees in Lebanon.

The purpose of the documentary can be exemplified by:

- Raising awareness about the miserable situation of Non-ID Palestinian Refugees
- A tool to advocate about such situations locally, regionally and internationally
- Creating sympathy and solidarity with the Non-IDs towards improving their situations especially the Legal ones
- Raise discussions about Non-ID Palestinian Refugees during national, regional and international seminars, roundtables after presenting this documentary

The documentary was shoot with five Non-ID families in Tyre, Saida and Bequaa where each family presented obstacles they face due to lack of ID such as “work, education, health, marriage and free movement”. The documentary was screened in several special meetings and hereby we mention **OXFAM UK, UNHCR, MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS**





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



**WATCH ...** Also, it was screened on July 10, 2006 during one of training course on UN & EU Mechanisms of Protection and Organizing Advocacy Campaigns “07 – 20 July, 2006” debate sessions that hosted UNRWA, UNHCR and Embassy of the Netherlands Representatives " *see Education Section, Page 17 & Beyond*" as well as in the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum that was held in Marrakech from 4 to 7 November 2006 and which was organized by the Euro-Med Non-Governmental Platform.

The documentary succeeded to transmit the message of refugees without papers are refugees without lives and lots amongst the parties who watched the documentary were astonished to recognize that we have such category and problems within the Palestinian Communities in Lebanon.

The outbreak of the war in Lebanon postponed many tasks. We had been planning to hold an event where a general screening to the documentary could take place with the sponsorship of the Minister of Social Affairs and the participation of several key persons and stockholders on the governmental, diplomatic and international levels who could contribute to discussions that will be following the screening. However, continuation of the planning and its later accomplishment did not take place. Currently, the plan is postponed; nevertheless, we will be working on holding this event when the appropriate timing came into the sight.



### 3- ADVOCACY MISSIONS AND MEETINGS

#### • DENMARK & SWEDEN: 8 TO 10 NOVEMBER 2006

Parallel to the Education and Youth Working Group<sup>22</sup> meeting held in Copenhagen, the PHRO took the advantage from being in Denmark and thus organized Advocacy and Fundraising meetings there in addition to Stockholm as well where 7 successful meetings with international NGOs as well as with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took place.

Within these meetings, PHRO representative introduced the organization's strategy prepared for the period 2006 – 2008 and briefly illustrated the activities run for the year 2006 and the achieved results. Also, potential cooperation chances were discussed with the met parties where most of them showed interest. The meetings were not vacant at all from discussions about the summer war 2006 and its manifestation on the general situations in the country and on our progress especially on time that all actions were taking place on relief basis and only few voices about human rights considerations were taking place.

<sup>22</sup> One of the EMHRN working themes [www.emhrn.net](http://www.emhrn.net)



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



The PHRO within these meetings, especially with those carried with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed on the importance of relief aids on times of emergency, however, it should be accompanied with human rights violations and aids distribution monitoring in order to reflect the real situation and to stand on the reality of incidents taking place.

- **AMMAN-JORDAN; DECEMBER 18, 2006**

Parallel to the Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers Working Group<sup>23</sup> meeting held in Amman-Jordan during 16 and 17 December 2006, the PHRO benefited from the fact of visiting Amman and met with local and international NGOs as a matter of advertising PHRO initiatives on human rights basis especially those related to dialogue and legal aid.

The PHRO representative met with the National Human Rights Center Commissioner, Minister Shaher Bak, where she presented PHRO's gratitude for the assistance that the center provided while Mr. Edward Kattoura, PHRO member, was arbitrary detained<sup>24</sup> in Jordan at one of the Jordanian Intelligence prisons.

Also, the PHRO representative discussed possibilities of future cooperation between the two institutions, especially on the fields of dialogue. Furthermore, deliberations about Iraqi refugees and Palestinians amongst them, situations in Jordan, and in particular the situations and the living conditions of the refugees whom are stuck at the borders between Jordan and Syria took place.

#### **4- HOSTING DELEGATIONS**

- **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (FIDH)**

On 5 February 2006, FIDH delegation arrived to Lebanon in a mission aimed at promoting the concept of Transitional Justice and present exemplary cases about such concept. Within this mission, FIDH delegation arranged to meet with Lebanese and Palestinian groups, NGOs and Parties. PHRO arranged FIDH's meetings with different Palestinian group and parties whom are considered playing an essential role in governing the Palestinian camps and relations in Lebanon.

Transitional Justice is considered one of the main concepts that PHRO is supporting and bear on its implementation in Lebanon as one of the peaceful means of resolving conflict.

- **KERKINACTIE**

On 12 April, the PHRO met with Kerkinactie representative who was conducting an advocacy and awareness visit in Lebanon. Kerkinactie is one of PHRO's main partners especially in relation to dialogue, conflict resolution and advocacy initiatives. Within this visit, PHRO arranged several meetings for Kerkinactie's representative with Lebanese and Palestinian groups and parties. These meetings came within the context of understanding the current situations in Lebanon particularly

<sup>23</sup> One of the EMHRN working themes [www.emhrn.net](http://www.emhrn.net)

<sup>24</sup> More details about Mr. Kattoura detention in Jordan are presented in the Organization's Preface, Page 5



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



with regards to the relation between the Lebanese and Palestinian Communities. These meetings took place on 12 and 14 April 2006.

- **OXFAM, UK**

On 6 May 2006 the PHRO hosted Oxfam UK delegation in its office in Mar Elias Camp in Beirut. During this meeting a widespread presentation about PHRO, the Legal, Human, and Humanitarian Rights situations for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon fields of work took place. The presentation was followed by a long discussion about such situations and the possible international awareness initiatives that should take place. Oxfam delegation visited the PHRO office again where advanced discussions took place also where the documentary about the Non-IDs situations and legal restrictions took place.

- **HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (HRW)**

On 30 June 2006, a delegation from HRW visited PHRO Office where an extensive presentation about PHRO's fields of work took place. The delegation included HRW representatives from USA, Egypt and Lebanon Offices where several concepts in relation to the civil and political rights were discussed in particular we mention the right to life (Human Suicide Bombs, Killing Civilians ...). During the meeting PHRO screened its documentary titled "Refugees Without Papers ... Do They Exist?!!" as a matter of raising awareness about this category's situation. In their monthly impact (October 2006), HRW were proud about the PHRO's report that was prepared during the war about the breaches for the International Humanitarian Law, where they raised as issue as being one of the meeting's achievements, despite the fact that the PHRO had and for several times before presented similar opinions regarding killing civilians.

- **MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP INTERNATIONAL (MRG)**

On 30 June 2006, a delegation from MRG visited PHRO Office. A broad presentation about PHRO's fields of work took place as well as a MRG's ones. Also, PHRO portrayed the Palestinian's situations in Lebanon and screened its documentary that presents the Non Identified Palestinian refugees situations and their ID's dilemma in Lebanon and the consequent related restrictions and deprivation from rights that they face besides the daily fear due to lack of IDs. Also, potential ideas for joint cooperation took place.

- **CHURCH OF SWEDEN**

On 7 October 2006, the PHRO hosted a delegation from the Church of Sweden in its office in Mar Elias Camp in Beirut. During this meeting a widespread presentation about PHRO, the Legal, Human, and Humanitarian Rights situations for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon fields of work took place. Also, a screening for PHRO's documentary titled "Refugees Without Papers ...Do they



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



Exist?!!" took place where afterwards discussions were directed towards enhancing the use of the advocacy tools for latent international awareness and solidarity campaigning.

- **DIAKONIA**

On 21 December 2006, a Diakonia representative was hosted at PHRO's office where a presentation about PHRO, the Legal, Human, and Humanitarian Rights situations for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon fields of work took place, in addition to screening PHRO's documentary titled "Refugees Without Papers ...Do they Exist?!!". Diakonia's representative spent a working day with the PHRO in order to get as much as possible acquainted with the different programs through discussing its aims and objectives with their coordinators.

### 5- CONTINUOUS ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

- The PHRO during January and February 2006 continued its condensed follow up and advocacy initiatives regarding the case of the Non-Identified Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. Later on meetings with Lebanese Governmental and Parliamentary representatives transpired where an elaboration to such cases, related situations and consequent deprivation from rights took place. On an advanced stage, a **memo**<sup>25</sup> that briefly and condensely illustrate the Non-IDs conditions in addition to suggestion of a legal mechanism for a solution was prepared and submitted to several representatives and key persons within the government, the parliament in addition to political representatives and UNRWA. These meetings continued to take place afterwards through the year where soon after PHRO prepared a **Reading in the Legal Treatment to the Non-ID Refugees Situations**<sup>26</sup> which was submitted in advocacy meetings that was conducted during 2006.
- As part of its strategy interests, the PHRO continued in 2006 in attending the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee meetings on drafting the National Plan of Human Rights. Several meetings took place, where readings and discussions to many of the accomplished studies about violated rights in Lebanon was conducted and negotiated as well. This process will keep ongoing until Lebanon's National Plan of Human Rights is completely ready for adaptation.
- Meetings related to the European Neighborhood policy and its action plan were presented previously within the *Advocacy Section, pages 24 & Beyond*

### IV. DIALOGUE

Targeting youth in their Communities "NGOs, Cultural Clubs, Universities ...etc" – who to an extent could be politically affiliated-, the Civil Society Representatives "Academics, Journalists ...etc" –

---

<sup>25</sup> This memo is only available in its Arabic Version. To view it kindly contact [info@palhumanrights.org](mailto:info@palhumanrights.org)

<sup>26</sup> This reading is only available in its Arabic Version. To view it kindly contact [info@palhumanrights.org](mailto:info@palhumanrights.org)



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



especially those who can reach decision makers and who are involved in the civil society, and with the approach that aim at narrowing the gap between the Palestinian and Lebanese society and bring more integration and interaction between them, PHRO dialogue program was designed and has been over the past two years successfully

- ❖ *introducing alternative means of strive and governing*
- ❖ *strengthening Palestinian civil society and Lebanese-Palestinian conflict resolution*
- ❖ *amplifying the principles of posts circulation and sharing responsibilities amongst the community "democracy, good governance"*

Although, 2006 was prosperous with several incidents and circumstances that made it a thorny year at several levels, especially dialogue between Palestinians and Lebanese, however, PHRO thrived in implementing most of the planned activities.

- 1- Under the title of "*Truh Leading to Reconciliation*", the PHRO has been calling for a dialogue between the Palestinians and the Lebanese in order to resolve the points of friction between the two communities. For that purpose and as a preparatory step, the Palestinian Debate Meeting<sup>27</sup> was held from 30 September to 3 October, 2005 on which 6 follow up committees from the meeting's attendees was established and these committees are: Right of Return, Social Security, Lebanese Authority, International Community, Civil Society and UNWRA where each committee had the role to follow up on the meeting's recommendations with the concerned body as highlighted in the names. These committees are considered working groups that conduct initiatives and implement them with PHRO's consultation and under its supervision.

In October and November 2005, the committees' members were widely introduced to PHRO's dialogue program and were committed to organize themselves since they are going to assist the PHRO in preparing the potential Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue and not only follow up on the implementation of the meeting's recommendation and report on steps accomplished and the faced difficulties. In 2006, the committees started to conduct almost regular meetings where each one arranged between 7 and 9 meetings until early July 2006. A general meeting for all the committees' members took place on April 7<sup>th</sup> at Crowne Plaza Hotel where a wider discussion about achievements, difficulties, suggestions for much effectiveness took place as well as a date, August 2006, was planned out to hold the Lebanese – Palestinian Dialogue within.

The Palestinian Debate Meeting recommendation on establishing such committees benefited in networking the communication between the working group(s) members and strengthening the bonds between them as civil society representatives, academics, journalists, teachers ...etc. It also

<sup>27</sup> To view the full details about the Palestinian Debate Meeting, view PHRO Narrative Report 2005 and the meeting's outcomes at PHRO Website





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



raised the awareness amongst a vast majority of them by the meaning of voluntary working contributions.

On another level but within the same context of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue, the PHRO continued in conducting persuading meetings with Lebanese Parliamentary groups, Ministers and key persons within the Lebanese community and countries embassies where until early July 2006, 26 meetings were conducted and later on these meetings continued to take place after the war ended where 11 meetings were conducted. Within these meetings that PHRO has been highly presenting its memo titled **"Sovereignty for the Lebanese Government on its territories, Security and Stability for the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon until their Return"** that was prepared in March 2006 and which includes 10 intensified recommendations about the Palestinian refugees demands in Lebanon and suggestions about granting these rights where Palestinians get their rights and stand on respecting and conducting their duties. Since the war took place in the mid of the year and for 33 days, we can easily notice the heavy burden that the war left and which revealed other priorities within the Lebanese Communities amongst which is the necessity of holding a Lebanese- Lebanese Dialogue meeting amplified.

Also, within the Lebanese Government that was implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs, where discussions and consultations with civil society organizations and representatives took place in 2006, the PHRO was a main participant where we were reflecting the human rights situations within the camps and were sharing opinions with the ministry representatives about possible methodologies to use in order to humanitarially improve the social conditions within the Palestinian camps. These meetings were semi-regular ones and took place within the second semester of the year, however they were halt due to the difficult conditions that the country was/still passing through as well as due to priority changes.

PHRO and after sensing that many Lebanese parties are attempting to polarize the Palestinians into their sides in a way that they become an involved part within the internal Lebanese dilemma, the PHRO called upon the Palestinian community in Lebanon to launch an initiative towards neutralizing the Palestinians from the internal Lebanese problems. This call came into the sight as per the experience, since Palestinians in Lebanon are the one to blame at the end even for matters that they are not related to. At first, this initiative was difficult to formulate, however after several meetings with key persons and representatives amongst the Palestinian community, this initiative started to grow and even its echo started to be heard on the level of meetings with ministers and Parliament member. Working within this initiative was not only taking place on the level of leaders within the Palestinian Communities, however it also addressed the youth in their centers where PHRO highlighted this issue and its implications on the Palestinian community as a matter of raising the youth awareness who are the target group of such



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



polarization either by abusing their feelings or through delighting them by money or potential weapon usage. This initiative as well covered the fact that Palestinians within their camps, especially youth, do not get affected by the clashes taking place between Hamas and the PLO in the Palestinian Territories.

Raising youth awareness about concepts and meaning of dialogue, good governance and democracy has already taken place in *Education Section, Page 17 & Beyond*

### 2- LEBANESE PALESTINIAN YOUTH DIALOGUE ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION:



With the support of the European Union through the Office of the Minister of the State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), the PHRO in partnership with the Joint Christian Committee for Social Services (JCC) and Multi-Initiative on Rights: Search, Assist and Defend (MIRSAD) was implementing the project titled **The Lebanese and Palestinian Youth Dialogue on Conflict Resolution** from the Period April 2005 – March 2006. However due to several reasons, the project's implementation period was extended until July 2006 but due to the war, extension was prolonged until October 2006.

Despite being a dialogue project, however its activities for 2006 varied between educations (*presented on page 17 & beyond*) and research (*presented below*).

During the project's activities accomplishment several challenges and obstacles emerged leading to the obstruction of the activities as planned. Some of these obstacles stemmed from substantive reasons while others arose from deficiencies in implementation. In order to take advantage of a live experience that has been tested and in order to draw lessons that can be avoided in similar situations in the future, the PHRO, JCC and MIRSAD suggested to develop a study about such context. PHRO carried the conductance of this study and presented its **Analysis Report** titled **"The Lebanese and Palestinian Youth Dialogue on Conflict Resolution ... Challenges & Difficulties"**. This report documents the analyzed findings of this study which includes as well the appropriate recommendations that could help in avoiding any future obstacles on similar projects. The report goes on in 30 pages and can be fully downloaded from PHRO's website.

Both links serve the dialogue either by raising the youth awareness about the concept of dialogue and its use as a peaceful mean in resolving conflict, or in documenting our experience through



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



working with Lebanese and Palestinian youth in a very difficult era that the country was/still passing through. In spite that all materials, photos, reports, press releases, presentations related to this project can be found on PHRO website. However, a separate website was designed for this project during its period of implementation.

### 3- SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES FOR DIALOGUE INSPIRATION

In 2006, as in the previous years, the PHRO supported NGOs' initiatives that serve dialogue goals and approaches. Within this context, the PHRO has provided the consultancy support in addition to the financial one to two main activities:

- **LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN SPORTING CYCLE:** being the first of its type, and in order to contribute to the dialogue initiatives that the PHRO are carrying and has been addressing since 2004, the **Fraternity Association for Social and Educational Work** presented its idea about organizing a Lebanese-Palestinian sporting cycle in May 2006. On time that we are working on dialogue with the approach to create an interaction between the two communities and sports could be on the schedule of methodologies to use, we welcomed the suggestion, supported it and joined its organizing efforts as well. The sporting cycle was cordially subsidized by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Ahmad Fatfat, and took place from 13 to 15 May 2006 on Al-Safa sporting playground in Beirut.
- **CIVIL RIGHTS CAMPAIGN<sup>28</sup> TOWARDS THE RIGHT OF RETURN – WORKSHOP:** On 15 May 2006, the Civil Rights Campaign Towards the Right of Return arranged to hold a training seminar about civil rights for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon and the importance of granting the Palestinians their civil rights where a clarification that civil rights do not lead for the resettlement of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, nor will disturb the sectarian balance or will create other burdens amongst the Lebanese community. Civil rights for Palestinian refugees allows them to live in dignity and allow framing a legal treatment for them in accordance with the Lebanese Legal system. The training seminar took place in Saida at the Municipality center and hosted a numerous number participants from the members of the campaign as well as other Lebanese and Palestinian Representatives.

<sup>28</sup> This campaign was established in 2005 and it includes number of NGOs that works within the Palestinian Communities..



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



### V. LEGAL RESEARCH & AID

#### 1- LEGAL AID FOR NON-IDENTIFIED PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

In the year 2006, PHRO continued its conductance for the legal aid/advice program<sup>29</sup> for the Non-Identified Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. All the program's efforts were directed towards legitimating the residency of the Non-IDs in Lebanon, however, it is considered the first phase of helping the Palestinian Non-ID Refugees in Lebanon to establish a legal status towards easing the restrictions they face.

In late 2005, it was agreed upon to do some amendments to the program, which enrich its initiatives by, intensify its achievements by:

- including more cases<sup>30</sup> within the program
- condensing cooperation with UNRWA and the Government in a way that PHRO will prepare a proposal for the suitable action that should be taken by the government which grantee the legal residency and thus the rights for the Non-IDs<sup>31</sup>
- Produce an audio-visual documentary<sup>32</sup> about the Non-IDs that can be used in advocacy and simply illustrate in few minutes what needs to be explained in books

2006 was an imperative year for this program since we found, and according to the Lebanese laws, a way that could apply more legitimizing to the identification papers that we succeeded to issue for the Non-Identified Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon last year.

The legal reading that the PHRO prepared on how the Lebanese Laws deal with cases that exist on the Lebanese territories and do not possess any type of identification allowed us to take another step towards amplified recognition and which enabled us to request the governor's stamp and thus his ratification to this identification Papers. Within this context, the PHRO worked hardly in 2006 to register new Non-Identified Palestinian Refugees families to the program (as stated previously), to issue them the identification papers and to proceed in requesting the governor ratification for all the cases (184 individuals in 2005 and the 87 included in 2006).

It is noteworthy hereby to mention that the same request does not receive the same treatment at all district governorate offices. As an example:

- In one of the governorate offices, we received the approval for ratification, only for children who are at the school age

<sup>29</sup> This program included advocacy stages as well. Its related advocacy activities were discussed in the Advocacy section in this report

<sup>30</sup> In 2005, the program addressed 33 families with a total of 184 individuals

<sup>31</sup> This was illustrated in the advocacy section pages 24 & beyond under the title **Continuous Advocacy Initiatives** where a memo and a legal reading about the Non-ID Palestinian Refugees situations was prepared and vastly distributed and presented in PHRO's meetings with the various stakeholders

<sup>32</sup> The documentary was titled "Refugees without Papers ... Do they Exist?!!" and its details are presented on the Advocacy section, Pages 24 and beyond



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- Before the war we knew that one patch of the cases which we submitted for ratification received the approval. However, due to the erupted war, we were not able to follow up on them. After cease-fire took place, and when we visited the district governorate office to follow up on them, we were astonished to find them were ratified and then canceled afterwards. This let us reveal that different understanding to the situation took place before and after the war.
- a third governorate office, the identification papers that we submitted were handled out until an approval from the Directorate of the General Security was received which took a plenty of time and lots of follow up thorough the bureaucratic system of inquiries.

On the other hand, we witnessed that the hard situation of the Non-ID Palestinian refugees, who are not recognized by the Lebanese authority, and imposed to numerous restrictions (such as the right to free movement, the right to work, the right of education etc..) started to be changed for those who hold the identification papers issued through out this program where:

- Four persons who were arrested by the General Security due to lack of IDs, were released from jail upon PHRO interference and demonstrating their issued Identification papers.
- We have been informed from three families registered with our project under the first classification "*registered with UNRWA in another country*" in Gaza Strip and West Bank, that:
  - i. they were separated from their families
  - ii. their children were added to them
  - iii. they were given a registration number in the original registration area
  - iv. they got promised by UNRWA to get a registration card within 6 months
  - v. currently they are benefiting from UNRWA services, where as after receiving the Registration Card, and if they got the Government's approval to transfer their registration files, they could get registered in Lebanon

Based on the dossier we submitted to the UNRWA's Relief Department, which included the records of the first 33 documented families within our project, we revised UNRWA to see whether more families had the same treatment. However, UNRWA said that they cannot give out such information since it is personal to the families and we should follow up with the families themselves.

- a. As it was stated previously, the program aimed to legitimize the presence of the Non-ID Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. Despite being addressing such issue since the year 2001, however we could say that fruitful results rather than the awareness and advocacy about the Non-IDs, succeeded to take place in 2005 and these results were affirmed by the issuance of the identification papers and their advanced approval from the governorate office. However, this





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



do not hinder passing through about several obstacles and complicities; we could display that the hastily political changes and the instable and insecure situations in Lebanon with its impacts has signified a challenge to the program's implementation. This is in addition to specific hurdles the program experienced from one time to another and that caused a delay or hindrance at some stages. This can be briefly illustrated as follows:

- i. the governmental changes that took place starting from the delay and postponement in the official administrative/security assignments “Directorate of the General Security, then the resignation of the Minister of Interior Affairs and the Retirement of the Director of the “General Directorate of Political and Refugees Affairs”. All this assisted in holding up the performance of this project for a while
- ii. The non incitation in the Minister of Interior Affairs resignation, on time that the assigned minister in charge does not have the full competences that the original minister has
- iii. The upright misunderstanding between the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the General Directorate of the General Security, despite that the later is a working department within the mentioned ministry as it is the case of the governorate offices and the General Directorate of Political and Refugees Affairs, which is responsible for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon. Nevertheless, since Palestinian Refugees are considered foreigners, thus their cases are subjected to the authority of the General Directorate of the General Security.

It is precious to reveal that PHRO has greatly succeeded in highlighting the humanitarian and legal aspects of the Non ID's issue, over the 2006 year and within its legal aid program 55 families with the total number of 271 individuals taking into consideration the available funds that were granted for such program. It is crucial to mention that PHRO has received more than 130 new cases requests for the legal assistance with the context of issuing ratified identification papers. Those in addition to other applications will be carried out to be proceeded in 2007. However, we should always take into account that Non-Identified Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon count (4,000 - 5,000 individuals)<sup>33</sup> and they have been awaiting for so long and trying as well to legitimize their residency in Lebanon and feel the equality with the other categories of the Palestinian Refugees in the same hosting country whom are deprived from their human rights and discriminated against as well. It is also important to mention that the Ministerial Committee for dialogue with Palestinian and that is headed by the Ambassador Khalil Mekkawi, and whom we greatly cooperated with since its establishment, promised to find an entire solution to the Non-IDs dilemma. This is expected to take place in 2007.

<sup>33</sup> To know more about the legal and socio-economic situation of the Non-Identified Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, take a look about PHRO's study report and download it from PHRO website



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



### 2- LEGAL AID/ADVICE FOR PRISONERS, DETAINEES, AND ARBITRARY ARRESTED PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

In 2006 the PHRO managed to have four delegates to the prisons over the Lebanese territories in which one of those delegates were granted the access to women prisons "see monitoring violations section, page 9 and beyond".

The PHRO managed to interview this year 281 Palestinian Prisoners out of the 366 presented in the 14 prisons in Lebanon including Romieh Prison which is considered the central prison and contains that largest number of prisoners within. Amongst the 281 interviewed prisoners, 102 benefited from the assistance provided and which can be briefed as follows:

- ❖ **33 Releasing Applications** were applied to prisoners who had spent their trialed period and awaiting to be released *taking into consideration that Palestinian Refugees in such cases are treated as Foreigners and releasing require firstly to pass by the General Security Offices and can not be conducted directly from the prison as Lebanese*. This points to the discrimination against Palestinian Refugees, moreover some prisoners can stay extra months in the prison because the General Security Car visits the prisons on weekly bases and most of the times there are no capacity in the car to accommodate all prisoners who should leave.
- ❖ **5 Combining Several Sentences Applications** were considered and performed. Combining Sentences is a legal procedure where the lawyer can request through applying such demand for his/her prisoner(s) knowing that within the Lebanese legal system if one has several sentences, they can be all combined together where the hardest punishment will be considered as the final sentence.
- ❖ **Miscellaneous Legal Aid/Assistance:** 64 prisoners benefited from separated legal assistance that varies between: having a specific date to be trialed after being detained for a long period, having certificate for being innocent from actions prisoners were entitled to, paying a penalty and having a releasing application in the afterwards, applying the procedure within which we request to revise the prisoner's judiciary document and provide a photocopy about it to the prisoner ...etc

Also, several prisoners benefited via PHRO delegates in prisons from several miscellaneous services "Medication, Nutritional, ...etc" provided by morale personalities, families ...etc

We should mention within this section of the annual report that the planned training course about the Lebanese Legal System, prisoners' rights and duties that was designed to target the prisoners did not take place this year due to time complexities that took place due to the war, which hindered the arrangement procedures. Thus this training conductance was postponed until 2007.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



### 3- LEGAL RESEARCH

On another level, the PHRO is carrying out an advanced legal research study specialized in the situation of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon with regards to the Lebanese laws, regulations and the international human rights norms and standards. This research study findings is expected to be launched in July 2007. However, the research section related to the right to work for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon in light of the Lebanese Labor laws and regulations is expected to be launched by April 2007.

### VI. NETWORKING PARTICIPATION

1. Being a member in the EMHRN, this consecutively gives the chance to be represented by a PHRO different member in its working groups "Palestine/Israel and Palestinians, Justice, Education, and the working group on Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers" of each.

The working groups meetings that were held in 2006 where PHRO participated as a member were according to the following calendar:

- Working group on Palestine/Israel and Palestinians – June 2006, Brussels -Belgium
- Working Group on Justice – April 2006 and November 2006 Casablanca – Morocco
- Working Group on Migration Refugees and Asylum Working Group Seekers –March 2006, Casablanca - Morocco and December 2006, Amman -Jordan
- Working Group on Human Rights Education and Youth – November 2006, Copenhagen - Denmark

Another participation for the PHRO within the framework of its membership in the EMHRN took place in May 2006 during the EMHRN General Assembly Meeting that took place in Madrid – Spain.

2. Else networking activities are participating in capacity building and raising awareness training courses which at the same time is considered a forum of sharing experience. Within this context, From July 4 to 14, 2006, Mr. Mohammad El-Najjar (PHRO Member, Legal Aid Program Coordinator) attended the annual international summer training course organized by the University of Malta, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Malta & Swiss Development Corporation. Training was provided by 80:20 NGO and the training's target group was diplomats from the Arab countries, Journalists, and Human Rights Activists who have educational role in their NGOs. The variety of trainees "Arab countries from Asia and Africa in addition to Europe, Western Europe and Scandinavian countries as well" presented a very wide and various cultural communications exchanges. It was highlighted previously in this report and within the Organization's Preface that Mr. El-Najjar and due to the erupted summer war 2006 was forced to stay in Malta until cease fire was accomplished.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



3. PHRO also get the opportunity to be presented in the underneath events of which a PHRO member was assigned to attended according to the field of experience and professionalism as well.
  - From February 17 to 19, 2006 participated in the Second Civil Forum Parallel to the Arab Summit which was organized by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS) and Moroccan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR). This forum took place in Rabbat – Morocco where two representatives from the PHRO attended.
  - From November 4 to 7, 2006, a PHRO representative participated in the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum that was held in Marrakech – Morocco and which was organized by the Euro-Med Non-Governmental Platform.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Despite of all the turmoil that undergone the country where instability, insecurity and tension is felt on daily basis, PHRO and its staff managed to continue on working within PHRO's mandate and did their best to attain as much as successful implementation for the Strategy Paper 2006 – 2008. pe with such situation to an extent which positively affected the work continuity and gradually lead to getting such results.

Briefly, we can tell that with a focus on the youth through education, the civil society through dialogue, and the vulnerable groups through structural assistance that was provided in the legal aid, PHRO managed to have a fruitful results. These results can be liable when we present that in 2006:

- Under the registration no. 36/AD, PHRO and starting from 4 February 2006 became a registered NGO in Lebanon in accordance with the Lebanese Laws.
- 12 applications for Membership were received, all in the period after the summer war 2006. These membership applications will be raised for the General Assembly Meeting that will be taking place in February 2007 at latest.
- Members Subscriptions, Members and Miscellaneous Donations were raised from 26,400 USD in 2006 to 29,700 reach USD in 2006
- The links between the different programs within PHRO served the mainstreaming and the continuous networking between the operational staff
- Donors Funding was raised from 187,970.70 USD in 2006 to 217,053.15 USD
- Our Educational and Raising Awareness activities in human rights, democracy and conflict resolution perspectives reached only 94 beneficiaries where as it scoped 567 recipients in 2005. This is a wide range of decrease is referred to the Summer War that erupted in Lebanon and that hindered the conductance of the planned summer camps where we can reach a wide group of participants over Lebanon.



## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



- Despite that PHRO didn't receive the required funds for all its programs, however that didn't lead to stop any of the programs especially that PHRO programs are connected to each other and mainstreaming between them is taking place. The direct consequences were the un enlargement of any of the programs.
- The dilemma that PHRO faced while applying to open its named bank account caused a delay in receiving its required funds for the year 2006 on time which caused some postponements in accomplishing some of the planned activities
- Beneficiaries level amongst the Palestinian Community and condensing networking with Lebanese communities leading to increase our credibility that we sensed from the solidarity of local, regional, and international communities when we experienced the threats and insults from the different non-state armed groups in Lebanon.
- Despite of the overall situation in Lebanon from the threats and insults that we continued in receiving in early 2006 and that was not legally ended, and the war circumstances that the country passed through in addition to its negative consequences, PHRO – staff and members – didn't stop their work or membership and in the contrary we all were motivated towards completing our mission in defending and protecting the rights of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.

With such conclusions, we turn to present our budget and incurred expenses for the year 2006





## المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO

Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)

Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)



### VIII. PHRO FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

Description	Unpaid Outstanding Debits	\$	Totals
<b>Credit from 2005</b>			<b>11,292.82</b>
<b>Contributions Received</b>		<b>247,419.82</b>	
Members Subscription [ 36 members paid 100,000 L.P each app 66.67 USD] (completed in December 2006)		2,400.00	
Candidate Fees for the Elections of Board of Directors Members [ 10 members paid 100,000 L.P each app 66.67 USD]		666.67	
Donation from members		7,800.00	
Miscellaneous Donations over the year		19,500.00	
17 March 2006 - First Payment from the Protestant Churches in the Netherlands "Kerkinactie" for the Project titled <i>Dialogue, Education &amp; Advocacy towards Conflict Resolution/Prevention &amp; Rights Improvement</i> (50,000€ @ 1.208€/ \$)		60,447.50	
28 March 2006 - Traveling Expenses Reimbursement by EMHRN for participating in working groups meetings that took place in October & November 2005.		2,240.00	
01 June 2006 - Embassy of the Netherlands - First Payment of the Project titled <i>Joint Lebanese &amp; Palestinian Advocacy Practicum Supporting the Right to Work for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon</i>		24,544.50	
12 May 2006 - Joint Christian Committee for Social Services "JCC" - Fourth Payment to cover Administrative Expenses related to the project titled Lebanese-Palestinian Youth Dialogue on Conflict Resolution (808.50€ + 500€) @ 1.276€/ \$		1,670.35	
17 August 2006 - Second Payment from the Protestant Churches in the Netherlands "Kerkinactie" for the Project titled <i>Dialogue, Education &amp; Advocacy towards Conflict Resolution/Prevention &amp; Rights Improvement</i> (25,000€ @ 1.280€/ \$)		32,017.80	
29 September 2006 - Ford Foundation Support over PHRO's Startegy		74,972.00	



# المنظمة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (حقوق)

**Palestinian Human Rights Organization (Rights) - PHRO**

**Member: Euro – Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)**

**Member: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)**



01 November 2006 - Joint Christian Committee for Social Services "JCC" - First Payment to cover contractual expenses to conduct the analysis study titled Challenges & Difficulties in relation to the project titled Lebanese-Palestinian Youth Dialogue on Conflict Resolution 1200€@ 1.272€/ \$		1,526.40	
14 December 2006 - Embassy of the Netherlands - Second Payment of the Project titled <i>Joint Lebanese &amp; Palestinian Advocacy Practicum Supporting the Right to Work for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon</i>		19,634.60	
<b>Total Contributions</b>			<b>258,712.64</b>
<b>Expenses Incurred</b>			
Travel and Accommodations		8,431.68	
Advocacy (Website, Publications & Seminars and Conferences)		27,464.15	
Research, Monitoring & Documenting Human Rights Violations		27,036.00	
Education and Raising Awareness		49,660.16	
Networking		4,136.00	
Dialogue & Conflict Resolution		17,912.35	
Legal Research & Aid		23,394.67	
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>			
Remuneration Fees		12,477.33	
<i>Unpaid Remuneration Fees (Debt Appear in the Balance from year 2004 but not counted)</i>	<b>8,020.00</b>		
Security Staff, Driver and Housekeeper		8,660.00	
Consultants		500.00	
Office Expenses		22,299.00	
Subscriptions		2,618.97	
<i>Unpaid Subscription Fees (Debt Appear in the Balance but not counted)</i>	<b>781.04</b>		
Interns & Volunteers		2,260.00	
Furniture and Equipments		9,804.70	
Ain El-Hilweh Office Rent		1,800.00	
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Emergency & Accidents Financial Aid		1,866.67	
Bank Account Expenses and Fees		154.27	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>220,475.95</b>
<b>Credit carried for 2007</b>			<b>38,236.69</b>