

**Project Title:** Human Rights Treaties: Maximising the Engagement of Iraqi Civil Society

**Dates:** August-November 2010

**Location:** Erbil, Iraq

**Unit:** United Nations Capacity Building

**Core Staff:** Professor Michael O'Flaherty (Project Director, Co-Director Human Rights Law Centre); Bailey Grey (Project Leader, Human Rights Law Centre, Coordinator)

**Consultants:** Elias Diab (Project Officer, July-August 2010); Mai Abu-Moghli (Project Officer, September-December 2010); Emilie Hunter (On-site Project Coordination, September-December 2010)

**Funders:** United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

**Objectives:**

The project aims to build the capacity of Iraqi civil society organisations (CSOs) in writing shadow reports. This will be achieved through the provision of a training programme to enable Iraqi CSOs working on human rights issues to develop in-depth knowledge of United Nations human rights treaties and their monitoring bodies. This will provide the CSOs with the necessary skills to compile, draft and disseminate shadow reports to be submitted to treaty bodies during the reporting process. These workshops seek to cultivate an understanding of international standards relating to human rights information gathering and reporting. The instruction will also advance the capacity of civil society organisations to be able to effectively follow up the concluding observations adopted by human rights treaty bodies during reviews of their country.

**Participants:**

Participants are drawn from an extensive range of CSOs in Iraq.

**Activities/Content:**

Method The training will be conducted through a twenty day programme which consists of four workshops, each of five day duration. The training, held in Arabic, is designed in accordance with good pedagogical practice. Sessions are interactive making use of different technologies and adult learning methodologies such as case studies, problem solving activities, working group exercises, role play, participant presentation and use of DVDs and web cases. The programme has been customised to deal with particular challenges faced by Iraq through the input of regional and topical human rights specialists.

Speakers The training team is comprised of experts in human rights within the Arab region. It is led by Dr Amin Mekki Medani, Senior Partner and Human Rights Lawyer in El Karib & Medani Law Firm, Khartoum, Sudan and Former Representative to the Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Arab Region. Other members of the training team are:

- Ms Mervat Rishmawi, Independent Human Rights Consultant, London United Kingdom;
- Mr Joseph Schechla Co-ordinator Housing and Land Right Network, Habitat International Coalition, Cairo Egypt;
- Mr Nasser Amin Director General Arab Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Cairo Egypt;

The training examines the key themes within each of the UN treaties and the relevant reporting procedures. There will also be a detailed exploration of the reporting procedure within the international human rights framework.