

Project Title: Training for Sudan's National Human Rights Commission

Date: 13-17 January 2013

Location: Khartoum, Sudan

Unit: Short Courses and Training

Core staff: Agnes Flues

Training Team: Mervat Rishmawi, HRLC Fellow; Randa Siniora, Executive Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights, Palestine; Ziad Abdel Tawab, Deputy Director, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Funder: British Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan

Project Summary

A five day training programme was delivered to members of Sudan's National Human Rights Commission (SNHRC) that focused upon the roles and responsibilities of a National Human Rights Institution and its relationship with civil society, government actors and the media.

The training programme was delivered by an expert training team from the Arab region with practical knowledge and experience of NHRIs.

Objectives

The focus of the training was to equip SNHRC members with practical knowledge and skills on their roles and responsibilities as a Commission, and how to establish effective relationships with civil society, government actors and media.

Participants

Ten commissioners, including the Chairperson and her Deputy, participated in the training. Approximately 25 representatives from civil society organisations joined one of the sessions, dedicated to *Working with Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations*.

Activities

Training sessions addressed the following themes through interactive discussion and group exercises:

- Role, tasks and responsibilities of a NHRI and the Paris Principles;

- Being a Commissioner: independence, competence, , neutrality and impartiality;
- Principles and best practices for handling complaints;
- Principles and best practices for interventions and mediations;
- Working with Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations;
- Building Effective Relationships with Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations;
- Human Rights Information Gathering, Monitoring and Documentation;
- Principles of Separation of Powers and role of a NHRI;
- Working with State actors – Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary;
- Effective Use of Media;
- Promoting human rights knowledge in wider society

The training programme was formally opened by the British Ambassador, Dr Peter Tibber at a press conference on Sunday 13 January..

While in Khartoum, the training team engaged throughout the week with a wide range of stakeholders. Randa Siniora delivered two lectures to students at Ahfad University for Women on *How Palestine Deals with Women's Rights* and the University of Khartoum on *The Role of NHRIs*.

Mervat Rishmawi met with the Advisory Council for Human Rights - the government body that coordinates all human rights policy – discussing how to mainstream human rights in government. Mervat also gave an interview to Omdurman television network on the aims and objectives of the training; part of one training session was recorded and both featured in a special programme on the Commission.

Ziad Abdel Tawab met with members of an NGO that monitors human rights in South Sudan and discussed methodologies when preparing UPR submissions.

Outcomes

During the joint session with civil society, the Commissioners and civil society representatives discussed mutual expectations and areas of collaboration and developed a ten point list of common objectives.

Following completion of the training, the SNHRC will benefit from a six month mentoring scheme with the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine