

HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION IN MOROCCO

**A Project of Freedom House
Through the RIGHTS Consortium**

**Associate Agreement No. 608-A-00-01-00149-00
Leader Cooperative Agreement No. AEP-A-00-99-0001
Funded by the Agency for International Development**

**Third Quarterly Narrative Report
Reporting Period: April 1 – June 30, 2002**

I. Summary

In October 2001, Freedom House, through the RIGHTS Consortium, launched a project entitled, "Human Rights Promotion in Morocco," aimed at strengthening the capacity of Moroccan human rights organizations to monitor, report on, and advocate for improved human rights. In June 2002, USAID granted a cost-extension of \$150,000 for an additional 10 months to this associate award agreement. The total budget for this project is \$300,000.

Through this project, Freedom House conducted training and on-site technical assistance to build the institutional capacity of Moroccan human rights organizations to monitor and report on human rights violations, as well as to undertake advocacy on specific human rights issues. The program had the following objectives:

- Provide appropriate basic skills in monitoring, documenting, and reporting human rights violations.
- Discuss obstacles to monitoring and lessons learned in overcoming such obstacles.
- Establish best practices in investigative procedures, identifying sources of information, and fact verification.
- Develop strategies for increased networking among human rights NGOs, including recruiting and training human rights monitors throughout Morocco.
- Improve public outreach, including media relations.

This report summarizes program activity and results for the third quarter of the project.

II. Project Activity

During this quarter, Freedom House prepared for and conducted its third workshop in the program.¹ The workshop, which was held in Casablanca on May 26 and 27, 2002,

¹ Also during this quarter, Freedom House Project Manager Abderrahim Sabir assisted in implementing a program on reform of the Moroccan penal procedure code in coordination with the American Bar Association. The penal procedure code project is addressed in a separate quarterly report.

focused on outreach, techniques of building networks and coalitions, the use of technology (e.g., listservs) for human rights organizations, and how human rights organizations develop and maintain credibility. *Please see Attachment 1 for the workshop agenda.* Freedom House's first two workshops, which were held in the second quarter, addressed "Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation Techniques" and "Local and International Remedies and Techniques of Report Writing," respectively.

Fifteen individuals, six of whom are women, from the following organizations and cities in Morocco participated in the workshop:

- **Association Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme** (Moroccan Association for Human Rights) – Rabat (3 persons)
- **Ligue Democratique pour les Droits de la Femme** (Democratic League for the Rights of Women) – Casablanca (1 person)
- **Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme** (Moroccan Organization for Human Rights) – Agdal-Rabat (3 persons)
- **Centre des Droits des Gens** (Center for Human Rights) – Fes (1 person)
- **Forum Marocain pour la Verité et la Justice** (Moroccan Forum for Truth and Justice) – Casablanca (2 persons)
- **Association Marocaine des Droits des Femmes/Centre Fama** (Moroccan Association for the Rights of Women/Fama Center) – Casablanca (1 person)
- **Association Ennakhil pour la Femme et l'Enfant** (Ennakhil Association for Women and Children) – Marrakech (1 person)
- **Centre d'Assistance pour Femmes Maltraitées** (Assistance Center for Mistreated Women) – Tetouan (1 person)
- **Observatoire Marocain des Prisons** (Moroccan Prison Observatory) – Casablanca (1 person)
- **Centre d'Ecoute et d'Orientation Juridique et Psychologique pour Femmes Aggressées** (Center for Intake and Judicial and Psychological Direction for Abused Women) – Casablanca (1 person)

Freedom House Project Manager Abderrahim Sabir led the workshop and provided comparative examples from his prior work with Amnesty International and the Women's Learning Partnership. In addition, a representative from a coalition of Moroccan women's groups, Printemps d'Egalité (Spring of Equality), reported on the coalition's success in convincing governmental authorities to attempt to reform the family code. The representative explained how the coalition achieved this impact by clearly defining their goals, identifying relevant decision makers, formulating specific messages, and mobilizing funds for advocacy. Participants in the third workshop indicated in written evaluations that they found the information to have been valuable and pertinent to their work. In the coming months, Freedom House will contact participants to ascertain whether and to what extent they have incorporated information imparted in the third workshop into their work.

III. Future Activities

In June 2002, USAID awarded a cost-extension to Freedom House for a second phase of its human rights promotion program. This second phase, which will last ten months and targets needs identified in the first phase of the program, will consist of the following four components: (1) an intensive one-day training for Moroccan NGO representatives on international human rights standards and mechanisms; (2) "training of trainers" on human rights monitoring, documentation and reporting methodologies; (3) training on capacity building for leaders of Moroccan human rights organizations, including outreach; and (4) specialized technical assistance for individual Moroccan human rights organizations. In each of these components, Freedom House will continue to work with the more than 15 Moroccan human rights organizations that participated in the first phase of its program. In addition, Freedom House will work to expand the number of human rights organizations and sections included in its activities, focusing specifically on those organizations or branches that are located outside the Rabat-Casablanca corridor.

In the next quarter, Freedom House plans to hold consultations with human rights organizations throughout Morocco to refine further its programming ideas, including selecting local trainers and identifying priorities for on-site technical assistance with individual human rights organizations. Freedom House expects to submit a final work plan to USAID for review in August 2002 and to begin program activities in September 2002.

Freedom House
Human Rights Promotion in Morocco
Workshop on Public Outreach and Networking
May 26-27, 2002
Casablanca, Morocco

May 26, 2002

09:00 Opening

- Welcome
- Introduction of Participants

09:15 Session I: Credibility of Human Rights Organizations

- What goes into being a credible human rights organization?
- How does a human rights organization define independence, impartiality, and objectivity?
- Why and how should a human rights organization be transparent?

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Continued Discussion

12:00 Short Remarks

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session II: Outreach

- Participants will be divided into two groups, and each group will be asked to develop an outreach activity, one in a city, and the other in the countryside.

15:00 Discussion

- Why is public outreach important?
- How do you develop and implement effective public outreach?

16:30 Models of Successful Outreach

- Moroccan examples
- Comparative examples

17:30 Short Remarks

May 27, 2002

09:15 Session III: Networks and Coalitions

- Networks vs. coalitions

- Why form a network?
 - o How do you develop a network?
 - o Models of successful networks
 - Moroccan
 - Comparative

- Why form a coalition?
 - o How do you form a coalition?
 - o Models of successful coalitions
 - Moroccan
 - Comparative

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session IV: Information Technology for Networking

- Listservs

- E-mail

- Other

17:30 Music