

مركز الكواكبي
للتحولات الديمقراطية



Al-Kawakibi Democracy
Transition Center

KAWAKIBI DEMOCRACY TRANSITION CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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égalité
Libertés
Citoyenneté
Justice
Protection

Introduction

Having celebrated in 2017 its 10th anniversary, “**Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center**” (KADEM) has endeavored to further enhance its performance at the programmatic and institutional levels. It has, in fact, successfully implemented various projects in connection with human rights governance, security sector reform, review of legislation, and civic space preservation. It has also been keen on developing its institutional system by setting up a new body, the “Kawakibi Board”, while modernizing its working methods and increasing its visibility on the Internet.

The Center has played a significant role in boosting the process of democratic transition in Tunisia, by strengthening the capacities of relevant actors and decision-makers (training sessions for parliamentarians, members of independent bodies, and other actors). It has also sought to influence reform processes, especially in the legal area (legal framework of human rights structures, hearing sessions in the Parliament), and at the procedural level (supporting Security Sector Reform).

Furthermore, the Center has sought to further strengthen its relations with relevant Tunisian stakeholders, by involving Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in issues pertaining to civic space and transitional justice, and also by engaging with Tunisia’s friends supporting its democratic transition (international organizations and representatives of friendly countries). It has also worked to enhance its role in terms of academic research, by contributing to the publication of two studies, and inviting researchers from Tunisia and others from Arab and European universities interested in the Tunisian experience.



Programs and activities

In view of the intensity and complexity of democratic transition issues in Tunisia and in the Arab World, the Center has sought to structure its contribution through regular and well-designed programs and activities. This contribution covers four major fields : elections, transitional justice, institutional reform, and civic space.

Taking into consideration the priorities of the transitional stage and political agenda, the Center has focused its work mainly on institutional reform and civic space, with a limited contribution to the area of transitional justice.

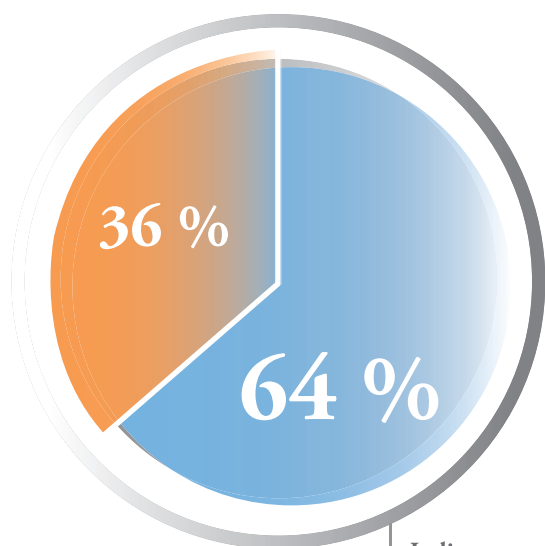
1. Institutional reform

Institutional reform is one of the key elements of democratic transition in Tunisia, especially in light of the new Constitution of 2014 and the international conventions ratified by Tunisia. Most of the State's institutions, in fact, need to be subjected to reforms in accordance with a new democratic approach. Laws and legislations relating to human rights, freedoms and democratic principles also need to be reviewed. Proceeding from these considerations, the Center has pursued its work on Human Rights governance, Security Sector Reform, and Law Reform in Tunisia.

/ Human rights governance

As part of its action in support of democratic transition in Tunisia, the Center implemented, jointly with the Swiss Cooperation Agency, a project on human rights governance. A series of activities and initiatives were organized, as part of this project, during the period August 2016 – November 2017. These include : Three (3) seminars/workshops, nine (9) training sessions, four (4) meetings, and four (4) institutional diagnoses. A website was designed and a presentation video was produced to publicize human rights structures. A new dynamic was established with regard to human rights governance and the legislation compatible with international principles and conventions.

No less than 15 official human rights structures in Tunisia were involved in this project, along with judicial and legal bodies, 30 associations, and a number of media representatives. Nearly 400,000 persons were also involved through training sessions (140) and meetings (250), in addition to a large number of indirect beneficiaries.



Effective participation on Human Rights Governance project

■ Meetings
■ Training Sessions

Indirect Beneficiaries:
(Web Site, reports,,)

/ Consultative meetings

As a follow-up to a conference held late 2016, the Center organized a series of consultative meetings with public human rights structures, with the aim of promoting and coordinating dialogue among all relevant stakeholders. These meetings also aimed at identifying the challenges faced by these structures, and exploring opportunities for implementing joint activities.

The meetings were attended by heads of independent bodies and representatives of human rights structures in Tunisia.

The meetings were held on a regular basis and in different venues:

- First meeting on December 1, 2016 at KADEM headquarters;
- Second meeting on April 14, 2017, at the headquarters of the National Authority for Protection of Personal Data;
- Third meeting on July 28, 2017, at the headquarters of the Higher Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms;
- Fourth meeting on September 25, 2017, at the headquarters of the Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication.



/ Consultative meetings with independent bodies



/ Training sessions

As part of its endeavor to strengthen the capacities of human rights structures, the Center organized seven (7) training sessions designed to spread awareness of human rights governance in Tunisia. Topics were jointly chosen during the consultative meetings that the Center had organized with human rights structures. These meetings were attended by the heads of independent bodies, the directors of research centers and observatories, and the heads of human rights units within ministries. Training sessions were held as follows:

Four (4) training sessions for official Human Rights structures



Training session on the “Protection of Personal Data” (Tunis, Tunisia – June 13-14, 2017). Focus was laid on the key concepts related to protection of personal data, which can be split up into three types: personal data, indirect personal data, and impersonal data. The session was chaired by Dr. Chawki Gaddess, President of the National Authority for Protection of Personal Data, who addressed the legal framework of personal data protection in Tunisia. He offered, in this regard, an overview of the current body of law related to personal data protection, and also the draft laws that are still under examination.

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These concern, in particular, the unique identifier, the biometric ID card, public roads control, Internet crimes, and intelligence law. The session brought together representatives of independent bodies, human rights units within ministries, and research centers and observatories.



Training session on “Reporting” (Tunis, Tunisia – August 24-25, 2017). The session was chaired by Dr. Ammar Dwaik, Director-General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights, in the presence of representatives of most public human rights structures in Tunisia. The session addressed the process of drafting of annual reports submitted by human rights structures, in terms of form and content. It covered all stages of the reporting process : planning, data collection, report writing, and report

publication. The session was attended by representatives of independent bodies, human rights units within ministries, and research centers and observatories.



Training session on “Institutional Communication” (Tunis, Tunisia – September 28-29, 2017) for the representatives of human rights structures in Tunisia. The topic was chosen jointly with the structures whose representatives attended the two-day training and showed keen interest in promoting their openness and interaction with other stakeholders. Other relevant issues were discussed during this session which was moderated by Mr. Karim Bouzouita, expert in communication.



Training session on the “Art of Discourse” (Hammamet, Tunisia – October 20-21, 2017). This session brought together human rights structures’ representatives in charge of information and communication departments. It aimed at drawing upon the outputs of training sessions to enhance their outreach programs and activities. The session was moderated by Mr. Karim Bouzouita, expert in communication, who would follow up with the structures having adopted new communication policies.

► **Four** training sessions for CSOs and the media

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Three (3) training sessions for CSOs and the media

- The Center organized two training sessions on « **Human Rights Governance in Tunisia: Needs and Priorities** » designed for CSO representatives and media professionals (Hammamet, Tunisia - September 28-30, 2017). The first session was attended by sixteen (16) participants, particularly from the regional offices of the Tunisian Human Rights League, Amnesty International, and other relevant parties. The second session was attended by 14 media professionals from various media outlets from across the country. This session was moderated by Dr. Wahid Ferchichi,



Professor of Public Law and Human Rights Expert, who offered an overview of the various types of human rights structures in Tunisia, using practical exercises for better illustration and more in-depth analysis. The two training sessions offered clear insights into the role of human rights structures in Tunisia, in line with the requirements of the 2014 Constitution and the relevant legislation, and taking into consideration the legislative and institutional transformations taking place in the country.

- The Center organized another training session on « **Human Rights Governance in Tunisia: Needs and Priorities** » for CSO representatives and media professionals (Hammamet, Tunisia – November 3-4, 2017). The session was attended by 16 participants from the regional offices of the Tunisian Human Rights League and Amnesty International, along with media professionals from various media outlets from across the country.



Three training sessions for CSOs and media professionals on “Human Rights Governance in Tunisia” ▲

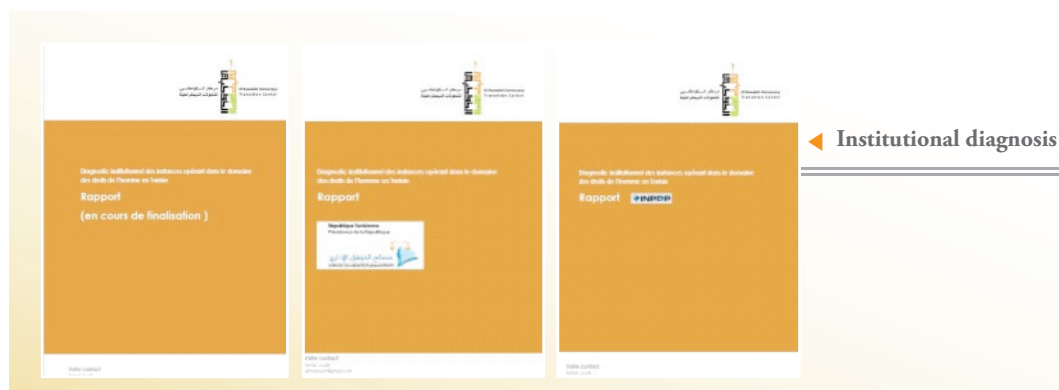


/ Institutional support

As a follow up to the aforementioned consultative meetings, the Center offered institutional support to a number of human rights structures, at their own request. The support took the form of institutional diagnosis or expertise enhancement.

/ Institutional diagnosis

This structures concerned with institutional diagnosis were : the National Authority for Protection of Personal Data, the National Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the National Ombudsman. Diagnosis helps these structures improve their performance and optimize the management of their human and logistical resources. The diagnosis process, conducted by Ms. Samira Louati, expert in administrative organization, was conducted during meetings that extended over two to three days. These meetings brought together the expert and the working team of each of the concerned structures. The relevant reports were then submitted to the heads of the structures to make the most of them.



◀ Institutional diagnosis

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- Expertise enhancement

On May 22, 2017, the Center and the Ombudsman Institution signed a partnership agreement defining the areas of cooperation between the two sides. These include, in particular, institutional diagnosis, staff training, and development of the communication strategy.



Transfer of expertise in institutional communication



Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between
“Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center” and The
“National Ombudsman”



Community strategy

The strategy was prepared by Dr. Karim Bouzouita, expert in communication, who started by identifying the shortcomings suffered by the National Ombudsman, and offered recommendations to enhance the performance of this institution and bring its services closer to citizens. Given the significant role it plays in the process of democratic transition, the National Ombudsman should have an efficient communication strategy that helps restore the citizen's confidence in the State's institutions.

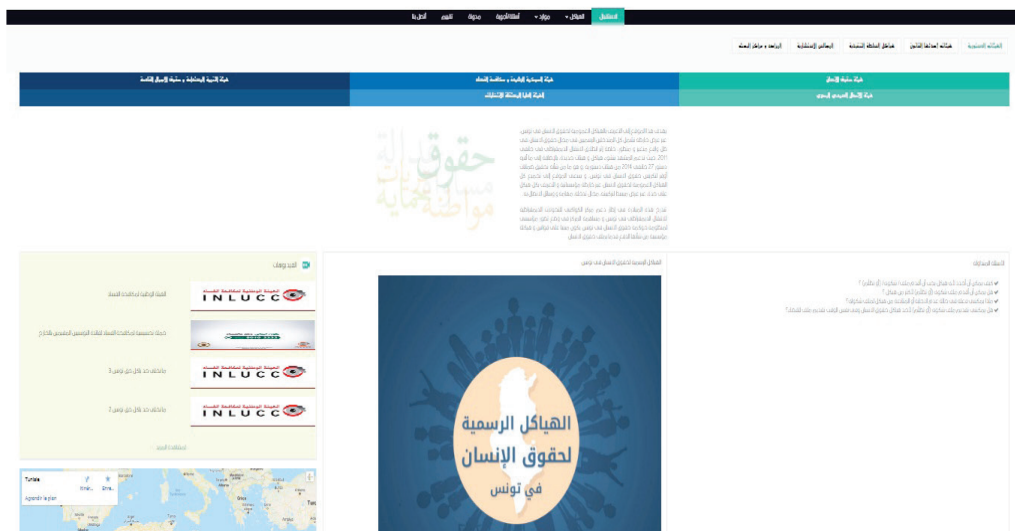
- Capacity enhancement

As part of the Center's support to human rights structures in Tunisia, and at the request of the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Mr. Amine Ghali, Director of the Center, provided training on human rights governance to the working team of this body on November 27-28, 2017. This training session was the fruit of cooperation between the Committee and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

- Outputs:

- Identification sheets of official human rights mechanisms, jointly prepared by the Center's working team and the concerned structures.
- A website www.dhtunisie.tn that introduces public human rights structures in Tunisia and other relevant official bodies, within changing and evolving realities, especially after launch of the democratic transition process in January 2011. The website introduces each of the human rights structures separately, and offers information on its composition, field of intervention, tasks, and contact details).

www.dhtunisie.tn



- A **study** published (in Arabic and in French) by the Center at the end of the project, entitled : “The Post-2014 Constitution Official Human Rights Structures in Tunisia : Overview and Assessment”. This study introduces the main human rights legislation, structures and bodies established in Tunisia during the period November 2014 – November 2017.

The Post-2014 Constitution Official
Human Rights Structures in Tunisia:
Overview and assessment November 2014
– November 2017



- A presentation **video** (one minute and 40 seconds) that introduces human rights structures, designed in a simplified format to make it accessible, via social media, to the largest number of citizens. It can also be used by the Center and by other institutions as training material.

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Screenshot from presentation video on “Official Human Rights Structures in Tunisia” ▼



Law reform

Keen on supporting the process of legislative development and reform, the Center has undertaken coordinated action with the relevant parties, including parliamentarians, the Legislation Department at the Presidency of the Government, and the Institute of Legal and Judicial Studies. The support provided by the Center took the form of training sessions, consultations, and suggestions to the legislative department or to the institutions and bodies concerned with the reform process.

- Training sessions

Over thirty (30) participants, including deputies and parliamentary advisors, took part in these training sessions. Training was provided by Mr. Ridha Fraoua, law expert and former president of the Law Drafting and Constitutional Monitoring Division at the Swiss Ministry of Justice, who offered a series of lectures (March 7, and April 7, 2017) in which he presented comparative experiences and the main law-drafting mechanisms compatible with international standards.

Another training session was later organized, on November 3, 2017, for the judges of the Institute of Legal and Judicial Studies. Participants found the session highly successful and beneficial, thanks to the wealth of knowledge provided by the expert Ridha Fraoua, and his efficient method in communicating information.

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Training session for judges of the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies ▲



Training session for deputies and parliamentary advisors ▲



Study Day for Tunisian MPs ◀

- Consultations

In cooperation with the International Federation for Human Rights, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (Tunisia), and the Tunisian Association for the Defense of Individual Freedoms, the Center organized, on October 31, 2017 in Tunis, Tunisia, a dialogue workshop entitled : “Dialogue for Freedoms”. This event brought together the members of the “Committee on Individual Freedoms and Equality” and a number of CSO representatives.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for discussion and exchange of views on issues related to individual freedoms and equality. The Committee, in fact, drew upon the expertise of CSOs working on individual freedoms, through the relevant studies and reports that were presented and were of great use to the Committee in drafting its final report (submitted in February 2018). Participants in the workshop also discussed a number of outdated legal provisions related to individual freedoms that needed to be revised, such as Articles 226, 226a, 230, 231, and 236 of the Penal Code, and Law No. 52, in addition to the need to abolish the death penalty. The members of the Committee highly appreciated this initiative, as it would help promote the participatory approach in the Committee’s work.



▲ Dialogue Workshop between Committee on Individual Freedom and Civil Society on October, 31st 2017

- Development of the legal field

Following the adoption of the new Constitution in 2014, Tunisia has stepped into a long process that is supposed to involve the revision of a large number of laws, in order to bring them in line with the provisions of the Constitution and the international conventions ratified by Tunisia after the Revolution.

In this context, and as part of the “Human Rights Governance in Tunisia” project, the expert Wahid Ferchichi offered a number of suggestions to amend the legal texts governing human rights structures, namely:

- The National Authority for Protection of Personal Data;
- The Committee on Human Rights;
- The National Ombudsman;
- Framework-Law on Observatories
- Framework-Law on Consultative Councils

These suggestions were designed to align Tunisian laws with the new Constitution and international conventions.

في تنفيذ وإتمام القانون الأساسي عدد 63 لسنة 2004 المؤرخ في 27 جويلية 2004 و التعلق بحماية المعطيات الشخصية



إن القانون المؤرخ في 27 جويلية 2004 يهدف إلى حماية المعطيات الشخصية و التعلق بحماية المعطيات الشخصية. كما تم إقراره بموجب الأمر عدد 3003 لسنة 2007 و المؤرخ في 27 نوفمبر 2007 للمنتقل بوسط طرز الهيئة الوطنية لحماية المعطيات الشخصية. لا يمكن هذه الهيئة من الصلاحيات الكافية و الاستقلالية اللازمة لـ المعطيات الشخصية بمسألة شاملة و جامعة.

فعلى مستوى الصلاحيات، فإنه لا بد أن نشاط الهيئة لا يشمل إلا التدخل في المجال المعطيات التي و هو ما يقتل من مجالات تدخلها و جعلها قاصرة عن مراقبة الإدارات و الهيئات العمومية في مجال استعد معالجة المعطيات الشخصية.

و على مستوى الكيفية، فإنه لا بد أن اختيار الرئيس و الأعضاء يتم باقتراح من الوزير المكلف بشؤون الإ و يتم التعيين بقتضى أمر و تعيب عن هذا التمثيل كل عناصر الشفافية، خاصة و أن أغلب أعضاء الهيئة ه ممثلي الوزارات و ليسوا أعضاء متفرقين للعمل في الهيئة باستثناء الرئيس و القاضيين الذين يمثلان القضاء ا و الإداري و هو ما من شأنه أن يؤثر سلبا على عمل الهيئة حيث لا يطمح أغلب الأعضاء إلا بدور استشاري يتوجب حضورهم عند اتخاذ القرارات إلا لوجوب توثيق التصايب !

هذه المقاربة تجعل من الجهاز الإداري للهيئة هو المكون الأساسي و الناقد لها، و هو ما من شأنه أن يطرأ الهيئة و يحول سبغها من حياة التفكير و الحماية و إبداء الرأي و خلق فقه خاص بالنسالة إلى حياة إدارية و عليها الطابع الإداري التنفيذي و أحيانا البيروقراطي.

ثم على مستوى الاستقلالية المالية، فإن ميزانية الهيئة تلحق بميزانية وزارة العدل و هو ما يفرض على إمداد لـ و التصرف فيها لاحقا رقابة من قبل الجهاز التنفيذي و هو ما من شأنه تقييد استقلالية الهيئة.

لهذه الأسباب يكون من الناجح تدقيق و إتمام القانون عدد 62 لسنة 2004 للمنتقل بحماية المعطيات الشخصية

Proposed draft law on the National
Authority for Protection of
Personal Data



Security Sector Reform and Governance

As part of its action in support of institutional reform, the Center has worked to promote the reform and governance of the security sector, being a crucial and sensitive issue especially in a period of transition. In cooperation with its partners, the Center has approached this issue from a practical perspective, under the heading of “Supporting CSO engagement in Security Sector Reform”. This initiative aims at improving police-community relations, while urging the security institution to change its practices and working method. The Center has also been involved in conducting a field study on this same issue.

In this context, the Center is working on three projects:

- “Supporting CSO engagement in Security Sector Reform”, in partnership with “Search for Common Ground” organization, (since early 2016 and for two and a half years;

- “Justice and Security”, in partnership with the United States Institute of Peace (since June 2017 and for 10 months); and
- A research project, in partnership with SAFERWORLD (till the first quarter of 2017).

- Supporting CSO engagement in Security Sector Reform

As part of the implementation of the first two projects, the Center acts in five (5) Tunisian regions, namely :

- Sidi Hssine (Governorate of Tunis),
- City of Bizerte (Governorate of Bizerte),
- City of Kasserine (Governorate of Kasserine),
- Ben Guerdane (Governorate of Medenine), and
- La Marsa (Governorate of Tunis).

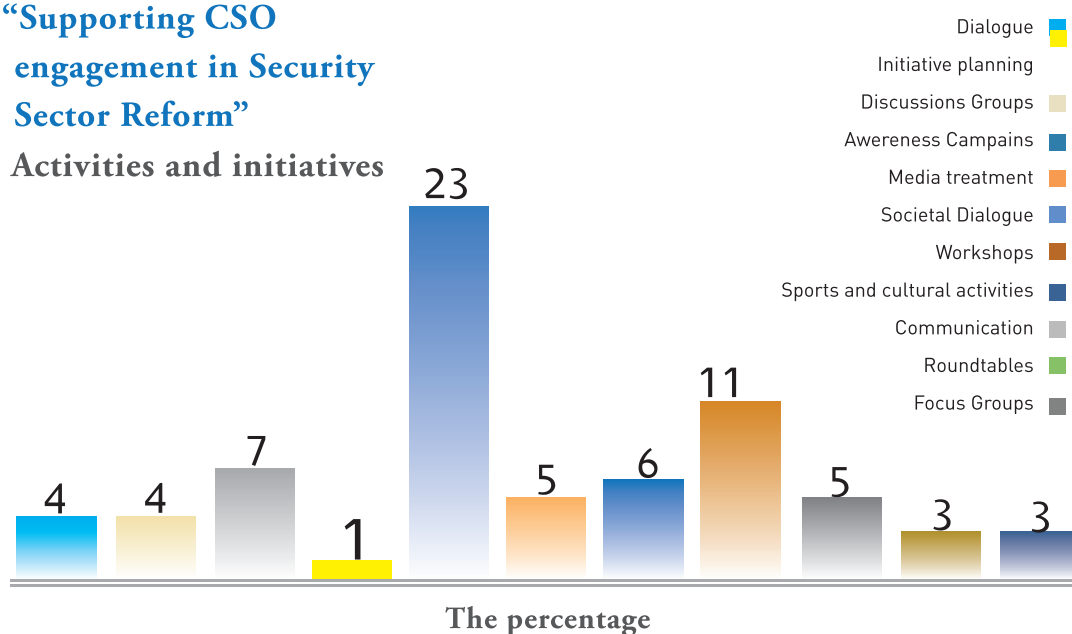
These regions were chosen in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior, given their importance from a security perspective. The third project involves a field study on the need for reforming the security approach in the face of extremism.

A host of activities and initiatives were undertaken in the selected regions: 4 workshops on societal dialogue techniques; 4 workshops on media treatment of security issues; 7 workshops on communication; a workshop on initiative planning; 23 societal dialogue sessions; 5 roundtables; 6 awareness campaigns; 11 workshops; 5 focus groups; 3 discussions groups; sports and cultural activities, and participations in radio programs.

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“Supporting CSO engagement in Security Sector Reform”

Activities and initiatives





Police-civil society dialogue sessions ; and Projects implemented in various regions

* Meetings and dialogues in the regions

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These projects have been implemented in partnership with CSOs and local security councils in the aforementioned regions. The Center has offered material, logistical and knowledge support, and provided expertise to the partners in the five selected regions. Between January and March 2017, four (4) societal dialogues were held in each of the regions. Dialogues were moderated by a group of specialized facilitators who were in charge of supporting CSO activities and initiatives. They brought together various actors concerned with Security Sector Reform, including CSO representatives, security professionals, citizens, journalists... Through these dialogues, the Center and "Search for Common Ground" sought to identify the concerns of participants and the daily security problems they were facing. There was also an attempt to focus action on an agreed-on security issue and to come out with a clear plan of action that would then find its way to implementation through a series of activities and initiatives.

In the same context, the Center and its partners organized, in March 2017, training sessions for journalists and correspondents working in each of the selected regions, in order to help them develop a better understanding of the security sector and its complexities and various fields of competence. The ways of access to information and media treatment of the sensitive security issue were among the topics addressed in this training session.

✳ Initiatives :

Following the transfer of expertise through training sessions and societal dialogues, the Center and “Search for Common Ground” selected, in May-June 2017, the projects to be implemented, while providing partner associations in Tunis, Bizerte, Kasserine, and Ben Guerdane with material, logistical and knowledge support. The Center adopted the same approach with La Marsa local security council, with the contribution of the United States Institute of Peace. The aim was to enable partner associations to effectively implement their action plans and undertake successful initiatives.

In Sidi Hssine,

the partner associations (Union of Independent Tunisians for Freedom; Tarayt Association; Tunisian Association for Social Cohesion) were involved, from September to November 2017, in a project whose aim was to build a new police-community relationship through an initiative to promote responsible awareness in relation to the security institution.

In Bizerte,

the partner associations (Youth and Skills Association ; Right to Difference Association ; Youth Leaderships Association) were involved, from July to October 2017, in Security Sector Reform. Action was focused on various issues: enhancing police image, drug prevention in schools, and improving police-community relations.

In Kasserine,

the partner associations (Youth Forum for Citizenship Culture; “Houna El-Gassrine” Radio; Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship) worked, from July to October 2017, under the heading: “Security Is Our Collective Responsibility”. Action was focused on various issues : improving traffic safety in the Main Road in Kasserine; curbing violence in stadiums, and drug prevention in schools.

In Ben Guerdane,

the partner associations (Irada Association; Ben Guerdane Al-Ghad, Alliance of Ben Guerdane Associations) worked, from July to October 2017, on three projects designed to improve police-community relations, namely : enhancing police image; drug prevention in schools; traffic safety in the region.

In La Marsa,

action on Security Sector Reform was somehow different. It was undertaken, in July 2017, in partnership with La Marsa Local Security Council, in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior and the Municipality of La Marsa, and with support from the United States Institute of Peace. There were also roundtables and societal dialogues on youth violence and violence against women (Dialogue Day on October 27, 2017).

* Study on “The Development of a Local Approach to Combating Extremism, Violence and Terrorism”

As part of the partnership between the Center and SAFERWORLD, a project for developing a local approach to combating extremism, violence and terrorism has been implemented. This project involves drawing up a plan to face violence in all its forms and to counter terrorism. In this regard, the research team conducted meetings in three regions : Sidi Hssine (Governorate of Tunis), Sidi Bouzid, and Mednine. The meetings brought together researchers from the Center, CSO representatives, and representatives of local authorities. Special discussion groups were devoted to youth issues, and the principle of parity was adopted in most of the meetings.

At the end of the project, the Center organized a “Thinking Workshop” (Tunis, Tunisia – March 29, 2018) on ways to counter violence, extremism and terrorism. This half-day event was an opportunity to discuss and exchange views and experiences with national and international CSO representatives on ways to stand against such serious scourges as extremism, violence and terrorism. The workshop was also an opportunity to present the main outputs of the individual meetings and discussion groups conducted by the field research team during the first three months of 2017. These outputs were included in the study published mid-May 2017.

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Front page of the study

Workshop for the presentation of the study



Counter-terror in Tunisia: a road paved with good intentions?
by Lola Allaga and Kélie Incent O'Farrell

From the outside, Tunisia is perceived both as the sole success of the Arab springs and as a key battleground in the internationally backed 'war on terror'. It is a square crowded with international actors and civil society organisations (CSOs). While most arrived following the 2011 uprising to support its transition to democracy, today many are concerned with addressing 'terrorism' or violent extremism. Drawing on the first-hand accounts of local and international CSOs, Tunisian officials, foreign diplomats, and people living in Medenine, Sidi Bouzid and Sidi Hssine, Saferworld's latest in-depth looks at threats to peace in Tunisia and how they are being handled.

When you ask people in Tunisia what their main concerns are, it quickly becomes apparent that the country's stability primarily depends on addressing inequality and injustice. Yet the Tunisian government's failure to deal with the chronic social, political and economic inequalities, inequality and injustice that sparked the 2011 uprising risks fueling further division, and enables violent armed groups to exploit people's grievances with the state. Following the Bardo and Sousse attacks in 2015, the government declared a 'war on terror' and has relied on measures that are at times heavy handed and repressive in response to security threats. This has resulted in discontent and undermined the state's legitimacy as people denounce its tactics, react to repression and the lack of a long-term strategy.

Western actors, meanwhile, have provided unwavering support to the Tunisian government's efforts to address security threats, with western security forces in mind. This assistance is welcomed by some in Tunisia, but members of civil society have criticised western interventions in Tunisia for their lack of coherence and long-term vision, warning them against reinforcing the problems they must need to address. Many western actors have their

2. Civic space

Alongside the publication of the report entitled: “Enabling Environment National Assessment of Civil Society in Tunisia”, the Center has pursued action on issues related to civic space, through intensive efforts to preserve civil society gains, especially Decree-law 88, as well as through new partnerships, meetings, publications, and participations in relevant conferences and workshops.

Consultations with various actors

As part of its intensive action to preserve civic space in Tunisia, and with regard to Decree-law 88, the Center collaborated with OXFAM for the implementation of a project during the first half of 2017.

As part of this project, the Center organized advocacy workshops to raise awareness, among the relevant stakeholders and various target groups, of the importance of maintaining Decree-law 88. Action, in this regard, also involved producing two advocacy videos for campaigning purposes, preparing a policy paper summarizing the relevant study, and collecting relevant information from civil society.

All these efforts have helped raise awareness, among civil society and international partners, of the need to maintain Decree-law 88 as a guarantee for the preservation of civic space. They have, in fact, given rise to a sort of coalition engaged in a joint action coordinated by the Center. This coalition includes OXFAM, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, the Tunisian Human Rights League, “Jamaity” Association, the Multi-Actor Concerted Programme, “Article 19” Association, the Associations and Sustainable Development International observatory, and other national and international NGOs involved in this cooperative endeavor.

Thanks to these efforts, the revision of Decree-law 88 that the Government has the intention to undertake has been delayed, as the Government cannot but take into consideration civil society recommendations and pressures.

Workshops

- The Center organized 4 workshops in March 2017 and a workshop in June 2017. It also participated, through a workshop, in the Civil Society Symposium held in December 2017. The overall aim of these initiatives was to highlight the importance of maintaining Decree-law 88, which governs the work of civil society in Tunisia, as one of the gains of democratic transition. These meetings, which were designed to mobilize civil society forces to act for maintaining this piece of legislation, brought together representatives of the nascent coalition (Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Tunisian Human Rights League, “Jamaity”, Multi-Actor Concerted Programme, and “Article 19”) whose members have voluntarily joined the Center’s efforts in this regard.

- The workshops started with a presentation by Mrs. Anwar Mansri, judge at the Administrative Tribunal and technical expert of the project, in which she highlighted the importance of Decree-law 88 and other relevant legislation, which she considered as sufficient to cover all aspects of CSO action. On his part, Mr. Amine Ghali, Director of the Center, underlined the need to strengthen the capacities of the administrative departments in charge of civil society. He also expressed objection to any revision of the Decree-law, as it might bring about restrictions on freedom of association.
- These presentations were followed by high-level discussions among participants who expressed various views:
 - Tunisian civil society overwhelmingly supported the maintaining of the Decree-law.
 - International partners shared the concerns of civil society and pledged not to support any revision efforts.
 - Government officials defended the revision of the Decree-law, but their arguments were weak.



Photos of the Workshops

These meetings were organized as follows:

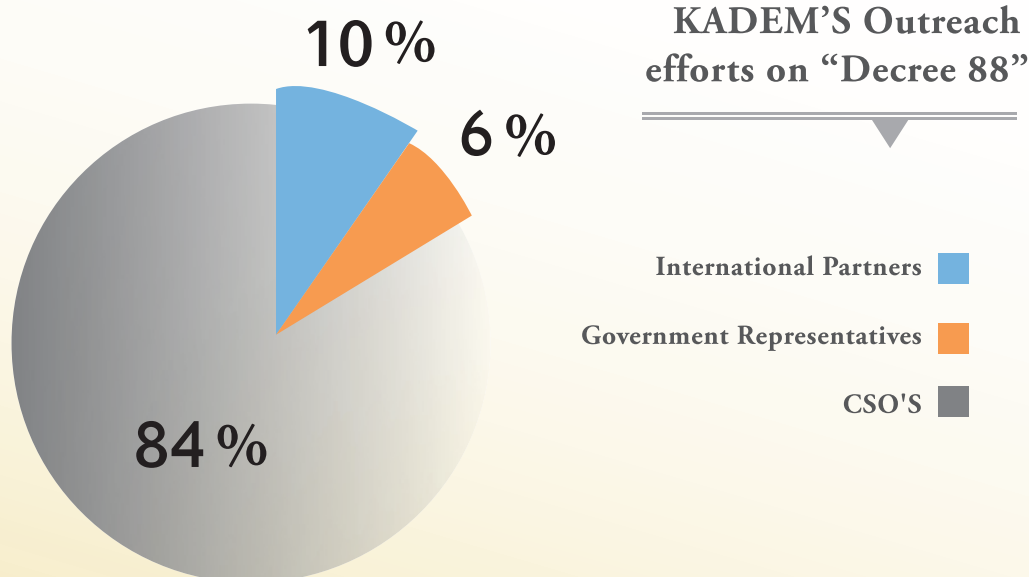
- **Workshop 1** : Meeting with international partners on March 14, 2017, with the presence of 24 participants representing international NGOs and technical/financial partners in Tunisia;
- **Workshop 2** : Meeting with journalists on March 25, 2017 (Very low participation of journalists in this meeting);
- **Workshop 3** : Meeting with government officials, with the presence of 14 participants from relevant official institutions and legal experts;
- **Workshop 4** : Meeting with national civil society on March 31, 2017, with the presence of 17 participants representing Tunisian CSOs.

- Seminar on civil society's attachment to Decree-law 88, organized on June 7, 2017 by the Center and its partners. This meeting was attended by over 70 participants representing civil society and human rights organizations, IFEDA (Center of Information, Training, Studies and Documentation on Associations), Tunisian Parliament, and journalists. No representatives of constitutional bodies, political parties and the relevant public institutions were present at the meeting.

This seminar was necessary to come out with a unified, coherent position reflecting the attachment of civil society to Decree-law 88.



Symposium on Civil Society's Attachment to Decree-Law 88



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Civil Society Symposium

The Center participated in the Civil Society Symposium organized, in Monastir, Tunisia, in December 2017, by a number of CSOs. This event was coordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, and attended by nearly 100 Tunisian CSOs. The Center's participation involved a summary presentation of the dynamic that came out of previous fora concerning Decree-law 88, in addition to the organization of a half-day workshop on "the economic model of associations".



Workshop on the “economic model of associations”



Inaugural session of the Forum

3. Transitional Justice

The Center continues to work on the issue of transitional justice, though at a low pace given the developments surrounding the transitional justice process in Tunisia and elsewhere.

The Center coordinates with the civil society-working group involved in the Tunisian transitional justice process. It also has contributions at the Arab level, through the “Transitional Justice Academy”.

Contribution to the work of the Tunisian Civil Society-working group

Since the holding of the National Conference on Transitional Justice on November 3-4, 2016, the Center has been working, jointly with a coalition that includes many other stakeholders (Lawyers without Borders, I Watch, Bawsala, Independent National Coordination on Transitional Justice, Tunisian Transitional Justice Network) to follow up on the implementation of the Conference recommendations. This event was, in fact, an opportunity to bring to the fore the main challenges and difficulties confronting the transitional justice process in Tunisia. The Center closely follows all dialogue sessions and meetings organized by the committee in charge of following up the Conference recommendations. It also supports all initiatives designed to ensure a successful implementation of the transitional justice process.

Transitional Justice Academy

As part of a process of rapprochement that started late 2015, the Center contributes to the Transitional Justice Academy, along with other international organizations, such as the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the American Bar Association, and the Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa. The Academy is designed to serve various actors in the Arab region. It offers training workshops and support for participants from Tunisia, Syria, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria. In this regard, the Center took part in an intensive training session held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was an opportunity to present the Tunisian experience in transitional justice and the Center's accumulated expertise in supporting this process. Presentations were made by Dr. Wahid Ferchichi, the Center's expert in transitional justice, and Mr. Amine Ghali, Director of the Center. This meeting, which brought together various partners, was an opportunity to discuss the possibility of renewing the experience in 2018, and the new role that the Center can undertake in this new academy.

Group photo of participants and experts at MENA Transitional Justice Academy Workshop



Advocacy for Democratic Transition in Tunisia

The Center was invited by decision-makers and Tunisia's partners to take part in a number of meetings on democratic transition in Tunisia. These meetings brought together the Center's representatives with politicians, experts, diplomats and representatives of international organizations in Tunisia and elsewhere. These meetings involved :

- An invitation for a mission in Washington D.C., USA (April 24-28, 2017) to meet with representatives of institutions taking interest in Tunisia's democratic transition experience : Tunisia Office in the US State Department, USAID, Office of International Crimes at the Department of Justice, representatives of Parliamentarians, and a number of research centers in Washington D.C
- A meeting in Rome, Italy, (May 16, 2017) with representatives of the Italian Foreign Ministry and representatives of international organizations to discuss issues pertaining to democratic transition in Tunisia.
- A series of meetings (July 10-12, 2017) in Belgium with EU representatives, and in the Netherlands with representatives of the Dutch Foreign Ministry and of international organizations, to address Security Sector Reform and the ways of enhancing this process. The invitation came from SAFERWORLD, as part of the follow-up of the report jointly prepared at the beginning of the year.

At the national level, the Center has pursued its intensive efforts to reach out to decision-makers so as to provide its expertise and to influence decisions related to democratic transition in Tunisia. These efforts involved :

- A visit to the Ministry in charge of Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights (December 5, 2017) to discuss issues pertaining to the civic space;
- Participation in a consultation at the Tunisian Parliament (July 13, 2017) on "Interaction with Civil Society". Parliament consequently grew aware of the need for a mechanism of interaction between Parliament and civil society.
- Participation, along with other CSO representatives, in a hearing session with the Parliament's General Legislation Commission concerning the "Draft Law on Repression of Attacks against Armed Forces". The government consequently backed away from this bill, pending its withdrawal.

Moreover, the Center's representatives held a number of official meetings with Tunisia's partners (diplomatic missions and international organizations). These meetings included:

- A workshop on democratic transition in Tunisia, held at the EU Mission (April 11, 2017) with the representatives of all EU embassies in Tunisia;
- A meeting with the Foreign Minister of Norway, and the Prime Minister of France;
- Meetings with the representatives of the embassies of Canada, Britain, France, and USA, along with EU and UNDP representatives.

4. Institutional Development

In 2017, the Center celebrated the 10th anniversary of its creation as an institution supporting democratic transition processes in the Arab World. It is now seeking to make a qualitative leap in its work. It has announced the establishment of the “Kawakibi Board” during a celebration that brought together the Center’s friends and partners.

Celebration of KADEM’s 10th anniversary

On January 15, 2017, the Center held a celebration marking its 10th anniversary. Nearly 80 guests from civil society, the political community, independent bodies, and partner organizations were present at the celebration, along with experts, academics, lawyers, judges, and media professionals. This event was an opportunity to offer an overview of the Center’s work since its creation (videos and photos), to thank all those who contributed to its successes and achievements, and also to present the Center’s new body, the “Kawakibi Board”.

Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center

مركز الكواكبي للتحويلات الديمقراطية

10 سنوات في دعم الانتقال الديمقراطي
10years of supporting democracy

Celebration
of 10th anniversary



Kawakibi Board

After holding the necessary consultations and drawing on the relevant best practices, the Center has set up a new body called “Kawakibi Board”. This body is composed of three members who are prominent figures in their areas of specialization, namely:

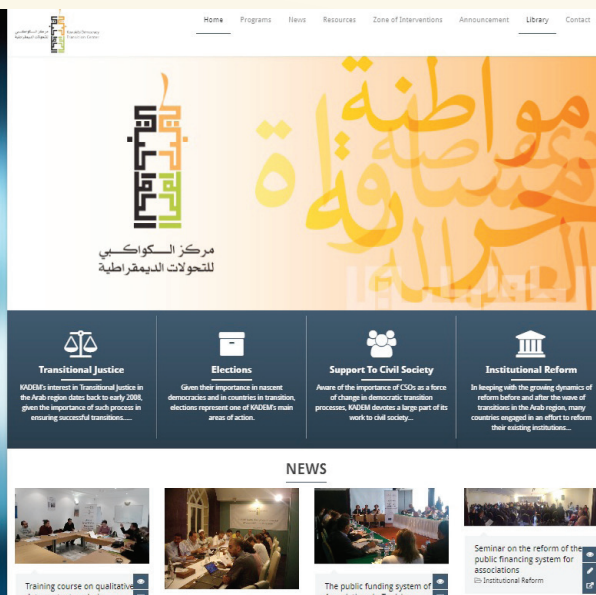
- Mrs. Raoudha Gharbi, Civil Society/Human Rights Activist;
- Mrs. Amel Wahchi, Judge and Director at the Higher Institute of the Judiciary;
- Mr. Fadhel Mahfoudh, Lawyer and former President of the Tunisian Bar Association.

This new body is designed to help improve the governance of the Center, by assessing its performance and suggesting new orientations that meet the requirements of democratic transition in Tunisia and in the Arab region.

The Center’s visibility on the Internet

In an endeavor to reach out to the largest number of people who are concerned with democratic transition, the Center has worked to increase its presence on the Internet, by launching a new website (despite some technical difficulties), and a Facebook page. It is also producing videos presenting the Center’s various initiatives, which are broadcast online (YouTube ...) While the experience is still recent, the first results are encouraging, with the number of followers having exceeded 1000 users.

Website screenshot



Facebook page screenshot



Financial situation

The financial situation is one of the main concerns of the Center's staff. Efforts, in this regard, are twofold:

- On the one hand, the Center works to mobilize financial resources, by submitting project proposals and engaging in partnerships with donors and international organizations. In this regard, the Center submitted and discussed thirteen (13) new funding proposals and partnership projects : five (5) were confirmed; three (3) are still under examination; and five (5) were not accepted.
- The Center has also managed to renew partnership with a number of its donor partners having financed its projects in 2016-2017.
- On the other hand, the Center is keen on ensuring accurate accounting through its working team, assisted by a public accountant, and under the control of a certified accounting firm, with the Center's budget amounting to 354000 dinars in 2017.

A future-oriented vision ...

In 2018, the Center will pursue its efforts to support democratic transition through its agreed-on fields of action: elections, transitional justice, institutional reform, and civic space. It will also work to enhance its presence in the Arab region, by sharing the Tunisian experience and supporting democratic transition processes in some Arab countries. To that end, the Center is developing partnerships and initiatives with other stakeholders and international organizations sharing similar goals.

At the institutional level, and with the support of the "Kawakibi Board", the Center will seek to further develop its capacities and strengthen its working team with expertise and competences that will contribute to the successful implementation of its projects, through openness to new technologies and foreign expertise.