



# Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center Annual report (2008)



## **Contents**

Introduction

### **Executive Summary**

#### **1 - Programs and activities**

1.1 –Citizenship Movement in the Arab Region

1.1.1 – Workshop on the Citizenship Movement in the Arab Region

2.1 – Guiding principles for civil society action

1.3 – Summer Academy on Good Governance in the Arab Maghreb

1.4 – Training session on Democracy and Good Governance in the Arab region

1.5 – Field visit to Iran

#### **2 – New partnerships**

2.1 – Arab Democracy Foundation

2.2 – No Peace without Justice

2.3 – Middle East Partnership Initiative

2.4 – German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

#### **3 – Institutional building**

3.1 – Promoting partnership with the Arab Institute for Human Rights

3.2 – Changes in the Center’s management: A new composition

3.3 – New website

#### **4 – Mobilization of resources**

4.1 – United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

4.2 – Foundation for the Future

4.3 – German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

4.4 – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation

#### **5 – Action in the near future**



## **Executive Summary**

The year 2008 witnessed a qualitative leap in the work of Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center which implemented various programs and activities.

The present report highlights the Center's main achievements, particularly as regards the building of an "Arab Citizenship Movement" (workshop on the citizenship Movement in the Arab Region held in Hammamet in July 2008), and the establishment of "Guiding Principles for Civil Society Action".

The report also covers the Center's participation in two training sessions: the first on "Democracy and good governance in the Arab region", held in Venice, Italy; and the second on "Good governance in the Arab Maghreb", held in Marrakech, Morocco.

At year's end, a group of experts were entrusted by the Center to visit Iran, as part of the policy of openness on the experiences of neighboring regions.

During the year, the Center has acquired a good fame and reputation at the Arab and international levels, as an active institution in the field of democratic transition.

Focus is also laid, in this report, on the Center's success in building new partnerships with the "Arab Democracy Foundation", the "European Inter University Center" and the "German Technical Cooperation" (GTZ), and also in strengthening the existing partnerships with Arab and international institutions and organizations, such as the Italian "No peace Without Justice" organization, the "Arab Institute for Human Rights" and the "Middle East Partnership Initiative".

The Center has developed a new website, and established links with a number of partner and friendly institutions.

The Center proposed new projects to donor institutions, seeking their support for the implementation of these projects in the Arab region.

## 1 – PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

In cooperation with partner and friendly organizations, Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center organized, during the past year, activities in Arab and non-Arab countries, as part of the implementation long- and short-term projects.

### 1.1 – Citizenship Movement in the Arab Region

Following the expert meeting held in Amman, Jordan, in June 2007, which called for framing the Arab democratic trend as a social movement that goes beyond sectoral and ideological divisions, Al Kawakibi Center has developed a large-scale project on “Citizenship in the Arab region”, with the participation of a number of Arab organizations and prominent figures. The first activity carried out, in this regard, was the organization of a workshop that laid the groundwork for this project.

#### 1.1.1 – Workshop on building the Arab Citizenship Movement

As part of the implementation of its project for the building of an Arab Citizenship Movement, Al Kawakibi Center organized a workshop aimed at creating a civil society alliance and drafting a “Call to Citizenship” in the Arab region. The workshop was held on July 25-26, 2008, in Hammamet, Tunisia in partnership with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Arab Democracy Foundation, and with the participation of Arab civil society representatives, media experts and intellectuals representing various trends and ideologies. Participants were involved in drafting the “Call to Citizenship”, in developing the regional plan for launching the citizenship campaign, and in developing the media plan for the citizenship campaign.



Representatives of Arab civil society taking part in the workshop “Building the Arab Citizenship Movement”, Hammamet, Tunisia

The meeting produced the “Call to Citizenship in the Arab region”, a document that includes the various citizenship calls and declarations in the Arab region, particularly those widely approved. It also came out with a civil society plan of action for the building of a large-scale alliance, along with a media plan to collect signatures when launching the campaign.

## 1.2 – Guiding principles for civil society action

“Promoting the guiding principles for NGOs, governments and partners in the MENA region” is one of Al Kawakibi Center’s projects. It also represented the fruit of what had been developed by the Democracy Assistance Dialogue (DAD) in its different meetings.

The project was submitted to NGOs during the preparatory ministerial meeting of the Fourth Forum for the Future held in Berlin in December 2007, then during the Forum for the Future held in Dubai in December 2008. The project aims at developing a working document that binds NGOs, governments and civil society in the MENA region around a positive legal and political framework that organizes civil society action and defines the nature of the relationship between governments and civil societies. All Arab governments have accepted these principles theoretically, but they have not adopted them, nor have they established effective grounds for their concrete implementation.

Given this disinclination to adopt these principles, Al Kawakibi Center has endeavored to build a civil society dynamic in a number of Arab countries, in order to materialize these principles and urge decision-makers to set a schedule for their adoption.

Al Kawakibi Center started implementing the first phase of this project, which consists in carrying out legal studies that compare between the above mentioned guiding principles and the Law on Associations organizing civil society and associative action in a number of Arab countries. These studies will be used in awareness-raising action undertaken in each country in cooperation with a number of local organizations.

## 1.3 – Summer Academy on Good Governance in the Maghreb Region

Al Kawakibi Center organized a summer academy on “Good Governance in the Arab Maghreb”, with the participation of 28 young men and women from

Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia.

Several issues related to good governance were addressed in this academy. They include: good governance and human rights, good governance and democracy, the independence of the Judiciary, equality and citizenship, transparency and corruption fighting, the rule of law, political participation and elections.

In addition to the daily lectures, the summer academy included roundtable discussions and field visits to Moroccan governmental institutions such as the Government Accounting Office and the Ministry of Environment. The academy also involved applied work on three themes: the “Barcelona Process”, “Governance in Border Areas”, and “Political Participation and Elections”.

The academy was held in Marrakech, Morocco, on June 28 – July 6, 2008, in cooperation with the European Inter University Center, the German Technical Agency (GTZ), the Arab Democracy Foundation, and the Faculty of Law at the Caddi Ayyad University in Marrakech.



Participants to the Summer academy on Good Governance in the Maghreb Region, Marrakech, Morocco



#### 1.4 - Training session on “Democracy and Good Governance in the Arab region”

Al Kawakibi Center organized a training session on “Democracy and Good Governance in the Arab Region”, with the aim of spreading the culture of democracy and good governance among the new generations of civil society activists.

Lecturers addressed various issues, including the principles of democracy, constitutionalism, political pluralism, democracy and human rights, local governance and democratic rule, management of elections, women and democracy, democracy and development, transitional justice, institutional building, and human rights.

The main lecturers in this workshop were Dr. George Ulrich, Secretary General of the European Inter University Center, Dr. Niccolò Figà-Talamanca from the Italian foundation “No Peace Without Justice”, Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui, Director of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, and Dr. Saad Eddine Ibrahim, Director of the Cairo-based Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies. This session was organized in cooperation with the European Inter University Center, International IDEA, and the Arab Democracy Foundation. Twenty-two young men and women from twelve Arab countries took part in this training workshop.



Participants to the training session on “Democracy and Good Governance in the Arab region”, Venice, Italy

#### 1.5 – Field visit to Iran

As part of Al Kawakibi Center’s policy of openness on the experiences of neighboring countries and regions such as Turkey, Iran and West Africa, a group of experts were charged by the Center with paying a field visit to Iran in December 2008. This visit was an opportunity to get acquainted with civil society organizations and prominent figures acting in the field of democratic transition, and to take cognizance of the dynamic witnessed in Iran in these last years. The visit was also an opportunity to make Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center known and to highlight its efforts in the Arab region



## 2 – NEW PARTNERSHIPS

In line with its policy of establishing partnership with Arab and non-Arab civil society organizations, Al Kawakibi Center has managed to build new partnerships and also to strengthen the existing ones. The Center did not confine its efforts to the Arab region; it has established channels of cooperation with European and American centers and organizations.

### 2.1 – Arab Democracy Foundation

Created in 2008, the Arab Democracy Foundation is one of the most important institutions concerned with democracy promotion in the Arab region. This Foundation has chosen to deal with Al Kawakibi Center as a partner in implementing activities and programs where the two institutions share the same objectives and methods of action.

The Arab Democracy Foundation contributed to short-term activities implemented by Al Kawakibi Center. These activities include the “Summer academy on Good Governance in the Arab Maghreb” and the training session on “Democracy in the Arab world”.

The Foundation is also involved in the “Citizenship Movement in the Arab Region” project, providing material and human resources as well as networking support to ensure the success of the project.

The Foundation has recently expressed its willingness to contribute to the transitional justice dynamic that Al Kawakibi Center has launched in cooperation with international and regional institutions.

The Arab Democracy Foundation and Al Kawakibi Center will, in the close future, act together for the implementation of large projects, especially the project related to the “Arab Freedom Observatory”. Al Kawakibi Center has been chosen to be in charge of the implementation of the Observatory’s activities in the Arab Maghreb region (Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania). Another project is the Master’s Program in Democracy Transition that the Foundation will soon launch.

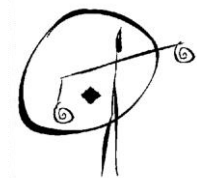
Mr. Mohsen Marzouk, Executive Secretary General of the Arab Democracy Foundation, is currently the chairman of the Executive Committee of Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center, after having served as the Center’s Executive Director.

### 2.2 – No Peace without Justice

In light of the successful joint action between the “No Peace without Justice” (NPWJ) organization and Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center in various programs implemented during the past couple of years, the NPWJ organization has decided that Al Kawakibi Center would be its partner in the Arab region in many of its projects.

After the positive results achieved through the joint action to establish a “Working Group on Transitional Justice” in the Arab region, the NPWJ organization has involved Al Kawakibi Center in its large-scale project on Transitional Justice. The Center, which serves as a fundamental partner in the Arab region, was granted, by the NPWJ organization, the necessary financial resources for that purpose.

To further promote their joint action, the NPWJ organization and Al Kawakibi Center have identified the areas of mutual agreement concerning the projects to be implemented in the Arab region. One of these projects concerns the formulation of guiding principles for civil society action, and the NPWJ organization has assumed



No Peace Without Justice

an important role in developing these principles. The two parties have also discussed the possibility that the Center takes part in the “Forum for the Future” process sponsored by the NPWJ organization

### 2.3 – Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) is one of the partners of Al Kawakibi Center. MEPI has financed a number of projects related to the training of trainers on civil action, peaceful work strategies, and knowledge management. It also finances other programs implemented by Al Kawakibi Center in partnership with other organizations.



The Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) considers KADEM a successful initiative in the region, involving it in numerous national and regional meetings.

### 2.4 – German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)

After the successful partnership between the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Al Kawakibi Center in organizing the “Summer Academy on Good Governance in the Arab Maghreb”, and following mutual consultations on democratic transition issues, the two parties have agreed to promote this partnership through the implementation of large-scale projects in which Al Kawakibi Center would act as a main partner to GTZ in democracy promotion efforts in the Arab region.



The two parties have jointly identified a number of issues in which they can act together. One of these issues is “transitional justice”, given its crucial importance in the Arab region, and given Al Kawakibi Center’s dynamic action in this field. Another issue is “education for democracy”, addressed following the model of the previous experiences between the two institutions. GTZ has also underlined the need for Al Kawakibi Center to join it in its efforts regarding the promotion of dialogue among civilizations.

## 3 – INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING

Keen on enhancing the efficiency of its action, Al Kawakibi Center has promoted its strong partnership with the Arab Institute for Human Rights in terms of program development and institutionalization.

In 2008, the Center’s organizational structure was reviewed (to meet work-related requirements), and the Center’s website was developed

### 3.1 – Reinforcing partnership with the Arab Institute for Human Rights

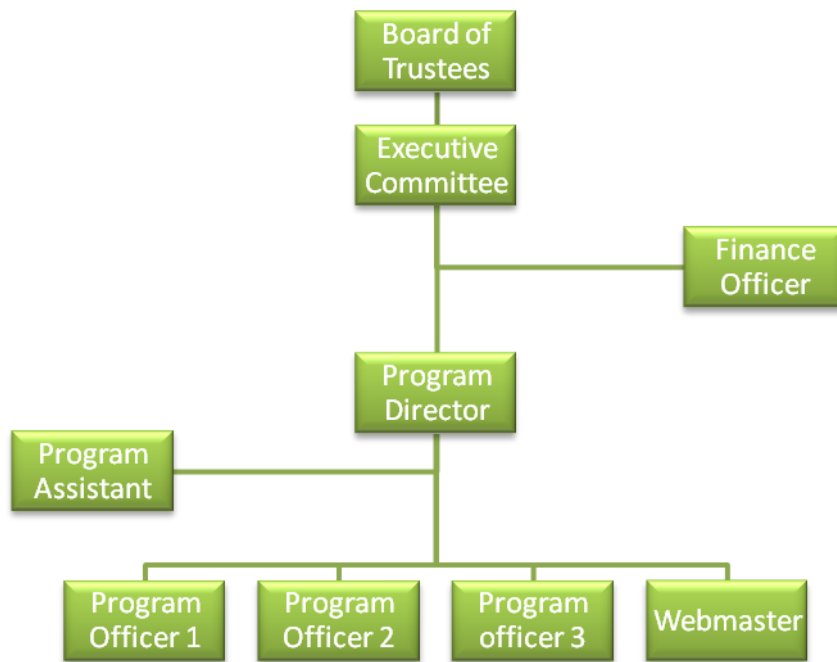
In 2008, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center strengthened their partnership at the institutional and project implementation levels.

As regards project implementation, the Institute was a main partner in many projects and activities carried out by Al Kawakibi Center, particularly the project related to the Citizenship Movement in the Arab Region. Other initiatives were undertaken, offering the two institutions opportunities to exchange expertise in order to ensure the success of their joint action. At the institutional level, the two parties signed a partnership agreement providing for the sharing of human resources and allowing the Center to use the offices of the Institute. The agreement aims at increasing coordination between the two institutions at the organizational, logistical and program development levels.





### 3.2 – Changes in the Center’s management: A new composition



### 3.3 – New website

Given the increasing importance of the Internet as a space for civil action, Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center has improved its website. This improvement has covered all the components of the website, namely the “Center’s Presentation”, “Programs”, “Training and Expertise Building”, “Center News”, “Zaytuna Silver Award” and “Library”. The library provides scientific references for democracy transition activists. The website also includes an interactive space that enables the website visitors to join virtually the Center’s projects and initiatives.



## **4 – MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES**

To ensure its institutional durability and its full independence, the Center has submitted proposals for projects to a number of European and international donors and financing institutions. These proposals are expected to be adopted in the coming months. Implementation will start at the end of 2009.

### **4.1 – United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF): Involving civil society in a democratic election process**

Al Kawakibi Center proposed a project to the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), whose aim is to involve civil society in a democratic election process in four selected Arab countries where presidential, legislative and municipal elections or referendums are organized during the period September 2009 – March 2011; thus enabling civil society to play a more important role in the election process.

As part of this project, an election monitoring body has been set up, composed of prominent figures from the Arab region, to pay visits to the concerned countries in order to establish a constructive dialogue between the authorities and local civil societies in terms of election monitoring.

### **4.2 – Foundation for the Future: Kawakibi Democracy Transition Chair**

Al Kawakibi Center proposed a project to the “Foundation for the Future”, entitled the “Kawakibi Democracy Transition Chair”. The aim of the project is to help launch the democracy transition process in the Arab region, by creating a space for the exchange of knowledge and expertise acquired through democratic transition experiences in Europe, Africa and Asia. The project is based on a partnership initiative between NGOs and universities. This initiative was launched in 2007 under the sponsorship of the Center.

The project involves the organization of meetings to discuss genuine democratic transition experiences. 300 to 500 NGO representatives, parliamentarians, journalists, academics and political representatives from the selected countries meet to participate in discussions, in the presence of international figures having played a decisive role in democratic transition in their regions.

### **4.3 – German Technical Cooperation (GTZ): Cooperation and conflicts in Algeria**

After the successful experiences of cooperation between the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Al Kawakibi Center, the two institutions agreed to expand this partnership so that it involves large-scale projects.

The German Technical Cooperation proposed to the European Commission a project in which Al Kawakibi Center would act as a partner in the region. The project, labeled “conflicts and cooperation”, aims at building the capacity, and enhancing the role, of civil society in settling conflicts and alleviating their impact on local communities. It also aims at fostering the role of classical conflict resolution mechanisms as a means to strengthen cooperation among nations and to promote dialogue among civilizations.

The project includes several components, including a) conflicts and the management of limited resources in border areas; and b) conflict resolution mechanisms between the judicial institution and transitional justice. This project will be launched in Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and Yemen over a period exceeding three years.

### **4.4 – Spanish Agency for International Cooperation: Field visit by civil society representatives**

Al Kawakibi Center started the preliminary contacts with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, with a view to establishing a short-term project for building the capacities of civil society leaders in a number of North African countries. The project involves a field visit by the participants to a number of organizations and centers in Spain acting in the field of democracy, in order to transfer their experiences to their countries.

## **5 – KAWAKIBI CENTER’S ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

After succeeding, in 2008, in implementing its scheduled projects and in building strategic partnerships, Al Kawakibi Center will, in 2009, pursue its action, especially as regards the “Arab Citizenship Movement” (organizing a meeting on civil society alliance strategy, campaign launching, field visits...), the “guiding principles for civil society action” (field studies, national meetings, ...), and the “transitional justice” project (meeting of the Arab working group, implementation of action plan, ...).

Moreover, action will be launched, in mid-2009, to implement the new projects proposed by the Center to donor institutions. The Center will also endeavor to further consolidate its position and role in the region, through building new partnerships and alliances at the Arab and international levels.

### **Presentation of the Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center**

Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center is a technical non-governmental regional organization, specialized in transferring knowledge, sharing experiences and building capacities in the field of democratic transition. The Center was founded on the principle of partnership between organizations and experts in the Arab region and the Middle East.

Al Kawakibi Center was officially founded in Amman, Jordan on June 15, 2006, following the first meeting of the Center’s Board of Trustees under the chairmanship of HRH Prince Hassan Ibn Talal. Al Kawakibi Center was established after two years of consideration and consultation, with the contribution of a large number of experts and activists. An expert meeting preceded the Board of Trustees’ meeting, bringing together prominent Arab experts in democratic transition. These meetings were held at the invitation of the Arab Institute for Human Rights and Al Kawakibi Center coordination board, and under the patronage of “Majlis El Hassan”.

Since its creation, Al Kawakibi Center has defined its methods of action and types of activity which include : organizing specialized training sessions, implementing programs and plans of action, providing expertise in the field of democratic transition, organizing academic sessions, organizing conferences and workshops, conducting specialized research and studies, organizing study visits and exchange meetings with specialized international institutions, in addition to translating and publishing activities.

### **Objectives:**

Al Kawakibi Center aims at enhancing the contribution of Arab civil societies to the process of democratization, which would consolidate national sovereignty and promote good governance based on social justice, economic development, gender equality, large popular participation in decision-making, rule of law and respect for human rights, protection of individual and public freedoms, transparency, peaceful alternation of power, accountability and efficient performance.

Al Kawakibi Center aims at meeting the following objectives:

1. Spreading democratic culture and practices through dialogue and peaceful interaction;
2. Building local high-level capacities and expertise in diagnosing, accompanying and framing democratic transitions, and developing alternatives;
3. Encouraging dialogue between political decision-makers and civil society actors about democratic transition issues, while respecting different opinions;
4. Stimulating exchange and transfer of expertise and cooperation between experts, civil society representatives and political actors in the field of democratic transition at the Arab and international levels.

### **Board of Trustees**



Al Kawakibi Center Board of Trustees has a unique composition that gives it the necessary legitimacy and support to implement the Center's objectives. The Board includes prominent Arab figures known for their role in promoting democracy and anchoring human rights principles in the Arab region. The Board members are:

- HRH Prince Hassan Ibn Talal, Jordan
- HE Sadiq Al-Mahdi, Former Prime Minister, Sudan
- Ms. Leila Charaf, Senator and former Minister of Culture and Information, Jordan
- Dr. Tayeb Baccouche, President of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, Tunisia
- Pr. Ali Djerri, editor-in-chief of El-Khabar newspaper, Algeria
- Dr. Mohamed Oujar, Former Minister of Human Rights, Morocco
- Mr. Abd Jomaa Kabissi, Qatar University
- Mr. Abdel Wahab Badrakhane, editor-in-chief of Al-Jazeera newspaper, Lebanon
- Dr. Saad Eddine Ibrahim, President of Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies
- Dr. Huda Shalaq, Civil Action Committee, Lebanon
- Pr. Mohsen Marzouk, Founder of the Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center, and Executive Director of the Arab Democracy Foundation.

