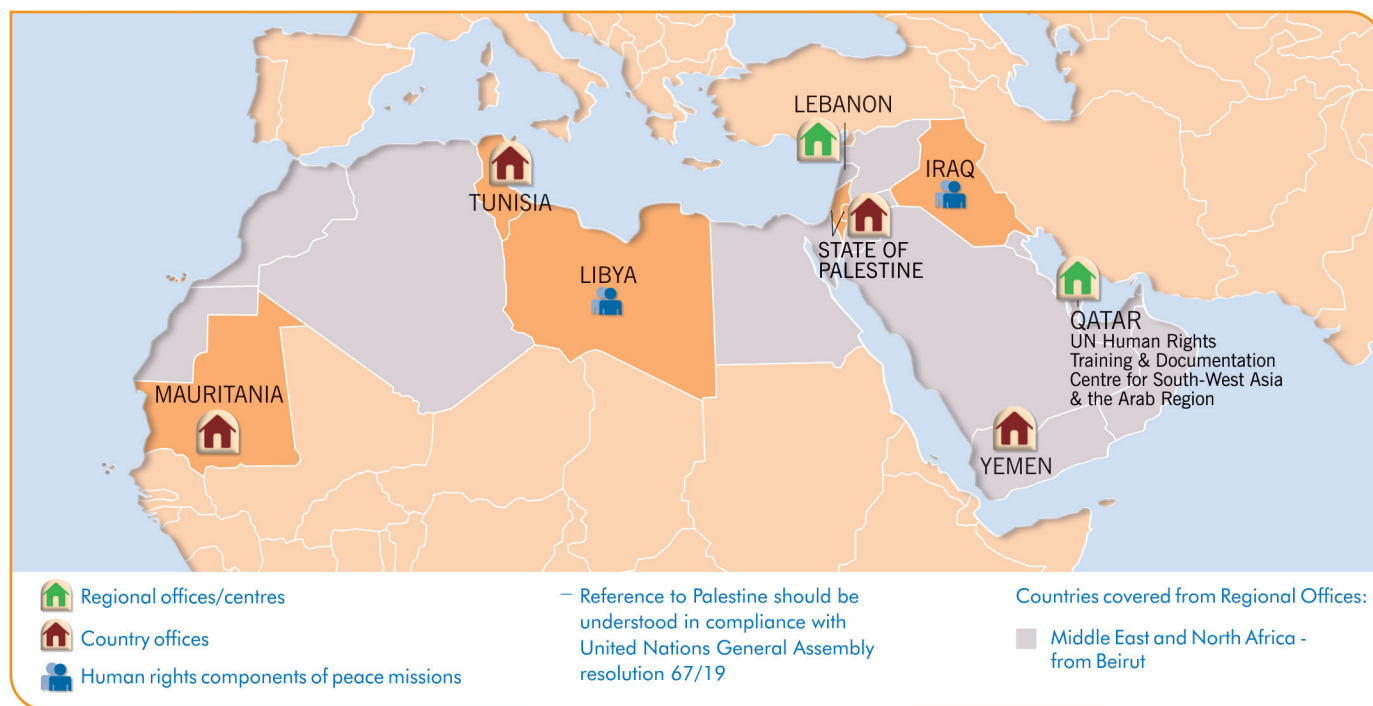


OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritania • State of Palestine¹ • Tunisia • Yemen
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon) • North Africa (operates on a temporary basis from Beirut, Lebanon) • United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
Human rights components in UN Peace Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iraq (UNAMI) • Libya (UNSMIL)

¹ Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

In 2014, OHCHR undertook proactive efforts to support the promotion and protection of human rights in the Middle East and North Africa region which continued to be marked by developments resulting from the popular uprisings of 2011. In Tunisia, peaceful legislative elections were held on 26 October 2014 and a new Constitution was adopted on 26 January 2014. Some countries saw positive and constructive reforms to advance human rights and the rule of law, others witnessed heightened violence, insecurity, armed conflict and serious human rights violations.

The further deterioration of the situations in Iraq, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic was at the forefront of OHCHR's concerns, as was the escalation in hostilities in Gaza during the summer of 2014. In response to these situations, the High Commissioner acted through public and private advocacy, including numerous press releases and statements, public reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In particular, the High Commissioner advocated for the protection of civilians and called for an end to violence and the accountability of perpetrators of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

OHCHR supported the establishment of three commissions of inquiry and investigative missions mandated by the Human Rights Council (on Iraq, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic) and extended support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The Office also worked on the follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding on technical cooperation between OHCHR and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

OHCHR maintained eight field presences in the region: three regional offices/centres (for the Middle East, North Africa and the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha); four country offices (Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen); and two human rights components within UN peace missions (Iraq and Libya).

In 2014, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Iraq (October).

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2014	9
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,263,971

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased number of ratifications and withdrawal of reservations to international human rights treaties (EA 2)*

Following consistent advocacy with the Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government replaced its general reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with a specific reservation to articles 13 and 16.

- *Establishment of interministerial participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

In April, the Human Rights Commissioner issued a decree on the establishment of a technical committee for the development of State Party reports which will be Chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister. OHCHR has observer status and, on that basis, regularly provides technical assistance and support to the members of the committee. With the support of OHCHR, the committee developed its work plan for drafting three periodic reports and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, which will be submitted in 2015.

- *Increased number of submissions by civil society organizations and national human rights institutions to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers*

Following capacity-building processes that were supported by the Office, a number of NGOs submitted a joint report to the CEDAW Committee in June.

- *UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of United Nations Country Team joint planning and United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012-2016 implementation (EA 11)*
- The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) agreed to integrate the UPR recommendations into the ongoing United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016 midterm review and planning for 2015. In September, the Office briefed the UNCT on the UPR recommendations regarding Mauritania and the steps it had taken with the Government to promote their implementation.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Adoption of general anti-discrimination legislation and increased compliance of legislative and policy initiatives with the rights of women, migrants and persons with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities. Adoption of a road map on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, a National Action Plan against Discrimination and a National Action Plan for Migration (EA 4)*

Following the adoption of the road map on the fight against the vestiges of slavery on 6 March by the Council of Ministers, the interministerial committee and the monitoring committee, on which OHCHR serves as observer, developed a work plan for the implementation of the road map. Since that time, the committees have held monthly meetings to monitor progress towards the implementation of planned activities. The finalization of the National Action Plan against Racial Discrimination was delayed and the Office had to postpone a number of planned activities in this context. In August, however, OHCHR organized a seminar on the National Action Plan against Racial Discrimination in cooperation with the Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance Office.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The Penal Code is revised regarding alternative punishment; a penitentiary policy is developed;*

and prison authorities increasingly apply international standards on combating torture (EA 1)

In June, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice organized a seminar on the drafting of legislation to prevent and criminalize torture. The seminar was attended by prison officials, members of police and gendarmerie, judges, lawyers, civil society and officials from relevant ministries. Participants discussed the content of a draft law, which will be finalized for review and adoption by the Parliament in 2015.

- *A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (EA 3)*

In August, the Human Rights Commissioner announced the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). A working group developed the draft legislation on the NPM, which is in full compliance with the guidelines provided by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and is currently awaiting approval from the Prime Minister for transmittal to the Parliament for final adoption. The Office participated in the working group as an observer and provided comments on the different versions of the draft law.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *National Action Plan on social cohesion is adopted; access to land is regulated in conformity with international standards; and standards for private business, in particular fishing and mining, include the prohibition of slavery and child labour (EA 1)*

The National Strategy on Social Cohesion was finalized and is ready for validation. While the Strategy contains references to human rights in one chapter, the Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance Office, as the responsible government entity, agreed to reinforce the integration of human rights throughout the document, with the support of OHCHR, prior to its validation. The Office provided a technical and advocacy note to competent authorities on how to integrate human rights in the draft national strategy.

Widening the democratic space

- *Adoption of a Law on Civilian Associations, in consultation with civil society organizations and in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The draft law on civilian associations is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Communication and of Relations with Civil Society and the



Meeting between civil society organizations and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery in Mauritania, February 2014.

Parliament. The Ministry has yet to share the draft text with civil society.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Human rights protection concerns are integrated into operational humanitarian plans, including a disaster preparedness plan (EA 11)*

The Office, as coordinator of the Protection Cluster, actively participated in the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2014 and its midterm review and promoted the integration of human rights in the analysis. The Overview also included recommendations from the UPR and references to other international human rights commitments and obligations by Mauritania.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	609,968
Consultants	-	60,267
Official travel	-	49,389
Contractual services	-	24,370
General operating expenses	-	122,397
Supplies and materials	-	80,130
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	172,038
Subtotal	-	1,118,559
Programme support costs	-	145,413
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,263,971

State of Palestine⁷

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2014	22
Expenditure in 2014	US\$3,629,547

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (EA 2)*

The State of Palestine became a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on 2 July 2014. In addition, it acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), CEDAW, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 2 May and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC) on 7 May. All accessions were made without reservations. A subsequent legislative review took place to identify laws that require amendment or replacement in order to conform with Palestine's treaty obligations. Since the accession, OHCHR has responded to a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for technical assistance by implementing an ambitious programme of training and capacity-building to support Palestinian efforts to implement, monitor and report to the treaty bodies.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased compliance with international human rights standards in relation to detention practices and detention conditions (EA 1)*

OHCHR built on its achievement in 2013 of securing unannounced visits to Palestinian Preventive Security detention facilities and, in 2014, secured unannounced access to facilities run by the General Intelligence Service. OHCHR's achievement in this regard led to the granting of unannounced access for other organizations, such as the ICRC and the National Independent Commission for Human Rights. OHCHR carried out visits to detention

facilities run by the abovementioned actors and those run by the police. Concerns were similar to those noted in previous years, including arbitrary detention and torture and ill-treatment. OHCHR has improved its relations with relevant actors and is engaged in ongoing dialogue with the authorities on various human rights issues.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The NHRI and relevant NGOs/civil society organizations monitor the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan (EA 5)*
- The Palestinian National Development Plan, which integrates a human rights-based approach, was launched in January. The Office subsequently held a series of consultations on a rights-based monitoring of the Development Plan with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Planning, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and civil society organizations. While the formation of a Government of National Consensus gave rise to hope that the Plan would be widely implemented throughout the country, its implementation was limited due to the escalation of violence in Gaza from June to August.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Increased compliance with international human rights standards by legislation, decrees and administrative instructions relating to sexual and gender-based violence and so-called honour crimes (EA 1)*

In May, the President of the State of Palestine issued a Decree Law amending Article 98 of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of so-called honour crimes will not benefit from an extenuating circumstances defence. The Decree Law mirrors one of the recommendations included in a study, commissioned by OHCHR, on responses of the judiciary to the murder of women under the pretext of so-called honour in Palestine. The study analyzed a sample of 37 related rulings handed down by the Courts of First Instance in the West Bank and Gaza between 1993 and 2013. It concluded that the Penal Code's broad provision of mitigating circumstances frequently led to an extension of impunity for these crimes. The study was published and distributed to judges, prosecutors, civil society organizations and UN agencies. OHCHR monitored cases of so-called honour killings and raised awareness about the issue during workshops on women's rights that were held in Gaza, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem and Nablus for women's rights organizations and female lawyers.

⁷ Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.



A Palestinian man rescues items from the rubble of his home destroyed during the escalation of the conflict in northern Gaza Strip, August 2014.

► *Increased responsiveness of the international community to issues of impunity by both Israeli and Palestinian duty-bearers (EA 10)*

OHCHR continued its programme of documenting human rights violations and abuses across Palestine in the face of a significant deterioration of the human rights situation in 2014 due to the escalating conflict in Gaza. OHCHR monitored and reported on the situation, ensuring that the international community was aware of the violations as they occurred. Despite very challenging conditions, OHCHR and its partners in the Protection Cluster were able to provide daily preliminary figures of civilian casualties during the conflict. These figures fed into daily UN reports on the situation in Gaza and provided the international community and the media with an up-to-date assessment of the civilian impact of the conflict. OHCHR's regular reports formed the basis for the discussions in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the issue.

► *Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially within humanitarian strategies, planning and responses (EA 11)*

Through its leadership role in the Protection Cluster, OHCHR ensured a strong focus on protection and respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law in all aspects of humanitarian engagement in Palestine, including responses, planning and advocacy. OHCHR enhanced the mainstreaming of protection in the analysis and responses of other Clusters. During the escalation of the hostilities in Gaza, the statistics collected by the Protection Cluster and the analysis undertaken by OHCHR were used by the humanitarian community in daily situation reports and informed

public statements by the High Commissioner and other UN officials. OHCHR also ensured that needs assessments and the two Flash Appeals (August and September) integrated a strong focus on accountability and respect for international law and clearly identified and prioritized the needs of children, women, persons with disabilities, the elderly and displaced persons. OHCHR provided guidance on international human rights law and humanitarian law to the humanitarian community, including through its coordination of the Protection Cluster's Legal Advice Group (LAG). The legal analysis informed policy discussions by the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian donors and guided humanitarian advocacy, all of which maintained a focus on accountability for violations of international law.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,495,013
Consultants	-	49,300
Official travel	-	74,116
Contractual services	-	153,368
General operating expenses	-	233,743
Supplies and materials	-	96,373
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	110,077
Subtotal	-	3,211,989
Programme support costs	-	417,559
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,629,547

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	16
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,820,375

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Reservations to at least one treaty (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child or its optional protocols) are withdrawn (EA 2)*

All four reservations to CEDAW were officially withdrawn in April. Since 2012, OHCHR has consistently advocated for the withdrawal of the reservations, including by organizing a briefing for Members of Parliament with the participation of the Vice-Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee in April.

- *Submission of pending periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee against Torture (EA 6)*
State Party reports were submitted to the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the State Party report for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is in the final stage of drafting. The midterm UPR report was also submitted. OHCHR facilitated training courses for State authorities and provided technical advice regarding all of these reports.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation and policies in compliance with international human rights standards are adopted in the areas of equality of women and other persons at risk; migrants; and access to education and employment for persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

The National Charter for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, drafted by OHCHR in coordination with a coalition of NGOs, was adopted in October and signed by Heads of political parties and presidential candidates. The Charter represents a covenant between persons with disabilities, the political parties and the candidates for the legislative and presidential elections in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure the enjoyment of and respect for fundamental freedoms after the elections. It is also a commitment to the provisions of Article 48 of the Tunisian

Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, both of which were ratified by Tunisia in 2008. In total, 186 of 217 members of the new Assembly of the Representatives of the People have signed the National Charter.

In addition, the statutes of the new Assembly include the creation of a commission to coordinate its activities with organizations working with persons with disabilities.

A draft law to combat violence against women was developed and presented to the Ministerial Council for adoption. OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the national committee in charge of drafting the law.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Legislation regarding deprivation of liberty, including pre-trial detention, is revised to reduce prison crowding; security sector reform leads to the adoption of policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials in conformity with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

A working group was established in March in the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice and Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation in order to implement the recommendations outlined in OHCHR's report on the situation of prisons (*Prisons in Tunisia: International Standards versus Reality*). In addition, the Office cooperated with the National School for Prisons and Rehabilitation to implement a training programme on human rights for 375 prison and rehabilitation officials. The Office also cooperated with the Ministry of the Interior for the implementation of a training programme on human rights that targeted approximately 1,600 law enforcement personnel.

- *A justice reform process establishes guarantees for the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary (EA 1)*

Following the 2013 consultations on the justice sector, a strategic vision was launched in April. OHCHR cooperated with UNDP and other partners to develop a justice sector reform work plan.

- *A coherent transitional justice process is underway; a fully functional Truth and Dignity Commission is in place, has duly addressed the rights and participation of discriminated groups and has generated structural reform proposals (EA 3)*

Following the adoption of legislation on the establishment of the Truth and Dignity Commission in December 2013 and the



A canvas painted by Tunisians to show their commitment to peace and human rights.

finalization of the selection process of its members in early 2014, the Commission was formally launched in June and began its substantive work in December. Additionally, the Law on the Specialized Judicial Chambers was approved in July. OHCHR provided technical advice on the draft text.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019 integrates a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

Human rights were fully integrated into all three main priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019, which was signed by the Government and the United Nations Country Team on 21 March. OHCHR participated in the development of the UNDAF and co-led the UNCT Thematic Group on Democratic Governance.

Widening the democratic space

- *The Constitution and other policies that may constrain freedom of expression are brought into compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

A study on the penal provisions of Decree No. 2011-115, relating to the prosecution of journalists and its implementation by the Tunisian judicial authorities, was produced by the Office and subsequently shared with journalists, prosecutors, judges and the Ministry of Justice. The study advocates for the exclusive use by magistrates of Decree No. 2011-115 rather than

the Penal Code and raises the awareness of lawyers as well as journalists about claiming their rights. One of the key findings of the study demonstrates the increased use of the Decree in 2014 and notes that the vast majority of recent cases before the courts have been decided in favour of journalists.

- *Oversight and accountability in the media sector lie with the High Independent Audiovisual Regulatory Authority (EA 1)*

The new Tunisian Constitution, promulgated in January 2014, includes a number of articles on the creation of national independent institutions, such as the 2013 High Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication, all of which seek to contribute to the development of a comprehensive human rights protection system in Tunisia. OHCHR engaged with members of the National Constituent Assembly and civil society, as well as with the UNCT to advocate for the creation of the institutions.

- *Tunisian National Human Rights Institution established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

Article 128 of the Tunisian Constitution, guarantees the establishment of a national independent human rights commission. The draft law establishing the Human Rights Commission in compliance with the Paris Principles was developed with OHCHR inputs and approved by the Council of Ministers in November. It has been submitted to the Parliament for adoption.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	967,462
Consultants	-	73,006
Official travel	-	94,909
Contractual services	-	110,159
General operating expenses	-	97,019
Supplies and materials	-	42,866
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	225,531
Subtotal	-	1,610,951
Programme support costs	-	209,424
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,820,375

On 15 October 2014, a coalition of NGOs working on the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia adopted a National Charter for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Charter represents a covenant between persons with disabilities, political parties and candidates for legislative and presidential elections to ensure that the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities are respected, protected and enjoyed. It is also a commitment to uphold Article 48 of the Tunisian Constitution and the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, ratified by Tunisia in 2008.

The Charter was submitted to the political parties running in the legislative elections of October 2014 and to the candidates running for the presidential elections in November 2014. Beji Caid Essebsi, the newly-elected President of the Tunisian Republic, signed the Charter on 18 November 2014. In addition, an overwhelming majority of the members of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People signed the Charter and committed to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities; promote respect for their dignity; guarantee individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices; ensure full and effective participation and inclusion in society; promote the non-discrimination principle by prohibiting all forms of discrimination based on disability; and support equality of opportunities and accessibility.

The adoption and signature of the Charter marks an historical moment for the children, young persons, women and men with disabilities in Tunisia. OHCHR's contribution, made primarily through the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, was crucial to the country taking these important steps.

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2014	11
Expenditure in 2014	US\$2,077,844

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Civil society creates and supports mechanisms to counter discrimination against women, marginalized groups, minorities, persons with disabilities and migrants (EA 5)*

In 2014, the National Human Rights Strategy was drafted in compliance with the Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and Yemen's international human rights commitments, including the UPR recommendations it had accepted. OHCHR cooperated with UNDP to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights in the development of the draft by facilitating the organization of participatory consultations in the Governorates of Aden, Al-Janad, Azal, Hadramout, Tehama and Saba, to reach out to local authorities and civil society actors representing marginalized groups.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

At the end of 2014, a Bill of Rights for Civil Society Organizations was launched and endorsed by 650 organizations. OHCHR and other UN agencies facilitated the process and provided technical advice and capacity-building support to civil society organizations from across the country. The Bill of Rights will be used by civil society organizations as an advocacy tool to influence the Constitution drafting process.

Draft pieces of legislation on the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and anti-trafficking were submitted to the Parliament for adoption at the end of 2014. OHCHR raised its concerns about their compliance with international standards and facilitated the provision of inputs from civil society. In addition, through a workshop co-organized by OHCHR, IOM and UNHCR for relevant parliamentarians, the Members of Parliament agreed to revise the anti-trafficking draft to incorporate the recommendations from UN agencies.

Although the drafting process suffered some delays due to the escalation of the conflict in the country, the Constitution Drafting

Committee finalized the first draft at the end of 2014, with the support of OHCHR and other UN partners. The Office provided the Drafting Committee with extensive inputs and background information, including on international human rights standards, treaty body recommendations and general comments and best practices from other countries. OHCHR also advocated for the inclusion of provisions on traditionally sensitive issues such as the right to life and the rights of women and of minorities. The first draft included a provision establishing guarantees regarding the right to life and another on a quota for women's public participation.

- *Establishment and/or improved functioning in compliance with human rights standards of victim-centred transitional justice mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation, Land and Dismissals Commissions (EA 3)*

The Commission to Consider and Address Land Issues and the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees were established in January 2013. In 2014, the Land Commission finalized approximately 30,000 cases while the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees finalized approximately 20,000 cases related to reparations. At the end of 2013, the President issued a decree to establish a Special Compensation Fund to compensate those whose land had been confiscated and for dismissed employees who were entitled to compensation. In July 2014, the Compensation Fund paid approximately US\$500 to 5,500 dismissed individuals. In November, the Prime Minister's Cabinet adopted the recommendations made by the Land Commission. OHCHR and UNDP provided technical support to both commissions, including to help build the capacity of its members on effective case management.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, into the UN common country programming (EA 11)*

The United Nations Country Team finalized the Peace Building Priority Plan for Yemen, with human rights mainstreamed throughout the Plan. OHCHR provided substantive inputs and drafted relevant outcomes and indicators for the rule of law and transitional justice components of the Plan. The UNCT also developed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Acceleration Framework to enable Yemen to identify challenges in achieving its MDG targets and

propose responsive actions.

As a result of OHCHR's inputs, the integration of human rights and gender mainstreaming was improved.

Widening the democratic space

- *NHRI is established and functioning substantially in conformity with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
Due to the political instability in Yemen, the draft law establishing the NHRI was not adopted. It is presently under review by the Parliament. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the drafting of the law, advocated for the establishment of the NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles and conducted a capacity-building workshop on the roles and mandate of the NHRI for representatives of the State, parliamentarians and a wide group of civil society organizations.
- *Civil society, especially those representing youth and women, substantially increases its advocacy against human rights violations (EA 5)*
Throughout the year, OHCHR observed an increased number of reports, with improved quality, prepared by civil society organizations in relation to human rights violations, especially from conflict-affected areas. OHCHR built the capacity of over 60 civil society representatives (including over 20 women) in relation to human rights investigations, interviewing techniques and data analysis, and regarding international human rights standards in the area of discrimination. In addition, the Office developed an information system to map human rights civil society organizations active in Yemen. This will help improve the existing network of organizations and strengthen human rights monitoring across the country.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Systems and procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations (EA 3)*
In 2014, the Office's human rights monitoring and reporting provided crucial evidence for the High Commissioner's public statements on serious human rights violations in Yemen and for the advocacy messages delivered by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen. OHCHR enhanced its monitoring capacities by deploying field monitors to conflict-affected areas and by providing them, and local NGOs, with training on monitoring and reporting of human rights violations. The Office also promoted the creation of a network with key Yemeni authorities and other stakeholders to enable greater cooperation in the investigation of human rights violations.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, into the UN support to non-UN security forces and security programmes with the Yemeni security forces (EA 11)*

OHCHR introduced the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to the Ministry of the Interior and at the end of 2014, the Minister informed the Office that the Policy had been disseminated throughout the Ministry. OHCHR had planned to implement a project to contribute to the security sector reforms through policy development and human rights capacity-building programmes, however, due to conflicts in Yemen in September, the project suffered some delays. By the end of the year, some preliminary interventions had taken place.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,310,842
Consultants	-	23,357
Official travel	-	95,529
Contractual services	-	13,200
General operating expenses	-	163,365
Supplies and materials	-	76,609
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	155,898
Subtotal	-	1,838,800
Programme support costs	-	239,044
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,077,844

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2014	10
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,385,201

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

OHCHR engaged with State representatives and parliamentarians from countries in the region to encourage their increased engagement and compliance with international human rights mechanisms. In Lebanon, the Regional Office encouraged the establishment of a participatory process between the Government and civil society organizations for the preparation of reports to the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- *Increased number of submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR from civil society actors (EA 7)*

Several training programmes were organized for civil society members in Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon to encourage their engagement with the human rights mechanisms. OHCHR provided technical support to a coalition of civil society organizations in Kuwait, which submitted a report to the UPR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with antidiscrimination and equality standards in relation to the rights of women and of migrants (EA 4)*

In Lebanon, legislation was adopted on domestic violence. Despite some shortcomings, the legislation represents a decisive step forward and has already led to the arrest of perpetrators



Fleeing the violence in Syria, hundreds of refugees stream across the border into Jordan.

and has improved protection of women and children. The Regional Office engaged with law enforcement officers to ensure the dissemination of the Law and worked on updating the training curricula at the police academy to reflect this new development.

Widening the democratic space

- *Establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions that are compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (EA 1)*
In Kuwait, the Parliament is examining two draft laws on the establishment of a NHRI, which were revised by OHCHR to ensure their compliance with the Paris Principles.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *A human rights-based approach increasingly integrated into support to non-UN security forces, and UN security policies and programmes in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)*

Several meetings on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy were held with representatives from the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Office on Drugs

and Crime, the Resident Coordinator's Office and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), with the aim of initiating drafting of the risk assessment for Lebanon. More specifically, some progress was achieved on the integration of human rights standards into UNIFIL's protection strategy, following the facilitation of a number of capacity-building events by OHCHR and the undertaking of outreach efforts with UNDP.

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	885,516
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	70,727
Contractual services	-	17,900
General operating expenses	-	174,744
Supplies and materials	-	19,255
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	57,700
Subtotal	-	1,225,842
Programme support costs	-	159,359
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,385,201

In 2014, the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to deteriorate as the conflict entered its fourth year. During this time, all parties to the conflict committed violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. To contribute to the international community's response to this situation, OHCHR engaged in human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy in relation to the Syrian crisis; provided capacity-development for Syrian human rights defenders; and supported protection activities for refugees fleeing Syria through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In addition, the High Commissioner consistently advocated for the inclusion of human rights in relevant discussions and actions through press releases and statements, public reports and briefings made to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

OHCHR carried out its work despite operational challenges, notably the lack of access to Syria and the absence of a UN human rights presence on the ground. Obtaining access to Syria remains a priority for the Office, especially in light of Human Rights Council resolutions S-18/1 (2011) and 19/22 (2012), which called upon the Syrian authorities to fully cooperate with OHCHR, including by allowing for the establishment of a field presence in the Syrian Arab Republic.

In October 2014, OHCHR deployed a Human Rights Officer, based in Beirut, to support the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team in Syria. He engaged in the humanitarian planning cycle in Syria and ensured that protection monitoring was included in the Strategic Response Plan for 2015. OHCHR also carried out a number of workshops and trainings for Syrian human rights defenders. In 2014, the Regional Office for the Middle

East facilitated two workshops, in Turkey and Lebanon, on monitoring and documentation for Syrian human rights defenders. In addition, four key Syrian organizations participated in a workshop on the documentation of casualties during armed conflict, which was organized by OHCHR, in Geneva, in February 2014.

OHCHR provided ongoing substantive and administrative support to the Independent Commission of Inquiry mandated by the Human Rights Council to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law that have occurred in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. The Commission has issued regular reports and in 2014, OHCHR published three thematic papers on sieges, torture and ill-treatment, the human rights situation in Aleppo Central Prison and a second statistical report on casualties related to the conflict.

Regional Office for North Africa (temporarily based in Beirut)

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2014	4
Expenditure in 2014	US\$833,918

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Increased ratification of international human rights treaties (EA 2)*

The Office advocated at the regional level for the ratification of human rights treaties, including during the Regional Conference on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, entitled *Human Rights in the Arab Region*:

Challenges and Future Perspectives. OHCHR and the League of Arab States organized the Conference in Egypt, in May, and it was attended by representatives of governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations.

Widening the democratic space

► *National human rights institutions established and/or working in increased compliance with international standards (Paris Principles) in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco (EA 1)*

Little progress was achieved in Egypt, where one mission was conducted by staff members of the Regional Office, due to limited interaction with national counterparts. In Morocco, several staff members of the NHRI benefited from two training sessions that were facilitated by the Office on human rights indicators and on a human rights-based approach.

Regional Office for North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	273,074
Consultants	-	28,045
Official travel	-	205,339
Contractual services	-	55,700
General operating expenses	-	59,250
Supplies and materials	-	21,605
Seminars, grants and contributions	-	94,968
Subtotal	-	737,981
Programme support costs	-	95,938
GRAND TOTAL	-	833,918

United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2014	5
Expenditure in 2014	US\$1,993,599

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

OHCHR worked to enhance the capacity of State authorities in the region to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms. In August, the Centre and the Arab Organization for Human Rights co-organized a regional workshop on best practices in following up on the implementation of UPR recommendations. In total, 25 participants from nine countries in the region attended the workshop. In addition, a five-day training workshop on the human rights mechanisms was organized in February, in Saudi Arabia, and was attended by approximately 140 participants (including 40 women) from governmental institutions. Training sessions on the UPR process

were also organized in Qatar, in May, in close cooperation with the Qatar National Human Rights Committee, and in Oman, in September, in cooperation with the Oman National Human Rights Commission.

Widening the democratic space

- *National human rights institutions function in accordance with international standards regarding their interaction with UN human rights mechanisms and civil society (EA 1)*

The Centre conducted two training sessions for NHRIs in Qatar and in Oman in order to increase their understanding of the human rights mechanisms and promote their engagement with the UPR. Further activities to strengthen NHRIs in the region are planned for 2015 in cooperation with the Qatar National Human Rights Committee.

- *Teachers and educators integrate human rights values and concepts into their educational curricula (EA 1)*

In August, a workshop on *Quality Assurance of Human Rights Education Programmes* was organized by OHCHR, in Cairo, which included the participation of curriculum designers and Heads of teachers' training units from 12 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. In Jordan, the Office organized a workshop, entitled *Developing educational materials to promote human rights in elementary and secondary schools*, which included 18 representatives of different ministries and civil society organizations from the region. The objective of the workshop was to identify best practices and the needs for developing human rights education programmes in the region. At the end of the workshop, the participants identified a group of recommendations to enhance the promotion of human rights education in the region.

- *Civil society, youth and journalists increasingly advocate for and claim their rights (EA 5)*
- The Centre implemented the first phase of a training-of-trainers programme on economic, social and cultural rights and focused on providing participants with a better understanding of these rights and various monitoring approaches. The training, carried out in December, was attended by 15 participants (including six women) from 11 countries across the Middle East and North Africa region. More than 30 journalists from the region were trained on a human rights-based approach at two events that were jointly organized by OHCHR, UNESCO, the Human Rights Department at Al-Jazeera, the Doha Centre for Media Freedom and the Alshrouq Center for Democracy and Media in Morocco. After the training, the participants expressed



Participants at a workshop on human rights and media organized by the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre in Morocco, May 2014.

their intention to develop a regional network for journalists interested in promoting human rights.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

► *States adopt policies to ensure protection of the right to education in situations of conflict (EA 1)*
In January, OHCHR and Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC) co-organized the *Regional Forum on the Protection of the Right to Education during Insecurity and Armed Conflict in the Middle East and the North Africa Region* in Jordan. The main objective of the forum was to highlight education-related violations in areas affected by insecurity and armed conflict in the region, raise the awareness of participants about these violations and develop strategies to protect the right to education during conflict and insecurity. The Forum was attended by 104 participants from 24 countries (19 from the region), including policymakers, legal advisors and practitioners, academics and representatives of civil society, NGOs, national human rights commissions and UN agencies. Furthermore, in December, OHCHR and PEIC launched a website (www.protectededucationmena.org), which contains information about the Doha Centre and PEIC, the



Regional Forum and documents and publications related to human rights education.

United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2014

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	398,155	608,870
Consultants	-	88,776
Official travel	14,500	192,514
Contractual services	94,160	34,065
General operating expenses	6,000	80,161
Supplies and materials	14,000	13,900
Seminars, grants and contributions	311,940	3,700
Subtotal	838,755	1,021,985
Programme support costs	-	132,858
GRAND TOTAL	838,755	1,154,844

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2014	42

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms through the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies and the acceptance of country visits by special procedures (EA 6)*

Iraq issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders to visit Iraq. No visits took place in 2014.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Implementation of a grassroots-driven transitional justice policy aimed at ending impunity and promoting community reconciliation (EA 3)*

In 2014, the Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) began implementing a project to conduct a countrywide consultation process on community reconciliation in order to create an environment that is conducive to sustainable peace. The project aimed to gather grassroots perspectives on ways to attain justice for past human rights violations and promote community reconciliation. The initial phase of the project involved the training of 26 members of Iraqi NGOs and civil society, drawn from Iraq's central and southern governorates and with various educational and cultural backgrounds, on the principles of community reconciliation and conducting interviews. Further implementation of the project was disrupted due to the escalation of the armed conflict which caused the large scale displacement of civilians from northern Iraq.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *UNCT programmes and policies, especially poverty reduction programmes, have a strong human rights focus and improve access to basic services (EA 11)*



Faculty members of the Kufa University of Iraq participate in a workshop on human rights conducted by OHCHR, March 2014.

During 2014, the HRO was a member of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework Development Committee and offered technical assistance to ensure that all aspects of the UNDAF process, including the outcome document, integrate a human rights perspective. The process was concluded in May and the outcome document was signed by the Government.

Widening the democratic space

- *The Independent High Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) was formally established in April 2012. Since then, the HRO has worked, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services to build the capacity of Commissioners and their staff to ensure they implement the mandate of the IHCHR in accordance with Law 54 of 2008 and the Constitution of Iraq and in conformity with international standards. The Commission began its monitoring work, is receiving individual complaints regarding human rights violations and is developing thematic human rights priorities. The Commission has, however, not yet elected a President as required by Law 54. On 11 January, the Iraqi High Judicial Council issued an administrative order establishing an office within the General Prosecutor's Office that is mandated to investigate complaints of alleged human rights violations received from the IHCHR. The order also instructed the General Prosecutor's Office to keep the Commission updated on any developments related to these investigations to ensure proper follow-up.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2014	21

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The legislative and policy framework incorporate international standards against discrimination, especially in relation to minorities, migrants and women (EA 4)*

In 2014, little progress was made on national legislation to combat discrimination, especially against minorities, migrants and women. Some good principles, however, are reflected in the draft sections of the new Constitution, which were released in late December. As part of its broader work with the Constitution Drafting Assembly, the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) will aim to strengthen the protection elements in the draft constitutional text.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution, penal code, code of criminal procedure and legislation on torture increase their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Elections for the Constitution Drafting Assembly took place on 20 February. Although the members of the Assembly publically committed to completing a draft constitution by the end of December, they were only able to release drafts of the sections prepared by the eight specialized committees. The Assembly includes one committee to address human rights and fundamental freedoms in the draft and another to focus on the judiciary and the constitutional court. The Chair of the Assembly's human rights committee requested technical support from the HRD and a workshop for members of the committee will take place in early 2015. The Libyan Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure include provisions that are not in line with international human rights standards. Since 2013, the HRD has worked with UNDP, UNODC, the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Institute, academics and civil society to support a review of the Codes that will ensure their compliance with international standards. Regrettably, in February, the General National Congress of Libya amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to punish

with imprisonment any person found to be undermining the so-called 17 February Revolution, publicly insulting legislative, executive or judicial authorities or disgracing the national flag. At the same time, it passed a decree authorizing relevant ministries to discontinue and prevent the broadcasting of satellite channels that are deemed hostile to the 17 February Revolution or which allegedly undermine the security and stability of the country. The HRD expressed its concern that such broad language could be used to arbitrarily curtail freedom of expression and opinion. As a result of the political situation in Libya, the HRD was unable to assist State authorities on legislative issues after June.

- *Detention centres are fully under the control of State-trained judicial police officers and have improved security and effective safeguards against torture (EA 1)*

The HRD assisted the judicial police in conducting a census of detainees. As a result of the exercise, authorities had the first snapshot of data on detainees, including their names, ages, gender, charges and legal status, since the 2011 conflict. The census also facilitated the follow-up on specific cases. Nevertheless, the outbreak of violence in mid-2014 presented further security challenges for the judicial police. Progress in the judicial screening of the detainees and the release of those who will not be prosecuted has consequently been minimal. Amidst the heightened violence and resulting political vacuum, the HRD is concerned that those held in detention are at increased risk of abuse, particularly after the receipt of several reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

- *An increasingly functioning judiciary applies due process standards in a safer environment (EA 1)*

The deteriorating security environment has impacted heavily on the judiciary, further undermining the effective administration of justice and the process of reform. Prosecutors and judges have been frequently subjected to intimidation and attacks, while law enforcement officials and the judicial police do not have the sufficient capacity or resources to ensure the security of the judiciary or to undertake effective investigations. The courts effectively stopped functioning in Benghazi, Derna and Sirte as of March and in Tripoli during the fighting in July and August.

- *Transitional mechanisms are in place and functioning in compliance with human rights standards, namely a transitional justice law, an active and impartial truth commission and missing persons commission, a reparations programme and vetting processes. A number of fair trials of former regime members and brigade*

perpetrators have been carried out (EA 3)

No progress was achieved in the implementation of Law No. 1 of 2014 on the Care for Martyrs and Missing Persons of the 17 February Revolution. While the Law provides for the establishment of a General Commission for tracing and identifying missing persons and the extension of benefits to the families of those killed or missing in the context of the revolution, the Commission has not been created.

In March, the General National Congress formed a four-person committee to establish a roster of candidates for the Board of the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission. On 1 April, the Committee issued a public advertisement for candidates but, due to the political volatility and the announcement of elections, the Committee did not complete its work and the Board was not appointed. The HRD advised the General National Congress on international standards and best practices relating to criteria for selection of the Board.

In February, the Council of Ministers issued Decree No. 119 which provided for the establishment of a specialized committee to identify victims of sexual violence under the former regime and during the 2011 armed conflict. The Committee will make recommendations on reparations and provide legal aid for victims seeking accountability. In March, the Minister of Justice passed a decree to appoint members of the specialized committee and subsequently appointed the Head of a compensation fund. The fund was operational by the end of the year.

Widening the democratic space

- *Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life (EA 5)*

Although a number of civil society organizations have highlighted concerns about human rights violations in Libya, they have been under

increasing attack since the outbreak of violence in mid-2014. The HRD has received reports of civil society activists being threatened, abducted, unlawfully killed, or having had their homes looted or burned down. As a result, numerous human rights defenders have curtailed their activism, gone into hiding or left the country. Before and after the outbreak of violence, the HRD was in regular contact with human rights defenders, including those who relocated out of the country, and sought to support them through the provision of technical advice, the facilitation of contact with local non-governmental providers of aid and through ongoing monitoring of and public reporting on their situation.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

- *Consistent reference to the human rights situation and recommendations in statements by the international community and increased responsiveness to meet emerging human rights needs (EA 10)*

The HRD regularly monitored and investigated alleged human rights violations which took place in Libya, including in the wake of the worsening violence in mid-2014. This included extensive work on the protection of civilians; issues related to summary executions, abductions, torture and other ill-treatment; internally displaced persons; migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers; and violations against women, children and minority communities. UNSMIL and OHCHR issued statements and reports based on information gathered during missions to Libya; visits to detention centres; interviews with those displaced by the conflict; information provided by human rights defenders and victims' families; and data from the UNCT. These concerns were included in the briefings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and other members of the international community.