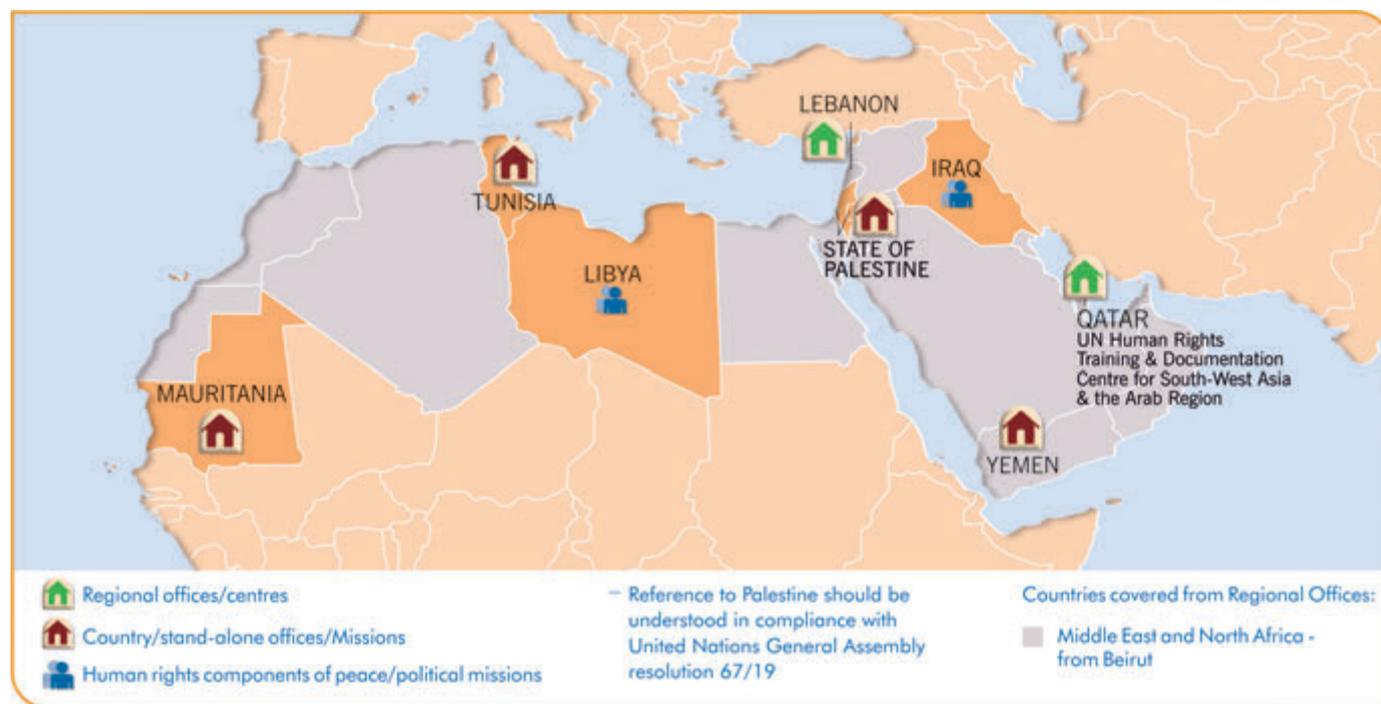


OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mauritania ● State of Palestine* ● Tunisia ● Yemen
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon) ● UN 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)

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

In the course of 2015, the region witnessed increasing violence and violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law. In this context, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sought to address emerging needs emanating from social, economic, political developments and the ongoing and emerging armed conflicts across the Middle East and North Africa region, including in relation to the situations in Iraq, Libya, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), Syria and Yemen. With regard to the Syrian crisis, and in light of the continued lack of access to the

country, OHCHR consolidated and strengthened its operational arrangements by establishing the OHCHR Syria Team comprised of the Syria Monitoring Team (based in Beirut), three human rights advisers (HRAs) (deployed to support the three senior Humanitarian Coordinators in the region on Syria) and a management structure (based in Geneva to liaise with the Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the Special Envoy). The High Commissioner strongly advocated for the protection of civilians and an end to violence and called for accountability through public and private means of advocacy, including press releases, public reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Yet some positive developments have been observed regarding the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. During a visit to Tunisia, the High Commissioner highlighted the achievements and progress made by the country since 2011 and encouraged interlocutors at the highest governmental levels to ensure the continuation of this progress. OHCHR supported specific technical assistance initiatives in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and organized a number of capacity-building workshops, meetings and seminars for government officials, regional

and international organizations and civil society representatives from the region. In this regard, OHCHR assisted the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in delivering training programmes to law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia. OHCHR also supported the organization of the 12th United Nations and League of Arab States Sectorial Meeting which specifically addressed human rights issues for the first time.

Moreover, OHCHR supported the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions requesting that the High Commissioner deploy missions to address situations in Libya and Yemen 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.

OHCHR maintained eight field presences in the region: two regional offices/centres (for the Middle East and 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).

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2015	8
Expenditure in 2015	US\$593,287

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *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)*



OHCHR staff members on a field mission to villages in the south of Mauritania to assess protection needs, April 2015.

The Interministerial Committee to coordinate the reporting and replying to human rights mechanisms was formally created in January and is composed of 25 members, including the National Human Rights Commission. It has submitted Mauritania's second cycle UPR report and its initial report to the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). In the preparation of the UPR report, the Government made efforts to include civil society and other stakeholders in the drafting process, which was supported by OHCHR. The Office also contributed to the organization of national consultations on the UPR process and facilitated a training session for the Committee on the human rights mechanisms and the work of standing permanent national coordination bodies. Moreover, OHCHR supported the Interministerial Committee in the preparation of its initial reports to the CMW and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

- *Increased number of submissions by CSOs and NHRIs to CEDAW, CRC and CMW (EA 7)*
In April, four networks of national civil society organizations submitted contributions within the framework of Mauritania's second cycle of the UPR. OHCHR provided technical assistance and information sessions for civil society organizations on the UPR process and guidelines for stakeholder submissions.
- *UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of UNCT joint planning and UNDAF 2012-2016 implementation (EA 11)*
The UNCT submitted a joint UPR contribution. The drafting of the contribution provided an opportunity to identify key recommendations

and paved the way for future discussions on the elaboration of the next UNDAF. Furthermore, during its retreat in May, the UNCT agreed to integrate UPR recommendations and the road map on slavery into the new UNDAF on the basis of a strategy that was elaborated under the coordination of OHCHR.

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 (EA 4)*

The draft national action plan on racial discrimination is currently before the Commissariat for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society for finalization and will then be transmitted to the Prime Minister for subsequent adoption by the Council of Ministers. OHCHR raised its concerns regarding the content of the draft action plan, which is not in compliance with international standards and good practices.

- ▶ *Adoption of a road map on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on slavery, a National Action Plan on Discrimination and a National Action Plan for Migration (EA 4)*

The Interministerial Committee continued to implement the road map against slavery in accordance with its workplan. In August, the Parliament adopted a law revising the 2007 Law on criminalizing slavery and, in December, adopted a Decree on the creation of special chambers for alleged slavery cases at the criminal courts in Nouadhibou, Nouakchott and Nema. OHCHR closely followed these efforts as an observer at the meetings of the Committee. In addition, the Office cooperated with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, to submit comprehensive comments on the draft law. It also proposed indicators to the President of the Committee for measuring progress in the implementation of the workplan.

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 torture (EA 1)*

The Parliament adopted a Law on the Prevention of Torture in August. In April, OHCHR submitted a comprehensive note on the draft law before its adoption to the Ministry of Justice as well as to

Parliamentarians. The note included observations on the definition of torture and fundamental judicial guarantees of persons deprived of their liberty in order to increase the draft's compliance with the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

- ▶ *A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3)*

In August, the Parliament adopted the Law on the Establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The Office, in cooperation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture, provided comments on the draft law before its adoption.

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)*

After its adoption by the Council of Ministers in July, the draft law revising Law 64.098 on Civilian Associations is expected to be adopted by Parliament by the end of 2016. Since the text of the draft law was not shared with civil society before or after its adoption by the Council of Ministers, there were limited opportunities to influence its content. OHCHR held meetings with civil society to update them on the adoption process and provided extensive comments to the Council of Ministers on the compliance of the draft law with international human rights standards. In addition, on 10 August, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association issued a statement encouraging Parliament to reject the proposed law.

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

- ▶ *The Government adopts policies to address issues of violence against women and trafficking (EA 1)*

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry for Social Affairs, Children and the Family are in the process of finalizing a draft law on gender-based violence. OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR provided joint comments on the draft regarding its compliance with international legal standards and good practices.

- ▶ *Human rights protection concerns are integrated into operational humanitarian plans, including a disaster preparedness plan for Nouakchott (EA 11)*
- Humanitarian actors in Mauritania increasingly integrated protection concerns of vulnerable populations into the planning and implementation

of their operations. The Office contributed to this result through awareness-raising and training activities, such as a training activity for staff of the Commissariat for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society, members of the Humanitarian Country Team and civil society on the integration of protection and human rights concerns in a humanitarian context and in the response to the nutrition crises. OHCHR also participated in different joint assessment missions with humanitarian agencies and contributed to the inclusion of references to the importance of protection concerns in the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Furthermore, OHCHR carried out sensitization meetings with communities and civil society in Bassikounou, in an area affected by the presence of Malian refugees and chronic nutrition crises. It also provided advice for the creation of local protection committees to identify and follow-up on protection issues of concern with local authorities.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	475,983
Activities and operating costs	-	36,912
Subtotal		512,895
Programme support costs		80,392
GRAND TOTAL		593,287

State of Palestine⁷

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2015	20
Expenditure in 2015	US\$3,026,206

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

The Government of the State of Palestine has shown a strong commitment to an ambitious and inclusive process of treaty body reporting and implementation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating the process of producing the initial State Party reports and various line ministries are tasked with drafting the reports. Preparation of State Party reports under the ICCPR, CAT and CEDAW are well underway. Furthermore, the Government is committed to holding national consultations on these three draft reports and the CEDAW report has been shared with civil society. OHCHR is working closely with the Government to provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building on treaty reporting and implementation to focal points in the relevant line ministries.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Increased compliance with international human rights standards by the establishment of a formal moratorium of the death penalty in the West Bank and a de facto moratorium in Gaza (EA 1)*

During 2015, no executions were carried out by the Palestinian Authorities. OHCHR continued to advocate for a presidential imposition of a formal moratorium on the death penalty. The Office submitted a letter encouraging Palestine to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and later met with the President's legal advisor to encourage a formal moratorium.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially within the framework of the UNDAF (EA 11)*

During the year, the UNCT decided to extend

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



OHCHR staff member on a monitoring mission to Hebron.

the current UNDAF for an additional year to allow more time for the development of a full Common Country Assessment (CCA) which takes into account the new and emerging realities in Palestine. OHCHR was actively involved in the initial preparation of the CCA and as a result, the outline positions human rights at the centre of UN programming. During discussions with the UNCT, OHCHR stressed that the CCA should reflect the Government's legal obligations under the seven core human rights treaties to which it had acceded in 2014. The UNCT agreed to support the Government and other national stakeholders with the implementation, monitoring of and reporting on the protection and promotion of human rights in accordance with its international obligations. OHCHR also played a key role in the UNDAF annual review by ensuring that each of the relevant priority areas took into consideration the new human rights context.

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 SGBV and honour crimes (EA 1)*

While significant progress was achieved in terms of awareness-raising, no significant changes in legislation were noted, primarily due to the absence of a functioning legislative council. Nevertheless, the Office continued to monitor cases of violations of women's rights, particularly in Gaza. Cases documented included threats to physical and mental integrity, discrimination against women, child marriage and an absence of State protective measures to prevent and/

or remedy domestic abuse. As the Protection Cluster lead, the Office worked with partners to streamline referral pathways for protection concerns in order to better address the needs of victims of gender-based violence. OHCHR also focused on building capacity among women's organizations to monitor and document cases of violence against women through workshops conducted in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza.

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

OHCHR continued documenting cases of alleged human rights violations across Palestine, including in relation to the right to life, the right to not be tortured or arbitrarily detained, the freedom of assembly and of expression, the freedom of movement, the right to adequate housing and health, gender-based violence and accountability relating to all of these violations as well as others. The Office's regular reports on the human rights situation in Palestine formed the basis for relevant discussions in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In the context of the escalation of violence in October, OHCHR provided regular briefings to the diplomatic community and partner organizations in Israel and Palestine regarding the applicable legal framework and preliminary findings from its monitoring work. OHCHR's work also helped to inform advocacy efforts undertaken by senior UN officials in Palestine, New York and Geneva to de-escalate the situation. While the situation remained fluid and violations persisted throughout the year, OHCHR's advocacy helped to ensure that key human rights considerations remained at the top of the agenda, including by assisting the international community to appropriately shape its responses and approaches to the duty-bearers.

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

Through its leadership of the Protection Cluster, OHCHR ensured that a strong focus on protection and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law was maintained throughout all phases of humanitarian engagement in Palestine, including in all responses, planning and advocacy. In particular, OHCHR ensured that accountability for violations was a key issue for the humanitarian community, in addition to enhanced mainstreaming of protection in the analysis and responses of other Clusters and strengthened gender analysis within the Protection Cluster. OHCHR also ensured that the

Punitive demolitions destroy more than homes in the occupied Palestinian territory

Inas Al-Shaludi had just buried her oldest son, Abdel-Rahman, and was trying to come to terms with the news that he was responsible for the deaths of two people in what the Israeli authorities called a “terrorist attack,” when more bad news arrived. Her family home was to be destroyed. “We had to remove all our belongings and find a place to stay,” she said. “We were shocked with the loss of our eldest son and before we had finished receiving condolences, we were faced with the demolition of our house.”

Al-Shaludi’s family home in East Jerusalem was destroyed in November 2014 by order of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). The October incident in which her son was involved left two dead, including a three-month old baby, and seven injured. The Israeli authorities called the action a “deliberate terrorist attack,” stating that Abdel-Rahman had intentionally driven his car into people waiting at a tram station. The family disputes this, saying it was an accident and that he lost control of his car. Eyewitnesses said private security guards shot and killed Abdel-Rahman shortly after the crash.

The OHCHR Office in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has monitored and documented punitive home demolition cases, including the case of the Al-Shaludi family. In 2015, the Office submitted a report to the Human Rights Council regarding the resumption of the practice. OHCHR argued that it breaches the Fourth Geneva Convention, and violates a range of Israel’s human rights obligations and underlined that no one should be punished for an act they did not commit.

The Israeli authorities have previously asserted that the practice is used to send “a severe message of deterrence to terrorists and their accomplices – that they will pay a price if they continue their terrorist

activities and harm innocent people.” Yet, Israel formally halted the practice in 2005 when an IDF panel reviewing the practice concluded that the demolitions were not an effective deterrent and generated hatred and hostility. The Israeli authorities resumed the practice in 2014.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory has condemned the practice. Earlier in 2015, the Rapporteur told the Human Rights Council that there was neither a legal nor ethical standpoint which could justify the punishment of families for the alleged actions of a relative. “In short, punitive home demolitions are an act of collective punishment that contravenes international law,” he stated.

Inas Al-Shaludi said her family had nothing to do with Abdel-Rahman’s actions. According to the information available to the UN Human Rights Office in the oPt, this claim has not been disputed by the Israeli authorities. Nevertheless, the house was destroyed one month after the attack. The family of seven was forced to divide themselves in order to live in the various homes of extended family members. Al-Shaludi said the effect on the family has been far-reaching. A daughter who was scheduled to sit for her exams was unable to study. She has either missed or failed the exams. Financial difficulties arising from the costs of keeping the family housed have forced them to withdraw two of their children from college. But the biggest toll has been on her husband. “His thinking is confused,” she said. “He forgets things and keeps feeling pain in his legs. He keeps telling me that he cannot think and that he feels so scared for the future of his sons and daughters.”

Under Israeli law, those subject to punitive home demolitions can appeal the demolition order before a court. The Al-Shaludi

family, however, has chosen not to file an appeal, saying that they do not believe they can get a fair hearing. OHCHR maintains that no court procedure can legitimize a practice which is incompatible with international law.

In a joint statement, the Special Rapporteurs on the occupied Palestinian territory and the right to adequate housing once again called on the Israeli Government to end the practice of punitive home demolitions. In reference to the Al-Shaludi case, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing called the demolition an unfair punishment. “Simply put: the use of house demolition as a punitive measure is a form of collective punishment. Israel must immediately end its use of this devastating practice,” she said.

Meanwhile, on 13 October 2015, in response to a wave of alleged attacks on Israelis by Palestinians, the Israeli Security Cabinet extended the use of punitive demolitions, announcing that no new construction will be allowed on the site of demolished homes and that the property may be liable to confiscation. In November, the Israeli Supreme Court dismissed appeals by affected families to halt demolitions. The move drew criticism from numerous human rights groups, including the UN and the International Committee for the Red Cross.

One year later, the Al-Shaludi family remains dispersed between the homes of relatives in East Jerusalem. They occasionally reunite in an apartment that is adjacent to their demolished home which belongs to Al-Shaludi’s brother-in-law, but they feel unsafe there as the building is often subject to police raids. Since the Al-Shaludi’s home was demolished in 2014, the Israeli authorities have demolished, sealed or destroyed 18 other family homes.



Members of the diplomatic community participate in a field visit organized by the Protection Cluster, led by OHCHR, to Qaryut to witness the impact of the expansion of Israeli settlements on the local Palestinian communities, May 2015.

2016 Humanitarian Response Plan emphasized accountability and recognized the need for increased respect for international law. Through its coordination of the Protection Cluster Legal Advice Group, OHCHR informed the policy discussions undertaken by the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian donors and guided humanitarian advocacy efforts, including by maintaining a focus on accountability.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,297,982
Activities and operating costs	-	371,662
Subtotal		2,669,644
Programme support costs		356,562
GRAND TOTAL		3,026,206

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	19
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,714,280

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)*

The Decree establishing a National Coordination Mechanism to follow-up on recommendations and report to the treaty bodies was published in the Official Gazette in November. The Decree was adopted largely as a result of technical support that OHCHR has provided since 2014 in the form of guidance, the sharing of good practices and inputs to the draft.

- *Submission of pending periodic reports to CESCR and CAT (EA 6)*

After a delay of 15 years, Tunisia submitted its third periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, the Government submitted its reports to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). The Office provided guidance and technical advice to the drafting committees during the preparation process.

- ▶ *Increased number of CSOs submitting information to CESCR and CAT (EA 7)*

The Tunisian Bar Association submitted an alternative report to CAT. OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the Bar Association to report to and engage with the human rights mechanisms.

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 persons at-risk, migrants and access to education and employment for persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

Following the withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW in 2014, the Government began aligning its legislative framework related to women's rights with the Constitution and CEDAW. Progress was achieved with the amendment of the Law on Passports, bringing to an end a long-standing discriminatory practice that prevented women from leaving Tunisia with their minor child without the authorization of the child's father. Moreover, the Government adopted a National Strategy on Migration and a national road map for the development of migration policies was agreed upon between the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Secretariat of State on Migration, the Labour Union and the Employers' Union. The Office, in cooperation with ILO and other UN agencies, advocated for the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the Strategy. With regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, the Tunisian National Assembly ratified the National Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in January. Advocacy for the National Charter was initiated by civil society in 2014, with OHCHR's support, and a Special Parliamentary Commission for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups was created and mandated to draft relevant legislation. Additionally, a draft law to amend the 2005 Law on the Promotion and Protection of Disability Rights was adopted by the Ministerial Council in order to improve the employment opportunities of persons with disabilities.

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)*

In April, the Ministry of Justice adopted a national strategy to reduce overcrowding in



OHCHR carried out activities for children during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in Tunisia, October 2015.

Tunisian prisons. The Office provided support to the Ministry, in partnership with Penal Reform International, including by organizing a workshop comprised of national and international experts as well as prosecutors, judges, prison directors, lawyers, civil society actors, representatives of the diplomatic community and UN agencies. The participants agreed on a series of recommendations to reduce overcrowding in prisons. The recommendations were submitted to the authorities and contributed to the development of the National Strategy. The Office also facilitated a training programme at the National School for Prisons and Rehabilitation for 1,440 prison officers with the objective of increasing their knowledge about human rights standards in relation to prison. In addition, 1,050 officers from the police, national guard and civil protection services benefited from a series of two-day training workshops on international human rights standards in relation to the use of force and community policing, the rights of prisoners and civil protection.

- ▶ *Legislation governing the penal system is revised to reflect international standards (EA 1)*

The Government adopted an Action Plan for the implementation of the Justice Sector Reform Strategy which outlines reforms of the judicial and prison system. The Ministry of Justice and the Provisional Judicial Body received assistance from OHCHR and UNDP during a workshop focused on reform of the justice sector and the drafting of the Action Plan.

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

Parliament voted on the Laws on the Supreme Judicial Council and on the Constitutional Court. Both Laws are now pending promulgation. The

drafting process was supported by OHCHR and UNDP which organized meetings and provided technical assistance to members of the Provisional Judicial Body.

- ▶ *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)*

The Truth and Dignity Commission established its Subcommissions, i.e., on vetting and institutional reforms; arbitration and conciliation; research and investigation; reparations and rehabilitation; safeguarding national memory; and a committee on women. Supported by the Office and UNDP, the Subcommissions developed their respective rules, procedures and action plans. Furthermore, the Truth and Dignity Commission has opened four regional offices in compliance with the Transitional Justice Law. To date, the Commission has filed approximately 17,000 claims and has recorded over 1,000 statements. Following a training session provided by the Office, the Commission has increased its capacity to address claims related to economic, social and cultural rights.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased number of budgets and development policies are designed using a rights-based approach (EA 1)*

A Social Protection Platform for the future was adopted at a national high-level conference held by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The aim of the conference was to develop a plan for future sector-wide reforms in the area of social protection and security. OHCHR presented a study on the right to social security in the Tunisian normative framework and some of its recommendations were integrated in the Social Protection Platform.

- ▶ *Increased number of civil society organizations monitoring and being engaged in the preparation of selected budgets and/or development policies (EA 5)*

Following public consultations on the amendment of the Tunisian Water Code, Tunisian civil society organizations contributed to the draft law which is expected to be submitted to the National Assembly in 2016. In December, the Office organized a workshop with civil society organizations and key lawmakers to discuss and integrate civil society comments into the draft law. In addition, OHCHR trained 14 NGOs active in the field of economic and social rights, including on issues related to water and agriculture.

- ▶ *The UNDAF 2015-2019 integrates a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

During 2015, the Office participated in the implementation and monitoring of the UNDAF in Tunisia which ensured that human rights remained at the centre of the activities of the UNCT.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Tunisian NHRI established and functioning in accordance with Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The Tunisian Human Rights Institution has not been established, even though the 2014 Constitution provides for the establishment of an independent NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. The Office continued to advocate for the adoption of the law that would establish the NHRI.

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

In September, a new draft law on the right of access to information was submitted to the Parliament for discussion. The draft raises concerns as it adds more restrictions to the right to information. Moreover, increasingly restrictive measures were introduced to the freedom of association after the terrorist attacks in March and June. Consequently, 20 associations with alleged links to terrorist groups were shut down by national courts and more than 150 others were suspended on the basis of similar allegations following a decision of the Secretary of State. In order to support reforms in the area of freedom of expression, the Office implemented several technical assistance projects, including one which helped the Tunisian press syndicate to prepare a project on the establishment of an observatory on the safety of journalists and another which provided training for the High Authority for Audio Visual Communication to increase its capacity to monitor and document media law offences and hate speech.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,042,251
Activities and operating costs	-	470,128
Subtotal		1,512,379
Programme support costs		201,901
GRAND TOTAL		1,714,280

Enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia

Since its establishment, the OHCHR Office in Tunisia has worked towards the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. To guarantee their rights, Tunisia adopted legislation in 2005 to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. In 2008, it ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. Despite the progress made in relation to the legislation, real change in the lives of persons with disabilities was limited. The Law had several shortcomings and its implementation was inadequate. In addition, disability associations in Tunisia were entirely excluded from policy discussions.

Through its participation in a joint project with ILO and UNICEF

that was implemented in 2014, OHCHR facilitated consultations with persons with disabilities and associations working on disability rights throughout the country. This resulted in the production of a Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Taking advantage of upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections, an awareness-raising campaign was launched on the rights of persons with disabilities. Political parties and presidential candidates were asked to sign the Charter as an indication of their firm commitment to implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia.

The campaign had a huge impact. The President of the Republic signed the Charter in November 2014 and the Tunisian National

Assembly ratified the Charter in January 2015. Currently, 87 per cent of members of the National Assembly have signed the Charter.

The adoption of the Charter also led to the creation of a special committee that is responsible for disability rights within the National Assembly. In February, the Government launched a programme on social inclusion and the eradication of poverty and marginalization, which made explicit reference to the Charter. Finally, in May, the Ministerial Council adopted a draft law amending the 2005 Law on the promotion and protection of disability rights, which aimed to improve the employment opportunities of individuals with disabilities.

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2015	10
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,699,695

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
As of the end of 2015, the Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the Law on the National Independent Human Rights Institution and the Law on Enforced Disappearances had been adopted by the Government. Their ratification by Parliament is pending. OHCHR conducted a thorough review of the draft laws and submitted its comments to the Government. These actions contributed to the increased compliance of the drafts with international standards. Additionally, OHCHR and UNDP collaborated to provide assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights with the development of the National Human Rights Strategy. Although the Strategy was finalized, it was not adopted before the end of the year as a result of the

escalation of the conflict in Yemen and the absence of a functioning government.

- *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)*
Progress in setting up accountability and transitional justice mechanisms was severely hampered by instability and violence in the country. The Land Commission was nevertheless able to settle



Outreach event organized by OHCHR in Yemen to celebrate Human Rights Day, December 2015.

approximately 46,000 cases and the Dismissals Commission was able to settle approximately 30,000 claims. In addition, based on recommendations from the Dismissals Commission, the President issued a decree to reinstate 20,000 dismissed soldiers in the Yemen Army. The capacity of both Commissions was strengthened as a result of technical assistance provided by OHCHR and UNDP.



Workshop on human rights monitoring and reporting for Yemeni civil society representatives, December 2015.

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 UN common country programming (EA 11)*

While the UNDAF was postponed due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, the UN agencies finalized three humanitarian response plans, including the 2015 and 2016 Humanitarian Response Plans and a Flash Appeal in April. OHCHR provided substantive inputs which contributed to improving the mainstreaming of human rights in the plans. It also drafted relevant outcomes and indicators concerning the Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *NHRI is established and functioning substantially in conformity with Paris Principles (EA 1)*

Due to the escalation of the conflict in Yemen and the consequential absence of a functioning parliament, the draft law on the establishment of a NHRI was not ratified. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the drafting of the law and advocated for the establishment of a NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles.

- ▶ *Civil society organizations, especially those representing youth and women, substantially increase their advocacy against human rights violations (EA 5)*

With the support of OHCHR, a network of 24 lawyers was established to provide legal aid to individuals and groups whose rights have been violated. Furthermore, following a number of workshops offered by the Office, over 90 human rights civil society representatives improved their skills in relation to investigations, data analysis and international human rights standards on discrimination.

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 1)*

The Office issued 33 reports on the human rights situation in the county which provided essential evidence for 15 statements, press

releases and briefings delivered by OHCHR and the High Commissioner on serious human rights violations in Yemen. The reports contributed to advocacy messages issued by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary-General and to the work of the Humanitarian Coordinator. These reports were based on monitoring and documentation prepared by OHCHR monitors who were deployed to conflict-affected areas and due to the development of community-based human rights reporting mechanisms. To reinforce national capacities, 33 human rights civil society representatives improved their monitoring and reporting skills during training workshops facilitated by OHCHR. Throughout the year, OHCHR observed that civil society organizations prepared an increased number of higher quality reports on human rights violations, especially those perpetrated in conflict-affected areas.

- ▶ *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)*

At the end of 2014, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy was introduced by OHCHR to the Ministry of Interior. During 2015, four draft laws on security were reviewed and harmonized with international human rights standards and presented to the Parliament for endorsement. Advocacy meetings were organized with relevant stakeholders and policymakers to pave the way for legislative changes.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	980,206
Activities and operating costs	-	524,202
Subtotal		1,504,408
Programme support costs		195,287
GRAND TOTAL		1,699,695

OHCHR's work on Syria in 2015

In 2015, OHCHR's work on the Syrian Arab Republic involved monitoring and reporting, providing human rights and legal advice to partners, capacity-building and advocacy activities. Despite a continued lack of access to Syria, OHCHR further developed and consolidated its operational arrangements in relation to that country. The OHCHR Syria Monitoring Team, which is essentially a virtual country office, is located in Beirut, Gaziantep, Amman and Geneva. The Team is composed of the Beirut-based monitoring team, three human rights advisers to the humanitarian leadership on Syria and a management team in Geneva that is liaising with the International Commission of Inquiry and the Office of the Special Envoy.

The Team documented, analyzed and reported on the human rights situation in Syria through the contribution to the Secretary-General's monthly reporting to the Security Council pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2139

(2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). It also continued to be a key source for OHCHR's advocacy as the information and analysis it provided fed numerous speeches and press statements by the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and other senior officials. Since October, OHCHR has been producing a UN internal monthly Human Rights Digest, which is intended as an early warning tool that highlights current and potential human rights concerns in Syria.

Also in 2015, OHCHR deployed three human rights advisers to respectively support the Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria (the Adviser is based in Beirut due to denial of access), the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (based in Amman) and his deputy (based in Gaziantep). The human rights advisers work to enhance the integration and mainstreaming of human rights into the work of the UNCT in Syria and in the region. To this end, the advisers provided inputs to the 2016 Humanitarian

Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan that was produced by OCHA and humanitarian partners.

Support was provided to civil society actors, including women's groups and human rights defenders, in order to increase their understanding of thematic issues, such as accountability and gender-based violence, and to enhance their capacity to monitor and report on human rights violations. In November, OHCHR delivered the first in a series of workshops in Istanbul on monitoring and documentation methodologies, with a focus on sexual and gender-based violence. In total, 26 representatives participated from 18 NGOs based in Syria and neighbouring countries.

Finally, in the context of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front Initiative, the OHCHR Syria Monitoring Team has been actively involved with UN partners on developing an operational approach on Syria.

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2015	17
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,469,242

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)

Lebanon has submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Lebanon is also undertaking steps to establish a national mechanism for reporting and following up on recommendations. Saudi Arabia established a national permanent committee for reporting and OHCHR organized several capacity-building activities with committee members.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality*

standards in relation to the rights of women and of migrants (EA 4)

In Kuwait, the Parliament adopted legislation on migrant domestic workers which includes many articles that are in line with international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach increasingly integrated into Common Country Assessments/ United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks/Consolidated Appeal Processes and programmes relating to housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)*

In Jordan, the UNDAF 2015-2017 was finalized and included a number of references to human rights indicators. The United Nations Strategic Framework, currently under development, adopts a human rights-based approach in its analysis and outcomes. The Office further supported the development of a national human rights action plan, which has yet to be approved the Government.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Establishment or strengthening of NHRIs compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (EA 1)*

A draft law for establishing a NHRI in Lebanon was adopted by the parliamentary committees in late 2013. Due to the political stagnation in the country, however, the draft law is not yet scheduled for review in the Parliament's legislative plenary sessions. OHCHR consistently advocated for the adoption of the draft law with decision-makers. In Oman, an OHCHR mission was undertaken in 2015 to advocate for the amendment of the existing NHRI law to bring it in line with the Paris Principles. The National Committee for Human Rights notes that the

law is currently being revised to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles. In addition, the Kuwaiti Parliament adopted legislation in July on the establishment of a NHRI. OHCHR provided technical assistance and commented on the various drafts of the law, which is not in full conformity with the Paris Principles. In Saudi Arabia, the capacity of members of the NHRI to investigate and document cases of violations of human rights has increased as a result of OHCHR's capacity-building programme.

- ▶ *Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies to promote respect for freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association (EA 1)*

In June, the Kuwaiti Parliament passed the Cybercrime Law, which curtails freedom of expression. Following OHCHR's cooperation with the Judicial Training Academy in the capacity-building programme for judges, some members of the judiciary are making reference to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in their decisions related to the freedom of expression.

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2015		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	42,499	1,006,272
Activities and operating costs	22,958	234,935
Subtotal	65,457	1,241,207
Programme support costs		162,578
GRAND TOTAL	65,457	1,403,785

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 2015	7
Expenditure in 2015	US\$1,080,567

Results

Strengthening international human rights

- *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)*

A training programme was organized for 26 Arab diplomats to promote the integration of human rights in regional diplomatic work and engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. As a result of this training, the participants are better equipped to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights through their work. In addition, a regional workshop on the implementation of recommendations of the human rights mechanisms was held in December for 20 participants from 13 Arab countries. The workshop focused on the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and their interaction with the treaty bodies in order to enhance compliance with human rights obligations.

Widening the democratic space

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

The Centre organized a workshop on human rights education for participants from ministries of education and academic institutions in Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine and the Sudan with the objective of identifying good regional practices in the development of human rights education programmes. The Centre is finalizing a publication featuring the papers and recommendations presented during the event.

- *Civil society, youth and journalists increasingly advocate for and claim their rights (EA 5)*

From 11 to 15 May, the Centre participated in the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day in Morocco. It delivered three presentations during the event which focused on the normative framework for human rights education, the role of the media in promoting human rights and the ways for integrating human rights concepts in the work of journalists. Following the presentations, the participants proposed recommendations to enhance the role of the media in promoting and protecting 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 partnership with Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, the Centre launched a call for proposals for projects on the protection of the right to education in times of insecurity and armed conflict within the Middle East and North Africa region. After the applications were reviewed, grants were provided in March to the Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies at the University of Duhok (Iraq), Defence for Children International (State of Palestine) and The Teacher Creativity Centre (State of Palestine). The projects are being implemented and the midterm reports are due in early 2016.

United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2015

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	617,767	144,050
Activities and operating costs	289,749	9,093
Subtotal	907,516	153,143
Programme support costs	-	19,908
GRAND TOTAL	907,516	173,051

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2015	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)*

The Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) provided support to the former Ministry of Human Rights which resulted in the implementation of a training plan for 21 trainers at the National Centre for Human Rights. The training covered human rights issues, including monitoring and reporting of human rights violations, and the obligations of States Parties to specific treaties. The plan was discontinued, however, following a decision made in August by the Prime Minister of Iraq to abolish the Ministry of Human Rights. In relation to the special procedures, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) visited Iraq in May. He visited various IDP locations in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and held meetings with Government officials during which he raised concerns related to the human rights of IDPs. The HRO organized the mission and accompanied the Special Rapporteur during his visits to IDP camps.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Improved legislative framework to combat discrimination against women, minorities and persons with disabilities, including a new Family Protection Law and an amended Law on persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

In partnership with the Alliance of Iraqi Minorities, the HRO organized the first conference at which representatives of Iraq's ethnic and religious (minority) communities came together. As an outcome of the meeting, participants agreed on a Declaration of Principles of the Rights of Minorities in Iraq and on a road map



The Chief of the Human Rights Office of UNAMI speaks at the commemoration of Human Rights Day in Baghdad, Iraq, December 2015.

for legislative, institutional and policy reforms aimed at enhancing the protection of members of minority communities and ensuring their full and equal participation in the political, economic and social life of Iraq. The conference also appointed an oversight committee to draft concrete recommendations based on the road map.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Restriction of the death penalty to the most serious crimes and establishment of a moratorium on the implementation of all death sentences (EA 1)*
- The HRO has consistently advocated with the Government of Iraq to encourage it to become a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OP2-ICCPR) on the abolition of the death penalty. This would include the institution of a moratorium on the implementation of death sentences. The Government of Iraq has, however, firmly rejected any recommendation to implement a moratorium on the implementation of death sentences or an abolition of the death penalty.

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)*

The HRO has undertaken training with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the Human Rights Up Front Initiative and has engaged in discussions with the UNCT to ensure the full compliance of its members with the Initiative. Moreover, the HRO participated in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the

Integrated Strategic Framework as a member of the drafting board of the UNCT. It also provided inputs to the formulation of priorities and activities to promote the respect and protection of human rights, in particular to promote gender equality.

Widening the democratic space

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

The HRO has remained engaged in providing technical support to building the capacity of the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) and the Kurdistan Board of Human Rights. With the support of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the HRO, the IHCHR carried out preliminary consultations with a wide range of civil society actors and parliamentary stakeholders to obtain information on processes for consultations with the public concerning human rights issues of importance. Through a number of training activities, the HRO has also contributed to the increased capacity of the IHCHR with regard to methodologies to enable them to carry out effective monitoring and reporting and develop an advocacy plan of action in relation to human rights issues of concern. The HRO and UNOPS will continue following up on implementation of the plan in partnership with the Commission and its staff.

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

- ▶ *Adoption of policies to improve the capacity of security forces to provide effective security; intelligence gathering and forensic investigation; and the engagement of affected communities in decisions related to their security (EA 1)*

In January, the HRO drafted a document on the key factors fuelling violence and terrorism in Iraq, including widespread poverty, economic stagnation and lack of economic opportunities, environmental degradation and unequal access to basic services. In the document, a range of legal, institutional and policy reforms were recommended for different governmental entities. The HRO also published two public reports, in February and July, on gaps in the protection of civilians in relation to the ongoing armed conflict in Iraq.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2015	19

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased ratification of human rights treaties, namely CPED, OP-CAT, OP-CESCR and OP-CRC-AC and withdrawal of most reservations to CEDAW (EA 2)*

Given the political crisis and security concerns, progress in this area has not been possible. Moreover, during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Libya, the Libyan representatives of the internationally recognized Government did not accept the issued recommendations regarding the withdrawal of Libya's reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

With the support of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) as well as from OHCHR and the Swiss Government, a workshop was organized in February, in Geneva, to enable members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly to discuss the inclusion of human rights provisions in the Libyan draft constitution. The workshop included discussions on topics such as the rights of minorities and of indigenous peoples, the rights of migrants, women's rights, the right to life and freedom of expression and opinion. The Constitution Drafting Assembly published the draft constitution in September. The HRD followed up with the provision of technical advice on how to strengthen human rights provisions in the draft. Related activities have not resulted in progress due to the continued conflict and political divisions in the country.

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

The issue of illegally detained persons was addressed during political negotiations and

subsequently included in the Libyan political agreement, signed on 17 December, which calls on all parties to the conflict to release any detainees being held in custody without a legal basis or hand them over to the judiciary. In its engagement with national and local officials, armed group leaders and other relevant stakeholders, the HRD has consistently called for the release of all individuals who are being illegally detained. The HRD has also frequently conducted bilateral lobbying of prison directors and the Ministry of Justice to intervene in individual cases, protect detainees from torture or other ill-treatment and ensure that prisoners have access to their lawyers and families.

- ▶ *Reduction in the scope of the application of the death penalty, improved safeguards and enhanced mechanisms for clemency (EA 1)*
Given the legislative and political divisions permeating the country, it was not possible to resume lobbying activities in relation to amendments to the Penal Code that would reduce the scope of the application of the death penalty.
- ▶ *An increasingly functioning judiciary applies due process standards in a safer environment (EA 1)*
The ongoing armed conflict and deteriorating security situation in Libya severely impacted HRD's work in this area, particularly as the judiciary collapsed in several parts of the country, including Benghazi, Derna and Sirte and was severely undermined elsewhere. Judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials also continued to be the targets of attacks which included assassinations and abductions.
- ▶ *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)*
The political and security crisis has had a severe impact on the achievement of progress in the area of transitional justice. Without a legitimate parliament, members cannot be appointed to the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission. As a result, progress has stalled in relation to truth seeking and reparations. It is worth noting, however, that the Libyan Political Agreement signed on 17 December contains significant clauses calling for action in the area of transitional justice and urges the appointment of members to the Commission within 90 days of the agreement. The HRD has also facilitated ongoing dialogue between the Misrata and Tawergha municipalities on the modalities of implementing the right of

return of the 40,000 internally displaced persons from Tawergha. The process began in January and has intensified since the two sides agreed to form a Joint Committee in May. Throughout the year, the HRD organized a series of meetings between the two parties in Libya, Switzerland and Tunisia. These meetings culminated in the adoption of a road map for the returns to Tawergha on 18 December, which were carried out in accordance with international standards. The HRD ensured the involvement of victims' groups and women in the work of the Joint Committee.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *An impartial and effective National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights that is working well with civil society and acting increasingly in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
Commissioners and staff of the National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights faced intimidation and threats and many continued to live in exile or in hiding. Furthermore, the Benghazi and Tripoli premises of the Council remain closed and the House of Representatives (the internationally recognized Libyan legislature) failed to extend the Council board's mandate, which expired at the end of 2014. Despite these challenges, the HRD engaged in trainings for staff and the Council's board members to strengthen their capacity in addressing human rights concerns.
- ▶ *Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life (EA 5)*
As a part of its broader monitoring work, the HRD has repeatedly raised concerns with Libyan authorities and those in effective control on the ground regarding the protection of human rights defenders and civil society representatives in Libya and in exile. Specific emphasis was placed on the particular threats facing women activists when reporting, participating in interventions and providing assistance through referral pathways. The HRD also organized a meeting of civil society organizations in August which provided Libyan civil society organizations with a forum for raising their concerns and coordinating joint actions. The meeting included the participation of the United Nations Country Team and members of the international community.

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 monitoring and reporting work undertaken by the HRD, which has highlighted the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Libya, has been integrated in numerous public statements and public reports, including the report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Libya (January); the briefing on human rights defenders (March); a statement on abductions (May); a statement

on the situation of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees (May); and a report on the general human rights situation in Libya between January and November (November). The HRD also contributed to the Secretary-General's reports on Libya, the quarterly Global Horizontal Notes on children and armed conflict and the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.