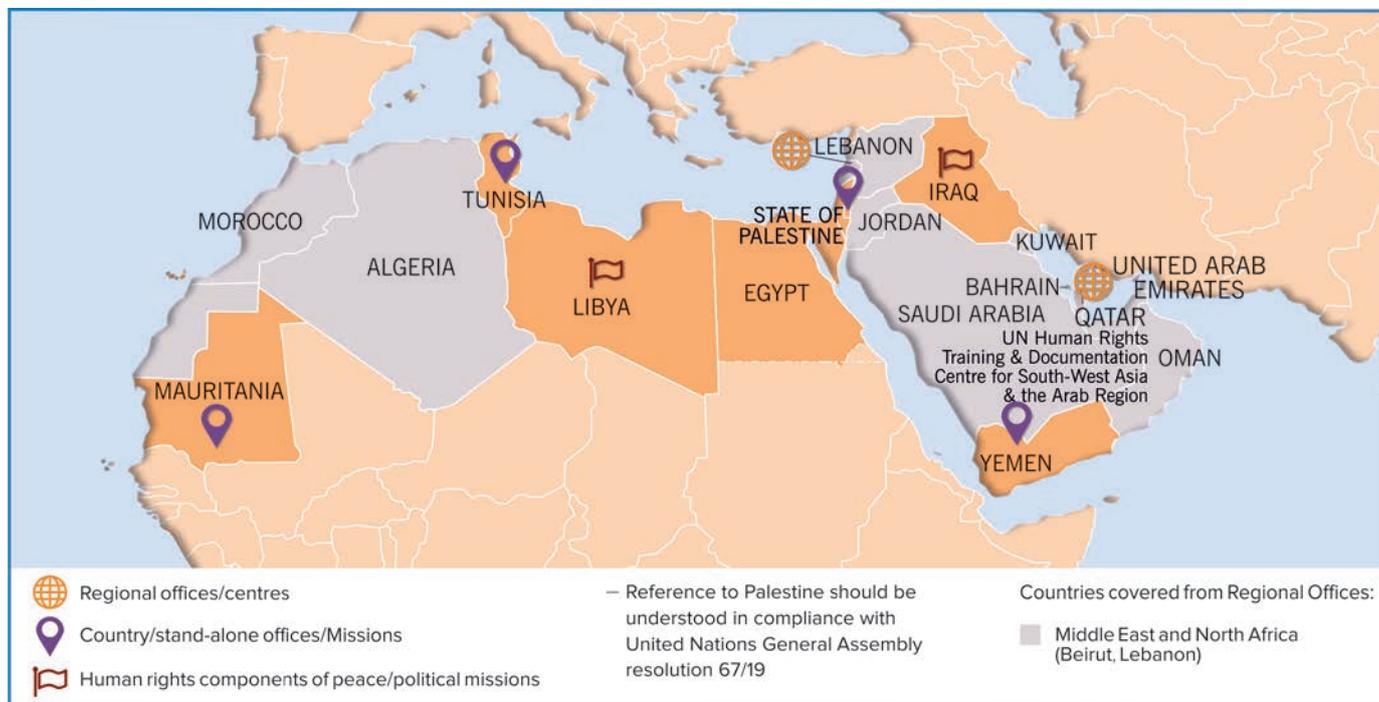


OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



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.

While some countries of the Middle East and North Africa region continued to experience extreme violence and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, others have taken positive steps towards the realization of their international human rights obligations. In 2016, many trends and concerns exhibited a regional dimension, for example, in relation to the impact of cross-border movements of fighters and weapons, the impact on regional dynamics and tensions across the region, the movement of people fleeing conflict to neighbouring countries and further afield and the activities of non-State armed groups.

In close coordination with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, OHCHR sought to address emerging needs emanating from social, economic, civil and political developments and the ongoing and emerging armed conflicts across the region. With regard to the conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, OHCHR took steps to strengthen its field presences and existing mechanisms to ensure its monitoring and reporting mandate was properly discharged. Moreover, OHCHR supported the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions, including requests that the High Commissioner deploy a mission to address the situation in Yemen and extend 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.

Throughout 2016, the High Commissioner for Human Rights strongly advocated for accountability and the protection of civilians in the region. He also called for an end to the escalation of violence through numerous press releases and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In addition, during the Deputy High Commissioner's visit to Iraq, a clear message was conveyed regarding

OHCHR work on Syria

In 2016, despite the ongoing lack of access to the country, OHCHR continued to monitor and report on violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. It provided advice on human rights and IHL to partners, expanded its capacity-building activities and increased its advocacy efforts through its consolidated OHCHR Syria Team, which is deployed in four different locations, namely, Beirut, Gaziantep, Amman and Geneva.

Three human rights advisers (HRAs) were deployed to Beirut (pending access to Damascus), Amman and Gaziantep, respectively, to continue supporting the United Nations humanitarian leadership for the Syrian crisis, including the Humanitarian Coordinator (in Damascus), the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (in Amman) and the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (in Gaziantep). The HRAs worked to enhance the integration and mainstreaming of human rights into the overall humanitarian response and the work of the United Nations Country Teams in Syria and in the region. To this end, the HRAs provided inputs to the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan produced and coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and contributed to advocacy efforts conducted by the humanitarian leadership on Syria.

The Beirut-based monitoring component of the OHCHR Syria Team continued to actively monitor and report on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information gathered is regularly reflected in the Secretary-General's monthly reporting to the Security Council, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015).

The documentation, analysis and reporting on the human rights situation in Syria that is produced by the OHCHR Syria Team was a key source of information for OHCHR's advocacy, including in numerous speeches and press statements that were delivered by the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and other senior United Nations officials. Since October 2015, OHCHR has produced an internal United Nations monthly Human Rights Digest, which is intended as an early warning tool that highlights current and potential human rights concerns in Syria.

A variety of legal notes were produced on different topics to guide the UN's analysis and response in Syria. The legal notes included "Indiscriminate attacks and indiscriminate weapons in international humanitarian law" (March 2016), "Attacks on medical units in international humanitarian law and human rights law" (September 2016), "Transfer of the civilian population in international law" (January 2017) and "International humanitarian law and human rights law relevant to siege warfare" (January 2017).

The Geneva-based component of the OHCHR Syria Team continued to ensure regular liaison with the the Office of the Special Envoy in order to provide human rights and early warning input into the political process, and with other relevant stakeholders, including Member States. In addition, the OHCHR Syria Team increased its engagement with different special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

In September, OHCHR supported the visit to Geneva of representatives from the Health Cluster in Gaziantep, including the Syrian American Medical Society, as well as Physicians for Human Rights, to attend a series of advocacy activities around the issue of attacks against medical facilities and health workers in Syria. The delegation participated in a side event entitled "The prevention of child mortality and human rights: An unfinished agenda." The delegation also interacted with the media and briefed Member States at a high-level meeting on humanitarian challenges in Syria.

Also in 2016, the OHCHR Syria Team expanded its capacity-building activities on IHRL and IHL to strengthen the evidence-based advocacy and operational responses of its humanitarian partners.

OHCHR provided support to civil society actors, including women's groups and human rights defenders, in order to increase their understanding of thematic issues, such as accountability, gender-based violence and the rights of minorities and to enhance their capacity to monitor and report on violations and abuses of IHRL and IHL. In 2016, OHCHR stepped up its role as a facilitator in supporting consultations with civil society on options for transitional justice/dealing with the past in the Syrian context. OHCHR also contributed to discussions on addressing the issue of enforced disappearances and the missing in Syria.

In September, the Human Rights Council decided to convene a high-level panel on the human rights situation in Syria at its thirty-fourth session, in March 2017, which will be organized by OHCHR. In December, the General Assembly adopted resolution (A/71/L.48) establishing an "International, impartial and independent mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011" and requested that the Secretary-General develop the terms of reference of this mechanism, with the support of OHCHR.

The OHCHR Syria Team continued to carry out its work by complementing the work of the International Commission of Inquiry that was supported by an OHCHR-established Secretariat.

OHCHR's commitment to support the protection of human rights in the country.

OHCHR supported specific technical assistance initiatives in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen and organized several capacity-building activities for government officials, regional and international organizations and civil society actors. To this end, OHCHR assisted the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force 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 delivered two pilot training programmes to law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism in Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

OHCHR maintained eight field presences in the region: two regional offices/centres (for the Middle East and North Africa in Lebanon and at 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 2016	5
Expenditure in 2016	US\$679,354

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)*

In cooperation with the interministerial committee for reporting and follow-up, OHCHR organized a workshop with representatives of the Government, civil society and the national human rights institution (NHRI) to discuss the draft national action plan on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.



OHCHR Representative in Mauritania meets with leaders in the Mbera refugee camp to prevent conflict between Malian refugees and the host population. © OHCHR/Mauritania

- *Increased number of submissions by CSOs and NHRIs to CEDAW, CRC and CMW (EA 7)*

Following training provided by OHCHR on the submission of information under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, four national NGOs submitted two reports and the NHRI submitted another.

- *UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of UNCT joint planning and UNDAF 2012-2016 implementation (EA 11)*

Based on an OHCHR compilation of all recommendations that have been issued by the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR, the Office provided comments on the integration of these recommendations during the drafting process of Mauritania's development strategy, the evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016 and in the context of the preparation of the new UNDAF 2018-2022. OHCHR provided training and capacity-building support to the ministerial working group responsible for the drafting of the development strategy and the consultants working on the different UNDAF-related documents.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The National Action Plan on Racial Discrimination is pending finalization by the Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Action. The interministerial committee on the implementation of the road map on slavery did not meet during the second half of the year and the implementation of some activities has not taken place, primarily due to a lack of funding. Following the creation of three Special Courts

on Slavery in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Nema, OHCHR provided initial training to the judges, prosecutors, police and gendarmerie related to the courts. OHCHR also facilitated dialogue between the judicial personnel and NGOs on cases of alleged slavery.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

The newly appointed members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) increasingly understand their mandate and roles. OHCHR supported the Government with regard to the technical, financial and organizational aspects of the establishment of a NPM under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and organized two trainings for the newly appointed members in cooperation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

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)*

While the draft Law on Civilian Associations is currently awaiting discussion within the relevant parliamentary commissions, the draft was not revised according to OHCHR's advice. As a result of its efforts, the Office increased the awareness of civil society organizations, the Ministry of Relations with Parliament and Civil Society and the Ministry of Interior regarding the noncompliance of the draft law with international human rights treaties and the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms in relation to Mauritania.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	392,559
Activities and operating costs	-	220,777
Subtotal	-	613,336
Programme support costs	-	66,018
GRAND TOTAL	-	679,354

State of Palestine⁵

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2016	25
Expenditure in 2016	US\$3,645,485

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Government's National Policy Agenda drafted in 2016 includes overarching commitments on the integration of human rights treaties as part of its State-building activities and identifies specific human rights-based interventions under the umbrella of sustainable development, in line with Palestine's treaty obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government is currently working on translating the overall priorities in the National Policy Agenda into national sector strategies where such interventions on human rights implementation can be incorporated. Through technical assistance and training, OHCHR continued to support the State of Palestine in order to strengthen its capacity to implement the seven human rights treaties and report on their progress. The State report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the most advanced of the reports and will be submitted in 2017. In addition, UN Women and OHCHR supported the Independent Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) on the organization of a national consultation regarding the preparation of the report under CEDAW. Approximately 140 representatives from civil society organizations in Gaza and the West Bank attended the consultation. OHCHR also conducted five workshops and trainings for Palestinian human rights organizations and the ICHR to strengthen their capacity to monitor and document the Government's implementation of its legal commitments under the treaties.

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)*

The Office focused its efforts on monitoring specific cases related to the death penalty and undertaking advocacy with relevant authorities and partners. Unfortunately, executions resumed in Gaza, which had

⁵ Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.



Participants of an OHCHR training on human rights law for social media activists, August 2016. © OHCHR/Palestine

not been carried out since 2014. The Office conducted a series of meetings in an attempt to prevent the executions and it has continued to engage with authorities to highlight the procedural concerns of different cases. It is believed that the advocacy, including public statements, of the Office and its partners helped to partially limit the number of executions that were carried out in 2016.

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)*

The Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Palestine was officially launched on 24 November. Human rights are at the core of the analysis that identifies the key structural drivers and challenges being faced by some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in Palestine. This integration of human rights in the analysis is well reflected in the current discussions of strategic priorities, outcomes and outputs of the working groups on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022. OHCHR has been promoting the use of the human rights-based approach in the CCA/UNDAF by taking a leading role in the working groups and providing written analytical inputs. OHCHR also substantially contributed to the formulation of the Joint UN Strategy for Hebron, which was launched in November and outlines the human rights challenges in Hebron. The report also identifies the rights-holders and duty-bearers, their roles and their capacities.

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

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

Through the five annual reports issued by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General, as mandated by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, OHCHR has continued to provide the international community with factual information about incidents and alleged violations of human rights based on its monitoring work in addition to legal analysis of the human rights situation. For the first time, each of the reports was published in a reader-friendly format with photos and graphics to illustrate the analysis.

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

The Humanitarian Response Plan identifies protection as one of its main strategic objectives and other Clusters, apart from the Protection Cluster, are encouraged to frame their identified needs and objectives in human rights terms. These results have been primarily achieved through OHCHR's leadership of the Protection Cluster and its effective engagement in the Humanitarian Country Team.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,698,243
Activities and operating costs	-	536,265
Subtotal	-	3,234,508
Programme support costs	-	410,977
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,645,485

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2016	15
Expenditure in 2016	US\$1,303,162

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2016, the Government of Tunisia submitted pending periodic reports under the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention against Torture and other



OHCHR event to mark Human Rights Day in Tunisia.
© OHCHR/Tunisia

Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government throughout the drafting process.

- *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)*

Tunisia's National Reporting Mechanism is now fully operational and its members are aware of their duties and responsibilities. In 2016, the Mechanism submitted an updated version of the common core document, which had not been updated since 1994.

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

Benefiting from OHCHR's trainings and advice on reporting to treaty bodies, civil society organizations submitted shadow reports under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, CAT and ICESCR. Furthermore, some 40 civil society representatives received training from the Office, in August, on the guidelines for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submissions. As a result, a joint civil society report was prepared for the upcoming third UPR cycle of Tunisia.

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 Government of Tunisia continued to align its legislative framework governing women's rights with both the Constitution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Tunisian Parliament adopted the new Elections Law which enshrined the principle of horizontal and vertical gender parity. The Government also established a special Council for Gender Equality which will aim to empower women and ensure equal access to opportunities. Despite the progress achieved, discriminatory provisions persist in Tunisian legislation, most significantly in the Penal

Code and the Civil Status Law. To address these shortcomings, the Office conducted a comprehensive desk review of the discriminatory provisions to be used in advocacy activities with the Government. The Tunisian Parliament passed a bill, in May, to amend the framework Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The amendments provide for better accessibility in the workplace and include a requirement to double the employment quota of persons with disabilities from 1 to 2 per cent in the public and private sectors.

With the support of OHCHR and ILO, a national road map and action plan 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 activities outlined in the road map include, inter alia, capacity-building programmes to protect the rights of migrants, programmes for strengthening the social dialogue on migration policy and efforts to be taken towards the reform of the law governing labour migration in Tunisia.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

Good progress in the revision of the Criminal Procedures Code was achieved with the adoption by the Parliament, on 2 February, of a partial amendment to the law reducing pretrial detention to 48 hours and ensuring the right to a lawyer during the pre-trial phase. The Office continued to engage with the Commission on the reform of the Code by organizing seminars on penal reform and distributing documentation for stakeholders. The amendment was informed by the Office's comprehensive guidance note, published in 2015, which focused on international standards governing fair trial guarantees as reflected in international instruments and treaties ratified by Tunisia.

- *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 sub-commissions which, supported by the Office and UNDP, developed their respective action plans. Furthermore, with the support of the Office and UNDP, the Truth and Dignity Commission has opened four regional offices located in the cities of Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine and Gafsa, in compliance with the Law on Transitional Justice. The process of submission of complaints pertaining to alleged past human rights violations was closed on 15 June with 62,000 cases recorded by the Commission. Despite these achievements in transitional justice, the process may experi-

ence a setback if the draft Law on Economic Reconciliation is adopted. The draft law raises fears among civil society that those responsible for past violations of economic and social rights may be granted amnesty. In June, the Parliament began to review the draft Organic Law on Special Provisions for Reconciliation in the Economic and Financial Areas which provides for the possibility of an amnesty in relation to acts of corruption and misappropriation of public funds. The draft would also end the competencies of the Truth and Dignity Commission in relation to arbitration and reconciliation, including those relating to the transfer of cases of corruption and embezzlement of State funds to the Special Chambers. Civil society organizations launched a campaign aimed at preventing the approval of the draft law.

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

Following some delays in establishing independent and constitutional bodies, the Parliament elected 16 members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in March. The law establishing the NPM was adopted in 2013. The Office provided capacity-building opportunities and technical assistance to the members of the NPM to ensure it becomes fully operational as soon as possible.

- ▶ *Increased number of strategic litigation cases on economic, social and cultural rights brought before the courts (EA 5)*

The advocacy work conducted by the Office for the integration of violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the mandate of the Truth and Dignity Commission resulted in the Commission conducting investigations into the violations of the right to health, education, academic freedom, the right to work, housing and the violation of cultural freedoms. According to the Commission's statistics, 35 per cent of the 62,000 complaints received are related to the violation of the right to housing, while 56 per cent relate to the violation of the right to work.

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)*

The Tunisian Government is better equipped to tackle the discrimination and obstacles faced by women in rural areas with regard to their right to work and social security. OHCHR conducted a qualitative and quantitative study in five governorates within the central and northern regions of the country, which provided practical recommendations to the Government on how to improve the situations being faced by these women. The findings of the study were presented during a seminar that gathered together

80 representatives from governmental bodies and civil society organizations and led to the drafting of a Plan of Action.

Widening the democratic space

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

In order to address the gaps in the draft law on a national human rights institution (NHRI), the Office cooperated with the Ministry for Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights, UNDP and the Danish Institute for Human Rights and, in February, launched a series of nationwide consultations which brought together nearly 600 civil society participants from various governorates. The consultations were concluded at a national conference in Tunis, held at the end of March, during which participants agreed on a set of recommendations that were then submitted to the drafting committee.

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

The Law on the Right of Access to Information was adopted on 24 March by the Parliament. The law incorporates civil society recommendations, including the establishment of an Independent Commission on Access to Information. An earlier draft of the law, which was initially submitted to the Parliament for discussion, raised significant concerns among civil society organizations as it contained a wide list of exceptions to the right of access to information. These organizations, supported by the Office, launched a range of advocacy efforts and proposed amendments which resulted in the inclusion of significant positive changes.

In August, the Ministry of Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights finalized the first draft of the Law on Media Broadcasting. The draft raises concerns regarding the participatory aspect of the process; the independence and representation of the broadcasting media regulatory body; and the independence of the public broadcasting media's services.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2016		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	902,864
Activities and operating costs	-	255,103
Subtotal	-	1,157,968
Programme support costs	-	145,194
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,303,162

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2016	9
Expenditure in 2016	US\$2,913,879

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

Due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, which hindered the proper functioning of governmental entities, the review of the Constitution was neither feasible nor prioritized during the year.

- *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)*

OHCHR continued providing technical assistance to the Yemeni National Independent Commission of Inquiry, which was established in 2015. For instance, the Office trained the Commission's monitors on national and international law applicable to Yemen, human rights monitoring and gender integration. The Office also presented observations and comments on the first report of the Commission and raised concerns about the methodology and the scope of the report.

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)*



OHCHR training for NGO representatives on monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in Yemen, August 2016. © OHCHR/Yemen

OHCHR established a monitoring, documentation and investigation mechanism through the deployment of human rights monitors to conflict-affected areas, covering Amanat Al-Asimah, Aden, Al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Hadramout, Al-Jawf, as well as the governorates of Taizz, Al-Dhale'e, Shabwah and Mareb. Information gathered through this mechanism fed into 12 monthly updates on the human rights situation in Yemen that were shared with the United Nations Country Team, contributed to a report to the Human Rights Council and OHCHR's relevant press releases and was used in advocacy messages issued by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary-General.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2016		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,556,667
Activities and operating costs	-	1,038,602
Subtotal	-	2,595,269
Programme support costs	-	318,610
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,913,879



OHCHR staff member during a monitoring mission in Yemen. © OHCHR/Yemen

Regional Offices and Centres

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

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2016	20
Expenditure in 2016	US\$1,696,531

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 organized three regional events on engagement with the human rights mechanisms, which gathered approximately 100 participants from governments, national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and the judiciary. In addition, a training-of-trainers event on treaty body reporting was facilitated for 36 Arab government officials. Another workshop, facilitated by OHCHR and the League of Arab States, enabled public officials from 19 Arab countries to enhance their knowledge about State engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures, as well as the role of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up.
- ▶ *Increased number of submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and Universal Periodic Review from civil society actors (EA 7)*
Civil society in the region, in particular from Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon, is generally active in submitting shadow reports to various human rights mechanisms. For instance, civil society organizations from Lebanon that are working on women's rights submitted their views on the revised draft of General Recommendation 19 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Establishment and functioning of accountability mechanisms in accordance with international standards to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment (EA 3)*
In Lebanon, the Code of Conduct for General Security Forces has been drafted, adopted and published while, in Jordan, the Gendarmerie adopted its Code of Conduct. Both results were achieved with OHCHR support.

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 (UNDAFs)/Consolidated Appeal Processes and programmes relating to housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)*
A road map for the preparation of Kuwait's Common Country Assessment, which will be finalized in 2017, fully integrates human rights principles and standards as a result of OHCHR's participation in the meetings of the Kuwait United Nations Country Team.

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)*
The Government of Lebanon passed a new law establishing a national human rights institution (NHRI) in October. The Regional Office contributed to this result through many years of advocacy and engagement with its Lebanese counterparts. In Kuwait, a NHRI was established in 2015, however, it is not yet functioning due to delays in the appointment of commissioners.

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

- ▶ *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN's security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)*
In Lebanon, OHCHR supported the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to adopt the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and coordinated finalization of a preliminary risk assessment. The Office also engaged in consultations within the UNCT and with other international counterparts on the next steps for the implementation of the Policy.

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	130,939	817,170
Activities and operating costs	12,761	562,755
Subtotal	143,700	1,379,924
Programme support costs		172,907
GRAND TOTAL	143,700	1,552,832

UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2016

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	540,473	252,569
Activities and operating costs	369,201	84,097
Subtotal	909,674	336,666
Programme support costs	-	43,767
GRAND TOTAL	909,674	380,432

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 2016	4
Expenditure in 2016	US\$1,290,106

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)*

Knowledge on and understanding of Arab diplomats in relation to the work of the international human rights mechanisms was enhanced through a number of training activities, in particular through training on the development of the UN human rights protection system and its normative framework.

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)*

A review of the project on the Protection of the Right to Education during Insecurity and Armed Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa Region took place and included the attendance of beneficiaries, independent experts, representatives of UNESCO, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. A joint report on education in emergencies was developed regarding four countries in the region and outlined achievements and lessons learned in relation to the project's implementation.

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2016	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 has no pending reporting obligations as it has submitted all required reports under the different human rights treaties to which it is a State Party. Iraq underwent the Universal Periodic Review in 2015 but has not yet developed a human rights action plan to implement the recommendations that it accepted. The Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has provided technical and other assistance to the Government of Iraq in the preparation of reports and has provided considerable support to civil society organizations and the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) in relation to the submission of shadow reports.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Improved legislative framework to combat discrimination against women, minorities and persons with*



The Deputy High Commissioner participates at an OHCHR workshop for civil society organizations on monitoring and reporting human rights violations in Iraq, April 2016. © UNAMI PIO

disabilities, including a new Family Protection Law and an amended Law on persons with disabilities (EA 4)

During 2015 and 2106, the HRO undertook extensive consultations with members of ethnic and religious minorities on gaps in their protection and respect for their rights and suggested a number of institutional, legal and policy reforms that the Government should consider to address those gaps. Drawing on these consultations, the HRO and Iraqi NGOs worked together to draft an anti-discrimination bill that was presented to the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee for review. In addition, a study by the HRO of the existing legislative and policy framework for protecting women and children from sexual and gender-based violence inspired a group of NGOs, supported by the HRO, to draft a bill addressing this issue. The HRO is advocating with the Government and Members of Parliament for its adoption.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Amendment of Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005 and Iraqi Criminal Procedure Code No. 21 of 1971 in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In March, the HRO completed a review of all existing Iraqi legislation relating to terrorism and compiled a set of recommendations for legislative and policy reforms to ensure that the protection of and respect for human rights and the rule of law is fundamental to the Government's counter-terrorism policies. This document has served as the basis for advocacy with the Government and has been widely disseminated among security and law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, Members of Parliament and the Government.

- ▶ *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 Government has made it clear that it intends to continue calling for the application of the death penalty in Iraq for a range of crimes, despite serious concerns that have been raised about weaknesses in the Iraqi criminal justice system, failures to adhere to due process and fair trial standards, reliance on confessions alleged to have been coerced and other systemic problems that render many convictions unsafe. Since 2015, the Ministry of Justice has not provided information to the HRO in relation to death sentences carried out in Iraq and, consequently, the HRO has been unable to ascertain the exact number of persons executed since that time.

Widening the democratic space

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

In April, the term of the first Board of Commissioners of the IHCHR expired. The HRO provided technical support to the Committee of Experts tasked with selecting new commissioners, including by assisting the staff of the IHCHR Secretariat to establish procedures for receiving applications, developing a database, preparing the files of each applicant and developing and updating evaluations undertaken by the Committee of Experts. As of the end of 2016, the selection process was still underway.

- ▶ *Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including at-risk human rights defenders and media actors, established and strengthened (EA 3)*

The draft Law on Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Peaceful Protest was reviewed by the Iraqi Council of Representatives and referred to the



OHCHR meeting to discuss the adoption of a regional human rights plan of action to implement Universal Periodic Review recommendations in Erbil, Iraq, November 2016. © UNAMI

Parliamentary Human Rights Committee for its review. In August, the HRO presented the Head of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee with suggested amendments and organized a briefing session for civil society organizations in order to build consensus on the needed amendments to ensure that the bill is in compliance with international standards. Following these interventions, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives returned the draft bill to three parliamentary committees for their review.

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 March, the HRO finalized a policy document that outlined the key areas that are conducive to armed conflict in Iraq and provided recommendations to the Government related to improving the protection of and respect for human rights in these areas. The policy document was also integrated into a strategy document for UNAMI that was approved by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in November.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2016	15

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

The Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA) finalized the latest draft of the Constitution which is now pending approval. The Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) worked with the CDA in order to harmonize the draft constitution in line with international human rights standards. Many of the observations made by HRD were incorporated in the draft. In addition, the High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote to the CDA to ask them to consider strengthening a number of human rights protections. While improvements in the draft included the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as the prohibition of discrimination based on ethnicity, language, sex, birth, political opinion or disability, provisions on the full equality between women and men and the abolition of the death penalty were not integrated.

- ▶ *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 continued to monitor conditions in detention centres and provided technical assistance and advisory support to the Judicial Police aimed at improving their compliance with international standards in prisons under its control. The lack of strong State structures and appropriate resources, however, limited the ability of authorities to make significant improvements.

- ▶ *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 a 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 HRD facilitated the Misrata Tawergha dialogue and helped them to reach an agreement, which was signed in August, to implement the road map that was agreed upon in December 2015. The agreement included the payment of reparations to victims and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The

HRD advocated for the implementation of the agreement, in line with international human rights standards, and stressed that the return of IDPs should not be conditional upon the payment of reparations. Further implementation of the agreement is pending the approval of local councils and the Government.

Widening the democratic space

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

Although civil society organizations had limited space in which they were able to undertake their work, they were able to carry out some public advocacy activities such as the issuing of joint statements with their international partners. Through capacity-building activities and by endorsing their public communications, the HRD was able to support the advocacy efforts of civil society.

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 UN Security Council extended the mandate of UNSMIL twice during 2016, including in relation to human rights monitoring and reporting. The

Human Rights Council considered the OHCHR investigation report issued in March and asked the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to report on Libya, including through an oral update (in September) and a written report (March 2017). Furthermore, the HRD consistently monitored, reported and advocated on cases of human rights violations and abuses including by publishing monthly reports on civilian casualties and a report on abuses against migrants. The HRD also contributed to the global reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict, sexual violence in conflict and protection of civilians. It further prepared two forthcoming reports on the human rights situation in Libya in 2016 and on a trial against former Qadhafi regime members. Limited capacity, however, hindered the investigation of many cases.

- ▶ *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN's security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)*

The HRD began the implementation of the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, including by drafting a general and preliminary risk assessment and carrying out consultations within the UN system and with international counterparts on the next steps to be taken for the implementation of the Policy.