



UJRC Update

Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center Monthly Newsletter

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The first six months of 2006

Throughout the first six months of 2006, UJRC conducted 15 major activities, 9 of which were under the Dialogue sessions of the “New Jordan Forum”. Held with prominent speakers from Jordan and the region, the sessions dealt with diverse events and current developments. The remaining activities included three regional seminars and meetings, in addition to an economic symposium and one training workshop.

A recent report published on UJRC’s accomplishments during the first half of this year stated that the Center invited 46 prominent figures from the region to participate in its activities, namely, the seminars, regional workshops and discussion sessions of the New Jordan Forum.

Participants in UJRC’s various activities were from: Egypt (9), Palestine (12), Lebanon (6), Iraq (4), Morocco (2), Yemen (2), Algeria (2), Tunisia (1), and United Arab Emirates (1), in addition to participants from Belgium, Spain, Malta and Turkey. Jordanian participants exceeded 50.

The Report clarified that the “Regional Elections” issue received remarkable attention within the Center’s activities during the past six months. The Palestinian Legislative Elections were discussed twice; once with the participation of Jordanian observers, and the other with the participation of Palestinian analysts and experts.

The Israeli Elections were also discussed with the involvement of Jordanian and 1948 Arab Palestinian experts; the Egyptian political scene of the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections was discussed in two dialogue sessions. Both these sessions attracted the highest number of attendants. The Iraqi and the Syrian issues were each discussed in



one dialogue session throughout the same phase.

Regarding the Regional Activities, UJRC held a training workshop with the participation of regional experts in the Oral History field, which was the first of its kind in Jordan. Moreover, UJRC organized two other regional workshops; one focused on “Corporate Citizenship”, and was held with the participation of researchers and experts from Morocco, Turkey, Egypt and the UAE; the other on the “Euro-Mediterranean Partnership” with the participation of researchers from the Mediterranean and the European Union.

As for building regional networks, UJRC has hosted the founding meeting of the “Arab Civil Network for Democratic Reform” in the Dead Sea on February 18-19, 2006. This network joins up 18 Arab Organizations belonging to 8 Arab countries UJRC was elected as the general coordinator of this network. The Founding meeting of the “Arab World Elections Monitor” was also hosted by UJRC, with the cooperation of the Civil Forum in Palestine, on June 21- 22, 2006. The meeting joined 20 organizations belonging to ten Arab countries.

Throughout these various activities, the number of main speakers reached almost 100, with the total number of participants exceeding 640. The previously mentioned activities got wide media coverage (journalism, visual and audio media); activities covered by Jordanian newspapers took up an area of 34395 cm², which is equivalent to 19 pages of the daily newspaper.



It is worth mentioning that UJRC activities occupied 23 working days throughout the last six months.

Recent activities:

• Study Days for Civil Society Leaders:

UJRC has launched a new project entitled “Study Days for Leaders of Jordanian Civil Society Organizations”. This project which held its first study day in August, aims at building the capabilities of Civil Society leaders and activists, through exchanging experiences and presenting best practices of each organization for mutual learning purposes.

The first study day discussed the results of the opinion poll conducted

on the leaders of Civil Society Organizations. This poll engaged 160 Organizations, and dealt with the structure of the Jordanian Civil Society; characteristics of its working environment; its influence on the economic, social and political arenas in Jordan; and the relationship between civil society organizations, the government and the private sector. Also discussed were ethical values which the civil society possesses and seeks to spread amongst the Jordanian Society.



A total of 41 participants representing 30 diversified civil society organizations took part in the first study day program.

It is worth mentioning that this project will go on for one year; workshops are scheduled to take place at a rate of one study day every month.

• **Unifying Democratic Trends ... prospects and challenges**

With the cooperation of Al Quds Center for Political Studies, Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center organized a conference entitled: “Unifying Democratic Trends ... prospects and challenges”.

Held on July 15, 2006, the conference took place in Palmyra Hotel, and was attended by 131 Jordanian figures. The conference issued a plea on “unifying various democratic trends” and a political appeal on the current situation and latest developments in Lebanon, Gaza, and Iraq. The conference formed a steering committee and selected working groups to prepare documents on the Democratic Trends’ work.

Ongoing Activities:

- Within the Project of “Study Days for Civil Society Leaders” UJRC conducted the second study day on August 23, 2006, in Al-Safsaf Rehabilitation Center/ the Jordanian Society for Psychological Rehabilitation in Naour. The forthcoming Study Day is entitled: “The Role of



the Civil Society in Defining the National Priorities”. The third study day is scheduled on September 18, and will cover the theme “Civil Society Mechanisms of Influencing the Decision-Making Process and Public Policies in Jordan”.

- UJRC, together with Sindbad Publishing House, are approaching the final stages of publishing a book “Memoirs of Ismail Aridah”; a Jordanian patriot in the Great Syrian Revolution 1925-1926. The book falls in 140 A4 pages, and is published in the series of UJRC biography publications. Contents were verified by Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Souariky, who also prepared the book preface.

- UJRC is launching its new website in English next September after it has been remarkably updated and developed, by adding more links like a photo gallery and periodicals by the Center (Civil Society Issues in Jordan, Economic Policy Dialogue, Environmental papers issue). As for the website in Arabic, it will be launched in October.

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