

WEEKLY BRIEFINGS

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MORE THAN 4,000 OBSERVERS AND 41 NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO OBSERVE MOROCCO'S UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The Special Commission for the Accreditation of Election Observers has accredited 41 national and international organizations to observe the upcoming elections: 34 Moroccan associations and six international NGOs, in addition to the National Human Rights Council (CNDH). The accredited organizations will deploy more than 4,000 observers, including 76 international observers, to observe the campaigns and the elections of the Councils of the regions and the municipalities, due on the 4th of September; the elections of the prefectural and provincial councils, due on the 17th of September; and the elections of the House of Councilors, due on the 2nd of October 2015. The Commission received 67 accreditation applications. It rejected 16 either for incomplete files or because the applying associations' articles of association do not expressly refer to election observation or the promotion of human rights, democracy or citizenship, as set out in the provisions of Law # 30.11 on the terms and conditions of independent and impartial election observation. CNDH will deploy 500 observers. Under its founding law, the Council has the possibility to invite international experts and organizations to participate in the election observation process. It has thus extended invitation to observe the upcoming elections to the diplomatic missions of Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) of Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Palestine and Tunisia, the Arab Network of NHRIs, United Cities and Local Governments-Africa (UCLG-Africa) and the Observatory of political elections in the Arab-Muslim world. The European Union has also sent an election observation mission, in Morocco from August 15 through September 14, for an overall assessment of the entire electoral process.

CNDH CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO SENEGAL TO OVERSEE AFCNDH'S CONGRESS

CNDH Chairman Driss El Yazami was in an official visit to Senegal, from 16 to 18 August, to oversee the preparations for the 5th Congress of the Association of National Human Rights Commissions in French speaking Communities (AFCNDH), currently chaired by CNDH. He met in Dakar with several officials and stakeholders including the Minister of Justice and the Coordinator of the Senegalese Human Rights Commission, and the regional representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mr. El Yazami also met with many activists and civil society associations. The 5th Congress of the AFCNDH will be held next October in Dakar.

NATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY – AUGUST 10

CNDH Secretary General Mohamed Essebbar celebrated the national Migrants Day with Moroccans living abroad, in Agadir on the 10th of August 2015. He took part in a conference held by members of the Moroccan community living abroad on “Moroccan migrant woman: success stories and future challenges”. In his statement to the participants, Mr. Essebbar shed light on Morocco's efforts to develop innovative approaches to address immigration issues. Morocco is not just a country of origin and transit, he said, it's a destination and host country as well.

REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

LAAYOUNE-SMARA

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN LAAYOUNE

ADAPH, a local disability rights group, and the Moroccan Coalition for the promotion of disability rights held a workshop on the political empowerment and participation of people with disabilities in Laayoune on Saturday 15 August 2015, with the support of CNDH's regional human rights commission in Laayoune. The activity was also supported by Handicap International, the National Democratic Institute and the Commune of Fom El Oued in Laayoune. The workshop aimed at promoting and advocating for effective political participation of people with disabilities and inciting political parties to include disability rights in the heart of their agendas and programs. The workshop also shed light on the preliminary conclusions and outcome of the meetings held by ADAPH with its partners, including the Regional Human Rights Commission of Laayoune-Smara, political parties, local authorities, disability rights organizations, etc. on its political empowerment of people with disabilities project. This project aims at raising political awareness of persons with disabilities, advocating for their effective participation in managing local affairs, increasing their political participation in political parties, and encouraging these parties to put disability and disability rights at the heart of political program priorities.

CASABLANCA-SETTAT

AL QUDS HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC'S VISIT TO MOROCCO

In implementation of a human rights clinic project, led by the Commission of Casablanca-Settat and PILnet, the Global Network for Public Interest Law, CNDH's regional commission in Casablanca organized a visit for Al Quds Human Rights Clinic students to Morocco from 18 to 27 August 2015 to learn about the Moroccan experience in transitional justice and the evolution of human rights in the North African country and exchange best practices with Moroccan HR clinics. The program included visits to the offices of the Commission in Casablanca and CNDH's offices in Rabat to learn about their roles and contributions. It also included meetings with experts, researchers and civil society stakeholders to discuss transitional justice and human rights issues. A training session is also scheduled for the Palestinian delegates. A seminar on “Human rights protection and promotion mechanisms: the experience of HR clinics” will be held by the Commission of Casablanca-Settat and Al Quds Human Rights Clinic at the end of this visit (on the 26th of August).

TAN-TAN – GUELMIM

WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN ON THE CRC

The Commission of Tan-Tan Guelmim held on the 7th of August, in El Ouatia, a small town on the Atlantic off the Canary Islands, a workshop on the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The workshop was held in coordination with the local Department of Youth and Sports. 70 participants from Scouts Morocco-Laayoune took part in this activity. A competition was held to test to what extent children grasped the principles and rights of the convention. A ceremony was held at the end to award the winning children.



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