

COMMUNICATORS

‘Amal’: A new association for women's empowerment in Darra Countryside’



With TDA support, “Amal association for women’s empowerment”, was launched in Naima town, in Daraa countryside, to raise women's capabilities and to enhance their participation in public space.

The association was named after the name of “Amal”, one of the town’s daughters who was detained and tortured to death by regime forces.

The association was founded by a group of activists in cooperation with the town’s local council. TDA’s communicators-Daraa team helped with the development of the association’s bylaws during the preparatory meeting they attended besides the founding members and members of the town local council.

TDA’s team also supervised the association’s board of directors elections, which took place on Monday 21-01-2018. 17 women participated in the elections and 11 ones were elected as board of directors.

The association will provide training and educational courses for women in the fields of IT, languages, basic accounting, and other topics. Women who could not complete their education because of the war will receive special professional and vocational training.

Rural Homs: A women’s workshop on the foundations of citizenship and democracy

‘Rural Idlib: Consultation meeting on the challenges of local councils funding’



On 21-22 February, TDA's communicators in northern countryside of Homs, held a two days workshop for women, about citizenship, in coordination with Homs' Women Union

On the first day, TDA's communicator delivered a two-hours lecture, started with a general introduction about TDA's nature and activities, as well as its implemented projects in rural Homs, then discussed citizenship concept, its definition and origin, and the role of women in raising awareness about these ideas within society. As for the second day of workshop, the lecturer discussed two main ideas; national identity, and citizenship multiple affiliations and models, followed with a discussion with attendees about the possibility of applying citizenship as a solution to the Syrian conflict and the most appropriate models for the task.

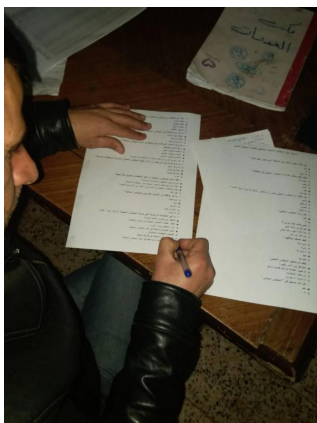
Discussions during the workshop resulted a number of outputs like; the need to work on raising women's social and political awareness, raising the level of women's participation in public life by supporting women's activities within local community.

On 29-01-2018, The Day After communicators in Idlib countryside, held a consultation meeting with members of the local council in Ahsem city, to discuss funding problems facing the local councils.

The discussion focused on the causes of fiscal deficits, the possible ways to secure funding sources, whether it is external, local or self-financing sources, and the quality of projects presented to donors.

The participants pointed out that the field security conditions, are one of main reasons that is forcing organizations to postpone or cancel planned projects, which leads to the exacerbation of services crisis.

Several conclusions were reached out by the end of the meeting, the most important of which is the local councils need for training workshops on communication skills with donors, as well as proposals writing, and to advocate donors to focus on development and reconstruction projects.



'Rural Idlib: A survey on the relationship between local councils and civil society'

In coordination with TDA's communicators team in Idlib Countryside, a survey was conducted on the relationship between civil society organizations and the local councils in the countryside of Idlib - Jabal Al Zawia.

The survey, which was conducted on 22-01-2018, is part of several activities that will continue until mid-March, in coordination with TDA's communicators team, with the aim of strengthening the relationship between local councils and civil society organizations.

Transitional Justice Coordination Group (TJCG)

TJCG holds a focus Group meeting in Gaziantep



TJCG held a focus group meeting in Gaziantep Turkey, on 20 Feb, to discuss a research about enforced disappearances in Syria, which TJCG is planning to issue next month, as a part of the national consultation project on enforced disappearances which the group launched last year. The meeting gathered representatives of TCGC organizations members and a group of rights activists interested in this issue.

Participants discussed the current statuses of enforced disappearances in Syria, the parties Responsible for these violations, and its followed method of hiding Syrians and their disappearance.

the need for a political and legal vision on the issue of enforced disappearance and ways to deal with it.

The Transitional Justice Coordination Group is a Syrian alliance of 16 Syrian organizations working on transitional justice, human rights and documenting abuses and it was established in 2014 with the support and initiative of TDA in order to create a coalition of Syrian civil society organizations working on this issue.

Safeguarding Official Documents

Consultative meeting about civil documentation in Syria



TDA coordinated a consultative meeting, about civil documentation in Syria, in Gaziantep Turkey, attended by a group of Syrian actors, representatives of some key parties supporting this issue, and UN representative.

Over two days of meeting, participants discussed civil status registration condition in opposition-controlled areas, and possible ways to find a sustainable mechanism for coordination between parties working in this file to legitimize documents issued by the Syrian opposition parties inside Syria and abroad.

The discussion also talked in details about civil documentation problems, such as the lack of coordination of the numerous sources of support, forging documents, not recognizing the documents by the regime, the absence of international legal recognition, lack of cadres, security problems and the work of some civil registry directorates outside the central framework of the interim government.



Participants stressed the importance of continuing to work according to the relevant Syrian laws, and the need to benefit from the successful experiences in civil documentation such as in the directorates of the civil registry in the governorates of Aleppo and Daraa for example. Such experiences gave documents issued by the directorates a high level of trust by people, institutions and organizations working in these areas as well some neighboring countries like Turkey.



At the end of these discussions, a number of recommendations was reached the most important of which is the necessity to standardize procedures and enforce the Syrian laws adopted for documentation in all directorates, secretariats and civil registry centers, the need for a central body to preserve and issue civil documents (the Syrian Interim Government SIG), in addition to the need for awareness raising campaigns about the importance of documentation among Syrian citizens, and establishing a UN Clearing-House mechanism for the identification of documents.

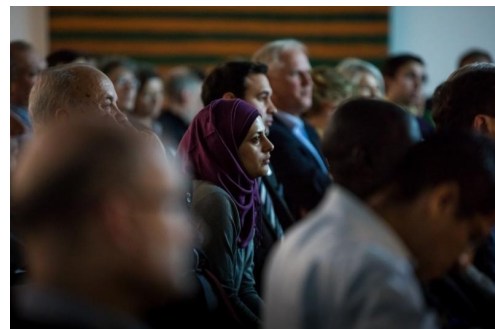
TDA NEWS

Dr.Kawakibi as Chair of the Board of Directors



The Day After Association is pleased to announce the election of Dr. Salam Kawakibi

The Day After At Basel Peace Forum 2018



Invited by the Swiss Foreign Ministry, and Swiss Peace Foundation, The Day After

as Chair of the Board of Directors. Dr. Kawakibi, a prominent political scientist and activist who served for many years as director of research at the Arab Reform Initiative in Paris,

In Addition, TDA's board of directors have also elected two other officers of the Board: Dr. Amr al-Azm, elected Vice-Chair of the Board, and Ms. Rafif Jouejati, elected Treasurer. Outgoing Chair of the Board, Dr. Murhaf Jouejati said: "It is with pleasure that I pass the chair of TDA to my good friend and colleague Salam Kawakibi, who brings to TDA the renewed intellectual vigor and energy to which we are committed in our continuous work to support democratic transition in Syria.

represented by its executive director "Mutaseem Al-syoufi", participated in Basel Peace Forum, held on 14-14-2018 in Basel Switzerland.

"Al-syoufi" participated in the Syrian civil society side event, with number of civil society representatives. The two-days discussions tried to explore possible ways to protect the space of the civil society in Syria.

"Al-Syoufi" reiterated the importance for civil society actors to analyze the root causes and the current context of the conflict to identify the tasks of civil society to promote peace in Syria.

TDA Seminar In Sweden



On the 21st of February 2018 - Shant Kerbabian, Programme Manager at The Day After lead a seminar hosted by the International Commission of Jurists - Sweden in Stockholm.

The seminar was a presentation of TDAs work on Transitional Justice and Civil Society Empowerment in Syria also a discussion about the challenges, opportunities and the added value of TDAs and Syrian civil society's work. During the seminar, the latest developments in Syria were discussed, including the current inhumane situation in Ghouta.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A session about TDA's projects, the role of Syrian civil society and way that Swedish lawmakers and civil society could support the work of Syrian CSOs.

Contact:

Heaven Jackaly
Communications and Advocacy Officer
+90 536 490 74 11
hjackaly@tda-sy.org