

BRIDGING THE GULF



Foundation for Human Security in the Gulf Region



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rights Mechanisms of the United Nations
Parallel to Oman Universal Periodic Review

Capacity-Building visit

Geneva, Switzerland January 2011

Postal Address

C/O P. O. Box 11/17
2502 AS The Hague
The Netherlands

Visiting Address

Laan van Meerdervoort 70
2517 AN The Hague
The Netherlands

Tel

+31 70-381 41 98

Fax

+31 70-392 65 50

E-mail

info@bridgingthegulf.org

Website

www.bridgingthegulf.org

Post Bank

NG: 2685325

Bridging the Gulf Foundation for Human Security in the Gulf Region
In collaboration with Geneva Institute for Human Rights



Bridging the Gulf Foundation for Human Security in the Gulf Region aims to contribute to regional cooperation in the Gulf region and to support initiatives taken in the Gulf region in areas of human security, human rights, women's rights and the construction and further development of civil societies. At the same time, in the areas mentioned, the foundation aims to form a bridge between the Gulf region on the one hand and Europe on the other hand.

The foundation seeks to realise these intentions through both government and civil society channels. It promotes understanding about the Gulf region in Europe, and organises dialogue, the dissemination and exchange of knowledge about the Gulf region via platforms of a various nature: academic, political, civil, media, culture and the arts.

The majority of Bridging the Gulf's activities are held in the region, with the involvement of local stakeholders and final beneficiaries, in order to ensure that social change is genuine, legitimate and home grown. Ensuring also that necessary dialogue on complex issues and constructive collaboration of local civil societies and official structures are based on transparency, accountability and democratic process.

In the frame of building the capacities of civil society leaders and activists from the Gulf region, Bridging the Gulf foundation held its first capacity building training targeting UN mechanism and structures.

The meeting was primarily a scholarly event, with the objective of providing knowledge and ideas that are useful to individuals from the region and involved in human rights monitoring at their local level.

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The Geneva visit scheduled under the project took place in the fourth week of January 2011. The program was organized in collaboration with the Geneva institute for Human rights, which provided training and organized the local program in the Arabic language. During the visit a number of UN agencies and NGOs were visited, and the UPR sessions of Oman were attended. However, full participation was not possible for lack of the official UN consultative status (see section II).

Purpose



The program was organized jointly with the Geneva institute for Human rights, in the frame of building their capacities. A group of activists and civil society leaders from the Gulf States could participate in monitoring the UPR review of Oman. Participants were introduced to the process in an analytic way; to be aware and follow up on the recommendations made by their respective countries; to monitor implementation at their local level.

Results

Besides the monitoring from our civil society network of the Oman UPR process and networking with major advocacy groups in Geneva; participants learned about the technique of shadow reporting and also the mechanism and procedures to communicate with the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ILO and other important institutions. They are more aware of their role in making change happen at their local level and the major UN human rights mechanisms and structures.

A total of 13 persons took part in the visit.

Evaluation

The evaluation was held at the closing session in the frame of an interactive discussion regarding the quality of the meeting, the topic addressed and the general impression of the participants. Also, written forms were handed over to the participants requesting their feedback on the shortcomings and expectations that will need to be addressed in the future.