

The Sixth Annual Report of the National Council for Human Rights
2009 – 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUBJECT	PAGE
Introduction	4
<u>Chapter1: The Situation of Human Rights in Egypt</u>	6
• First: Basic Rights	7
• Second: Public Freedoms	23
• Third: Economic & Social Rights	37
<u>Chapter 2: The Ombudsman Activity</u>	56
• First: Complaints Classification	58
• Second: Complaints Content Analysis	67
• Third: Fact – Finding Missions During 2009	108
<u>Chapter 3: The Role of the Council in Promoting the Principles of Human Rights</u>	138
• First: Mass Media	139
• Second: Training	140
• Third: Conferences and Workshops	152
<u>Chapter 4: National Plan for the Advancement of Human Rights</u>	161
<u>Chapter 5: The Cooperation with National and International Non-Governmental Organizations</u>	171
• First: Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations.	172
• Second: Cooperation with International Organizations.	174
• Third: Cooperation with National Institutions and Ombudsman Offices.	182
• Fourth: Cooperation with International Non-Governmental Organizations.	183
• Fifth: International Bilateral Relations.	189
• Sixth: The National Council's Contribution in Universal Periodic Reports (UPR).	198
<u>Chapter 6: Evaluating the NCHR's performance in its second session (January 2007 – January 2009)</u>	204
• First: Organizational Development of the National Council for Human Rights	205
• Second: Summary of the National Council's Activities	207
• Third: Analysis of the Obstacles Facing the National Council and the Means to Overcome Them	217
<u>Annexes</u>	218

Introduction

This year, the annual report of the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR) coincides with the end of its second term in office. This is a fertile occasion to undergo a profound evaluation of the situation of Human Rights in Egypt, and the role of the National Council for Human Rights in promoting civil liberties. Therefore, the Council is keen on presenting its findings, in as such, throughout this report.

The timeframe covered by this annual report has witnessed several developments, which allow for an all-inclusive review of the **state** of human rights in Egypt and its impact on various fronts. Moreover, within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review of Egypt before the International Human Rights Council, the NCHR and civil society organizations presented their own comprehensive reviews of the situation of human rights, as well as the national report presented by the Egyptian government to the International Council.

Furthermore, the NCHR presented a comprehensive report about the progress accomplished in the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against **Women** to the CEDAW Committee which discussed Egypt's report in **January 2010**.

Within the framework of evaluating the implementation of the Councils' 2007 declaration on the **activation** of citizenship rights, NCHR also conducted a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the activation of citizenship rights

The State's Constitutional **i**nstitutions were not far from these reviews because within the scope of their constitutional role, the Parliament and the **Consultative Council** reviewed several social policies.

The Administrative Judiciary continued to review the number of **administrative decisions**, which have had a negative impact on the citizens' interests. The Administrative Judiciary also issued important judgments and fatwas like:

- accepting the appeal on the constitutionality of the annexation of the National Insurance Fund to the Ministry of Finance,
- promoting personal freedoms by allowing the accommodation of female students wearing niqab in the Universities' hostels and to enter the exams, and:
- recognizing the constitutional **deficiencies** in the new medical insurance legislation.

These extensive reviews reflected a clear gap between the official policies on one hand and the aspirations of the society to operationalize the respect for human rights and citizenship on the other. This gap is demonstrated by giving priority to security considerations as opposed to public freedoms, giving priority to economic growth as opposed to social justice in addition to the slow progress of reform which falls short of the requests by society to expedite it.

The NCHR's sixth annual report consists of six chapters that include:

- Human rights situation during 2009,

- Evaluation of complaints received by the Council and the responses received by the respective authorities
- the Council's activities in to promote the culture of human rights
- The Council's cooperation with national, regional and international institutions,
- Follow up on the operationalization of several components of the national human rights plan and:
- Evaluating the Council's activities in its second session (2007 – 2009).

In this report, the NCHR re-affirms the close linkage between the implementation of human rights values and standards and the different elements of the political, economic, legal and social realm. The Constitution and Egypt's international obligations emanating from its accession to eight human rights related international conventions are affirming such linkage, in addition to several important documents that the NCHR has annexed in this report.

In its various publications, the NCHR consistently acknowledges, the positive developments that are taking place in the areas of the promotion and the protection of human rights. The NCHR is paying great attention to monitor the patterns of violations affecting the means of protection and promotion of human rights. Thus, the Council is attentively working on identifying the obstacles and difficulties facing the States' legal and constitutional obligations; monitoring them, while presenting suggestions and recommendations in order to overcome such difficulties.

The NCHR efforts are not limited to research work provided in this report. That said, it is noteworthy to mention that the main human rights issues that the Council addresses in its reports are closely linked to the various activities of the Council (Conferences, training workshops and intellectual activities), which were attended by representatives of competent authorities, experts, scholars and NGOs.

NCHR has adopted a methodology of early warning through its activities and publications, thereby, aiming to warn the State of important issues like sectarian tensions, security tensions, problems that took place in Sinai, and the growing social cost of the economic policies within the context of the international crisis.

The period covered by this report of the NCHR has witnessed progress in some areas and a decline in some aspects of human rights. Accordingly, It represented a bridge towards constitutional and legal obligations that would shape the path for human rights and public freedoms in the forthcoming period especiall with regards to:-

- The state of emergency,
- Parliament and Consultative Assembly elections, and;
- The activation of the State's voluntary International obligations within the framework of the Universal Periodic Reviews;

The NCHR is confident that the State will consider the various reviews mentioned in this report.

NCHR submits its Sixth Annual Report to the competent State and official authorities. n to As its second session draws to a close, NCHR is committed to its mandate as stated in its founding law (94/2003), by undertaking the following tasks:

- Monitoring human rights violations in the **community**,
- Pursuing the promotion of the principle of citizenship and all the associated elements,
- Combating torture and ensuring the respect of human dignity,
- **Appealing** to the cancellation of the state of emergency and enhancing the detainees' administrative conditions,
- Promoting **the citizens public freedoms**,
- Encouraging political and social participation,
- Enhancing the conditions of syndicates and **giving a free rein** to the civil society;
- Promoting economic and public rights, supporting social justice, paying attention to cultural rights and freedoms and promoting the human rights culture, in Egypt

Chapter One

Situation of Human Rights in Egypt 2009

Introduction:

The path of human rights in Egypt has been marked with **much deadlock**, during the year 2009. Apart from promoting the participation of women in Parliament, there has not been the slightest development in the legal framework. This is necessary to remove the legislative obstacles preventing the promotion of human rights, and public freedoms, and to support the rights of citizenship as preserved in the Constitution. According to the latest Constitutional amendments, the State pledged to reform legislations however, these have remained unimplemented and the most important legislative achievement of 2008, the child-law, remains unsettled due to the non-issuance of its executive regulations.

The **practices** embodied a range of violations for the fundamental rights and public freedoms. Furthermore, the economic crisis implications increased the violations of the economic and social rights of the citizens, which has led to the aggravation of poverty. Moreover, **negligence** and increasingly **high prices** have broadened financial and administrative corruption. This has affected the State's efforts to mitigate the social effects of the economic crisis.

The political stagnation, economic frustration and the weakness of social networks led to exacerbating many social crisis like sectarianism, social and security tensions which resulted in several unprecedented sectarian events and social **objections**.

One of the positive achievements undertaken by the government has been the conduct of a comprehensive opinion survey on the changes in the system of values and behaviors in the Egyptian society, through the Ministry of State for Administrative Development. **However, the State's responsibility in this regard is to address all the negative aspects revealed by this study.**

First: The Fundamental Rights:

1- The Right of life:

The violations of the right to life continued during the year 2009; victimizing Egyptian citizens, within the framework of their relationship with the State's authorities. Many citizens **perished** during the implementation of administrative resolutions, or through their exposure to torture in places of detention, or due to negligence in managing the public utilities of the State in both the health and transport sectors. **Some of these cases occurred during the investigations of the public prosecution.** Others have extended to the political responsibility related to the resignation of Minister of Transport.

The Parliament authenticated a number of cases of violating the right to life, according to previous examples. Among which are the following:

Death on suspicion of torture:

- **Gharib Mohamed Ali Hassanein** died on 27/12/2008 in Torah Prison. According to his mother's complaint to the NCHR, he was tortured inside his cell when he quarreled with three of his cellmates. He was then isolated as a punishment and tortured to death. Moreover, in her complaint she stated that the prison administration did not inform her about the matter of his death which she knew about three days after the event.

- On response against these claims, the Ministry of Interior indicated that the sentenced **Gharib Mohammed Hassanein** (15 years /drugs) committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell, which transpired by tying a piece of cloth to the ventilation opening of the room in which he was imprisoned because of the deterioration of his psychological state. The report of the forensic

stated that the death occurred due to strangulation and that there were no signs of torture; therefore, the prosecution kept the case.

- The Palestinian prisoner, **Youssef Abu Zohri** died on 13/10/2009. He was, imprisoned in Borj El Arab Prison in Alexandria where he has been, detained since April of the preset year. His brother, "Sami Abu Zohri", a leader in Hamas Movement declared, "Youssef Abu Zohri was tortured and as a result suffered from an internal bleeding. Accordingly, his state of health deteriorated because he did not get the necessary medical care. He added that he had communicated with other prisoners who were serving time with his brother but who were, released. They have confirmed that his brother was tortured; while the police established that, the prisoner was sick and was, taken to the hospital for treatment.
- The NCHR started to follow up on the case and interacted with the family of the person in question. They requested the Council to intervene in a **truth finding capacity**. The Council received a reply from the competent authorities informing that the prisoner was detained administratively during May 2009, while illegally getting into the Egyptian borders; he was suffering from the asthma disease and was, transported to the prison hospital on October 4 and Alexandria University Hospital on October 8. They added that he was, returned to prison after getting the necessary treatment for his case. However, he died later owing to an intensive decline in the blood and respiratory cycles and due to the failure of the heart muscle. An autopsy was, conducted by forensics to determine the cause of death. The findings concluded any absence of criminal suspicion. The Council informed his family of these findings.
- The Public Prosecutor reopened on 16/12/2009 the investigation in the case according to a complaint from Nasser Amin, the attorney of the wife of the deceased against the resolution of the Alexandria West Prosecution of keeping the case. She accused the Alexandria Prosecution of delinquency; for suspending the investigation in the case. In addition to neglecting searching for the suspicion of default and possible serious professional mistakes which led to death. Additionally, the prosecution did not call to question any of the relatives of the deceased.
- Citizen **Waleed Abd Elmalak Abdel Aziz** died. Speculation around his death was suspicion of torture at the Zefta Police Station". The deceased's uncle was notified a day before the death by a phone call that the prisoner in question was exposed to torture. The next day, the complainer received a telephone call from the Head of Investigations at the Zefta Police Station informing him of the death of Waleed Abd El Malak Abdel Aziz, and asking him to go and receive the corpse. On inquiring about the reason of death, they informed him that he died strangled and they refused to let him see the corpse. He also confirmed that he received threats from the Security Directorate that he would be; buried in the charity cemetery in case he continues to reject signing the release forms. He then obeyed in order to honor the deceased.
- The NCHR Ombudsman contacted the Public Prosecutor in this regard, the later affirmed that the incident reports No. 5975/2009 administrative Zefta and No. 339/2009 investigation of Zefta Prosecution notified that the two prisoners in room 2/3 discovered upon waking up that the prisoner Waleed Abdel malek Abdel Aziz hanged himself, using a cloth piece of a blanket. The corpse was, identified, in as such. The head of the police station was, questioned and the daily record of the prison was, examined. The prisoner was, imprisoned for case No. 12641/2009-offences/Zefta and that he was, sentenced to three months in prison. During interrogations, a number of prisoners unanimously confirmed their discovery of the body hanging with a head scarf in the window of the bathroom. They added that the deceased used to cry continuously thinking about his little daughter; about arresting his brothers and that he was denied family visitation rights for fifteen days. Upon questioning the deceased's uncle and author of the complaint, he stated that the deceased did not suffer from any mental or psychological

diseases and did not abuse any drugs. He added that he and his wife him only five days prior to his death and that the police informed him about his death on the same day. He was not, allowed to see the corpse, and he accused Zefta police of causing it. In his accusation, he reasoned that he saw bloodlines on the left side of the corpse. On questioning the wife of the deceased, she confirmed the content of the uncle's statement.

- The coroner's report concluded that the groove described on the neck of the deceased were similar to what results from the continuous local pressure on the neck area with a rope or similar gear like the head scarf mentioned in the prosecutor's report. This groove and the remaining physical signs, indicate that the death occurred because of hanging and that there were no indications of criminal violence or resistance. This proves that the death may have been suicidal. The case is still under investigation. The Council follows- up that case, particularly that the investigations showed contradictions between the testimonies of the witnesses and the informants. Moreover, it is difficult for any person to commit suicide by hanging himself for his imprisonment for three months. The Council could not find either the type of accusation that the deceased was imprisoned for, its relation with the death of the prisoner, and the reason for arresting his brothers.
- Suspect **Hamida Sulaiman Abd El Wahid, 19**, died on 21/4/2009, in the police station of Bandar, Bani Sweif: Some attorneys who met with her family believe that the death occurred because of torture by electric shock. Threats were, made to her relatives that if they did not get the corpse the investigations would not continue.

Examples of using violence while enforcing administrative resolutions:

- Citizen **Magdy Anwar Abo El Nassr** was, killed for objecting to the enforcement of the demolition resolution of his brother's house. According to the NCHR's report, the deceased was, severely battered by a force at the Police Station of Al Mahmoudeya, Al Behaira Governorate. Witnesses stated that the police accompanied the corpse and threw it at a distance of three hundred meters from the accident's location after crowds of citizens mobbed. While the Ministry of Interior stated that the deceased jumped from the police vehicle after his arrest and others for acts of aggression and violence, the force charged forth with the enforcement of the removal resolution.
- At the Behaira Governorate's, "Menyet Ateya" village, Damnhour Police Station, the public prosecution accused the investigation officer, colonel "Mohammed Rushdi Younis" of the police force of Damanhour Police of the deliberate murder of the citizen **Ramzy Mohammed Younis El Shargawi** (55 years). The prosecution accused four of the local unit employees of manslaughter for the murder. The citizen in question was, beaten for refusing the enforcement of the administrative resolution to demolish his home. He died as a result at the hands of the officer.
- Shooting the "*African Infiltrators*" across the international borders between Egypt and Israel in the Sinai Desert represented another pattern of violating the right to life. The total numbers of the infiltrators, killed during this year was fourteen persons, seven of whom were, killed in September, alone. Most of them belong to the countries of Eritrea, Sudan as well as other African countries. While confirming that maintaining security on the borders is a problematic matter, the official sources stated that infiltrators were, shot after ignoring the Border Guard warnings. In this ineffective manner of speaking, the NCHR is deeply concerned with the phenomenon of illegal immigration across the Sinai, which requires taking serious measures to overcome it.

- In the course of the State's public utilities management, crimes of negligence remain a reason for violating citizens' rights to life. Even though the concerned authorities undertook the legal and punishable procedures against the persons responsible for such crimes of negligence, the lack of taking protective precautions has led to the continuations taking place in this pattern of crimes as well as the fall of more victims.

Examples of negligence leading to death:

The Transport Sector

- Eighteen persons were, killed, while others injured in a collision accident of two trains, which took place in Al-Ayyat district, South of Giza governorate on October 24 2009. The accident caused a lot of disgruntlement in the public opinion. Therefore, Engineer/Lutfi Mansour the Minister of Transport offered his resignation to the President of the Republic. Furthermore, the Public Prosecutor held the drivers and collectors responsible.

The Health Sector

In the health sector, complaints increased about medical negligence leading to the death of many patients. Among which are the following examples:

- **Nada Abdel Rahman Taher** 4 years old, died for failure to save her in an appropriate way at Bani Ebeid Central Hospital, Dekernis, Dakahleya Governorate.
- Citizen **Nora Hashem Mohammed** – infected with H1N1 virus (swine flu) – died after being, transported to several hospitals of “Embaba Fevers”, “Omraneya Chest” and “Um Al-Masryeen” in Giza governorate throughout a short period of eight days. These hospitals denied her treatment, and thereby failing to save her in a suitable time. The Public Prosecution's report to the Ministry of Health held four doctors responsible, and referred them to the criminal court on charges of negligence in diagnosing her case and treating her.

The Housing Sector

- One hundred and nineteen were, killed, 55 others injured during the rock collapse at the Al-Maqtattam Plateau, in Ezbet Bakhit, Al-Deweika, Mensheyet Nasser, which occurred in September 2008, in addition to demolishing tens of houses. The Public Prosecutor referred 15 employees in Cairo Governorate to the Criminal Court. Among them are the Deputy Governor of the Western Region and seven of the workers at the local authority of Munshaat Nasser, Al Eskan district and Property Management Administration to the criminal court. The Public Prosecution Investigations Report confirmed, charging them of delinquency and negligence, for their previous knowledge of the probability of the collapse of the rock, without taking any proactive measure concerning the matter. Moreover, the investigations pointed out, that geological experts have warned the employees at the local authority of Munshaat Nasser, more than one year prior to the accident, which the rock will collapse. The Prosecutions' charged responsible employees for the catastrophe with manslaughter crimes.

2- The Right to Freedom and Personal Security:

The violation of the right to freedom and personal security represents the most severe patterns of the violations of fundamental rights. It includes a range of other violations such as violating the right to physical safety and other patterns of severe treatment connected with dignity, fair trial, violating the

freedom of opinion and expression, the freedom to contribute to public affairs and the freedom of association.

The forms and images of these violations have been **verified** during the year 2009 to include the administrative detentions of a number of the political activists, members of the Muslim Brotherhood and other citizens involved in social protests and political demonstrations. In addition to the continuing detentions of an unlimited number of Islamists within the framework of the emergency law. This is despite the breakthrough which took place throughout the last few years by releasing a large percentage of them.

The violations of the right to freedom and personal security are represented in three main patterns. The first pattern includes the detention of political activists for few days or hours. The second includes the detention of tens of people and charging them with criminal charges related to gathering or exposing the public security to danger. They are presented before the prosecution which may release them or arrest them by administrative resolutions. The last pattern consists of issuing direct administrative arrest resolutions for political or criminal reasons; the continuous detention of citizens despite spending the sentence period **or issuing judicial resolutions of releasing them.**

Within the course of the first pattern, it is, referred to the detentions, which took place on the background of the protesting demonstration, as well as arresting numbers of citizens in the course of the sectarian disturbances, which occurred in several governorates.

The main problem in the second pattern consists of re-detaining or extending the period of detention of the citizens released by the public prosecution or the investigation authorities, like in the following example:

- The security authorities extended the detention period of **Mussad Abo Fajr**, who is one of the activists of the Sinai protests movement. He was, arrested on December 26 2007 and was, accused in the case No. 1538/2007. Several judicial orders were, issued to release him. However, the ministry of interior detained him again in accordance with the emergency law on March 17 2008, and he was not, released despite the repeated judicial resolutions to release him, the last of which was the jurisdiction of the administrative court to cancel the detention resolution as it violates the law.

In the third pattern, the complaints submitted to the NCHR revealed cases of detention of citizens who have obtained unimplemented release resolutions, among which are the following examples:

- The complaint of the family of the prisoner **Hamdi Ibrahim Abbas** in Zagazig public prison (65 years), who was, sentenced five years of imprisonment. The prisoner's family was then surprised with the issuance of another detention resolution right after the termination of his sentence. He was not, released even though they have obtained more than 25 judicial resolutions for his release.
- The case of prisoner **Mostafa Mostafa Moammed Al Badri**, at Abi Zaabal prison, was, summoned by the Security Investigations Office in Al Oboor City, Al Qalyooyah Governorate, in December 2008, since then, the prisoner, an Imam and preacher in one of the mosques in Al Oboor City has been, detained. Since then, a resolution has, been issued for his detention but without charges.
- The case of prisoner **Mahmoud Ahmed Mahmoud Ismail**, detained in the prison of Al Gharbaneyyat, where completed his two-year sentence period, based on sentencing in one of the cases in which he stood trial. The prisoner was, released on February 17 2009, only to face another detention order despite his deteriorating health.
- The case of detaining **Mohammed Thabet Abd El Zaher** in December, 2008, in effect of his release on December 12th 2008 after charging him with murder.

The complaints received by the NCHR included several similar examples.

Furthermore, the security confrontations on the side of the government against the Muslim Brotherhood combined the three patterns, as they detained **several members of the Muslim Brothers** involved with the **protest demonstrations** in support to the Palestinian case. They were, **directly** released according to the resolutions of the public prosecution. Hundreds of Brotherhood members were re-detained by issuance of administrative resolutions after their release by the Public Prosecutor. Within the same context, the security forces launched several campaigns to detain the members of the Muslim Brotherhood throughout the year, in most of the governorates of the Republic. Some of them were arrested for investigations while others were re-arrested, according to the emergency law after releasing them by the public prosecution.

The NCHR is deeply concerned with regards to the continuation of the phenomenon of using women, children and relatives as hostages in order to oblige suspects to surrender to police stations, **like in the following examples:**

- At the police station, in Imbaba, the Criminal Investigation Department, arrested three women, two youngsters and a sixty-day old infant, from citizen **Wageeh Fakhri's** family, on May 17th 2009. These members are namely, **Magda Imam Abd El Naeem**, 50 years, **Shaimaa Wageih Fakhri**, a student at the Faculty of Commerce, **Rabab Abdel Fattah Gaber** and her infant, **Shahd Karim Wageih, Mohammed Sayed Ahmed** (17 years) a secondary vocational school student. In addition, to the detention of **Karim Wageih Fakhri** and **Ahmed Wageih Fakhri** as hostages, until **Mohammed Wageih Fakhri** surrenders himself to the police station. Moreover, the members of this family were subject to torture.
- In the context of the enforced disappearance, the Council received a complaint from citizen, **Seham Mostafa Al Bakri** who holds an Australian nationality. She was, affected by the arrest of her husband "Mohammed Amin Abbas" was, arrested back in 1999. Moreover, and with query, she has not been able to reach any conclusion as to the location of his detention. The Council addressed the issue, to the Ministry of the Interior to establish the fate of the citizen's husband. According to the Ministry, in its reply to the Council, the citizen in question has left Egypt on February 2 1999 destined for Turkey. Further, in their statement, they said, that there was neither proof of his return to Egypt, nor of his presence in anyone of the Egyptian prisons. It inferred that the subject of the said complaint is circulating before the administrative jurisdiction.

3 - The Right to a Just Trial:

The violations of the citizens right to trial in Egypt are represented typically, through referring the defendants to trial before the exceptional courts **in two courses**: The first one is the trial of the civil defendants before military courts which are originally concerned with the trial of the militants. The second one is referring the defendants to trial before the Supreme Criminal State Security Emergency Courts. This is in accordance with the emergency law judgments of which cannot be appealed. The two courses are considered the main sources of violating the right to just trial according to the international standards of law **suiting** the suspect before the normal jurisdiction. Following is an example of both courses:

- In the course of trying civilians before the State Supreme Security Emergency Criminal Court in Cairo dated 23 August 2009; the trial of the suspects, for the case known by the mass media as **"the Hizbollah Cell in Egypt"**, twenty-six suspects in this case included nineteen Egyptians, five Palestinians and two Lebanese nationals. The State Security Prosecution charged them with attempted assassination and spying for a terrorist organization aiming at carrying out aggressions

and owning weapons illegally. The suspects denied the charges and confirmed that they were, exposed to torture in the places of their detention. On referring the suspects to the court, the suspect **Mohammed Ramadan Ali** confirmed his exposure to torture along with his partners. The judge referred them to the Al Manyal University Hospital for medical examination, in order to look for signs of torture. The Human Rights Organizations demanded conducting investigations in the torture claims, which the rest of suspects were exposed, and referring them to the normal jurisdiction. The Exceptional Courts constitute a serious violation of the right of the suspects to appeal against its judgments. Its judgments cannot be, appealed according to the texts of the Emergency Law No. 162/1958. The judgments and penalties issued by the court cannot be, cancelled except by Presidential decree. Settling this case was, postponed to the session of 26/12/2009.

- In the course of the trial of the civilians before the military courts: The military Appeal Court rejected on November 17th 2009 the appeal presented from the leaderships of the "Muslim Brotherhood", legally prevented the appeal on the judgment issued from the Supreme Military Court in the case No. 2/2007 Super Military Criminal, issued on April 15th 2008. They were sentenced for imprisonments for periods ranging between three and ten years for 25 out of 40 of the suspects. The authorities handed them for trial charging them with managing an organization against the provisions of law and "money laundry" The suspects included: university professors, businessmen, professionals occupying leading positions in the Muslim Brotherhood.
- The Military Appeal Court was, introduced according to the amendments of the military provisions law, which allows the appeal for the judgments issued from the supreme military courts. It is considered an improvement for the just trial of the militants. However, the military jurisdiction remains abnormal for the civilians, as it does not comply with the international standards of the just trial.

Furthermore, the Supreme State Security Prosecution continued its investigations with the terrorist cell, accused with carrying out the armed robbery on a jeweler gold shop in Al Zaitoon. The owner and four of his assistants were, killed. The attorney of the accused submitted a complaint to the Public prosecutor. The complaint included that the prosecution of state security, which conducts investigations, ordered recording the responses of the suspects in the investigations minutes. In case that one of the suspects' objects, he is, threatened with depriving him from the visits of his relatives. It also included the attorney's confirmation that there were signs of torture and beating on the bodies of the suspects and their suffering from torture and beating on their bodies and their infection with bouts of hallucinations and crying.

On the other hand, there has been increasing complaints about violations of the rights of attorneys to defend the suspects and the difficulties they encounter while carrying out their duties, including attacking them while performing their duties. In this vein, several violations were, documented in many governorates where attorneys were attacked while executing their work. There are several examples for such violations including: Attacking an attorney by a police officer inside one of the police stations and ill-treating him, preventing the attorneys from attending the investigations before the State Security Prosecution, the prevention from attending the trial sessions before the military courts and the State Security courts. In addition, they refused passing on any information to the attorneys prior to the sessions, including their denial to photocopy files for which they needed to obtain permission.

4- The Treatment of Prisoners and Other Detainees:

Conditional Release

The State carried out the development of prisons; endeavoring improving the situations of prisoners and other detainees. Moreover, the release of the prisoners according to the conditional release was, carried out, i.e. after their spending three quarters of the period of sentence. The Ministry of Interior released (2834) prisoners from those who are, sentenced with punishments depriving freedom. Among them is a group which included (1963) prisoners, on Eid Al Fitr, on 20/1/2009; another batch on the October 6. It included 150 prisoners and a batch on Al Adha Eid (721) (1). The Ministry of Interior assumed the financial obligations on behalf of 34 prisoners, in accordance with the Republican Decrees for granting amnesty to those who spent half the period.

The rights of prisoners to communicate with their families

The Ministry of Interior enabled a number of prisoners, during the year 2009 to visit their families. Among which are the following examples:

- The case of the prisoner **Ali Moawwad Ali Khater**, in Fayoum Prison curtailed denying the prisoner outside visitation rights to visit his sick mother at her residence in Al khanka, Qalyobeya Governorate on July 12 2009.
- Yet they permitted other prisoners outside visitation rights, to accept, condolences for their deceased relatives; amongst them is prisoner **Abdallah Abdelmenaem Ali Ibrahim** who received condolences for his mother.

The Right to Education

The Prisoners Authority Sector helped (8221) students' prisoners to performing their exams at different education stages.

Ill-Treatment of Suspects

The flow of complaints continued regarding the ill-treatment of the suspects during the procedures of detention, which extended sometimes to the members of their families. Torture crimes took place during the primary investigations at the police stations; before referral to the public prosecutor. Moreover, the aspects of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees continued in the places of detention.

The NCHR received 124 complaints from detainees and prisoners related to allegations of torture, in addition to the complaints communicated by human rights organizations in Egypt in this regard. Forensic reports supported some of these cases, which indicated the presence of some permanent disabilities. Furthermore, the judicial investigations and the provisions of the criminal courts supported a limited number of the cases this year, as in the ordinary taking actions in such cases takes a lot of time. However, many courts resolutions confirmed the validity of some of the torture allegations in the year 2009.

The Alexandria Criminal Court punished colonel **Akram Sulaiman** with rigorous imprisonment for five years and a fine of ten thousand pounds in the crime No. 1089/2009, East Alexandria, for torturing **Rajhei Mohammed Munir Sultan**, who suffers from a mental disease. The police colonel who was working at the same police station at the teenagers Welfare Police Station in the Alexandria Security Directorate arrested the victim, detained him and beat him by a stick. This resulted in occurring fractions in the skull and bleeding in the brain, which caused permanent disability to the victim.

In a continuous course, the public prosecution referred three of the police officers namely **Samir Ahmed Metwali**, **Hazem Beltagi Ibrahim** and **Ahmed Samir Shaaban** to trial before October 6 Offences court accusing them of using brutality , beating and detaining the citizen **Shadi Majed Saad Zaghlool** and his family without any charges for a period of five days.

On November 23rd the public prosecution started conducted the investigations about the incident of detaining four women at the police station of Dekernis, Dakahleya Governorate, in order to force one of their families to surrender himself for being accused of a murder crime. The report, which was submitted to the public prosecutor accused colonel **Ahmed Hussein**, the head of the investigations of detaining each of **Thana'a Hamed El Dosouki** (55 years), and her sister **Fatima** (50 years); **Zeinab Hamed El Sayyed Hamed El Dosouki** (28 years), and her sister **Hana'a**, (22 years) since 28 October 2009. The women detainees were, held in one room with the men without any legal evidence.

The **Public Prosecutor** started an investigation on a notification submitted by a police brigadier-general on pension, where he accused six of the officers at Al Nozha Police Station of detaining his son, 16 years inside Al Nozha Police Station and torturing him. That occurred on 12 November 2009, for taking photographs of violence acts between the police and furious football fans because they could not get tickets to watch Egypt – Algeria game, in front of Al Shams Club.

In addition, the Suez Prosecution investigated a notification from Ahmed Ala'a El Din, farmer from Al *Sshallofa* village, *Al Janayen* Quarter against the Head and Assistant of Investigations at *Al Janayen* Police Station and some detectives. The notification included the incident of torturing the farmer at *Al Janyen* Police Station by beating him with a whip. This resulted in deformations in various parts of his body and **a coma** to force him to confess of a crime of stealing cattle.

The Ministry of Interior did not deny the occurrence of such crimes, but it considers them individual cases which are remedied within the course of the disciplinary procedures inside the Ministry, in addition to referring some of them to the Public Prosecution. The government report, submitted in the course of the Universal Periodic Review before the International Human Rights Council stated that, "the Public Prosecution investigates all the notifications which are sent to it, regarding the torture or using brutality. In 2008, the public prosecution referred 38 cases of using brutality to criminal trials and one case only to the disciplinary trial. It requested the concerned authorities to inflict the administrative penalty on the suspects in 27 cases. In 2009, the public prosecution referred nine cases of using brutality to the criminal trial and one case to the disciplinary trial. It requested inflicting the administrative punishment in 10 cases. The report stated also that the Ministry of Interior enforces the issued judgments by compensation as soon as the legal procedures are completed.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed that such crimes **represent a limited percentage of citizens dealing with the departments of the Ministry of Interior. Moreover, the Ministry complains from considering the allegations of torture as facts without regarding the nature of those allegations, while the other some are still under investigation.**

The national human rights institutions, international organizations working in human rights, and concerned United Nations Bodies believe that such behaviors are systematic. The last of these reports was the report of the **UN Special Rapporteur on**, enhancing the respect of the human rights while countering Terrorism which was issued on 14/10/2009 after an extended visit to the country and after meeting with concerned authorities and human rights organizations.

Assuming that such crimes represent individual features and not a systematic practice of torture, they are sufficient to corrupt the whole scene and particularly the torture crimes, **especially those that the claims patterns indicated, which were, stated in the complaints that the NCHR received.** Furthermore, the NCHR agrees that not all the torture claims are factual and that they may be used to avoid accusations or pressure from the side of those who claim their exposure to torture and ill-treatment. **Nevertheless, the judicial judgments of condemnation of some of the police members or resolving financial compensations**

to victims who are proven to be tortured, without the possibility of suing the perpetrators of torture, still have their significance.

The NCHR still believes that the Ministry of Interior with its technical capabilities and efficiency can enhance the respect for human rights without prejudice to the security assignments.

Whether this phenomenon reflects an individual or systematic behavior, the National Council for the Human Rights, since its establishment, exerted great efforts to eradicate them. It issued several recommendations which may contribute to the realization of this goal, among which is defining the torture crime in conformity with the International Convention Against Torture in order to close the existing gaps in the national legislation which currently allow criminals to escape punishment. This is in addition to acceding to the Optional Protocol of the International Convention against Torture, which responds to the request of the UN Rapporteur concerned with fighting torture for visiting the country. There is also a need to take rapid action in torture crimes and to enhance the control of the Public Prosecution over the police stations, prisons, and other places of detention; and to strengthen judicial supervision over the implementation of the penalties that deprive of freedom and the introduction of the idea of the executing officer.

The Public Prosecution Control:

The public prosecution is keen to continue performing its role in following-up the situations of prisons and the detention places, according to the law granting it this right which was not enough effective in the past. Therefore, the public security conducted during the period, which the report covers a periodic, surprising inspection on a big number of detention places, including police stations and a number of prisons in order to find out the legal violations connected with the detainees and prisoners.

During the period from 7/4 to 9/4/2009 an unannounced inspection was conducted in 80 detention places in the police stations, in fifteen governorates, namely: Giza, Alexandria, Fayoum, Bani Sueif, El menia, Al Qalyobeya, Al Monoufeya, kafr El Sheikh, Al Gharbeya, El Sharqeyak, El Dakahleya, Demiatta, Port Said, South Sinai, and Suez.

During the period from 1/7/2009 to 9/7/2009, 83 detention places in the police stations of eighteen governorates were, inspected, namely: Alexandria, Fayoum, Bani Sueif, El Menia, El Qalyoubeya, El Monoufey, Kafr El Sheikh, El Sharkeya, El Dakahleya, Demiatta, Port Said, South Sinai and North Sinai, Suez Aswan, Ismailia and Sohag.

During the period from 5/6/2009 to 6/6/2009 an unannounced inspection was carried out in 14 detention places in the police stations in the two Governorates of Cairo and Giza.

During the period from 6/7/2009 to 28/7/2009 an unannounced inspection was conducted in 23 prisons in thirteen governorates, namely: Cairo, Alexandria, Al Gharbeya, Al Behaira, El Qalyoubeya, Al Monofeya, Al Sharkeya, Al Dakhelya, Fayoum, El Menia, Assiut, Al-Wadi Al-Gadid, and Qena.

During the period from 19/12/2009 to 27/12/2009 the public prosecution conducted an unannounced inspection in 29 prisons in twelve governorates, namely: Cairo, Alexandria, Al Qalyoubeya, El Menia, Fayoum, El Behaira, El monoufya, El Sharkeya, El Gharbeya, El DakahelyaK Assiut, and Al-Wadi Al-Gadid.

During the period from 21/12/2009 to 26/12/2009 the public prosecution conducted an unannounced inspection. It was carried out in 101 detention locations in police stations in twenty three governorates namely: Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, El Qalyoubeya, Kafr El Sheikh, El Behaira, El Gharbeya, El Monoufeya,

El Sharkeya, El Dakehleya, Port Said, Suez, Demiatta, Saina North, Saina South, ismaeleya, Fayoum, Bani Sueif, El Menia, Assiut, Sohag, Luxor, and Red Sea.

The communications between the NCHR and the Public Prosecutor have shown that such unannounced visits are to detect any legal violations connected with the detainees. However, the public prosecution did not receive any complaints or reports about those stations or prisons related to the ill-treatment of prisoners or detainees. The public prosecution addressed the Ministry of Interior regarding some observations revealed by the inspection visits in order to work immediately on removing their causes, to be, followed up by the public prosecution during the following visits to these stations and prisons. The inspection on the police stations and prisons will be, continued throughout the Republic periodically. This in order to enforce the provisions of the law, protecting the rights of the detainees and, verifying the accurate application of the law, confirming respecting the prisoners' rights and providing the welfare means for them.

Secondly: Public Freedoms

1- The Freedom of Thought and Beliefs:

During the period covered by this report, the freedom of thought and belief, witnessed a breakthrough regarding Baha'i citizens' rights and the continual restrictions on the Shiite citizens. It was a period that also marked intransigence in dealing with niqab clad girls, while characteristics of sectarian tension increased between Muslims and Copts; sliding into violent actions leading to the fall of several victims.

The relative breakthrough in the Baha'i citizens' issues consisted primarily of the issuance of Supreme Administrative Court resolution on March 16 2009. In its context the resolution, supports the right of the Baha'i citizens to obtain their National Identity cards and birth certificates without mentioning any religion and putting a dash before the religion category. The Ministry of Interior took an initiative dated 19/3/2009 that amended the executive regulations of the Civil Statutes Law 143/2009. The law states allows citizens to place a dash in play of the religion category to all Egyptians who have previously applied for their official documents. It does not require them to mention their religion at all, thereby enforcing judicial resolutions obtained in this regard, and provided that an application is submitted to the Minister of Interior's Deputy for Civil Statutes or one of his representatives.

Moreover, the Ministry of Interior cooperated with the NCHR for facilitating some bureaucratic obstacles that faced some cases. However, several secondary problems remained, like documenting the marital status in the National Identity cards In this regard; the ministry of justice asked the Baha'i citizens to submit judicial claims to get judicial resolutions to document their marriage certificates.

Furthermore, the restrictions continued on the Shiites citizens. The State Investigation arrested **Hassan Yousef** and twelve others during April 2009. They were, detained in an undeclared place for a period of four months until they were, summoned, for questioning before the State Security Prosecution on July 14 2009 case No. 624/2009 Supreme State Security. They were, accused of endeavoring to organize a group that encourages Shiite thinking. The charge included inner sect Islamic prejudices against Al Sunni Doctrine, with allegations that the group received foreign funding to finance their purposes. In October 2009, the State Security Prosecution resolved to release Hassan Shehata Youssef and his friends. However, the Ministry of Interior decided to arrest eleven more suspects in relation to the case. They

remained under arrest in Damanhour prison. The report of the Egyptian Initiative for the Personal Rights Organization stated that telephone calls were, received from the prisoners' families informing them of the continuation of their detention.

Several legal and administrative debates occurred on the public arena in this regard; as some of the fundamentalist lawyers submitted a report to the public prosecutor, accusing **Sheikh Hassan Shehata** of insulting the Prophet's (PBUH) companions. Mr. Ahmed Rasem Al Nafees, the famous Shiite sent a warning by a court agent to the Minister of interior requesting recognizing the Shiite sect, pursuant to the Law No. 15/1937. That law commits the Ministry to respond negatively or positively within 60 days. The Ministry of interior prevented Dr. Al Nefis from travelling. The lawyer, Sayed Meftah, the deputy of the Egypt Shiite Society (under foundation) complained that the Ministry of the Social Solidarity procrastinates in determining the title of the society, despite that he suggested ten names since August 2009.

Furthermore, the legal and administrative debates increased regarding the female students wearing the niqab. By the start of the enforcement of the High Education Minister decree, the University town prevented the reception of the students wearing niqab. Some universities also prevented them from entering the exams, which led to several protests. Many demonstrations were, organized in a number of universities requesting granting them their rights in residing in the university towns. The debate was, transferred to the courts. The Court of the Administrative Jurisdiction issued two resolutions in 12/12/2009 and 20/12/2009, nullifying the resolution of the Minister of High Education of preventing the students wearing niqab from residing in the university towns. The Court of the Administrative Jurisdiction issued a resolution on 3/1/2010 supporting the resolution of the Minister that prevented students wearing niqab from entering the examination halls. The Supreme Administrative Court accepted the appeal on 3/1/2010 based on the administrative resolution of nullifying the resolution of the Minister of High Education.

Moreover, the reasons of the issuance of the Administrative Court resolution, issued on December 12 2009 for discontinuing the implementation of the resolution of Ein Shams University Councilor to prevent students wearing niqab from residing in the university town, stated, "that the legislator aimed to protect the personal freedoms, the rights and the public freedoms. While wearing the niqab, for the Muslim woman is one of the aspects of this freedom. Thereby management's authority or any other authority should not absolutely forbid its attire. However, when necessary, the personality of the woman may be, verified or should be, requested by the concerned authorities. The administrative court issued resolution No. 3219/48, on June 9, 2007; to allow students dressed in niqab to enter university campuses. It also assured protection of their granted constitutional right for education, extended to all the facets that it consists of. There should be, no differentiation of treatment between any students. The education includes the right to use the facilities and services available to them.

However, some universities did not obey the resolution of the Administrative Court about the residence of the students wearing niqab in the university town, limiting the implementation of the resolution of the Administrative Court on the students who submitted claims.

On the other hand, the deterioration of the sectarian tension in the relationship between Copts and Muslims slid into a number of violent related events, leading to the demise of several victims. Other tensions resulting from security interference for ending the clashes and the security control of tensions and arrests, took place as well.

The sectarian scene revolved around five main axes: The first axis consists of building churches or restoring them. The second one is, related to the personal statuses, such as the mixed marriages. The third one is about the converting from one religion to another. The fourth represents the course of the traditional social problems, which are, created due to the neighborhood relations, competition, commercial exchange and others among the citizens who adhere to both religions. The fifth one consists of committing crimes from the adherents of one of the two religions against individuals from the other religion in a structure where the revenge traditions prevail.

The sectarian actions on the background of building churches or restoring them topped the sectarian scene. Five governorates witnessed sectarian violence actions related to this question, namely: Menia, Bani Sweif, Assiut, Qena and Sohag. The fall of dead and wounded was the consequence of such events. The authorities used during the security control procedures and social control a combination of customary procedure, reconciliation and mitigation, along with the legal procedures of detention, referral to the public prosecution that consequently referred some cases to jurisdiction.

However, matters connected with personal statuses like mixed marriages and disagreements concerning guardianship issues for minors when dissolving some of these marriages, despite natural placement of jurisdiction, yet they were a cause and a result at the same time for increasing tension.

Although social problems arising from daily interactions between Muslim and Coptic citizens are more common and their effects are less dangerous, they give an indication, which is more dangerous, in terms of significance. For example, some of the problems occur among the children due to quarrelling. Other problems take place among nearby owners of shops because the volume of the radio is too high. Even other problems are a result of competition among garbage collectors while sorting and collecting valuable refuse. Yet still some problems result from the simple collision of bikes, whose owners are from separate religions.

If the notion of building churches were, considered dangerous in terms of sectarian separatism, then the worst and most dangerous split would have to be the sectarian quarrels that are, based on crime in their essence, on the part of a believer or group of believers from the two religions against one another. Despite its disadvantages, there are, proposed solutions for the first case, and it is hopeful to put them into effect them. However, the latter seems to be open for actions of revenge, which are difficult to predict in advance, or the extent of their vindication. Some of them are crimes of honor, in an environment where the time-honored tradition of revenge still prevails. Others activate a dangerous limit in the provocation of the Coptic citizens by targeting them as a group, like the Naja'a Hammadi incident on Christmas Eve.

In its previous annual reports, NCHR warned against cases of sectarian tension. The Council realized, through lengthy discussions, the importance of actualizing the principle of citizenship, confirmed by constitutional amendments in 2007. This is a main entry to remedying sectarian pressure and its effects on social anxiety and sectarian acts of violence. The council organized a nation-wide conference for discussion, ending with recommendations, which it considers to be, a valid remedial foundation for the problem. These recommendations are a combination of legislative procedure and cultural inference.

As a direct reaction to the Nagaa Hammadi incident, which is a crime that is describable as one with a terrorist feature, the Council condemned the incident in a resolution dated 13/1/2010. A letter was, sent to various authorities and concerned departments, in which the Council expressed its concern from the declining situation brought on by these accidents. They have significations and new dimensions that appear clearly, when you know that the committers of such accidents do not belong to the organizers or who are members in ideological groups or organizations. This matter places questions about the political

environment that surround them and their justifications. The Council confirmed the importance of enforcing the law with those criminals and compensating the families of the victims, questioning the responsible who will be, proven that they participated in this crime, negatively by default to do the necessary protection against its occurrence.

Within this course, the council got a letter from the cabinet on 20/2/2010, including the answer of the Ministry of Interior, which focused on the following:

1- It is fallacious that security authorities delayed protecting establishments, as the immediate action was, carried-out. The criminals were, arrested and referred to the competent judicial authorities.

2- Till date, evidence is lacking regarding agitating triggers that fired the incident at Nagaa Hammadi. The Public Prosecutor indicated in his statement concerning the issue, and the aggression there. The main suspect in the accident is a registered criminal. He was previously; accused in 12 criminal cases and his records show that he is dangerous.

3- The sectarian actions in Nagaa Hammadi were a reaction, against the incident of rape of a Muslim girl by a Copt. The security departments conducted several procedures to contain such incidents and not escalating them, controlling the situation and dealing seriously with it. This had an effective role in containing these incidents.

4- The Ministry of Interior, within an integrated security system takes the required procedures to maintain security and prevent aggressors from getting away. If it is proven that the person responsible, whatever their position might be, is guilty, through following-up the control departments in the Ministry of Interior for the efficiency of performance in all sectors, and facing the aspects of default.

5- The Ministry of interior, coordinated with the competent local authorities in studying the sectarian actions, their aims, causes. This is for deducing the results and recommendations for guaranteeing the non-reoccurring, especially that the districts where the sectarian actions take place are, distinguished with the limited culture. This leads to describing any quarrels among their inhabitants that they are sectarian actions. This is without considering the social reasons, non-achieving the educational effectiveness and the religious call for facing the waves of anger.

The Council renewed its call to adopt its legislative proposals by issuing a law that criminalize the distinction and incitement to hatred, and issued the new unified law for building the worship places. This will prove clearly the interest to maintain the rights of citizens, the principles of equality and justice, egalitarianism of opportunity and the freedom of praising the religious rites.

NCHR believes in the vital role of the media in enhancing citizenship rights. It also believes in limiting the phenomena of sectarian tension. Moreover, the Council initiated after 24 meetings in the period from January 2009 to January 2010 adopted a work plan for strengthening the citizenship value, in light of its institutional relationship with the Egyptian Radio and Television Union (ERTU), the Citizenship and Human Rights Committee, presided by the Secretary General. This is through working at several sides, which included confirming the factors of citizenship right in the media coverage, avoiding intolerance and extremism, condemning the use of violence. The Committee took the strategy to demonstrate, care in the treatment of problems with cultural features, as a result in the pattern of accidents. Meanwhile avoiding the arguments about religions, while enhancing the common value, and caring for them in the course of festivals and national celebrations, forbidding all forms of insult and prejudice, affecting the charter of the

media honor and preparing behavior record, together with employing the experience and suitable efficiencies.

2- The freedom of opinion and expression:

According to international standards, freedom of opinion and expression includes the right to adopt opinions without interference. It is a right, which does not accept any restriction or exception. It also includes the right to receive, investigate and transfer the information to others, as well as the expression of opinion and thought and transferring them to others by any form, either orally or in writing or through the printed, audited word or in the form of notifying or by any other means which the individual may choose. On the contrary of the right to freedom of thought, the right to the freedom of expression comprises duties and specific responsibilities that impose some restrictions which protect the others interests, and the interest of the community as a whole. However, these restrictions shouldn't void the right of expression from its content; i.e. it should be limited to what the protection of the national security in the democratic states, the public discipline, public morals, health or the others rights and reputation require.

The Egyptian constitutions confirmed since the constitution of 1923 until the current one the freedom of opinion and expressing it. The current constitution includes several texts about the freedom of opinion and the right of knowledge. It also confirms the freedom of press, printing, publication, the media and protects them. However, the laws governing the practice of this right came in such a form that hinders its practice in a reasonable way. The most important ones are:

- The laws impose a fence of confidentiality on the data and documents, through several legislations and resolutions. Among which are the following legislations:
 - Law No. 121/1975 about maintaining the official documents of the state, organizing the system of their publication,
 - Decree of the President of the Republic No. 472/1979 about maintaining the official documents of the state, the method of their publication and use,
 - Law No. 25/1960 about the statistics and census service,
 - Republican Decree No. 2915/1964 about establishing the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics,
 - State Civil Workers Law No. 47/1978 as well as the confidentiality of data in the Penal Code No. 57/1937.
 - Penal Code No. 58/1937 is, extended in the actions that are, considered by opinion and expression as acts of crime.
 - Law No. 96/1996; about the press authority and the freedom of individuals in issuing a newspaper, which limits them to the political parties and the public and private legal persons. The Higher Council grants the press guardianship authority on issuing these newspapers.
 - The Control Law on artistic assortments and films No. 430/1955 and its implementing resolutions which includes all the audio, visual assortments, whether their performance is direct or they are fixed or recorded on films, CDs or any other technological means of control.
 - In the Law No. 13/1979, amended by the Law No. 223/1989 the radio and television are subject for the monopoly of the state and imposes its guardianship to the Radio and Television Union.
 - Emergency Law - No. 162/1958 (current) provisions and exceptional restrictions at the scope of opinion, expression and media. Its provisions expressly stated (M/3/2) that the President of the Republic has the right to take the suitable measures by an oral or written. Among which comes the control of newspapers, publications, printings, correspondence and all the means of expression, propaganda and advertisement

before their publication and printing, besides confiscating them, closing places of their printing. The fifth article also stated the penalty of those who violate these decrees.

Most of these observations – from the view of the human rights- focus on the violation of some penalties stated in these laws of the crime legislative principle, the ambiguity of the penal Codes, expansion criminality, exaggeration of the penalties neglecting freedom, violating the proportion principle, expansion in restricting the right of criticism, violation of the innocence principle. Several analyses record the negative effects of the government's ownership of the media, violating the right of the reader in knowledge, and affecting the pluralism and diversity. This is besides loosing the public's trust in the national media and their direction towards the foreign media that fulfills specific needs for him, as well as the effect of all these restrictions on creativity with all its forms.

The NCHR does not find any justification for the continuation of the legislations which restrict the right seek and access information, the freedom of opinion and expression, as they do not comply with the constitution or Egypt's legal obligations. They also contradict with the official program of the state and the undertakings of the political leadership for enhancing the civil and political freedoms. However, the modern technologies neglect many of these legislations, either across the satellite channels or the internet.

However, during 2009, practical experience proved, the validity of this supposition, as the independent press continued to cover much more areas of public opinion interest. The scope of reaching the internet extended the technologies of the cell phones and, connecting them with the internet. However, some of the concerned authorities still insist on sticking to outdated restrictions. As a result, Egypt's rank became the last in the world in the release of the ban on the GPS, about the road maps, while satellites with all the details photographed them accurately. It was possible to follow-up on them with specialized sites on the Internet.

The Council asked the government to issue a law allowing information access. This is an eventual necessity for the purposes of development, fighting corruption and social cases.

Within this course, the security procedures extended to many bloggers reporters, journalists and media people. Some of them exceeded the legal guarantees granted for them by the law.

Unfortunately, the pressures on the freedoms of opinion and expression are not only restricted from the side of the state authorities. Nevertheless, some of them occurred by the society and the year 2009, witnessed several appearances of this case. Among which was the case that has, become known as the political arithmetic issue, which is characterized by chasing intellectuals and creative persons. The Council asked for restricting moving the problem claims before the Public Prosecutor.

2- The right of organization& the freedom to form parties and non-governmental organizations:

The practice of this right continued suffering from the impact of the legislations organizing them, and the mechanisms of their enforcement. On top of which is the Parties Law No. 40/1977 and its amendments and its mechanism "the Political parties Committee", the Law of the NGOs/2002, the law of the professional syndicates No. 100/1993. These legislations led to rejecting founding tens of political parties throughout the years. The practice of the existing is restricted in such a way that violates the party's responsibility. It restricts founding the national societies, hindering the practice of the union rights and even paralyzing a number of them so that they could not conduct their elections for more than fifteen years, in addition to putting other unions under the supervision of non-elected committees.

Despite that, the government showed a preparation to respond with the escalating demands for amending these laws. It already started preparing bills. However, none of them took a serious course during 2009. The legislative agenda became void of the new role of the People's Council in listing any of them. The restriction of practicing this right continued throughout the year.

At the level of practicing the right to form parties, the parties committee rejected on 17 August 2009 for the fourth time the approval of founding the "New Middle Party". The committee justified its rejection by stating that the party's agenda does not represent an addition to the political life, according to the Parties Law, after amending it. It was merely a repetition of the current parties.

The founders of the Middle (Al Wasat) Party submitted a complaint to the NCHR against the parties committee. They accused it of neglecting their constitutional and legal right, attacked their freedom, and prevented them from practicing their right in the political work without any evidence. Moreover, it violated purposefully the judgment of the Supreme Administrative Court on October 6, 2007. It neglected either the result, which the Commissioners Body reached in June 2005.

The repeated rejection for the demands of some parties resulted in stopping their founders resubmitting new application to the Parties Affairs Committee, following what the founders of "The Arab Dignity" Party decided. It continued submitting applications to the Committee since 2002.

At the level of practicing the right to form NGOs, the dimming continued about the law, intended to be, issued. Forty human rights organizations accused the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the public Union of NGOs with confidentiality and dimming on the bill. The organizations demanded in their statement on October 10 2009 for their participation in amendments, being, informed about them. The statement directed its criticism to the general Head of the NGOs Union because of his delivering statements that doubt their role. They considered that as an introduction for the coming role of the Union, in the domain of human rights, according to the recent amendments of the law.

The year 2009 witnessed a number of cases of restricting the foundation of NGOs or the administrative interference in their course and activities. Among which is the following example:

* The ministry of Social Solidarity on May 19 2009 authenticating a human rights NGO in the name of "Ancient Egyptian Organization for Human Rights". This is in accordance with a resolution of the General Department at the Ministry Security. It stated the security objection according to the provisions of Article 911) of Law No. 84/2002. The founders of the organization applied on November 30 2008 to the Ministry, for registering the NGO. They completed the required documents, and the approval of the Regional Union about the work field of the society.

*The procrastination of the Ministry of Social Solidarity in registering "Shiite Misr Organization" "under foundation", under the pretence of choosing a suitable name, this is despite the fact that the head of the founders offered ten names since August 2009. The pretence in postponing the name selection of the organization is that Helwan Governorate, the deciding residence entity that the organization will be in it, is a new governorate and that the procedures therefore take longer time.

* The Giza Governorate and the Social Solidarity Directorate issued a decree to dissolve the board of directors of the teaching staff of Cairo university club, and authorizing the dean of Faculty of Commerce to manage the affairs of the club.

3- The right to peaceful gathering:

The right in practicing the peaceful in Egypt is subject to a strict system of laws. Some of them go back to one century approximately. It is the Law No. 10/1914 which some of its articles contradict with the provisions of the Egyptian Constitution, and the Law No. 12/1923, where the government strengthens the restrictions imposed on practicing this right. The government issued a new law in April 2008 that forbids the demonstration in the worship places for any reason. Whoever violates the provisions of this law is punished with imprisonment for a period that may reach one year.

These laws put considerable discretionary authority in the hands of the security departments in such a way that interferes with the fulfillment of this right in many occasions. Sometimes it leads to turning peaceful marches into riot works through which the extreme force is used.

The year 2009, and for the third consecutive year, witnessed several demonstrations, sit-ins and objectionable stands as well as other forms of peaceful protestations. Most of them expressed social and economic demands, like wage and pay increase in order to face the high prices; or the protest on closing an economic establishment and firing its workers; or the protest on administrative resolutions or some security practices or demanding providing residence or building roads or asking for class requests. However, some of them focused also on internal and external political cases.

Although that the governing legislative framework puts most of the protests outside the legal framework, yet the security authorities reacted with the social protests peacefully, while the means of ban and suppression were used for the political demonstrations, like those which expressed the solidarity with the Palestinian people or the endeavors to enter aids to Gaza Strip.

4- The right to participation:

The Council gives special interest to the right to participation. Not only that it is one of the main factors of the public freedoms, but also for considering it a main criteria of those practicing the citizenship rights, a means for political and social development, an entry to the validity of practicing legislation and control.

The year 2009 had three important indications in the course of the right to participation. The first of them is enhancing the participation of woman in the Parliament. The government referred on June 8 2009 a bill about practicing the political laws to the People's and Shoura Councils; which allows assigning 64 seats for woman in the Parliament, i.e. a percentage reaching about 12.5% of the total seats of the Council after the increase. Yet it limited this to two legislative sessions (ten years only) and only in the Parliament not the Shoura Council or the popular and local councils. It is a positive step, which the Council called for enhancing it in the other representative councils.

The second indicator is, represented in conducting the complementary elections of the Parliament for the Al Kanater Al Khaireya district, which was previously, frozen, since 2005. The Minister of Interior notified the candidates for the two seats of the classes and worker, who submitted the documents of candidacy before conducting the elections of the Parliament in 2005 that they are going to be, conducting the elections on August 12 2009.

The decree of the Minister of Interior evoked the objection of the independent candidates, belonging to different political parties; as the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood appealed on the seat of classes on the decree of the minister of Interior, as it violates the Article 22 of the law on practicing the political rights. It states that the decree should be, issued thirty days, at least before the fixed time for conducting elections. The Court of the Administrative jurisdiction issued a resolution stopping the elections. Additionally , each of the candidates "Nassif Al Hefnawi", "Abdin Abdel hadi", Fathi Desouki", "Mohammed Ramz", members of the Parliament . The candidate of the Democratic Party, Shawki Al

Kurdi withdrew, too and issued a statement one day only before elections declaring that he will boycott the elections. This is for the invalidity of their procedures and their violations of law and constitution. The Ministry of Interior ignored the resolution of the Administrative jurisdiction court for stopping the elections.

In addition, by-elections were, conducted in three election districts for occupying the seats, which became vacant for the death of their occupiers. Elections were, conducted in the district of Samalout. That was for occupying the workers seat on 3 February 2009, as well as Old Cairo elections on the classes' seat on 4/3/2009, the elections of Moharram Bek district for the workers' seat on 10/5/2009. The election process faced various criticisms. Among which are the legal procedures at the stages of opening the door of candidacy and propaganda. The Supreme Committee for Elections was absent from the elections of old Cairo, it was absent, either from the by-elections, which were, conducted in the previous year. The Ministry of Interior only was responsible for supervising and managing those elections.

The controllers of Old Cairo elections noticed the absence of the election propaganda for all the candidacies except the National Democratic Party. On the other hand, the absence of any representatives for the candidates, except the representatives of the candidate of the National Party only. Besides that was not any considerable turnout to the residence of the election committees, excluding group gathering of the national party, forbidding the controllers to be existed in the committees of sorting the votes.

The third indicator is, represented in the political leadership declaration to continue the system of the individual elections of the Parliament and Shoura Council, being the best suitable method for the Egyptians. A number of the leaders of the opposition parties declared their rejection to this tendency, because the system of the proportional list which the opposition requests gives more chances for the parties participation and allows them to control the quality of candidates and guarantees the best factors.

Therefore, it is obvious that with the exception of the first indicator of enhancing the participation of women in the Parliament, which the NCHR hopes to extend in the future to the other representative bodies. These indicators do not provide positive expectation for enhancing the right for participation.

In its report, issued at the end of August 2009, in the course of the Universal Periodic Review, the council recommended reconsidering the laws organizing the representative and local elections, as follows:

- Applying the election system of the proportional lists, which was successfully, applied in the elections of 1984, for encouraging the political parties, woman, youth and Copts to get involved in the competition in a suitable atmosphere.
- Reconsidering the system of the election supervision, as the local elections showed a lot of default, after canceling
- Ending the process of filtering and updating the voters' schedules before the Parliament elections at the end of 2010.
- Taking the necessary procedure for conducting the elections by the National identity cards.
- Facilitating the practice of the Egyptians abroad for their right in election.

The NCHR renewed its recommendations of the necessity to review the laws organizing the parties, in order to legalize the constitutional amendments, confirming the freedom of founding parties, and their right in convocation for their policy and programs.

It also renewed its recommendations for the necessity of speeding the pace of amending the national societies law in such a way that prevents the interference of the state by the administrative solution. That is what violates the constitution, free the societies from the obstacles and administrative interventions and expands the democratic margin.

Third: the economic and social rights:

Enforcing economic and social rights during the year 2009 continued to represent the most significant concern. In light of the increasing public complaints of the economic situations and their social effects, particularly in the light of the continuation of the price rise of the main services, which continued declining together with the wave of recession, which prevailed the world markets, and among them the local ones

The economic and social rights were negatively, affected during 2009, due to several factors. On top of which is the world economic crisis increase, which started in the autumn of 2008. It negatively affected the rates of the economic development. They decreased from the average of 7.2% approximately to 4.7% approximately for the year 2009.

1- The right to decent life

The global economic crisis combined with economic recession leading to fears from a possible and more extensive global recession. This led to the adoption of various states and the rich countries in the lead for many of the social policies and protectionist measures, but the government economic policies pursued its efforts in the direction of promoting the transition to a free market economy, taking a few limited measures to reduce the negative social impacts.

In the first quarter of the year 2009, the country witnessed a reduction of recurring interest rates on loans and deposits, in an effort to provide support to the activities of investment and export. The objective of the effort is to alleviate loss of economic activity of the private sector. However, there were complaints resulting from its negative impact on small depositors and customers who represent the largest number segment within the country.

During the first quarter of the year, the Government provided exceptional support valued at 15 billion Egyptian Pounds, to meet the emergency circumstances that the crisis created. The Government's purpose was to support the services sector and to maintain operational rates. However, according to a series of academic studies (The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies) it was, strained between the sectors of Roads and Sanitation, Local Government, Public Health and Education. These sectors have consumed the funds in existing investments in a number of already existing projects. These projects include the completion of the development of the Cairo - Alexandria Desert Road, and the completion of some stages of sewage networks, and usage of the support value through implementing it not for what it has been, designated to by using it to enhance the value of salaries and allowances of workers in these sectors.

Moreover, the allocation of part of these extraordinary funds to support exporters was widely controversial and criticized, has failed to stop the decline of exports, which fell by 300 million U.S. dollars for the first year of the crisis.

The Central bank also noted reduction of the total Egyptian exports from 29355.8 billion dollars in the year 2007/2008 to 25168.9 billion dollars in 2008/2009, and continued deficit in the trade scale despite the decline of the total imports value from 52771.2 billion dollars in 2007/2008 to 50342.2 billion dollars in 2008/2009.

These indicators included monitoring extensive loss, the most prominent of which, is in the stock exchange. It witnessed a decline in the trading market, estimated at 30%, the stock index fell almost 30% as well, and losses were, estimated at approximately 20 Billion U.S. Dollars, equivalent to the loss of 600 thousand jobs in the local market. This was also associated with the decrease remittances of Egyptian workers abroad by 23%.

The financial crisis in Dubai led to losses in excess of ten billion U.S. dollars on the Egyptian stock market, in one trading day. It shaped a potential crisis despite the market's bounce back for half the losses during the next three days. It remained affected by this shortfall, which abridged the small dealers.

Given the aforementioned, and as a reaction to the global financial crisis, a wave of price rises in a non-consistent manner pressed on. The issue pressed on, in the absence of the necessary flexibility on the marketplace. This was, demonstrated by price fluctuation as in any free market. However, the way the prices were, expressed, is associated with the quality of deliberation and demand. Thus, the market activity demonstrates the presence and dominance of trade monopoly. The most prominent features of which are, found in the food commodities sector. However, real estate has not been, affected despite a significant drop in demand and a relative decrease in demand for food commodities during the first half of the year.

During the year, the government continued to raise prices of basic services such as electricity, gas and drinking water. It also continued to free prices of medicines, and follow-up work for the issuance of tax law on real estate, and the privatization of the General Authority for health insurance, and follow-up to put up some public sector companies for privatization, and the resumption of orientation to public instruments program, two months after decline to confirm it.

While official statistics show high rates of poverty from 19% to nearly more than approximately 21%, the World Bank estimates the poverty rate at more than 25%, while the International Human Development Program of Development Report's in 2008, the proportion of 23%. In turn, the Arab Human Development Program registered its Report issued by mid-2009 that the poverty rate was up to 40%.

Official figures also indicate a high rate of inflation to the rate of 11% by the end of 2009, in a manner inconsistent with the inflation rates prevailing in other international markets, which varied with the end of the year 2009 between negative 1.5% and 1%. The Center for Information and Decision Making Support Council of Ministers refers in the third quarter of the year to be at least 55% of the income of the majority of families goes to meet their food needs.

And in the fight against corruption, has ranked the country 111 out of 180 countries on the International Transparency Indicator in 2008. This ranking is comparable to 115 in 2007, but does not mean progress in efforts to control corruption. Egypt won the rate of 2.8 points against 2.9 points for the year 2007, which is similar to an indication of a slight decline in rates of anti-corruption. According to the report issued in September 2009, Egypt stands in tenth place among Arab countries equally with all of Djibouti and Algeria

Egypt has received international criticism on the sidelines of the Conference of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Conference was, undertaken to develop a mechanism to review the application of the Convention in member states, in connection to its position and the position of some member countries refusing to publish reports by the associated international committee; by reviewing the agreement in the member countries. The conference has been, completed by adopting publishing a summary of the reviewing works.

In an important step, the Commission of integrity and transparency, the Ministry of Administrative Development prepared an extensive report on cultural frameworks that govern the behavior of Egyptians. The report has received high praise in light of credibility of handling citizen concerns and expert assessments in its scientific somberness. The report reflected the changes and radical alteration in Egyptian social reality and behavior and the major impact that affected the set of positive social values. It also reflected the spread of values and negative phenomena and explored the view-selected sample that included 2000 citizens from 40 diverse social sectors.

The study revealed the existence of a sense of high injustice within the community by 50%. In its findings, the reported concluded, that the economic crisis represented the main cause of the collapse of the positive values by 80%, and lack of confidence in the state by 50% and the disappearance of the value of clarity by 80%, and no inclination to declare a rate of 78%. The study made a number of important recommendations to restore and strengthen positive values and diminish negative indications.

On a related level, the results of a study by Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, on corruption in the government included a variety of 6 governorates that represent the most important aspects of bribery corruption by 42% and 74% who were willing to pay illegal bribes. Only 27% did not think before paying, and 39% of those who were resisting payment of bribes responded and paid in the end.

On the other hand, a report issued in mid-2009 from the World Bank, regarding government conditions in the world, referred to the deteriorating performance of Egypt during the period from 1996 to 2008 in the measurement of anti-corruption that the report deals with.

2- The right to health

Health Policy was a major issue of debate, this year, particularly with the advent of the epidemic known as "swine flu". At a time when the country risk of the bird flu endemic which has become widespread. The political and legal debate on the government's insistence on proceeding with the privatization of health insurance services, and the cancellation decision of the Minister of Health of forced drug pricing. Mass casualties occurred, because of drinking water contamination in some areas. The media known, Haeddlena scandal continues to try suspects in ties with the blood bag, contamination incidents.

Criticism of governmental attitudes continued throughout the year. Controversy prevailed on the issue of privatization of health insurance turning it into a holding company. The Government's intention to bring forward a draft law to parliament to take place through its current role to achieve this goal, after revoking an earlier decision of the Prime Minister of transforming the public health insurance into a holding company and was forced to withdraw the bill after the former detection against strong opposition in parliament. The government guidelines reinforced the fears of reducing health-care services and increase the value of uneven contributions and limiting the use in capable, in light of criticism of the limitations of this insurance to cover the service of citizens and lack of its umbrella for nearly forty million citizens

The Legislation Department of the State Council ended in December 2009. Notification on objection on the new bill has been, given to the Minister of Health. The contents of the objections state that the project involves prejudice and injustice on large groups with lower income, and which is contrary to the rules of social justice, which goes against the principles of equal opportunities, equality between citizens, and is in fact, incompatible with the principle of personal freedom, rendering it unconstitutional.

Experts and former officials in the Ministry of Health have, confirmed that the public health insurance does not check the losses. Because of services provided by, and that the contributions of the insured covered expenses in full, and therefore there is no economic reason calling for a reduction in the level and quantity of services, and that the only reason the bill does not exceed the new idea of profit and investment.

Moreover, coincided with a sharp parliamentary debate on the reduction of the value of government allocations to support the treatment of citizens at the expense of the State when discussing the state budget, while it did not go down the budget of the Ministry of Information, which is up to four times the health budget

It also coincided with the rising complaints of poor health insurance, while some budgets aimed for the refurbishment of the headquarters of some treatment centers, leading to the decline in the level of services to the public, because of the closure between the partial destruction and, amounted to a period of five months in the Kobba inclusive center.

The year also present a big rise and tense in the prices of medicines, following the decision of the Minister of Health in mid-September to cancel the pricing system compulsory for medicine, and edit the prices of medicines with a maximum of at least 10% of market prices traded in another 30 countries, mostly from rich countries.

In light of the increasing rises in the prices of medicines and complaints by residents and pharmacists, the minister announced his intention to review the decision after conducting the necessary studies.

It has resulted in higher drug prices to rise an additional total value of the cost of treatment, and that pulls the already high, sustained in the previous ten years, and at an accelerated pace in the last four years. After growth to gather quantitative and qualitative of health institutions of the private sector it adopts an investment in the health sectors, turning a lot of government hospitals across the country to therapeutic enterprise systems, accompanied with very weak health care services provided by government hospitals and the few remaining.

Moreover, it represented the value of total spending on drugs at 37% of total spending on health, at a time when patients bear 68% of the total expenditure on medicine, and the ratios are practically the candidate for a major increase in drug prices under liberalization.

Moreover, in the prevention and treatment of epidemic virus "swine flu", the State has initiated to work on controlling the disease in the light of fears of a spread locally, the Ministry of Health launched an early campaign to raise awareness of the disease and measures, prevention, and guide the people through the allocation of telephone hotline.

The state's efforts have succeeded in controlling the disease until the beginning of the academic year 2009/2010. It spread a state of turmoil and lack of confidence in the ability of official agencies to respond to the epidemic with the approach of winter, the school year, and the Haj season. It is especially so, in light of the low capacity of government hospitals, to receive and screen patients. The lack of inquiries into the deaths of patients, due to the lack of provision of emergency aid for them, and the increasing pressures on hospitals in light of the Ministry of Health's decision examine all patients displaying symptoms for infection. Moreover, to conduct analysis and testing necessary before having the ministry to rescind its decision in mid-November in the light of the increasing rates of injuries and expansion.

Citizens have heavily criticized the performance of both the ministries of health and education. The performance has been criticized by experts and doctors alike, where the conflicting data on the

procedures for responding to injuries in schools, and the insistence of private schools to continue working despite the emergence of infections by, pulling students out of classes, to raise an additional round of panic among the citizens.

Moreover, the number of deaths from the disease has increased for over two hundred before the end of January 2010, while the ministry stopped monitoring the number of people infected made up of approximately three thousand at the last census published by the ministry in mid-November.

A wave of unrest and a lack of confidence have led to the reluctance of citizens to vaccinate against the disease. After the state provided 20 million doses a few days before the end of 2009, but those who have accepted vaccination had reached about twenty thousand only, amid fears disclaimer companies producing vaccines for their legal mandate of the possible side effects of the vaccine.

The Ministry of Health responded in January 2010 to public opinion, by providing the drug "Tamiflu" on the local market; as adopted by many other countries. It specifically made available approximately five million packages, and reversed its decision to limit its use to confirmed cases at government hospitals only. This led to a reduced status of the general turmoil and panic that prevailed in society.

At the level of environmental rights, complaints continued during the year on the repeated phenomenon of mixing potable water with sanitation. By mid-year, this led to a few deaths and dozens of heavy injuries, in some villages of Qaliubiya Governorate. At the time of exchange, of water lines and sewer chargers, of the governorate and local government, and Company responsible for the establishment, on the responsibility for events, thereby prompting the Attorney General to open an investigation in the case. Its resolution before the end of the assignment of nine of those responsible to trial, including officials of local government and the executive body of the Ministry of Housing and the Arab Contractors company.

November presented disclosure of the independent newspaper "Al Masry Al Youm" of Nile water pollution in the area Hawamdia Giza south of Cairo, because of high exchange remnants of industrial enterprises, including companies and public sector. The newspaper referred to the death of a member of a family of which all its members are suffering from kidney failure because of contamination of drinking water.

The Ministry of Health denied the results of the analysis of the water samples; revealed by the newspaper. The threat of some officials of the industrial enterprises with prosecution for publishing false news, it has adhered to the paper position and confirmed the accuracy of the analysis laboratory conducted in many laboratories of private and diverse to ensure the safety and Validity of the results.

As it was the same newspaper that had revealed the use of sewage-contaminated irrigation in hundreds of thousands of agricultural acres in five Governorates, at least, which was confirmed by official sources, in an exchange of accusations between the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation.

A report by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) noted to the injury of 30% of Egyptian children are stunted, and that a greater proportion of it is suffering from malnutrition, and is representing an increase of an estimated 8% from a year 2001, which exceeded 21% approx.

All the governorates of Cairo and Giza witnessed (hygiene) public cleanness crisis, when hundreds of tons of piled up garbage in several districts of Giza and adjacent neighborhoods in Cairo, were piled in uncollected garbage. The incident was, fired off as differences between contracting garbage collection companies, disposal, and different departments in Giza Governorate. The crisis spread over a period of six weeks, and followed the directions of the President. It took three weeks to resolve.

In terms of prosecuting those accused in the case of blood bags corrupt known in the media as "Haeddlena", the judges convicted the owner of the company Mr. "Hany Sorour," the managing director of the company, and sister; along with two officials of the Ministry of Health, who were sentenced to three years, with discharges from their posts. They were, fined for nearly seven million pounds. Three employees of the company were, sentenced to imprisonment for a period of six months. The court ordered the defendants to publish the judgment in two widely circulated newspapers.

The ruling came after the Court of Cassation judged by nullity of prior verdict of the judge acquitted the accused, a sentence that had sparked public outrage, and provide the Attorney General to appeal it to the Court of Cassation, which invalidated and ruled the retrial of the defendants to another cycle.

And both the business owner and his sister are considered among the fugitives, disappeared after one month before the date of the verdict, and the Investigation punishment executing, the Interior Ministry to intensify the search for them.

3 - The right to work

Mobilization and Statistics Central Authority registered in its report for the third quarter of 2009, that the size of the labor force in the country had 25.2 million people in September, an increase of 280 thousand people from the previous year, including 33.1 per of the total population.

And pointed out that the unemployment rate had dropped during the first quarter of this year, reaching 8.5% instead of 8.9% during the third quarter of the previous year, with a contribution rate in the labor force among females, 23%, and had scored 21.3% from the same quarter last year.

The statement on the appointment of women judges, issued on February 17, 2010 by the State Council, confirmed confidence, in the competent authority, in advancing the value of the citizenship of the justice and equality of obligation, as stated in the Constitution. It further expressed confidence in article 40 of the achievement of equality between citizens, without distinction or discrimination, and it is consistent and the role of the State Council in the promotion of human rights in Egypt.

According to a report that the unemployment rate in urban areas reached 13.7%, while 11.3% over the same quarter of previous year and reached 6.1% in rural areas while 6.5% from the same quarter last year.

The unemployment rate among males in urban areas reached 8.2%, which remained the same as compared with the same quarter the previous year, reaching 3.1% in rural areas, while only 4% for the same quarter last year.

The unemployment rate among females in urban areas 32%, while 22.3% over the same quarter of previous year and reached 15.9% in rural areas while 15.3% over the same quarter of previous year

The report recorded the highest rates of unemployment in the urban governorates by 14.2%, followed by Lower Egypt attended by 14%, scored lower rates of unemployment in rural border Governorates by 1.2%, rural Upper Egypt, followed by 5.8%.

The economic unity at Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies indicate that these figures do not reflect the reality of the phenomenon of unemployment in Egypt, which could rise to double the total calculated based on the detailed official data provided by the Government for World Bank.

Throughout the year, the call to renew investments and exemptions, and benefits was, renewed. The call was for intensive projects operating as a means to reduce unemployment rates; working side by side with the necessary modifications to credit policies of national banks for the benefit of small & medium projects. Instead of focusing, more than 60% of the loans, for senior investors, and nearly 15% to the government and the public sector, while small and medium industries are less than 23%, as well as bureaucratic impediments that undermine the ability of small dealers to obtain loans for their projects.

The World Bank estimates that the Egyptian market needs to create 600 thousand jobs per year to eradicate the phenomenon of unemployment along with the entrants to the labor market.

The present year, has witnessed, the continuation of labor protests with a socio-economic character. The protests have had an increasing pace for the third consecutive year. In an official response to the National Council for Human Rights on the protests, the Ministry of Manpower and Migration reduced the importance of recording that the country has present. In the first half of the year 2009, a number reaching 24 cases of labor protests in the private sector at a rate of 0.0007%, was including only the number of such establishments. Four cases of strike in the public sector average of only 0.0004%, and 6 cases in the public sector by 0.0009% only, and 16 sit in the private sector, and 18 cases of pleasures to work to live up to the strike organizer, noting that 98% of these protests have been settled amicably.

At the time indicated by human rights organizations to protest the high number of social labor and other including more than 15% from the previous year 2008, an average of protest action and at least one per day.

These protests are dealing, usually with social demands concerning the late entitlements for staff, equal to payment of wages and allowances, including the displacement workers families of from the housing of the companies serving the end of the contract, or submit it to the retirement or death.

4 - The right to housing

Housing crisis presented a limited breakthrough during the year, in light of the relatively low price of materials of constructing, and the state government to continue adopting a "build your home," project by owning land earmarked for construction of the youth by drawing lots, with facilities in operations to complete construction within three years.

However, the pace of criticism has risen against the project, making hundreds of thousands of young people eligible for the draw. Concentrated mostly in the Greater Cairo and its environs, the project held a few thousand pieces of land. It has increasing criticism against long bureaucracy that young winners of the project face, and notably the delay in the payment of the value of public participation, and recognition of the Ministry of failure to face robbery on the territory of the project and imposed on holders make payments or sabotage and theft of construction materials for laureates.

The holder complained about the government's delay in providing the project lands with the basic facilities, the state declared that she reinvested the high profits of selling lands in some areas in founding the basic facilities in the poorer areas, but this process will take time.

The continuous problems caused by the raised value of real estate led to raising the rent rate as well, despite the recession fed by fears & insecurities caused by the continuous global financial crisis.

While the private sector continued to focus on highly profited luxurious housing projects the government continued its housing projects planes that entail all ranges of housing, luxurious, average & low budget. It did not respond to the demands to focus on low budget housing in order to solve the housing crisis of the poor & limited income.

The state has worked on making place for the private sector. It allowed it to participate in low budget housing projects in the context of the national housing project, by providing enormous advantages to the private sector's investors to encourage them to build small housing units of an average of 63 M. paid for with facilities in payments up to 15 years. The state also has given the investors building lands with nominal prices & with facilities in payments, also it offered a direct financial support for the costs of infrastructure for the project facilities. But the considerable high value of these units (between 120 000 & 170000 pounds) had secluded the poor & limited income, while the payment facilities haven't helped for it requires a forward payment of about 25% of the total value, besides monthly payments of the rest of the price by average of 1100 Egyptian pounds for 15 years.

As for the slums case, the state institutions show an increasing interest in the slums since the rock slide disaster in Deweqa region, but the executive system still uphold its view point regarding treating the slums case. Which is represented in a long-term plan to treat the slums problem till year 2025? With a budget of 5 billion dollars, this does not represent much hope for the inhabitants of these areas.

Official statements contradict each other regarding the number of slums areas, which has reached by the authority of information center & decision making support of ministers council 1034 areas, while the institution of national planning announced that it reaches 1109 area in 20 governorate with an average rate of population more than 7 million people.

While a study made by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics observed that the slums numbered 1221 areas among them. It was decided, that, twenty areas were, to be, removed because of its inability for development, and 1130 areas have the ability for development, including 71 areas in Sinai & the Canal, which has not been included in the government development plan, prepared in 2007.

The report referred that 340 slums areas have been developed in Qena, Aswan, Sohaj, Assiut, Bani Suef, Gharbeya, Kafr Al-Sheikh & Dumiat governorates. While there will be 600 slums areas to be developed soon in Assiut, Qena, Aswan, Sohaj, Al-Menia, Al-Fayoum, Bani Suef, Cairo, Alexandria, Qalyubia & Giza. In later phase, it is expected that work will be started to develop 235 slums in Dumiat, the Red Sea, Dakahlia & Luxor.

Another report made by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics revealed the existence of about 14 million people living in huts, tombs & mosques. While another report by Information & Decision Support Center (IDSC) of the Council of Ministers shows, that Cairo alone has more than 41% of the population of slums in Egypt.

In the field of service providing & basic facilities the official sources have explained that the coverage rate of sanitary sewers services in towns have increased to 88% by the middle of year 2009 & is expected to reach 100% by the middle of 2010, while it clarified that the rate in villages will reach 40% by the middle of 2012.

As for safe & pure drinking water, the official sources stated that the coverage has increased to 100% in villages formerly deprived of these services until year 2009. While the complain continued in many governorates especially in Delta of the lack of pure drinking water, which is caused by the deficiency in resources dedicated to maintain water networks & stations.

The crisis of the blending of sanitary sewage water with potable water in Qalyubia has revealed the danger that more than 1100 villages deprived of sanitary sewer services, face; in light of inadequate coverage, of sanitary drainage where coverage only reaches 35% of the population. In facing this shortcoming the Prime Minister, has said, during the annual conference of the ruling National Democratic Party in beginning of November for the determination of the heap measure the amount of 10 billion pounds by lending security - to complete the sanitary drainage projects in the country

On the other hand, the corridors of the People's Assembly an acute crisis between the Housing Committee of the Council and each of the Ministers of Housing and the Governor of Cairo during December 2009. The authorities linked to the endeavor to demolish the apartment buildings, debate, the illegal purchase and sale of apartment buildings in the village of HANGANA east of Cairo. This has threatened the displacement of thousands of families. Members of the People's Assembly have criticized the Housing Committee on ignoring the authorities' realization of building and construction. Some of which cases have, lasted for years, starting from before the issuance of its sudden demolition and the displacement of families. Signals and the media to the government's intention to demolish 700 residential towers resulted in a clash, which took place between police and residents in buildings. Several police members were, injured as a result and the one of the residents died of a heart attack because of trauma due to the demolition of his house, which lived in it since many years

The crisis subsided after the governor explained that the decision of demolition includes only 28 residential towers, towers, not the whole region and state-owned oil firm had been taken over by squatters - and pledged to the Minister of Finance to pay all compensations to people affected by the crisis and the prosecution of property owners to collect such compensations

As the country experienced another crisis in January 2010, after the dismissal of the floods in Sinai, and Aswan which left hundreds of buildings and dwellings demolished, while rendering many houses for the poor fragile, dozens more have died as affected displaced families were left homeless and out in the cold. Mr. President visited the affected areas, and issued emergency instructions, to aid to flood victims.

Nevertheless, Sinai witnessed protests from affected workers during the Prime Minister's visit. They protested against the failure of the government to the relief of distress and calmed the crisis after the Government's commitment to provide compensation to people, whose homes were, destroyed, and the civil society organizations and associations Relief and charity campaigns and wide to the affected

5- The right to education

The year 2009 appeared to be an escalation point in the debate on the adoption of the comprehensive assessment by each of; the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Higher Education of. This was, announced at the beginning of 2009.

As education within the results of the National Conference held a valuable mid-2008, Ministry of Education, has adopted the application of the system in a comprehensive manner, at various levels of education. These include primary and secondary levels, including grade six of primary and second intermediate. During the current academic year, and as and a means of education aimed, to improve student communication skills, in the process. The development of creativity and innovation, in this system, is as a means to improve the process of instruction. Thereby, quality assurance and development of education, positive active and measuring for the potential of students, as well, is an integral part of the comprehensive assessment.

Test the application received, of this system, in the education foundation of many criticisms during the previous year; as places students under the umbrella of E-tutoring. By giving a large proportion of degrees of this year of activities to the student, it may have contributed to weaker revenues. Science students for the activities of non-school do not depend on information technology resources, as it is lost in the majority of public schools. Further, the sector of private schools, cannot apply the reform under special circumstances such as those experienced by the educational process this year. A significant proportion of school students have gone absent during the current scholastic year, because of their families' fear from infection with influenza chains. This has given rise to an adoptive application of the system at the secondary level, and universities in great fear of adding more burdens on the Egyptian family. This has lead to an increased reliance on private lessons. This reliance is a two-way tier. It works to compensate for the lack of academic achievement, on the one hand. However, it also aims to secure the support of teachers, calculating the degrees of activities, on the other.

The Chief of the Committee on Education and Scientific Research Council implemented the regime plans to the Ministry of Applied Research in Egypt. Public opinion has it that initiative will contribute in increasing the need for private lessons and tutoring. It will also add more burdens on the family cell in Egypt. Assertion maintained that its application led to a proliferation of private lessons in countries not aware of before, such as Turkey and the system may be valid for some other countries also noted that some countries currently considering a waiver thereof, and replace it with a high school old, who was valid until the end of the nineties

The Education Committee of Shura Council considered that the system cannot be applied in Egypt. Conditions of education in the States are not the same the circumstances as those in Egypt, Hence the needs of education are different in Egypt in that, they reflect the practical reality and open ways to more corruption in schools and increase the spread of private tutoring, which is the largest subsidence

Accused members of the Shura Council's Education Committee and the ministers of higher education as aiming at the abolition of free education in practice, and testing capacity for entry to higher education will open the door to corruption and bribery and favoritism

And accused the official press ministers import system Canned rich countries, memorandum of crisis experienced by the thousand of schools and its lack of the fundamental elements of the crisis of the study, which urged public schools to require parents to buy seats for their children and contribute to the completion of infrastructure policy for the school , classes

In addition, stressed education teachers and advisers, including the Ministry of Education to the failure of the introduction of comprehensive evaluation in education through the university accepted the current academic year, stressing the need to review the ministry in the direction

The Ministry of Education was, prompted to publically; declare spending details on the 350 million pound budget for 1700 schools, in terms of infrastructure development, before the end of the year. The declaration has maintained that information for the application of the comprehensive assessment, of which 50 million will be, spent on this plan for the current academic year.

In terms of improving the capabilities of students within the two phases of basic education and secondary education, the Ministry of Education began the application of treatment programs to read and write through reading clubs and writing in schools, during the summer holiday. Veteran education experts have initiated the National Authority to ensure the quality of education in increased activity in the first year start-up. Submissive training for 29 apprentices on the criterion of quality and audit has been, selected, and auditors were prepared. Accreditation, measures were, taken, and the separation between ownership and management of academic teachers for schools and private universities were established. Consolidated dependence was laid out as a condition for the adoption of the through the issuance.

At the level of special education, student members of the People's Assembly and Shura Council during the year fast integration of private universities in the Higher Council of Universities. The abolition of the Privy Council of Universities as an essential means to end the conflict between the educational systems and the consolidation and censorship of the crisis on private universities and to achieve equality with the call all the freedom to establish private universities non-profit

Also extended invitation to the need to strengthen supervision and control of the Ministry of Education on private schools and private schools with foreign work to intensify education on the national values

Statistics indicate that the number of students in Egypt has, is up to 17 million students in basic education, secondary and university. The budget allocated to education has increased to almost 48 billion pounds. In terms of expenditure, on the student it has increased to five hundred dollars a year. This is less than the U.S. average in the same category. There is also a public wave of criticism in the weakness displayed in the field of scientific research. It is still 8% with the call to be, increased to 5% in order to achieve scientific renaissance for further development of human conditions. At the level of education, human rights and continue to the Ministry of Education to promote a culture of human rights in the stage of basic education and secondary education, as universities continue to promote the application of the integration of Principles of Human Rights in university education.

Chapter Two

The Ombudsman activity in 2009

Introduction

The Ombudsman carried out its efforts in developing its working mechanisms during the year 2009 on three axes:

The first axis consists of accessing the public through the expansion of the NCHR and the establishment of several branches in Egypt's governorates; the council opened up three branches in Beni Suef, Port Said, Al-Wadi Al-Gadid; so that these branches work on serving the governorates of Upper Egypt and the Suez Canal. The council had received as well requests from four other governorates to open branches there.

The mobile units of the Ombudsman visited seventeen governorates, namely: Fayoum, Minya, Port Said, Ismailia, Menoufia, Alexandria, Assiut, Qena, North Sinai, Helwan, 6 October, South Sinai, Al-Wadi Al-Gadid, the Red Sea and Aswan. The units revisited four of the governorates mentioned above.

The second axis consists of integrating the mobile units' activities in the overall activities of the NCHR within the framework of promoting the culture of human right. Meetings with the executive and public authorities and civil society organizations in those governorates have followed these visits.

The third axis consists of strengthening the capacity of the researchers working in the Ombudsman by holding specialized training courses, or appointing them to attend training courses through the invitations the council receives, as well as following-up on training some of them to the level of training the trainers.

These efforts have been, reflected on the overall activity of the Council, increasing the number of

complaints to about 16'877 complaints during the year 2009, with an increase of up to 12% compared to last year; also the internal development processing of complaints had evolved.

This chapter deals with an analytical review of these complaints and their classification in accordance with the alleged violations of human rights. They are, classified according to the geographical distribution of Governorates, as well as, the method of complaint receipt. It also deals exclusively with the responses received by the Ombudsman from the competent authorities, to whom these complaints have been forwarded; and finally an analysis of the degree of the response received from these agencies in collaboration with the bureau' efforts.

I- **Complaints classification**

1- **In accordance with the violated rights 2009**

Excluding the complaints that came out of the jurisdiction of the Bureau numbered (1465), the number of complaints considered by the Ombudsman was (14'741) complaints, of all complaints received by the Council during the year 2009, which were (16'877) complaints.

The complaints relating to economic and social development came in the first place and accounted for a number of 12'288 complaints. A ratio of 83.7% representing the total complaints received from within and outside the jurisdiction of the office, with an increase of almost 20% than last year. This confirms that the suffering of the Egyptian citizen is continuous, affected by the global economic crisis and its implications on the economic conditions in Egypt. Those rights were, distributed among several sub-rights, notably the right to work (financial benefits –transferred by force-persecution and ill-treatment - transfer request, etc.). Complaints followed by relating to the right to housing, right to education; right to health, right to social security (pension requests, requests for assistance per batch), and the requests for public utilities, the right to live in a clean and pollution free environment.

The complaints related to civil and political rights came in second place, reaching a number of 2058. These represent about 13.9% of the total complaints received by the Ombudsman; in which its presenters claimed serious violations of several rights concerning the right to life, the right to liberty and personal security, right to a fair trial, a failure to observe the rights of prisoners, the right to physical integrity, and protection from enforced hijacking.

The complaints dealt with allegations of violations of freedom of opinion and freedom of expression, freedom of thought, belief, freedom of peaceful strikes, freedom of association and the right to participate.

The complaints of public issues came in the third place, with a total number of 198 complaints from the total complaints received by the Ombudsman, which included general problems being, experienced by the Egyptian society, including the problem of unemployment, and high commodity prices, the low level of education, and other issues that affect the interest of citizens generally.

Finally, complaints emanating from violation of rights of Egyptians living abroad were, ranked in at fourth place. These have reached a number of 138 complaints, which have, accounted for about 0.9%. Of the total complaints received, especially those working in the Arab region, and because of the sponsorship system, violations occur in term of workers' rights.

II- In accordance with the geographical distribution of the complaints:

An analysis of complaints according to the geographical distribution has revealed that Al Sharkiyah came in the first place. In terms of the numbers of complaints received this year, a number of 999 complaints, with a ratio of 6.7% of the total complaints received by the Office for the second year in a row. This is despite the decline in the number of complaints received.

Then came Assiut Governorate in the second place, with a number of 979 complaints and a ratio of 6.6%; followed by Qaliubiya with a ratio of 6.4% of the total number of complaints. Fayoum governorate is in the fourth place at 6.3%; followed by Beni Suef ranked fifth by 6.1%. Minya and Menoufiya are in sixth place with 6%; while Port Said, Qena, Alexandria and Ismailia in the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh places consecutively.

The complaints were, received from Cairo, which fell to the twelfth place. Cairo has received 641 complaints, representing a ratio of 4.3% of the total complaints. These figures display a remarkable decrease to last years' numbers with approximately 47%. It might be, interpreted by the broad geographical scope of the Council through its mobile branches and offices in the Governorates. The New Valley Governorate ranked last, with a number of 12 complaints and a ratio of 0.1%; while the rest of the Governorates had approximately similar rates of complaints. (Table No. (4) Shows the statistics classified according to the geographical distribution of the complaints).

3 - The delivery methods of the complaints:

The mobile units represented the best means of delivering complaints over the past two years, which led to increased numbers of complaints received by the Office, more than 50% of the total complaints received, with 7938 complaints, represented by a ratio of 50% of the total complaints received by the Ombudsman until December 31, 2009.

The receipt of complaints through the NCHR local branches came in the second place, number of 2634 complaints and a ratio of 15.6%. The delivery of complaints by fax came in third place, with a number of 2479 complaints with a ratio of 14.8%. Complaints that were, received by mail came in fourth place, which accounted for 2184 complaints, at a ratio of 12.9%. The mechanism of receiving complaints through the telegraph was ranked fifth with a number of 266 complaints received representing 1.6% of all complaints. Ranked sixth were the complaints received from the National Specialized Councils, with a number of 945 complaints; and in seventh place, the complaints received by email, at a number of 206 complaints, and a ratio of 1.2% of the total complaints received in 2009¹.

Classification of responses received from stakeholders on the complaints referred to it:

Correspondence and responses

¹ (Table (2) shows the number of complaints received and the percentage according to the methods of arrival).

The Ombudsman had saved 2003 complaints due to lack of necessary information, which were among the 14,741 complaints falling within the jurisdiction of the Council. The Ombudsman could not communicate with the complainants to complete the submission of information. In addition to this, the office had saved 847 complaints temporarily until the completion of information; which gave us at the end of the year, 1384 complaints under consideration and study.

The Ombudsman has referred 10,182 complaints to concerned authorities during the year 2009. These were, addressed to the ministries, governorates, universities, companies, banks, governmental and non-governmental bodies. The Ombudsman request was for said entities to provide it with the responses of its findings on the procedures for examining and investigating the contents of these complaints. It further requested to notification on procedure and status of each complaint.

The Council received different complaints from concerned parties of the State; of which 4111 complaints were sent, 40% of which received responses. This represents a clear decline for the past years, in view of the increase in the quantitative numbers of complaints compared to previous years; on the other hand, many governorates followed the system of single reply to similar complaints, as example:

(we received from Damietta Governorate a response for 50 individual complaints requesting housing units; we received from Fayoum a response to 124 individual complaints requesting housing units, from Ismailia we got a response to 126 individual complaints requesting housing units; from Kafr El-Sheikh we got a response to 14 individual complaints requesting housing units)

Table (5) shows statistically the correspondences sent by the Bureau and the replies received.

We can classify the responses received by the Ombudsman into two prominent trends. The first, is of a procedural nature, that the concerned party acknowledge receipt of the complaint and promise to handle the allegations and provide the demands contained therein; and the second response is of a substantive nature, that the concerned bodies inform the office about their inability to handle the complaint and meet the demands of the complainants.

Procedural and substantive responses characterized by the following:

* In replying to the requests of the complainants asking for employment opportunities: the answers were that their requests have been, submitted and will be, considered whenever the opportunity arises, and in case such specialization is, needed, or whenever the turn comes. They should maybe wait until the announcement of such a job and apply for it, or whenever a competition is, announced.

* In replying to the requests of the complainants asking for housing units: that they should submit their applications to the districts to which they belong, with all the required documents and papers, for the merit of the housing unit to be, examined.

* In replying to the complaints about the lack of educational facilities, or those requesting the establishment of schools: normally the establishment of schools in these areas is already included in the plan of the General Authority for Educational Buildings.

* For the health care' special cases and with regard to the requests for treatment: the responses were required to include the provision of treatment at the expense of the State or a required surgery. As for

the request to convert village health units to hospitals and health units, or to build hospitals and health units in the villages. The responses came to emphasize the existence of a central hospital away from the village where they live, at a 3 to 5 kms of distance, and that there was no need to establish a hospital in the village in the current period.

- As for the responses received to the requests of delivering public utilities, there came the reply that there are already facilities underway on the plan of the concerned ministry.

- The responses received from the Ministry of Social Solidarity on the requests for extra pension or request for financial assistance, resulted in conducting a social research on his condition. Then, the answer came to include the status of the complainant according to the research, and what was due to the citizen according to the law from financial assistance or a special beneficiary; and the ministry expressed a great help in some cases forwarded to it from the Ombudsman.

- * With regard to requests for conditional release of prisoners: the reply we usually get is that they shall consider the request at the earliest opportunity; or clarifying their inability to do so, in accordance with the prison's rules and regulations.

* In the requests for transfer from one prison to another, the Ministry of Interior has agreed on some requests for some of the prisoners. However, in some cases, it responded either that this was impossible, for the time being, for logistic reasons, such as a lack of availability of space, or because he is serving at a maximum security, facility and that the request for transfer shall be, considered at the next review.

- As for the requests to provide health care for prisoners, the responses were either that prison's doctor has inspected the prisoner; that the prisoner was, referred to the prisons' hospital. An ongoing follow-up and necessary treatment are, provided, was another response; or that the allegations were fatuitous, and that the complainant is in a good health according to the report of the prison's doctor.

- Some of the responses to requests for release of criminal detainees showed that they had been released, and in other cases, the responses came that the detainee is regarded as a threat to public security, and all actions that were taken against him were within the framework of legality and law; and hence, his request cannot be granted.

- Much of the responses to allegations of torture or ill-treatment in prisons came negatively; either what was stated is incorrect, or sometimes the complainant turns down the request.

- Regarding the cases of ill-treatment and abuse of power within the police stations, the responses received were of two kinds: the first came from the Ministry of Interior to acknowledge an error by the officer in charge and that he was, accused for this. The second type came to mention that the complaint is invalid, because the complainants are either lawbreakers, or ex-convicts or because they are habitual complainants.

- The special cases of the Egyptians living abroad;

- the replies received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assumed that they are still following-up the subject matter of the complaint with the diplomatic missions abroad;
- it informed the council in some cases that they had been able to resolve the issues of some complaints in a satisfactory way, while it did not respond to other cases.

*** Additional efforts:**

1 - direct intervention in the critical humanitarian situations

Generally, the NCHR addresses the complaints it receives to the concerned authorities and follow them up; but sometimes, it intervenes directly to address some of the humanitarian problems of critical or contentious issues, such as:

The complaint of the citizen "Iman Mahmoud Mohamed (13/12/2009)"

- complaining from not setting a date for surgery (broken bone in her left ulna requiring the installation of a slide),
- after the direction of the Medical Board to the General Administration of specialized medical boards, to treat her at the expenses of the State, in its session dated 23/11/2009;
- No date has been set for a surgery.
- After initiating a complaint, the office contacted on the same day of the arrival of the complaint, the Director of the Helal specialized hospital, which responded by setting a date to perform the surgery, which was fortunately on 13.12.2009, the same day of arrival of the complaint.
- The complainant has expressed her thanks to the Council's efforts to alleviate her suffering.

Another example:

The council has also received a petition from the citizen Ali Ahmed Ali Lachin, from Sharkia of Zagazig. It stressed his suffering from poor health conditions as evidenced by the medical reports. It stated that he was suffering from "malignant tumors on the left kidney" as well as cancer compositions which spread to the bones and skull, and he was undergoing chemotherapy and not recommended to work and make any great effort. The citizen is requesting the assistance of the council to intervene in getting him "6 units of platelet chemical blood + 3 bags of blood compact", which cost huge amounts of money. His pleas, stresses that getting the treatment at the expense of the State is still not enough to provide the chemotherapy necessary for four months of the year, and that it does not even cover the costs of doses of platelets needed twice per year".

The council sent one of its researchers to Zagazig, to meet with the director of Zagazig International hospital, in an attempt to assist the complainant. It explained that the health status of the citizen is deteriorating, and that he is in constant need for continued medical and financial support. Since the decision of treating, him at the expense of the State is not enough to provide him with the necessary treatment from the platelets needed, in the case of the continuity to obtain the necessary chemical treatment for his condition.

2 - Research and Studies

The various activities of the Ombudsman included receiving complaints and seeking with the competent authorities, to protect the rights of their respective complainants. Thereby sending fact-finding missions was a necessity. However, its' role was extended to conducting research and studies of the phenomena revealed by these complaints, and suggest ways to address and organize workshops to share experiences. The Ombudsman conducted several studies during the year 2009 and activities including the following:

A - A study on the Law of Real Estate Rentals:

This study addresses the realities of complaints received by the Ombudsman on the problems concerning the law of real- estate fees. It was divided into three categories: the first dealt with the Act of Renting' relations No. 4 of 1996 and its application; the second concerned the rental' fees from the perspective of human rights and the community' interests, and the third section concerned comments on the law and some recommendations.

B - The problems of education in Egypt:

This study concerns problems of education in Egypt in general, and the problems faced whether on the (compulsory education, pre-university and university education); in order to reach a global vision, develop the education system, and improve it in general; and to ensure equal opportunities in the different stages of education as a fundamental right of human rights. The study is divided into three chapters; the first deals with the infrastructure governing the right to education; chapter two concerns the education from the perspective of legal rights; and chapter three analyzes the subject of the complaints received by the office concerning education.

C - The problems of the implementation of judicial decisions

This study discusses the problems of implementation of judicial decisions in Egypt, because of its importance in achieving the fair trial guarantees; the study was, based on the facts revealed from the complaints received by the NCHR regarding the implementation of the judicial decisions, and the Ombudsman's vision on the different ways to solve these problems. The study tackles this problem from three main axes: the first axis addresses the legislative structure for the implementation of judicial decisions; the second axis consists of the analysis of complaints received by the Ombudsman in this regard; and the third axis shows the vision of the Ombudsman for ways to address this problem.

3 - Organization of conferences to exchange experiences

The Ombudsman organized an international conference for the Ombudsman offices, on December 17 and 18th, 2009 to discuss the impact of changes in the political- social reality of the Ombudsman offices. It exchanged experiences about the reality of these institutions in the context of social changes witnessed by the different communities and its implications for their role in protecting the rights of the citizens, and developing administrative and legislative systems aiming at the protection of human rights. Twenty-four regional, national and international institutions had participated in this dialogue from Europe, Asia and Africa, as well as a number of experts.

Second: Analysis of Complaints

Analysis of complaints on civil and political rights:

1 - The right to life:

The National Council for Human Rights received complaints of cases of alleged exposure to the practices of violence that led to death, among which:

The death of the citizen / Walid Abdul-Malik Mansour, in the police station of Zefta

On the following day, the uncle of the deceased received a call from the Chief of the Police station of Samanoud informing him that he was dead and asking him to come, sign and receive the victim's body. When he asked about the cause of death he was, informed that he had hanged himself. However, they refused to let him see the body. Furthermore, the police station had threatened him that in case, he will not come, and in the case of his refusal to sign and take the body, the latter would be, buried in the charity cemetery.

When addressing the public prosecutor, he stated the following:-

After investigation in the case of death of the citizen / Waleed Abdul Malik Abdul Aziz, by the prosecution, in which seven colleagues stated that they woke up surprised when they saw their colleague, the deceased, hanged in the dormitory bathroom. They said that the deceased was always crying as he used to think of young daughter because of his detention, and the arrest of his brothers, and because no one of his family used to come and visit him, in the period of fifteen days prior to his death. By assigning the forensic doctor, who performed the autopsy on the body, he stated that the pressure done on the neck by the factor of body weight caused the death; and that the body was devoid of the manifestations of any criminal violence or resistance; which refers to a suicidal act that may have occurred. The case is still under further investigation.

The death of the citizen / Gharib Mohammed Ali Hussein in Torah Prison on 27/12/2008

His mother stated that he had quarreled with three of his colleagues, and was, gathered for discipline but was, subjected to torture, which led to his death. She also reported the prison administration's failure to communicate the news of his death, stating that she found out three days later.

According to the Ministry of Interior, he died committing suicide by hanging himself in his prison, by installing a piece of cloth in the ventilation spot, due to his psychological deterioration. The forensic report stated that the death was a result of asphyxia, without any traces of torture, which made the prosecution close the case.

The death of the citizen / Islam Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim Said, when a security officer from Qanater police station opened fired at him on 16/12/2008, which caused his premature death.

The death of the citizen / Yousef Shaaban Mohammed in January 26, 2009 in his prison in Qata jail; whose father stated that the prison's administration did not inform him of the death, while he got the news by a telephone call received from the family of another prisoner.

The Ministry of Interior reported that he committed suicide by installing pieces of cloth in the ventilation spot; stating that he had tried to give himself a razor blade before; in this, the medical examiner reported that there was no suspicion of any criminal signs of torture and the prosecution filed the case.

The death of the citizen / Mohammed Abul-Nadar Marie, while executing an administrative decision to remove one of the buildings; his cousin who reported the incident to the bureau, stated that the death came pursuant to the force used against him by forces of the police station in Mahmudiyah, when he objected to the decision of removal. He added that the police forces took the body in their car and threw it at a distance of 300 meters from the place of removal, for fear from the reaction of people there. The office makes sure of the information contained in the complaint from more than one individual from the family of the deceased, those who witnessed the incident.

When referring the complaint to the "Ministry of Interior", its response came to say: "after examination of the complaint, this was proven to be a fake one. The officers of the police station in Mahmudiyah came to execute the decision issued by the local unit of the district, to remove the transgressions of the citizen Saeed Anwar Abul Nadar, for his building on the area covered of the Babylonian Canal. During the execution of the decision, his brother named (Magdi) started to beat the officers; he was then, caught and while he was escorted to the police station; he jumped from the car, and fell dead. A case was, filed and taken the number of 2739 for the year 2009 administrative Mahmudiyah.

2 - The right to liberty and personal security:

The Council received 221 complaints of violations of the right to liberty and personal security, which all focused on four modes: first: the administrative detention of both criminal and political aspects under the emergency law, either after the launch of the Public Prosecution released suspects; or after the issuance of the provisions of innocence, or after serving their sentences. The second mode is the allegations of ill-treatment of citizens during the arrest, or a variety of abuses against citizens for various reasons. Thirdly, the taking of hostages from the families of suspects, thereby, forcing them to surrender to the public authorities. Finally, the fourth mode is the enforced vanishing.

A. Administrative detention:

The citizens / Ramadan Antar Shawky El Sayed (criminal detention)

The father of the detainee filed a complaint, following the issuance of a decision to arrest his son, following a quarrel between him and someone else; and this after his submission to the Public Prosecution, which decided to release him; he is then requesting in this complainant to release his son. When referring the complaint to the "Ministry of Interior", the reply came that after examination of the case; we found that on 5/10/2008, it was, reported to Muharram Bek police station. The existence of a quarrel between the son of the author and someone else (First Party), and between the so-named Reda Mohamed Hassan and others (Second Party); where the two parties infringed on each other with sticks and bottles. These actions resulted in the fact that they were all, caught. A case was, filed and they were all, presented, to the Public Prosecution that decided to release them with the guarantee of their place of residence. The council found out that the author of the complaint and his sons have been registered as risky people; and an exceptional measure had been taken before to reduce their criminal activity".

The case of the citizen / Hossam Mohamed Ibrahim Casper (criminal detention): The office received a complaint from the mother of the prisoner. In her complaint she stated that the issuance of a decision to arrest her son and depositing him in Burj Al Arab prison, she sought the release of her son, especially after the issuance of a verdict of acquittal in case No. 5884 of 2007 and taking into account his medical condition.

When referring the complaint to the "Ministry of Interior", we got the following response that:

- the examination showed that the son of the complainant was involved in employing a group of young people abroad illegally in return for money and resulted in the sinking of (17) people;
- in this regard, the case No. 8184/2007 Misdemeanor, Edco was filed,
- he spent 3 years imprisonment sentence in jail, then the decision was appealed and in the hearing of 17/3/2008, the Court decided to release him.
- When presenting the son of the complainant to the Security Commission of El Beheira, a ministerial decision was issued for his criminal detention to reduce his criminal severity. He was, presented once again before the Committee, which decided simply to release him; seeing the time, he spent in prison sufficient.

The case of the citizen Ahmed Thabet Hamada (criminal detention)

The office had received a complaint from the father of the prisoner who is still, arrested in the custody of police station of Qena despite the decision to release him.

When referring the complaint to the "Ministry of Interior" it reported that:

- The son of the complainant is from very serious criminal elements in the area of ignition discord between the families, creating revenge's spirit and fights for the benefit of others, bullying and dominating and having very bad influence over the people
- That is why an exceptional decision was taken against him to reduce the severity of his criminal acts; noting that the son of the complainant was previously accused in 5 cases:
 - No. 3406 of 2007 "dispel of intercepts",
 - No. 3167 for the year 2008 "beat",
 - No. 3690 of 2008 "beat",
 - No. 3691 for the year 2008 "beat",
 - No. 306 for the year 2008 "beat".
- The intent of the author of the complaint was then to stop the security agencies to prosecute his son following his criminal activities".

Complaint received from the families of Naser Abdel Aal, Mohammed Hussein Abdallah Aly, and Ibrahim Abdullah Mohammadi and Rami Hussein Abdel-Azim;

They were, escorted by force to Bandar Banha police station, where some cases were, fabricated against them. They were tortured and kept in custody, and left pending until they were, presented before the prosecution, which ordered their release, but until now, they are still, not released.

The complaint of the citizen Ahmed Ahmed Mahmoud Arafa, the brother of the detainee El Sayed Ahmed Mahmoud Arafa, in Burj Al Arab prison, with others. They are all, affected by the decisions to arrest them because of charges in the case of illegally migrating young people by sea; despite that, they were, acquitted by court ruling; security men have tortured the detainees in an attempt to force them to confess.

A complaint from the citizenship / Amira Ahmed Helmi affected by the exposure of her brother Gamal Helmy.. She stated that her brother was, subjected to physical and moral torture; he finished his period of imprisonment in case No. 4032 of 2009, on June 1, 2009. He has been released only on papers on June 9th, 2009 in contrast with the reality that he is still in custody in an unknown place to his family, who doesn't know until now his whereabouts. She sought a rapid intervention by the Council for fear that something bad might be happening to him.

When referring the complaint to the Ministry of Interior, they reported that following:

- Through the investigation of the case, we have discovered the falsity of the complaint.
- The accused was, apprehended to execute the sentences against him,
- He was then, released on 1/6/2009; they have reported as well that he had committed 12 cases of theft.
- He was then, arrested and deported to Burj Al Arab prison.

A complaint received from citizen / Amani Mohamed Mohamed El Khodary, concerning her fiancé Sabri Galal Ahmed Hagrass, who was, arrested without a known reason. The complaint, stressing upon the fact that he had been, released on 19/4/2009 and deposited in several different sections. He has not been, released until date. She knew he was, arrested once again and is now in Burj Al Arab prison "a criminal detainee". She cannot afford the lawyer fees to defend him, due to the absence of any source of income, as well as the non-completion of the marriage between them.

A complaint received from the citizen Abdel Qader Aly Ismail, for his son Ibrahim Abdel Qader Aly Ismail, according to which, his son had suffered an attack by some people, causing him serious injuries to his left arm and permanent injury. He went immediately to the police station of Tanis; but since these people have great influence, his son had been, arrested within the office of the police. They fabricated him many cases without any legal basis; and he was, transferred to Burj al Arab prison for three months... and despite the fact that he was released on 25 / 8 / 2009, he is still restricted in the police station. The father is then asking for the release of his son because of his deteriorating health conditions; and his need for an urgent surgery to his left arm to avoid its amputation.

A complaint received from the citizen / Yehia Yehia Abdul Baqi, on behalf of his brother Ahmed Yehia Abdul Baqi, complaining from a worker in El Ayaat' mosque named Abdul Rahman Mohamed Mahmoud Al-Zawail, who reported to the police. The complaint detailed that his brother is, registered under the Muslim Brotherhood's party; and therefore he was, arrested. He was, presented to the public prosecution, who released him. He was, arrested again and presented to the police, allegedly to complete some data. He has not returned home, until date. His family knows that he is being, held illegally in Wadi El Natrun Prison.

A complaint from the family of the detainee Hamdi Ibrahim Abbas aged 65 years old and imprisoned in Zagazig public prison; who, after the completion of 5 years prison sentence, was arrested again, although they had more than 25 court rulings to release him. But until now, he is not released. The office of complaints had addressed the Ministry of Interior, asking for his release in view of his deteriorating health conditions and in respect of the rule of law.

B- Violation of the citizens' dignity and ill-treatment:

A complaint filed by Mr. Mohammad Mohsen Ibrahim Swedan and Mr. Mohammad Sob'hi Tolbah Al-Tahan, claiming that security forces in Damanhur persecuted, ill treated and took arbitrary measures against them. The complainants mentioned that police officers tortured them to compel them to withdraw their complaints against an officer in the police station. They requested taking necessary action and protecting them against the said police officers and their oppression.

A complaint filed by Ms. Nadia Sayed Ahmad Ali claiming that she and her family were exposed to numerous transgressions and violations by some policemen of Al-Ma'sarah police station, Helwan (to gratify an influential lawyer). The complainant mentioned that she, while being in the said police station after being, summoned to meet the officer, was surprised to see the lawyer. She was, abused and handcuffed, in front of her lawyer. She was then, dragged to the side streets near the police station in front of the people in the neighborhood. She was also, rebuked for her husband's conversion from Christianity into Islam. The said lawyer, she stressed, threatened her to forge accusations against her and her family (depending on his influence). The complainant attributed this to a disagreement between her husband and the lawyer over some commercial matter, and requested protection from the aforementioned persons.

A complaint lodged by Ms. Azza Mohammad Abdel-Halim Saleh claiming that she was ill-treated and severely beaten that she was badly injured and sent to Desouq Public Hospital where a medical report was written. The complainant mentioned that a detective from Desouq police station, while trying to arrest her husband, attacked her. She requested protecting her from the said persons.

By contacting the Ministry of the Interior, they replied that the complaint was false and the complainant aimed at making the officer withdraw his testimony, as he was the sole witness of her husband's possession of narcotic drugs for trafficking.

A complaint filed by Ms. Amina Kamel Ibrahim claiming that she and her family was subject to numerous transgressions and violations by police officers of Al-Ayyat police station. She mentioned that police officers broke into her house, ill-treated, and severely beat her and the entire family, thus, her causing several injuries. She requested taking necessary action regarding her complaint.

After contacting the Ministry of the Interior, they replied that the officer in Al-Ayyat police station arrested Saber Mohammad Saber, son of the complainant, with narcotic drugs in his possession for trafficking. The officer wrote a report to this effect, and the district prosecutor ruled that he would be, kept in custody for the case.

A complaint by Ms. Abeer Abu-Bakr Sayed Ahmad claiming that she and her family were attacked by policemen of Cairo Police Directorate who, while trying to arrest her brother Haasan Abu-Bakr Sayed, broke into their house and damaged their property. They attacked, ill-treated and threatened all those present, including children.

A complaint filed by Mr. Mohammad Sayed Abdel-Nabi Dessouqi in which he claims that he was subject to flagrant ill-treatment as well as physical and psychological torture by policemen in Manshiyat Al-Qanater police station who beat and abused him and threatened to harm him and his family. The complainant attributed this to a dispute between him and a non-commissioned officer in the said police station who abuses his powers to harm the complainant and his family.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry of the Interior stated that the complainant was, arrested with narcotic drugs in his possession intended for trafficking. A police report was, drafted, and he was, referred to the district attorney who discharged him.

A complaint lodged by Ms. Amirah Mostafa Al-Gindi claiming that her husband Mos'ad Saber Mohammad Al-Hosh was subject to ill-treatment, beating and abused in front of his neighbors by police officers of the Menoof police station. She attributed this to her husband's refusal to work with the police as a guide.

In reply, the Ministry of the Interior stated that the complainant's husband worked as a drug trafficker, and was, captured with three doses of heroin, three pieces of hashish, 150 Egyptian pounds and a mobile phone. Report No. 6675/2008/ misdemeanors/Menoof was, drafted, and he was, referred to the district attorney who ordered putting him in custody for four days, if custody is, renewed as per the rules. He was still in custody until date.

A complaint by Ms. Mona Fattuh Al-Said Qurah claiming that she, together with some other women from Al-Manzalah, were subject to flagrant violations by (former) commander of secret police in Manzalah police station, captain Wail Mansour who, according to the complainant, is used to assaulting women and forging accusations to them or their families.

A complaint by Ms. Amal Al-Sayyed Al-Sayed Saqr in which she claims that she and her daughter Eman (15 years) were subject to flagrant violations by 1st. lieutenant Mohammad Abdallah, assistant commander of secret police in the judgment implementation unit in Fuwah police station. The complainant mentioned that he broke into her home, abused her and her daughter and threatened to make a thug rape them to force her to work as a guide.

A complaint by Ms. Mahassen Gamal Saber claiming that a police officer from Barajeel police station broke into their home and assaulted women therein, including her daughter-in-law, Taniyah A-Sayed Rifa'iy, raped her and seized some photographs of her and her husband, Mohammad Ahmad Imam to recognize him, as a court judgment had been, made against him (a draft cheque). The police officer also threatened to arrest Mohammad's sister to make him surrender himself.

A complaint filed by Mr. Ahmad Said Abdel-Hameed Mohammad claiming that detectives of Matareyah police station, led by assistant commander of secret police in the said police station. M'uawadh Nourruddin, broke into his home, rummaging his property and taking 900 Egyptian pounds and a mobile phone. The complaint went on to state that his son Ahmad Said Abdel-Hameed Mohammad Hijazi (a soldier in Cairo security forces) to the said police station in order to force him to give information on a person called Mostafa, claiming that he was a frequent visitor of the son's shop. They beat him with iron chains, forged a drug crime to him and referred him to military prosecution which sentenced him to three years of imprisonment and a fine of L.E.5000 in case No. 265/Cairo/military. The complainant calls for an investigation into the whole matter, to correct the injustice that befell his son.

A complaint filed by Mr. Usama Ahmad Hassan claiming that an officer from Matareya police station broke into his home and destroyed his property. It claims that the police officers beat him and called him repulsive names because the complainant's brother, accused in a certain case, was in his apartment.

Although the accused has, a separate apartment in Ein Shams and secret police officers knew that. The complainant mentioned that he discovered disappearance of L.E. 1000 after the break in. he requests investigating the whole matter and take any necessary measures to this effect.

A complaint from Mr. Al-Sayed Iraqi Mohammad claiming that, father of the soldier Bassem Al-Sayed Iraqi Mohammed claiming that he was in a serious condition due to his torture, and was, taken to the psychiatry hospital unconscious and amnesiac.

The competent authority replied stating that the aforementioned accusation was false, and the complainant's son was, referred to the military hospital, which recommended him a month sick leave during which he would be, examined by a medical commission for exceptional end of service.

C. Taking women, children and relative hostage to force those wanted to surrender themselves

At Embabah police station, detectives of criminal secret police kept three women, two youths, a minor and a two-month baby from the family of Wajeeh Fkhri on 17 May 2009. Their names are as follows: Magda Emam Abdel-Na'ieem (50 years old), Shaima'a Wajeeh Fakhri, graduate student in the Faculty of Commerce, Rabab Abdel-Fattah Jaber and her baby girl, Shahd Kareem Wajeeh, Mohammad Sayed Ahmad (17 years old), polytechnic student, and Ahmad Wajeeh Fakhri. They were all held hostages till Mohammad Wajeeh Fakhri surrenders himself to the police station where they were tortured.

A complaint filed BY Ms. Samar Mohammad Suleiman on 1 September, 2009 claiming that she and her husband were subject to abrupt break into their home which was arbitrarily searched. They were both, abused, and she was forced to take off her clothes by police officers from Sharabeyah police station who forcibly led them to the said police station where she was raped several times that she felt she was treated like a prostate. The woman mentioned that they tortured her in front of her husband to make her husband surrender himself to the police station. The complainant was, used as a means of compelling the husband to sign a report that he possessed narcotic drugs for abuse.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry of the Interior sent the following reply after one month:

After investigations, it turned out that the officer and the accompanying force arrested the complainant's husband with narcotic drugs for abuse in his possession. A report was, written on the incident, and he was, released based on his residence. The complainant's husband is a registered criminal of category B. He was, accused in 14 cases, the last of which was No. 8966/2009/ Sharabeyah/drugs. He was detained as he constituted a serious threat to public security."

The Ministry of the Interior's reply neither refers to the sexual assault on the complainant nor any of the other violations to which she was, subjected.

Within the framework of the complaints office follow up and investigation of the complaints received, the office investigated the complaint filed by Ms. Azza Abdel-Ra'oof which claimed arresting the said woman due to her husband's escape from jail where he was to be executed. The complaints office received a phone call from her family requesting interference by the National Human Rights Council to know the reason for arresting her.

D. Forced disappearance

The Human Rights Council received a complaint of forced disappearance from Ms. Seham Mostafa Al-Bakri, an Egyptian citizen with Australian nationality. She reports her husband's disappearance since 1999, and she could not know where he was, kept until date. The Council contacted the Ministry of the Interior,

which replied that the said husband left Egypt on 2 February 1999 to Turkey, and never returned. He was, not found in any Egyptian prison either. The Administrative Court considers the case.

3- Treatment of prisoners and other persons in custody

The Human Rights Council received 507 complaints related to claims of violations of the legal rights of prisoners and other persons in custody. Those complaints can be, classified into six categories,

1. Torture, severe treatment and humiliation;
2. Lack of medical care or the need to have an operation;
3. Requests for transfer to another prison to facilitate visits for prisoners' relatives;
4. Declining the right to be visited;
5. Requests for assistance to prisoners' families;
6. Requests for the transitional periods leave; requests for release.

A. Torture and ill-treatment

The NCHR received 124 complaints from people claiming being tortured or ill-treated in jail. Such claims ranged from beating, electric shocks, forced running, deprivation from food and drink for long periods, rape, paying money to detectives, material and moral threats. Examples of these complaints are the following.

A complaint filed by prisoner Wail Mohammad Sayed, imprisoned at Abu Za'bal II prison, claiming that he was subject to flagrant offences and violation by one of the officers aided by a detective called Mohammad Moussa. The prisoner's father mentioned that his son is frequently forced to take off his clothes and defecate. He is also abused and humiliated.

A complaint filed by Mohammad Abdullah Hafez claiming that his son, prisoner Abdullah Mohammad Abdullah is subject to some offences and violations in Shebeen El-Koam general prison by officer Mohammad Said (from prison force). The complainant mentioned that he noticed deterioration of his son's health when he visited him, and knew that the officer was torturing him.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry of the Interior said that investigations of the complaint proved that it was false, and that the complainant's two sons were, registered as very dangerous elements used to breaking the rules and regulations of the prison. They had been, penalized six times and accused of committing six crimes.

A complaint filed by Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Salem Mahdi claiming that officers Emad Dabbour and Mohammad Abdel-Qawiy, in addition to a detective called Shehatah from Tanata General Prison police force, subjected his sons Ahmad and Amru Mohammad Ibrahim to serious offences and violations, such as putting them in solitary confinement and torturing them physically and morally. The Human Rights Council sent the complaint to the Ministry of the Interior.

A complaint filed by Mr. Mohsen Mostafa Yussef claiming that his brother Medhat Mostafa, imprisoned in Torah Prison (Investigations) was subjected to physical and moral torture by officer Ahmad Ismail (chief of secret police of the prison), which made the prisoner start a hunger strike. The complainant requests the Council to interfere immediately to provide medical examination to his brother whose health is deteriorating and to save his life.

A complaint filed by mother of Mr. Tal'at Mohammad Zahrah claiming that her son was subjected to numerous offences and violations by lieutenant Mohammad Shalaby (10th. Of Ramadhan police station). The complainant mentioned that the said lieutenant tortured her son and injured him because her son

refused to admit committing a theft in the company where he worked. She requested the Council to interfere immediately to save her son who was, threatened to withdraw his complaint.

A complaint filed by lawyer Omar Hassan Qorani, on behalf of Mr. Jihad Shehata Mohammad El-Sherbini, held in custody of Hurghada Police station. It claims that his client was subject to numerous offences and violations by some police officers, at the said police station, who tortured him physically and morally and forged 13 theft reports for him of which he was, proved innocent. The complainant attributed this to the fact that he had sent a complaint to the Minister of the Interior regarding the said offences committed by the chief officer. He requested the Council to interfere immediately to save his client and to protect his family from repeated threats of detention.

A complaint filed by Ms. Mervat Hanafi Ahmad Ibrahim claiming that some police officers from Wadi Al-Natrun 430 prison ill-treated and morally tortured her son, prisoner Mohammad Ramadan Mohammad Abdel-Rahman, which led to deteriorating his psychological health. She requests the Council to investigate the case and protect her son from those police officers.

A complaint filed by Mr. Mohammad Abdel-Fattah Abdel-Wasi' claiming that he was subject to brutal torture by the chief secret police officer in the state security department, Embabah, some secret policemen, he adds, tortured him to force him to admit his involvement in a criminal (political) activity. When he refused, he was beaten until he lost consciousness. This was, repeated several times. He requests an investigation of the case.

A complainant made by Mr. Antar Shawqi Al-Sayed for his son Ramadhan Antar Shawqi Al-Sayed, claiming that his son was, arrested after a quarrel that took place on 11 October 2008 in the district where he lived. Although he was not party to the quarrel, he adds, he was, still detained and repeatedly tortured by officers of Moharram Beck police station. Report of the tripartite commission of forensic medicine indicated that the son had been subject to sexual assaults and torture. The complainant also emphasized that officers of the said police station repeatedly threaten him and his family members. He requests the Council to take necessary action towards releasing his son detained in Gharbinat prison by virtue of detention order No. 1819/11.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said that on 5 October 2008 the said police station was, reported that a quarrel took place between the complainant's son and others. Both parties attacked each other using knives, clubs and bottles. Therefore, he was, arrested and, with the report on the incident, referred to district prosecutor who released him. It also turned out that the complainant and his sons are registered criminals. However, an exceptional action was, taken against them to curb their criminal activities.

A complaint filed by Mr. Za'yed Abul-Soud Ismail Za'yed claiming that his brother Mohammad Abul-Soud Ismail Za'yed (political detainee in Wadi Al-Natrun 2 prison since 1991) was tortured by the prison administration. He was declined food, medicine and visits. The complainant emphasized his brother's good conduct during his 19-year detention period, which should not lead to torture and ill-treatment.

A complainant filed by Ramadhan Khalifa Mohammad for his brother Khamees Khalifa Mohammad, prisoner at Tanta general prison, room 1. He claims that his brother had been, tortured by authorities of Gharbanyat prison, Borj Al-Arab, which led to deterioration of his health and quadriplegia because of an intervertebral disk. The prison authorities even recommended transferring him to Tanta prison. He requests an investigation and an operation for his brother.

A complaint by Ms. Fatima Mohammad Ali Hamed claiming that her husband Sameh Mohammad Ahmad Moussa, prisoner at Fayyum Prison is persecuted and tortured by prison authorities who repeatedly beat and abuse prisoners for lack of allegiance.

A complaint filed by Ms. Bakhitah Hindawi Othman Mohammad claiming that her son Essam Faris Mohammad, prisoner at Qata Prison for case No. 3895, was being tortured by prison authorities according to what he told her during her visit to him.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said that the prisoner was used to breaking prison rules and regulations and that torture was not true.

A complaint filed by family of prisoner Mahmoud el-Sayed Awadh Al-Shahawi, hospitalized at the Torah prison hospital, claiming that the said prisoner was subjected to many offences and violations during his transfer from Al-Manakh prison to Al-Isti'naf prison, as he was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment in one of the cases. He was severely beaten, and abused by police officers of Al-Manakh police station.

A complaint sent by Mr. Mohammad Zakariya Abdel-Ghani Al-Gindi claiming that he was, ill treated and tortured (report of forensic doctor enclosed). He added that some police officers from Al-Marg and Madinat Assalam police stations broke into his house and damaged his property.

A complaint by Mr. Mu'taz Ahmad El-Haddad claiming that a policeman from Suez Security Directorate beat his brother Mohammad Ahmad El-Haddad at Suez police station and that officials in the said police station refused to draft a report on the incident.

A complaint filed by Mr. Amru Sayed Gadel-Mawla Salamah claiming that his mother, Nour Mohammad Abdel-Majeed Ibrahim (70 years) was ill-treated and abused by Major Ahmad Fuad, from secret police of the new Al-Qata prison. The complainant mentioned that his mother went on 21 March, 2009 to visit his brother Gadel-Mawla Sayed imprisoned at Al-Qata prison. An argument took place between his mother and another woman at the prison gate. The said major hurried to beat and abuse her in front of other visitors, which hurt her feelings and severely injured her. The complainant requests an investigation into the incident and protection of his brother.

A complaint filed by Mr. Mohammad Ata Abdel-Rahman Mohammad (prisoner at the new Al-Qata criminal prison) claiming that a detective inside the prison repeatedly beat and abused him, and even ordered him to take off his clothes in front of other prisoners.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said the complaint was false.

A complaint filed by Mr. Hesham Mohammad Ibrahim Hassan (prisoner at the Industrial Liman Torah prison) claiming that he and some other prisoners were very badly treated and that he was threatened not to file a complaint.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said that the prison officer did not torture the prisoner, and that his wife was the one who filed the complaint.

A complaint filed by Ms. Samyah Mahmoud Ahmad claiming that prisoners at Wadi El-Natrun prison 440, including her son, Said Sayed Hassan Yusef are badly treated, abused, fettered and deprived of food and drink for long periods.

A complaint filed by mother of prisoner Ahmad Hassan Hassan Mostafa hospitalized at Port Said hospital, burns department, claiming that her son some policemen from Al-Manakh police station shackled him, electrified him and poured alcohol on him, which resulted in severe burns in his body. The

said police officers threatened the complainant to forge prostitution accusation against her if she does not withdraw her complaint.

A complaint filed by prisoner Ahmad Zenhom Ahmad El-Sayed claiming that he was subject to all kinds of torture by an officer called Sami Shahatah who imposed royalties on prisoners. He added that whoever objects was abused, and beaten. He requests an investigation into the matter to save his brother's life.

A complaint filed by Mr. Ali Ahmad Mahmoud Ismail claiming that his brother Hani Ahmad Mahmoud Ismail (prisoner at Damanhur general prison, ward 7, room 8) was repeatedly abused and tortured by prison authorities without any violation on his part. He stressed that he lodged complaints to many other bodies to stop the torture, but in vain. He requests an investigation into the matter to save his brother's life.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said that the complaint was not false, and that the prisoner was, treated in accordance with prison rules and regulations.

A complaint filed by Ms. Samar Mohamamd Suleiman claiming that she was assaulted, and that accusations were forged to her husband by the following officers of the Sahrabeyah police station: Mohammad Omar, Wail Affan, Ihab Said, Sayed Mansour, Amru Mohammad Al-Zeini and Ahmad Fat'hi. She mentioned that on 26 August, 2009 the said officers broke into her house and asked about her husband who was not there. They severely assaulted her and took her to the police station where they assaulted her again after stripping her of her clothes. The complainant added that her husband was, brought to the police station and an accusation of possession hashish and narcotic tablets was, forged for him. He was, referred to Saharabityah district prosecutor, who released him on 26 August 2009. The complainant requests an investigation in the assault she was, subjected to.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said that it turned out from investigations that officers of the Sharabiyah police station arrested the complainant's husband with narcotic drugs in his possession for personal abuse. A report was, drafted on the incident, and he was, referred to the district prosecutor who released him. It also turned out that the man was, registered as a dangerous criminal for his indictment in 14 other cases. He was, detained, as he constituted jeopardy to public security.

B. Lack of medical care

Analysis of the complaints received by the Human Rights Council indicates a lack in medical care in prisons as well as inadequacy and ineffectiveness of the procedures followed, particularly with regard to cases that require releasing prisoners on health grounds. Sample of this kind of complaints are the following:

A complaint filed by prisoner Abdel-Alemm Werdadi Abl-Gheit at Shebeen el-Koam whose relatives request his examination by a medical commission to be, released on health grounds.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said the prison doctor who reported that he suffered from hepatic fibrosis, stomach ulcers, medically examined the said prisoner and that he was, referred on monthly basis to the Liver Institute for follow up and treatment. His general condition was stable, and he received all kinds of medical care. The report did not include any suffering that threatened his life or fully incapacitated him or examination by a forensic medical commission to consider releasing him on health grounds.

A complaint filed by Mr. Magid Belal Ali Ahmad Hassan, prisoner at Tanta general prison claiming that he was not receiving medical care despite the Attorney General's decision to keep him under medical supervision due to his suffering from diabetes, hypertension and hepatitis. Yet, director of Tanta prison

ordered discharging him from hospital and putting him in an ordinary cell due to a previous dispute with him that reached the limit of threatening not to provide his medicine.

The Ministry has not yet replied to the complaint.

A complaint filed by prisoner Mohammad Ibrahim El-Desouqi El-Ashri at Mansoura prison claiming that he was subject to medical negligence, which led to health complications.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said the prison doctor who referred him to Mansourah University Hospital, Surgery Department, had examined the said prisoner. An x-ray on the abdomen indicated that he was OK, and that the medical department was, instructed to follow up the prisoner's health condition within the Ministry's policy of maximizing the medical care provided to prisoners.

A complaint filed by Mr. Mahmoud Salem Mahmoud Suleiman, prisoner at Tanta prison requesting approval of an operation in his left eye so that he can see.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said investigations indicated that the prison doctor who reported that he suffered from cataract in his left eye, and recommended an operation medically examined the prisoner. He is, followed-up with the ophthalmologist until the operation is, performed.

C. Requests for transfer to other prisons and leaves of transitional periods

The NCHR received complaints and petitions from prisoners requesting leaves during the transitional period to visit their relatives or transfers from prisons far from their families. The Council referred such complaints and request to the Ministry of the Interior, which showed tangible cooperation in this regard to mitigate the sufferings of prisoners and their relatives. There were other requests to improve prisoners' conditions. Her are samples of such complaints.

A complaint filed by Ms. Redha Abdel-Mawal Mo'awadh requesting transferring her two sons Amru and Waleed Zaki Hafez from Wadi Al-Natrun prison to Al-Qata prison as the former is far from her residence, which makes it difficult for her to visit them.

The Ministry replied positively to her request.

A complaint filed by mother of the prisoner Ehab Mohammad Nada Farah at Borg El-Arab prison, requesting transfer to Zagazig prison so that she can visit him. She added that he completed the period of intensified imprisonment on 13 July 2009. The Ministry replied positively he was, transferred to Zagazig prison.

A complaint filed by prisoner Arafat Hussein Mohammad Ahmad at Qena prison requesting assistance to provided a source of living to his family who live without sustenance.

The Ministry reported that they communicated the post-imprisonment care department to coordinate with competent bodies in Qena and consider the said prisoner's request.

A complainer filed by the two brothers Sobhi and Ramadhan Seif Meshrif, prisoners in Dmanhur prison, requesting approval to a transitional period to visit their relatives.

In reply to the complaint, the Ministry said that investigations indicated that the said prisoners were, sentenced to ten years of intensified imprisonment for the case No. 4748/2002, Badr/ drugs. They were referred to security commissions for consideration of their in during September 2009. The commission

disapproved of their request, as they constituted jeopardy to public security. It was also, decided to reconsider the prisoners' request in October 2010 as per provision of Article 969 of the Guidelines of Prisons Procedures.

D. Inequality in application of conditional release

Complaints about inequality in the application of the rule of conditional release after completion of three quarters of the imprisonment period or the presidential amnesty on feasts and national occasions are many. They focused on decisions of the conditional release commissions, which meet inside prisons more than once every year because such commissions do not announce reasons for disapproval of release for some prisoners, which arouses suspicion of discrimination among prisoners similar in crimes, penalty and conduct. The Council received complaints related to requests by prisoners to be, considered by the conditional release commissions or complaining about refusing to release them while releasing other prisoners similar in crimes, penalty and conduct. Samples of such complaints are the following:

A complaint from prisoner Rif'at Radwan Ahmad Abu-Zeid at Assiyut Prison requesting approval of his conditional release as he completed three quarter so the imprisonment period.

In reply to his request, The Ministry said the at the said prisoner was sentenced to two years of imprisonment for the case No. 870/2002/ misdemeanors/ dissipation, and he will complete three quarters of his imprisonment period on 19 September, 2009. Then he will be eligible to consider conditionally release him on that date in application of Article 52 of Law 396/1956.

A complaint filed by prisoner Naji Mekheimer Sayed Mohammad at Assiyut prison claiming that his name was, removed from the list of released prisoners.

In reply to his complaint, the Ministry said that the said prisoner was, sentenced to ten years of imprisonment for case No. 1135/felonies/Al-Fath/murder.

Therefore, his case was, referred to security commissions to consider his release, but they disapproved of his release, as he constituted jeopardy to public security. It was, decided to reconsider conditional release of the said prisoner in August 2010 as per Article 969 of the Guidelines of Prisons Procedures.

E. Oversight by Public Prosecution

During the year, the NCHR received from the Attorney General a number of communications the included information on the Public Prosecution's sudden visits to more than 340 police stations and prisons in all governorates to detect any violations with regard to prisoners' dispute not receiving any complaints or reports associates with such ill-treatment in police stations. Inspection indicated that there were some remarks that the public prosecutions contacted the Ministry of the Interior to correct them immediately, if such correct5ions will be, followed-up in other visits to such police stations. Inspections would continue all over the country on regular basis to verify correct enforcement of the law and to protect prisoners' rights a provision of care therein. Letters of the Attorney General to the Council including a list of the sites visited and inspected by the Public Prosecution.

Public Freedoms

1- Freedom of Thought and Belief

At the beginning of the year, Baha'is continued complaining that they were still declined the documents necessary for leading a normal life in the society. However, the High Administrative Court issued on 16 March, 2009 an irrevocable ruling that supported Baha'is rights to have identification cards and birth certificates without mentioning their religion, putting a dash in the religion space. In application of the rulings of Egyptian Judiciary, the Ministry of the Interior issued on 19 March 2009, decision No. 520/2009, whereby a paragraph was added to Article 33 of the decision No. 1121/1995 on issuing the executive regulations of the civil code No. 143/1994. Such paragraph if a dash shall be, put in the space for religion for Egyptian citizens whose parents had documents without mention of any of the three heavenly religions or had dashes in the religions. This would be done providing that an application is submitted to Assistant Minister of the Interior for Civil Affairs or his deputy.

Immediately after issuance of this decision, the Human rights Council contacted Bahai citizens to go to the Civil Affairs Authority and submit applications to have their documents after fulfilling all requirements. However, Baha'is re-contacted the Council and complained of many problems and difficulties they faced in the Civil Affairs Authority at Abbasiyah. Such difficulties included:

- The applicant was not, given a receipt for their application although original copies of their documents were, attached to the applications.
- Baha'is are requested to submit documents related to their parents in which the word Baha'i appears as their religion, although the age of some Baha'is is between 60 and 70 years old, which makes it difficult for some of them to bring such papers. Their also requested to submit birth certificates to civil register officers although paper certificates are no longer issued. Therefore, they have to go to the Egyptian Document Authority to get copies of such papers. However, the Authority refused to give them such papers and sent for a verdict from the state Council in this respect.
- The Civil Affairs Authority did not implement the judicial rulings initialing some of them to get birth certificates or get identification cards with a dash in the religion space. It did this with birth certificates only.

In replay to the complaint, the Ministry of the Interior said that the complaints filed by Baha'is where not true. As for not giving those receipts for the applications, it turned out that The Civil Affairs Authority has opened a file for every Baha'i applicant with a special register and a serial number for every case, and the applicant was, told his reference number. It was not true that The Civil Affairs Authority had asked them to submit papers previously issued with the word Baha'i or a dash thereon. With regard to their inability to submit such documents as they had been lost or were not in their possession, The Ministry advised them to go to the Documents Authority to get copies of such papers. As for the judicial rulings and implementing some of them, the Ministry emphasized that it implements all the rulings made in this respect.

At the end of its replay the Ministry explained the real difficulties undergone by Baha'is when they deal with the Documents Authority to get copies of their previous documents that indicate their religion. Difficulties also include dealing with the Ministry of Justice to authenticate their marriage certificates in order to verify their marital status or their identification cards. The Ministry of Justice advised Baha'is to bring law cases to have judgments that confirm their marriage. As for writing 'single' in front of their marital status, there was no problem for Baha'is.

The Council also received complaints for some Baha'i citizens regarding the events that took place at the village of Shoranya, Maragha, Suhaj following an interview with a person from the village on Dream satellite channel. Huge crowds from the village set fire on 31 March, 2009, in their houses to dispel them from the village, which damaged many houses and much of their property. They also stressed that meetings were held between many of the parties concerned, the village chiefs and big families who insisted on evacuating Baha'is from their houses and from the whole village.

The Council contacted all competent bodies, in order to quickly take all necessary measures to provide protection to those Baha'i citizens. In reply to such communications, the Attorney General replied that report number 1192\2009\Maragha\Administrative was drafted on the Arson, and the district prosecutor went to the site for investigation. It turned out that some property was damaged, and some birds were killed in 5 houses. Villagers explained that in 1985, some people in the village decided to convert to Baha'ism, and people of the village decided to boycott them until one of those appeared at Dream satellite channel and spoke in a somewhat infuriating manner. As a result, some young men set fire in the houses of Baha'is at the village. Experts of criminal laboratories were brought to decide the cause of fire, a committee from the municipal unit inspected the houses and decided the damage and a veterinary doctor inspected the dead birds.

In the same context, the Ministry of the Interior said that its forces immediately went to the site, after fire broke out, bringing the situation under control. It also increased the number of forces to avoid reputation of any such irresponsible acts by the villagers. A report on the events was drafted in order to take legal procedures. As for the events of the village chiefs and big families on dispelling Baha'is from the village, it turned out that a limited number of Baha'i families voluntarily decided to leave the village after the events while other Baha'is were still there.

Despite decision No., 520\2009 the Council still received complaints from Baha'is regarding renewal or issuance of passports. Coordination between the Council and the Ministry of the Interior led to enabling most of them to get and renew their passports; however some of them did not submit old passports, ID cards or marriage certificates, which made it difficult to get their passports.

Complaints also included requests to get or renew driving licenses, and all requests were fulfilled with valid passports instead of identification cards after coordinating with competent bodies.

Moreover, complaints of Baha'i parents included requests to help them enroll children in Egyptian colleges and universities. Students' affairs refused to accept their documents because they did not have the electronically generated birth certificate. When the Ministry of Higher Education was contacted in this respect the Ministry's legal advisor agreed to accept their paper birth certificates so long as they were issued by the Civil Affairs Authority.

Complaints were filed by the Baha'i families who left Al-Shoranya village and settled in some other governorates requesting competent bodies to enable their children enrolled in schools and universities to take final exams for the academic year 2008-2009 in some other places. Coordination between the Council on one hand and the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education on the other led to enabling their children to take their final exams.

The Council also received a number of complaints relating to frictions between Egyptian citizens, Muslims and Copts. The most important examples of which are the following:

- On 5 March 2009 Al-Dostur, daily newspaper published a story under the title (a love story of a young Muslim and a Christian teenager triggers sectarian strife in Menya). The newspaper wrote that about 500 people gathered in front of the Diocese of Orthodox Copts and the headquarters of the State Security in Mallawi to protest the disappearance of a Christian girl inside the home of a young Muslim. Upon contacting the Ministry of the Interior to determine the nature of the incident, it

reported that the news was false and that the Christian girl went to the house of the Muslims young man voluntarily. They were both, seized and the necessary report was drafted to be presented to the Attorney General. The girl was, handed to her parents who pledged to take good care of her and not to render her any harm.

- On 3 May, 2009 the Office received a complaint from a Christian citizen reporting the absence of his niece the student in the Technical Institute since 28 April, 2009. A report No. 668/2009 of the incident was, drafted at Qantara Sharq Police station, in which he accused a Muslim person of causing her absence. Contacting the Ministry of the Interior to know the reality of the incident it reported that investigations showed that on 27 May, 2009 the absent niece went to the police station. When asked about her disappearance she said that she was on a visit to one of her colleagues at Shubra Al Khaimah (Qalyoub). She accuses nobody of causing her absence. Report No. 14/Qantarrah was, drafted on the incident.
- On 25 October 2009, the city of Dayrut (Assyut) witnessed clashes between Moslems and Christians after a Christian youth made a relationship with a 19-year-old Moslem girl, and took pictures and video clips of her. The Council, immediately after the incident, sent a commission on 26 October 2009 to investigate the matter. After meeting a number of people and some officials in the city, the commission learnt that the said Christian youth had told the Moslem minor girl that he was a Moslem. Consequently, he established a relationship with her, and photographed such relationship and distributed this among other youths. This angered the relatives of the girl and made them punish him. 4 persons from the girl's family fired on the house of the Christian youth, which resulted in injuring his father with 8 bullets that led to his death and injuring some passers-by severely. Events developed quickly after the spread of the news and a number of students, on coming out from schools, pelted christen-owned shops and 3 churches with stones. Immediately after this security forces arrived at the site and the situation became under control. Public prosecution started at once to investigate the murder and the attacks on shops and churches. The Commission concluded that the boy and girl incident as well as the events that followed do not constitute sectarian sedition as some described it, but it has to do with the nature of the Egyptian society with regard to honor and revenge.

On 31 July, 2009 Izbet Dafsh, Samalut, Menya witnessed a quarrel between a Christian family and a Muslim family after a member of the Christian family had rebuked a member of the Muslim family while the former was on his way back home with his kettle and the latter was riding a motorbike that frightened the kettle. The matter developed into an argument then turned to a quarrel that resulted in a number of persons from the 2 families were injured. People from the village interfered and reconciled the 2 parties; however newspapers and websites described the incident as a sectarian strife. As a result the Council sent a commission on 3 August to investigate the matter, and it turned out that the incident is no more than a quarrel between 2 individuals from one village. The commission also called for prudent consideration of such incidents before publishing them.

2- Freedom of association

The Council received a number of complaints related to violation of the freedom of association, most important of which were those related to refusal of establishing political parties, imposing impossible preconditions, putting administrative obstacles on establishing societies or interfering in their course and activities. The following are examples of such complaints:

A complaint filed by founders of Al-Wasat political party to the Council against the political parties commission. The complainants accused the political parties commission of violating their constitutional and legal right, deprived them of their right to political work without justification, ignored deliberately the ruling of the high administrative port issued on 6 January, 2007 and ignored the conclusion of the commissioners report of June, 2005.

A complaint filed by the Egyptian Organization of the Human Rights with regard to receiving a letter from the Social Solidarity Department at Masr El-Qadima threatening to enforce article 42 of law 84/202 on civil societies. The letter threatened to dissolve the organization within the context of its request to receive a donation to support the Egyptian Network for defending the right to obtain and circulate information. The Council contacted the Ministry of social solidarity in support of the Said organization

and received a replay from the Ministry indicating that it had not take any measures to dissolve the organization or dismiss its board of directors, but it only aimed at advising the administration to abide by rules and regulations.

Economic, social and cultural rights:

Economic and social rights ranked first in the number of the complaints received by the Council in 2009. The most important of such complaints were those related to the right to health care, the right to lodging, the right to decent life, the right to education, the right to a job opportunity and violation of labor rights.

1- The right to health care

The office received 771 complaints in which complainants request medical treatment at State expense. The Ministry of health was, contacted regarding such requests, and it actually issued treatment decisions to many citizens, including the decision issued for treatment of the child Aya Hamdy Badry Amin who was allocated L.E. 5000 for treatment at Al-Hussein University Hospital as she was suffering from several diseases (Thrombi and Tumors in her legs).

The office also received a number of complaints indicating doctors recommendations for treatment at the expense of the State, these included complained of Ms. Jihan Saad Ahmad Salim whose mother got a decision for treatment at the State expense as she suffered from Hepatitis. When she had bleeding, she was, referred to Kafr El-Shaikh liver institute where she had an operation to stop the bleeding. When she was, discharged after the operation her condition deteriorated and bleeding increased, which threatened her life because doctors do not take such cases seriously enough.

The Council received complaints in which complainants or their relatives claim that they were subject to medical negligence, particularly in government hospitals where the majority of the people are treated, which has become a dangerous phenomenon that should be, treated immediately because it touches human life directly. These complaints include:

- A complaint filed by Mr. Abdel-Rahman Mohammad Taher who lost his 4 year-old daughter Nada as a result of medical negligence. The child had fallen down from a height of 3.5 meters, and was, taken immediately to Bani Ebeid central hospital, Dekernes, where the doctor told them that her condition was stable and did not need to stay in hospital. However, immediately after she arrived home she felt sever pains, which made her father take her back to the hospital and asked the doctor in duty to refer him to the emergence hospital. The doctor refused, made some X-rays and gave her some fluids. Yet when the child's condition deteriorated, her father tried to contact the doctor several times but in vain. After that the child was referred to Dekernes central in a badly equipped ambulance, and then she died ten minutes after arrival to the hospital. The complaints office referred the complaint to the Ministry of health for investigation.

The office received complaints from the people of some villages requesting the Consul's interference to provide them with medical services in their villages. Such complaints include:

A complaint filed by the people of the village of Nawa, Shebin El-Qanater requesting a first aid unit equipped to treat the wounded and the injured and other emergencies.

A complaint filed by the village of Sotoma'ah, Hoosh Eisa requesting establishment of a health unit in the village. In reply to our contacts, the Ministry said there was no urgent need at present to establish such unit as the village was not far from health service units in villages nearby.

The Council received complaints from some of the handicapped requesting wheelchairs or artificial limbs. These include a complaint by Mr. Mahmoud Sha'ban Abdel-Daiem (paralyzed) requesting a wheelchair so that he can earn a living. In replay to the complaint, the Damietta health Directorate Ministry reported that a donor had provided the complainant with a wheelchair.

2- The right to housing

Complaints related to the right to housing ranked high in the number of complaints received by the Council this year. This is a natural consequence of the housing crisis and the high prices of flats. This problem has social dimensions such as retarded marriage age and the high percentage of unmarried girls. Most complaints focused on requests by citizens to have housing units or alternative units to their places of residence not suited for humans although whose houses were, demolished or collapsed.

Most replays from the governorates to which those complaints were, referred indicated that there were no housing units at present, and a number of housing units were being, constructed.

A commission sent by the Council to Alexandria was, informed of a serious problem. The people of the petrochemicals district, Amrya, suffered from serious environmental and health issues, as constructional defects led to problems in waste water which mixed with drinking water and accumulated in front of the buildings and leading to an environmental catastrophe.

The Council wrote a detailed report on the complaint and sent it to the governor, the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of environmental affairs. However, none of these bodies replayed so far although they were, contacted at least twice.

3- The right to decent life

During this year the Council received a big number of complaints related to requests to receive an exceptional pension, increasing pensions and financial aids due to better economic and social circumstances and the lack of a permanent source of income that fulfills the basic needs of the family or as a result of the incapacitation of the father.

The Council received a number of complaints where complainants request helping them start micro-projects, such as productive families or sewing centers. These include a complaint from Mr. Abdo Mohammed Sheta who requests providing him with a source of income as he suffers from atrophy in the muscles of his legs, which made him unable to walk. He is married, has children and has no other source of income.

In reply to his complaint, the Ministry of social solidarity replayed that the complaint was referred to the productive families' project, but it was not completed for lack of a site for the project.

As for those who requested financial aids as a lump sum or monthly, the Ministry of social solidarity investigated the cases referred and paid financial aid to urgent cases. These included the complaint of Ms. Saida Salah Suliman who requested a financial aid due to her bad economic and social circumstances, and she supported 3 children and had no source of income.

With regard to those who requested increasing their pensions or providing them exceptional pensions, the Ministry of social solidarity replayed that exceptional or supplementary pensions were, paid to some, and in some other cases a lump sum was, provided in addition to the monthly pension. These included a complaint by Ms. Fahima Mahmoud Abbas Ghaleb who requested an exceptional pension due to her bad economic and social circumstances, and she was fully incapacitated and had no source of income.

The Ministry of social solidarity also provided scholastic financial aids to some families. These included a complaint by Mr. Abdo Sayed Isma'eel Abd El-Hady who requested a financial aid as he was jobless due to his health conditions and he has five children at various stages of education and could not pay their education costs.

However, these aids or pensions are very small amounts that do not fulfill the requirements of life or cope with the rise in prices

4- Public Utilities

The Council received this year a big number of complaints where complainants call for providing them with public utilities. These complaints concentrated on providing electricity, drinking water, sanitation, clean environment and paved roads to their districts.

Other complaints received included complaints about uncovered manholes in the streets, which threaten the life of their children, and requests to pave or repave roads. In reply to those complaints governorates and competent bodies reported that electricity, drinking water and sanitation were, provided to some villages in Fayoum, and that a sanitation network for 42 villages was being, executed at present. Other replies from Port Said reported that necessary amounts have been, allocated to extend the sanitation and drinking water lines to areas in need.

Moreover, the Council received replies with regard to repaving old roads and paving new ones to connect remote villages to nearby towns and cities.

5- The right to work

The Council received 2648 complaints from people expressing their inability to find jobs, and other complaints dealt with unjustified dismissal or transfer, persecution, refusal to settle their status or pay their financial receivables. What is remarkable in these complaints is that they included various categories: university graduates, secondary school graduates, illiterates and women. In reply to these complaints competent bodies reported that appointment can only be through applications for the vacancies

announced in newspapers as per article 18 of law 47/1978. However, some individual cases are, appointed in the private sector.

Some of these complaints included requests for appointment within the 5% allocated for the handicapped. Examples of these are complaints filed by Reda Yosuf Faragalah, Islam Hamed Ibrahim Abd El-Qawi, Mohammad Adel Mostafa Sallam, Ehab Adel Halim El-Sayeh Menia Hana, Ahmad Mohammad Abbady Khalil, Abd El-Ra'ouf Kamal Abd El-Zaher Mohammad and Sahar Atef Hussin Mahmoud who all suffer from a specific handicap.

With regard to labor grievances, complaints focused on requests for receiving financial settlements or compensations for work injuries. They also included complaints about arbitrary transfers as a means of pressure. The Council also received grievances were individuals complained of unjustified dismissal from work as well as requests to have permanent work or return to work.

With regard to settle outstanding financial settlements, the Council received a complaint from workers in the livestock project at Bani Sanad, Manfalot, who complain about receiving part of their financial settlements. The competent authorities were contacted in this respect. Another grievance was, received from 100 workers of the food development company (Qaranfil Al-Qanater Al-Khairya) complaining about not receiving their wages. The Council contacted competent authorities in this respect.

The Council received a big number of grievances related to teachers' special category, which included activity supervisors who did not receive the special category salary although they passed relevant tests. In replay to these grievances, the Ministry of Education reported that article 70 of law No. 155\2007; amended by law No. 198\2008; provided that this new category shall apply to teachers, advisers, inspectors, social workers, technicians, press and media specialists, librarians and any one working in the administration of schools, educational directorates. The Ministry of Education headquarter and any of its affiliate departments. Provisions of law No. 47/1978; organizing civil service shall apply in other cases. Consequently, employees working in activities other than the above mentioned shall not be entitled to receiving the special category salary.

As for compensations for work injuries, the Council received a number of grievances from citizens including Mr. Mostafa Hussein Ahmad who worked at a paper factory in Qoos and had an accident during his work that led to amputating a finger of his right hand and weakness in his arm. Yet, he did not receive any compensation for that injury. The grievance was, sent to competent bodies. Mr. Fathy Nazeer Rezaq Ali sent another grievance; that complaining that he was not, compensated for the injury when he worked for ZED overseas for security and services. He had an accident that led to full incapacitation and inability to work. As a result, the set company dismissed him from work and did not pay him any compensation. Competent bodies were, contacted in disregard.

In addition to the above, the Council received a number of grievances where people requested working on permanent bases as they have been working on temporary bases for more than ten years, and their salaries were very low, compared to permanent workers.

The Council received a number of grievances where people request transfer to places near their residence. Examples of these are the grievances filed by some security persons in the Ministry of the interior who request transfers due to their family circumstances. In replay to these grievances, the Ministry reported that the complainants did not meet the requirements for transfers and that transferring employees in the Ministry is carried out in accordance with the Ministry regulations. Similar replays were, received from competent bodies who reported that transfers are conditioned by work needs.

6- The right to education

The complaints received by the Council with regard to education reflect the following:

- A number of people complain that the schools which their children go to were about to collapse, their utilities were in very bad condition, the number of students was too big for the school area and there was no space for activities. Other complaints included requests to build new schools or restore old ones. These complaints included:

- A complaint filed by the people of the village of Al-Mokhtar Al-Hager (Sidi Ghazi, Kafr Al-Dawar) who complain about closing up the only school in the village as a result of crack in the building. An examination of the school on 19 July 2000 indicated that the school was constructionally fit and was, decided to start its restoration. However, the school was, closed. Since that time, there is no primary school in the village, and the nearest one is 20 kilometers away. This made a big number of the village children leave education, thus increasing the illiteracy rate. In replay to the complaint, the Ministry of Education reported that the old building could not be, removed as it belonged to municipalities and was still in the warranty period. It was subject of a judicial case that was still, considered; and a new school would be constructed in the 5-year plan.

The Council also received numerous complaints from the people of some villages reporting that their villages had no schools, and requested the Council's interference to support their requests in this respect. Examples of such complaints are that of the people of the village of Tawfiqyah, Beheirah who reported that their village wad in bad need of a secondary school. Another complaint was sent by the people of the village of Al-Mokhtar-Al-Jajer, Sedi Ghaze, Kafr El-Dawar who reported their dire need for schools in their villages, which have no, schools at all, and their children receive their education in mosques or hospitality houses. A third complaint came from the people of the village of Abu Draz, Fuwah, Kafr El-Sheikh who express their need to build a school in their village.

The Council received a number of complaints related to requests for transfers from one school to another closer to their homes.

Complaints continued from private teaching that pressurized Egyptian families and exhausted their resources. Examples of these complaints is the collective complaint by parents of the students of the Hassan Al-Manayli Azhari girls school at Al-Khanka, Qalyubiah of a religious subjects teacher who threatened students with failure if they did not take private lessons with her.

Many complaints reported inadequacy of teachers, poor educational services in schools, poor professional standard of teachers and the lack of specialized teachers, particularly at schools lying in rural areas. Teachers also have their own problems (see above), which will certainly negatively impact on the educational problem.

Third: Fact-finding missions in 2009

The Complaints Office sent many fact-finding missions during 2009. Such missions tried to investigate three main aspects: sectarian strife, strikes and sit-ins. The Council attached great importance to these three aspects due to their economic, social and security impacts on the society.

Sectarian strife at Izbit Toma on 7 June 2009

On 8 June 2009, a mission from the Complaints Office went to investigate the reality of the news published by newspapers about sectarian strife at the small poor village of Toma, two km away from Al-Mahalla Al-Kobra. The village has no single paved road. It turned out, after meeting with many villagers and eyewitnesses of the quarrels, that most of the people of the village work in collecting factory waste and recycling it. Many quarrels took place between Christians and Christians as well as between Moslems and Moslems, and between Moslems and Christians because of disagreement on collecting factory waste. All collectors seek to collect the biggest quantity of waste, and the process is not organized. On 4 June 2009, an argument took place between two persons on collecting factory waste, which led to a bigger quarrel between relatives of the two persons. Newspapers dealt with this as sectarian strife. The whole incident was described in the police report No. 9097/2009/misdemeanors. A reconciliation meeting was, held between the two parties, members of the Shoura Council for Al-Mahalla constituency and members of the municipal councils attended the meeting, and both parties promised not to harm each other, and to be responsible for himself and his relative with regard to any violation or infringement. Moreover, places were, fixed for accumulating factory waste for each party, away from the other. A penal clause was, stipulated in case of any party's failure to abide by the agreement.

At the end of its report, the mission recommended penalizing the aggressor in the incident; as such, reconciliation meetings were futile if they provide impunity for the aggressor.

Sectarian strife at Izbit Bushra

A number of the people from Izbit Bushra filed complaints to the Human Rights Council claiming lack of personal security at the village. The Council sent to the village a mission who met many eyewitnesses. It turned out that on Sunday, 21 June, 2009, a number of Christian young men and women went to the house called Mary Guirgis and St. Abanub Church. At first, security forces prevented them because the house was not licensed as a place of worship. After that, four of them were, allowed to enter the house and wait for the others. Then an argument took place between those waiting outside and Moslem women living near the house, and each party started throwing stones on the other. Yet, security forces in the village could control the situation, and not serious injuries were, reported. Security forces also arrested 27 persons, Moslems and Christians, and referred them to Al-Fashn police station. The incident was, drafted in the police report No. 3764/2009. Those arrested were, referred to the district prosecutor who released them all because of their residence. They were, returned to the police station where they were, put in custody. They returned to their homes upon release. Since that time, they have been, confined to their houses, and were, prevented from leaving their houses or walking in the village to avoid any further frictions while allowing Moslems to lead their ordinary life. This angered Christians in the village. Moreover, Christian families were, surprised by attacks on their lands, but reports on the matter were, registered as anonymous. Therefore, they accused security forces in the village of such damage or at least facilitating it for the culprits.

The mission concluded that such incidents are closely, related to executive authorities and both parties have nothing to do with it.

Sectarian strife at Izbit Dafsh

On 1 August 2009, newspapers and websites published news about a sectarian strife at Izbit Dsafsh, Samalut, Menya. Consequently, a mission from the Complaints Office went there on 3 August, 2009 to verify the matter. After meeting relatives of the two parties, it turned out that at about 8 pm, on Friday, 31 July, 2009, while Naji fawzi Henin (24, Christian farmer) was on his way back home from the fields with his cattle, Mostafa Khamees (29, tractor driver) was riding his motorbike which frightened the cattle. An argument took place between them, and then developed into a quarrel. The former's brother Reda Henin (22 Farmer) and his uncle Yusef Henin (56, farmer), and the latter was joined by his brother, Ayman Khamees (27, tractor driver) joined the quarrel. Moslem and Christian attendees tried to reconcile the parties to the quarrel which resulted in three injuries: Reda Henein, Naji Henin and Yusef Henin who were taken to hospital for treatment. The incident was no more than quarrel between two persons. The mission believes that such incident should be carefully studied before publishing them.

Sectarian strife in Dayrut

On 25 October, 2009, newspapers and other mass media reported a sectarian strife in Dayrut, Menya. The Council sent on 26 October, 2009 a mission which learnt that the causes for such incidents were that a Christian youth, called Romani or Malak, established a relationship with a 19-year-old Moslem girl called Hajar from Dayrut. The girl's family was surprised, three months ago, with photographs and video clips of the said girl, which infuriated the family members and made them insisting on punishing the Christian youth. Some reports even said that the youth and his family were alien to the city, and he lied to the girl and told her his name was Ahmad. As it is natural in Upper Egypt that such acts were good reason for murder, four of the girl's relatives fired eight bullets on the youth's father, killing him and injuring two passersby.

After the news spread among people of the city, groups of school students threw stones on shops owned by Christians. They even looted such shops, and threw stones on two churches. Security forces, which arrived only twenty minutes after the incident, controlled the situation without causing any more injuries and before the situation deteriorated.

What the youth did to the girl is not a crime as the girl or any of her family has not yet reported the offence, but they have to testify before the prosecution with regard to the murder.

The mission concluded that what happened in Dayrut is nothing but an individual incident that does not constitute a sectarian sedition. They also commended the role of the clergy in churches in containing the anger of Christians and asserting solidarity between Christians and Moslems.

Other missions sent by the Council investigated strikes and sit-ins that took place in 2009.

Lawyers strike

On 24 February, 2009, a newspaper published a story entitled "Criminal Courts without Lawyers" after the Egyptian Bar announced a general strike in protest to increasing litigation fees, which led to the absence of lawyer in all criminal courts in Egypt. Therefore, a mission was sent to investigate the matter, and it turned out that lawyers chose the Bar headquarter for their sit-in, raising slogans against the increase in litigation fees, while huge security forces surrounded the place.

The sit in started on Monday, 25 February, 2009, and reached its peak on Tuesday when all lawyers in Egypt were informed to stand hand in hand in protest of the new law which was being considered in the People's Assembly, and which provided for increasing fees ten times.

At one o'clock, Mr. Sameh Ashour, former chief of the Bar, and member of the Human Rights Council, arrived to the Bar headquarters together with media people, and said he was following up news of the strike which was positively responded to by 90% of the lawyers. He added that while all government help their citizens to overcome the financial crisis, to the extent that some government abolished some fees, the Egyptian government increases litigation fees in contradiction to provisions articles 40, 68 and 69 of the Constitution that litigation is a right to every Egyptian citizen. This meant that the poor will not be able to get their rights through the Judiciary.

During the press conference, a phone call from a lawyer in front of the People's Assembly reported that fees would be, increased by five times instead of ten times, and to 5% instead of 10%. Nevertheless, this did not pacify the lawyers who called for more amendment. The press conference ended by slogans that urged lawyers to be, united. The mission did not go to the people's Assembly because the lawyer who demonstrated there came to the Br headquarters.

Protestation Stands in front of the Ministry of Justice

Forty-five persons stood in front of the Ministry of Justice in protest of failure to implement the ruling issued to their benefit in the case No. 10380/48 on 29 January 2006. And the case No. 15733/15 on 3 July 2006 binding the administrative body to execute the ruling issued by the High Administrative Court on appointing them in the State Cases Authority. They all insisted on executing the ruling and respecting the rule of the law. The mission found that those persons were really entitled to hold these positions as they all met the prerequisites of the job.

Strike of public transportation employees

The news published by various mass media, about the strike in one of the garages of the Public Transportation Authority, because they had some demands. A fact-finding mission was, sent to the garage, and it turned out that the strike was in Al-Nasr garage, close to the Authority since 18 August 2009.

More than 600 drivers, conductors and technicians gathered there, and a security force was, deployed outside the garage to control strikers.

Meeting with strikers, the mission learnt that they requested lifting fines on drivers, which were arbitrarily determined and deducted from their salaries by 25% per month. They also requested to be treated as the employees in the police and ambulance services, as far as privileges and medical care are concerned. Moreover, they called for new buses instead of the expired buses in service. They asked for infection allowance like other categories of public servants. They also complained that they did not receive their insurance although L.E. 43 was, deducted from their salaries monthly. Technicians also complained of the lack of spare parts, which made their job in fixing buses very difficult. They all asked for an increase in

the punctuality allowance, which was so weak compared to other employees (L.E. 30), the food allowance that was only L.E. 40 per month and the end-of-service benefit that was only three basic salaries. The mission recommended considering the demands of those employees and trying to give them benefits equal to other employees in similar authorities.

The Ombudsman sent a mission to Izbit El-Hagganah, Cairo to investigate what was published by newspapers and other mass media about clashes between security forces and the people there, which led to injuring two police officers, 16 soldiers and death of one of the citizens. The mission noticed that there were central security vehicles outside the borders of the district, particularly in front of Zahraa Al-Haiy Al-Ashir police station, with building workers spread all over the area to demolish the buildings constructed. There were also crowds of people whose houses were, demolished. The mission met with the sons of a man (Hussein Ismail Abdel-Majeed, 60 years) who died when workers started demolishing his house that he had built thirty years ago.

The people at Izbit El-Hagganah, who built those houses years ago without interference from anybody, and those who spent a lot of money to prepare those apartment for their children, were determined to prevent any attempt to demolish their homes, even if they sacrificed themselves. What added to the anger of the people is that the rubble and debris were, left on the roads, which hindered traffic.

The mission concluded that:

- a radical solution should be, found for demolition decision, as the decision to demolish such buildings was only, delayed for legal consideration.
- Avoiding double standards in dealing with such phenomenon, as some buildings were, demolished while others were, left.
- considering the humanitarian dimension, as some buildings were licensed and all utilities were connected thereto.
- There should be an oversight mechanism and making regulatory legislations to organize building and demolition processes.

The Ombudsman paid a visit to Al-Deweiqah, which had witnessed the fall of a huge rock from Al-Mokattam to follow up the new residential area (Suzan Mobarak buildings). Many from international donors constructed such buildings since 1998. It included 1000 units, 3662 had been, built before the accident. The mission found out that the governorate followed two systems in deciding the persons affected by the accident. The first system (right after the accident) involved receiving document without reference to their date of issue. However, when people came to then are after the accident and wanted to have residential unit, the governorate stipulated that the address in the IDs should refer to the area before the accident.

Some families got more than one unit although they lived in one flat at the time of the accident, and the governorate could not discover that.

Fourth: Mobile units in governorates in 2009

MOBILE UNITS IN THE VARIOUS GOVERNORATES DURING THE YEAR 2009

NAME OF GOVERNORATE	TIME OF VISIT
Fayoum	4/1 – 8/1/2009
Menya	21/2 – 25/2/2009
Port Said	1/3 – 5/3/2009
Monufia	8/3 – 12/3/2009
Ismailia	8/3 – 12/3/2009

Fayoum	13/5 – 16/5/2009
Alexandria	20/5 – 23/5/2009
Qena	25/5 – 29/5/2009
Asyut	27/6 – 1/7/2009
Port Said	22/7 – 26/7/2009
North Sinai	16/8 – 18/8/2009
Helwan	5/11 – 13/11/2009
6 th of October	14/11 – 17/11/2009
South Sinai	8/12 – 12/12/2009
New Valley	19/12 – 22/12/2009
Red Sea	23/12 – 27/12/2009
Aswan	28/12 – 31/12/2009

For the second year in succession, the Council had mobile offices in governorates. In general, the first visits were, meant to increase people's awareness of the Council, and the second visit was even more effective. People knew about the Council and about the meaning of human rights. They also sent various complaints between the two visits. They presented their problems without reservations or barriers. This year also witnessed an examination of shanty houses in all governorates.

Fayyum, for example, still suffers from problems associated with public utilities in some areas. Drinking water was mention in a number of complaints as inadequate and unusable. There were also problems related to Lake Qarun the water of which seeped into and destroyed neighboring lands of poor people. Other problems included unemployment, poverty, poor educational, and health services. A stark example is the Yusef Al-Seddiq village.

The second visit to Menya indicated problems that the governorate shared with other governorates, such as poor public utilities, like the village of Bajayah where drinking water was inadequate and undrinkable, no sanitation and electricity network was in poor condition and close to people's houses. There were no car parks, and trucks were, used to carry people on very bad roads. Moreover, a health care unit was, built, but it was not yet opened, and people depend on medical caravans. School leaving was also a major problem of the area, particularly among males due to poor economic conditions.

The mobile office in Port Said found out services provided by the government such free medical treatment and residential units. Nevertheless, the mission discovered a shanty area called Zirzarah where thousands of citizens lived and was suitable for drug trafficking and prostitution. There were also requests for jobs, which indicated high unemployment rates among youth despite the labor-attracting nature of the city. The mission recommended providing training to civil servants in the city on how to deal with citizens and their complaints.

In Menoufiyah, complaints indicated the need to provide jobs for holders of polytechnic schools. Even university graduates stressed that they worked in manual and vocational jobs, the pay of which did not fulfill their basic needs. They also called for residential units the rent of which is proportionate to their

income. Others requested transfers from work sites far from their homes. Many also complained of poor health services and public utilities in the governorate.

In Ismailyah, complaints included problems of unemployment, shanty districts, poor educational and health services, particularly in remote and rural areas. Complainant also reported overlapping competences in various authorities (military forces, irrigation, agrarian reform and the governorate). The mission also found out problems related to certain categories such as ambulance drivers, cleaners and fishermen. They complained that nobody conveyed their grievances to the authorities, and fishermen were prevented by coast guards from fishing in Suez Canal. This included people of Izbit El-Bahtimi. There was a center for drug trafficking in Al-Qantara Sharq, which made many citizens criminals, and thus unable to find jobs. Youth of the 18 – 30 age group complained of arbitrary treatment of police forces.

In Alexandria, problems concentrated in Izbit Al-Arab Al-Kbra, Izbit Al-Arab Al-Soghra and King Farouq cabins. People have been living in those areas for many years, and the Ministry of Wakfs tries to evacuate them as those areas belong to it through court judgments regardless of their circumstances. The general complaint of the people of Alexandria was that the sanitation network was too narrow to take in waste. They also called for job opportunities and good public utilities. Other complaint included spread of hepatitis B &C, drug abuse and trafficking, abuse of power by some police officers and the petrochemicals houses, which were, removed for being in disconformities with technical standards. Although 4856 units were, removed, more than a thousand families still live there. The mission recommended providing alternative residences for those people before a humanitarian catastrophe takes place. It also called for coordination with the Ministry of Waqfs to settle the status of those dwelling in the two Izbas and King Faruq's cabins. Cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the governorate should be, intensified to oversee hospitals and health units. Education should also be, better taken care of, particularly basic education.

The governorate of Qena was not like other governorate with regard to infrastructure. The mission notice the efforts made by the governorate to improve public utilities in the governorate.. Complaints in this field only reflected individual cases. However, unemployment was a general complaint by holders of secondary school certificates and university graduates. Other people requested residential units, but at a reasonable rent. Many citizens also reported that there were neither doctors nor medicine in health units in villages. They also complained about a place for burning medical waste inside the residential area..

In Assiyut, Bani Morr (birthplace of Gamal Abdel-Nasser) suffers from lack of drinking water, sanitation or health services. There are also 5000 families who may be, dispelled from Al-Hamraa, because the land on which they built their homes belongs to the State Property Authority. Arbitrary treatment of policemen is a repeated complaint in addition to unjustifiable detention and arrest orders. The mission noticed big cracks in al-Azizyah police station, Ghanayem, which may lead to a catastrophe, as it is adjacent to people's houses. The mission visited a number of civil defense forces who were, injured while extinguishing a paints factory in Assiyut.

North Sinai was of a special nature, particularly with the events of the Palestinian Rafah. The governorate was like an army camp, and security forces dealt violently with all Egyptian citizens, particularly near the borders till one meets a check point every fifty meters. People of North Sinai complained that they were not offered work opportunities as the people of the Nile valley. Drinking water was not sufficient and not suitable for human use.

Pursuant to the presidential decree of converting Helwan, together with some Cairo towns into a governorate, the Complaints Office included Helwan in the working plan of mobile offices. The tour in the new governorate indicated people's firm belief that Helwan was part of Cairo, which brought about confusion among them. On the other hand, general problems were, related to infrastructure (roads, transportation, public utilities)

6th. Of October was the second new governorate created by virtue of the presidential decree. It included some towns of Giza and Al-Wadi Al-Jadid. Drinking water, sanitation and pollution were its most serious problems.

Complaints received from the people of the Red Sea focused on requests for residential units or plots of land, as the law stipulated five years of stay in the governorate before getting a plot of land or a residential area, a condition many citizens could not fulfill either because they were new comers or have no documents.

When the mobile office visited Aswan they discovered that the problem Aswan suffered from were not different from those in other governorates, such as problems of infrastructure, public utilities, unemployment, housing, health, pollution. Economic complaints ranked first among those received by the Council, social problems, labor grievances and health grievances. Complaints related to civil and political rights were the last.

Al-Wadi Al-Jadid. Complaints related to infrastructure and health care were the most important in the governorate. The mobile office received complaints related to public utilities such as water, sanitation, roads and health care units. There was lack of specialized doctors in health care units, which makes citizens go to neighboring governorates. Other complaints include requests for job opportunities.

TABLES

CLASSIFYING COMPLAINTS ACCORDING TO VIOLATED RIGHTS

TABLE (1)

COMPLAINT CLASSIFICATION	No Of COMPLAINTS	%
Economic / Social / Cultural rights	12993	83.9%
Civil and Political rights	2085	13.4%
Egyptian abroad	163	1.06%
General Cases	198	1.3%
Total	15412	100%
Incompetence	1465	-
Total	16877	100%

CLASSIFYING COMPLAINTS ACCORDING TO DELIVERY METHODS

TABLE (2)

METHOD Of COMPLAINT DELIVERY	No Of COMPLAINTS	%
Mobile offices	8854	52%
Mail	2284	14%
Fax	1981	12%
Attendance	2234	13%
Council Media Unit	17	0%
Telegraph	316	2%
From Councils	935	6%
E-mail	256	2%
Total	16,877	100%

CLASSIFYING COMPLAINTS ACCORDING TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

TABLE (3)

GOVERNORATE	No Of COMPLAINTS	%
Sharqia	999	6.7%
Asyut	979	6.6%
Qalyubia	956	6.4%
Fayoum	934	6.3%
Beni Suif	904	6.1%
Monufia	894	6.0%
Minya	892	6%
Port Said	833	5.6%
Qena	824	5.5%
Alexandria	757	5.1%
Ismailia	658	4.4%
Cairo	641	4.3%
Suez	568	3.8%
Sohag	543	3.7%
Dakahlia	541	3.6%
Beheira	512	3.4%
Kafr-El Sheikh	431	2.9%
Damietta	404	2.9%
Giza	398	2.7%
6 th of October	337	2.3%
Gharbia	316	2.1%
Helwan	244	1.6%
Aswan	97	0.7%
North Sinai	76	0.5%
Marsa Matrouh	47	0.3%

South Sinai	37	0.2%
Luxor	22	0.1%
Red Sea	18	0.1%
New Valley	12	0.1%
Total	14874	100%
Unspecified	2003	-
Total	16877	100%

NUMBER OF CORRESPONDENCES CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

DURING 2009

TABLE (4)

NO	INSPECTING BODY Or MINISTRY	No CORRESPONDENCE Of COMPETENCE	No Of INCOMING RESPONSES
1	Ministry of Interior	1054	819
2	Public Persecutor	68	49
3	Social Solidarity	341	341
4	Ministry of Health	525	164
5	Ministry of Education	416	176
6	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	81	15
7	Ministry of Justice	49	9
8	Ministry of Defense	114	73
9	Ministry of Agriculture	102	13
10	Ministry of Finance	88	17
11	Ministry of Electricity	78	51
12	Court of Cassation	15	15
13	Ministry of Manpower and Emigration	32	8
14	Ministry of Higher Education	46	16
15	Ministry of Endowments	79	8
16	Ministry of Petroleum	28	3
17	Ministry of Environment	9	3
18	Ministry of Investment	32	30
19	Ministry of Housing	57	34
20	Secretariat of Cabinet	11	3
21	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	25	6
22	Ministry of Transportation	9	2

23	Ministry of Trade and Industry	3	3
24	Ministry of Culture	6	-
25	National Council of Youth	25	6
26	National Sports Council	1	-
27	Ministry of Military Production	5	-
28	Ministry of Local Development	7	-
29	Ministry of State for Administrative Development	2	2
30	Ministry of Communication	5	5
31	Ministry of Tourism	1	-
32	Ministry of Media and Information	3	-
33	Central Agency for Organization and Administration	8	-
34	Ministry of Family and Population	1	-
	Total	3326	1880

CITIES & GOVERNORATES

NO	CITY – GOVERNORATE	No Of CORRESPONDENCE	No Of INCOMING RESPONSES
1	Cairo	160	160
2	Minya	264	3
3	Kafr – El Sheikh	84	24
4	Beheira	162	70
5	Gharbia	39	11
6	Beni Suif	417	115
7	Dakahlia	74	26
8	Giza	53	12
9	Alexandria	315	75
10	Marsa Matrouh	14	2
11	Sharqia	229	52
12	Qalyubia	573	10
13	Qena	487	44
14	Asyut	551	86
15	Monufia	431	37
16	Ismailia	540	67
17	Aswan	22	3
18	Sohag	221	198
19	Fayoum	805	372
20	Luxor	61	51
21	Suez	353	1
22	Red Sea	17	9
23	Port Said	192	189
24	North Sinai	44	18
25	Damietta	317	118

26	South Sinai	14	4
27	New Valley	3	1
28	6 th Of October	222	16
29	Helwan	16	2
	Total	6670	1826

BODIES & GOVERNMENTS AUTHORITIES OF SPECIAL NATURE

No	BODY	No Of CORESPONDENCE Of COMPETENCE	No Of INCOMING RESPONSES
1	National Council for Women	13	
2	Health Insurance	42	8
3	Egypt National Postal	30	7
4	Al Azhar	15	9
5	Customs Department	1	
6	Egypt Tax Authority	10	5
7	Egypt Telecommunication	24	4
8	Childhood Council	1	
9	Supreme Council for Antiquities	1	
10	Egypt Contracting Co.	1	
11	Administrative Prosecution	5	
12	The National Authority for Social Insurance	1	1
13	Orascom Co.	1	
14	National Health Insurance	6	6
15	Cairo Bus Company	1	1
16	Fisheries Development Authority	4	3
17	Egypt Contracting Co.	1	1
18	Arab Contractors Co.	4	3
19	President of the Administrative Prosecution Authority		1
20	Egypt Insurance Co.	1	1
21	The General Company for Arab Contracting	2	
22	Public Transport Authority	9	4
23	Egypt Iron and Steel Company	1	

24	Suez Canal Authority	2	6
25	Social Fund for Development	9	1
26	Suez Cement Co.	3	
27	Asyut Directorate of Security	1	
28	Supreme Council for Press	1	
29	Directorate for Agriculture in Sohag	1	
30	Dakahlia Spinning and Weaving	1	
31	Misr Dairy and Food Co.	1	
32	Central Auditing Agency	1	
33	Alexandria Cotton Arbitration Authority	1	
34	Central Authority for Industrial Development	7	
35	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency	1	
36	Real Estate Tax	1	
37	General Authority for Roads and Bridges	1	
38	Holding Co. for Roads and Bridges	1	
39	Steel Company		
	Total	207	61

BANKS, JOINT STOCK & PRIVATE COMPANIES

No	Banks, Joint Stock, & Private Companies	No Of Correspondence of Competence	No Of Incoming Responses
1	Principal Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit	17	6
2	Banque Misr	8	2
3	Housing and Development Bank	4	
4	Insurance Holding Company	1	1

Chapter Three

The role of the National Council for Human Rights in the promotion of the culture of Human Rights

The National Council for Human Rights carried out during the year 2009 his duties in promoting and enhancing the culture of human rights, by looking into influencing the mass media through the cooperation with the ministry of information, training, organizing seminars, and following up the development of curriculum in cooperation with the ministry of education.

First: The mass media:

The Radio and Television Union Human Rights committee under the leadership of Ambassador Mokhless Kotb the secretary general of the National Council for Human Rights developed its scope of work. In its new session starting from January 2009, the committee adopted the citizenship theme as a main axis of work. As the citizenship became an issue of great importance in the Egyptian community, which was, clearly reflected in the latest legislative amendments in the year 2007 and therefore the committee adjusted its name to be “The committee of citizenship and human rights”.

The committee established a work plan in the beginning of its second session in January 2009. The work plan, as an extension to the work plan of the previous year, aims to consolidate the values of citizenship, acceptance of the other and working on changing the dominant culture in the society toward respecting human rights regardless of any differences. The new work plan included media programs proposals confirming the values of citizenship and human rights, in addition to Training workshops proposals for media specialists. The committee submitted 11 recommendations to the presidency of the Radio and Television union. Kindly find below the some of the important recommendations:

- Confirming the values of citizenship and the rule of law in all radio and television programs.
- Promoting the idea of the acceptance of the other in the mass media.
- Working on the purification of audio/visual programs from all materials that don't comply with the values of citizenship and human rights.
- Benefiting from the good programs in the protection of human rights, citizenship, forgiveness, discrimination prevention and freedom of religion.
- Benefiting from the mass media to create a national project uniting all the community to develop the people's knowledge in order to work on developing the educational process and enhance the scientific research.

The ministry of information represented in the Radio and Television Union adopted these recommendations showing a positive cooperation with the National Council for Human Rights. Therefore, the union activated the bodies following the Satellite TV to stress on the respect of Freedom and Human rights principles. Moreover, the National Council for Human Rights and the Radio and Television Union should cooperate in the implementation of the transmission of regular radio programs on the Youth and Sports network about Human rights in Islam, and Human rights principles. In addition to organizing training courses and workshops for media specialists about citizenship, and a training program tackling this specific issue will be prepared for the duration of 2 years. This training program will include various specializations like programs directors and, researchers and others. The first training course was held from 1 to 3 November 2009 in the premises of the National Council for Human rights, aiming to deepen the awareness of the participants on Human rights principles, mechanisms and problems, and enhance their capacities to access Human rights resources, and their evaluation and the methods to promote human rights using the mass media. 24 the union's Media researchers participated in this training. During the discussions, the participants raised many ideas and suggestions on the various ways to develop their media performance.

Second: Training:

The National Council for Human rights continued its training program within the scope of the national project to promote the culture of human rights, having achieved the first phase of the project in the year 2008. The Project's training activities included the following:

1. Training local people's councils' members:

The National Council for Human Rights held many training courses in this context in cooperation with various parties. The National Council organized a training course for the local people's councils' members in Beni Suef on 18, 19 May 2009 in cooperation with the Human rights association for training and sustainable development (Ensaf). 40 participants attended the course which comprised the basic human rights principles, an introduction to the National Council for Human Rights, the role of the local administration in the political participation in the local community, and the importance of transparency and fighting corruption as an entry point to good local governance and the mechanisms of the achievement of comprehensive development. The training course included two workshops on communication skills and the mechanisms of dealing with the media.

The National Council organized another training course on 16, 17 August 2009 in cooperation with (Ensaf) for the local, people's councils' members in Port Said on the integration of human rights concepts in development.

Within the frame of its continuous efforts in the domain of the consolidation of human rights principles in development, the National Council held a training course for the local people's councils' members in Suhag. The training was in cooperation with the municipality of Suhag, and the Human rights association for training and sustainable development (Ensaf) on "The Integration of Human Rights concepts in development", on 29, 30 September 2009 in the premises of the local people council. Forty-four local councils' members participated in the course. It comprised of a set of theoretical lectures, and workshops on the emergence and the development of Human Rights concepts. It also emphasized the role of the National Council for Human Rights in protecting and promoting human rights in Egypt, the social communication between development leaderships, the activation of the national human rights. It further shed light on, the local people's councils plan, the mechanisms of human rights complaints on the local, regional and international levels, planning media campaigns, the activation of the local people's councils mechanisms for the success of development, and the skills of dealing with mass media (electronic and printed).

The Project organized another training course in September 27 and 28th 2009 for the Local Council of the People members in Al Wadi Al Gadid in cooperation with the municipality and Human Rights Organization on the integration of human rights concepts in development. Forty-four members participated in the training course. The course comprised theoretical lectures, the role of the National Council for Human Rights in promoting human rights in Egypt, the activation of the national human rights and local people's councils plan, the mechanisms of human rights complaints on the local, regional and international levels and the activation of the local people's council's mechanisms for the success of development.

2. Students training:

Furthermore, The National Council followed his efforts in training the students and organized in cooperation with Helwan university a training course for Students leaders on "The Integration of human

rights principles in the cultural component for University students” on April 21st to 23rd 2009 in the University premises. One-hundred and sixteen students participated in this training course from Commerce, Education, Physical Education, Social Service, Law, Literature, Engineering, Technical Education and Pharmacy, from the fourth year in particular.

The National Council organized a training course in cooperation with the Democracy and Human Rights center in the Cairo University Economics and Political sciences faculty on May 4 and 5th 2009. One-hundred students participated in this training course. Many issues were included in the course as follows: Political, civic, economic, social and cultural rights in International Conventions, the Constitution, and Egyptian legislations, the role of civil society in the promotion of human rights and the citizenship, non-discrimination and accepting the other concepts.

The National Council organized four training courses within the context of the legal units’ project in August 2009 for students, training them on the national and international mechanisms to defend prisoners’ rights and their families, in cooperation with Maa’et association for peace, development and human rights. One-hundred and five Students had the chance to benefit from this training course. The duration of each course was 3 days, and included the following issues: Human rights concepts and properties, the International Human Rights legitimacy, prisoners’ rights in the national legislations and prisons law, the means of national protection of prisoners and detainees and the international mechanisms for prisoners’ rights and using them in the protection of prisoners’ rights.

The National Council truly believes in the great importance of developing the awareness of school students on participation. Therefore, the National Council implemented the last phase of the Democratic school project by the end of March 2009 in Suhag in cooperation with the Egyptian democratic institute. The project aims to raise and educate school students on the principles of democracy and encourage them to get involved and participate effectively, as a way to activate their role in the future.

The project’s beneficiaries included the teachers, school social specialists supervising the students’ elections in pilot schools in addition to the students and parents.

The training comprised teaching the students how to organize an election day on their own: Starting from placing ads in the selected schools announcing the date of candidates’ registration opening from classes’ leaders. The registration will take place during the break hour for five consecutive days after the announcement. Along the same procedures, an ad was placed to declare the end of the registration process and the names of the candidates. As well, a period of 5 days was announced for receiving appeals before the declaration of the final names of candidates along with the date of the elections day.

This simulation had been implemented in ten schools, namely: Suhag military secondary school, Secondary girls’ school, Modern preparatory girls’ school, Advanced commercial girls secondary school, The preparatory old boys school, Alshaymaa secondary girls school, Alnabawi almohandess preparatory mixed school, The languages experimental school, Nida new secondary mixed school, and Nahda preparatory mixed language school.

The training focused on introducing the basic human rights principles in compliance with International legitimacy, the right for participation, along with a deep explanation for the concepts of pluralism, democracy, transparency, equality and non-discrimination. Ten members of the equal opportunities unit in the Ministry of education in Suhag participated in the training to study closely the National Council’s activities.

Youth training

In completion to the achievements of the National Project of the promotion of the culture of Human rights between youth summer camps, cultural program for youth was, organized during the year 2009. It was organized in cooperation with the National Council for Youth and the Institute for Leadership development of the Ministry of Higher education in Helwan, in several cities, namely: Helwan, Alexandria, Port Said and Rasalbar. Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali the president of the National Council for Human Rights launched the cultural program and held an extended meeting with the first group of University Youth in the Institute for Leadership development in Helwan. The group of Youth comprised 450 students from 18 Egyptian Universities including Al-Azhar University, and Higher Institutes. Dr. Ghali discussed with them several issues like human rights, democracy, environment and international and regional politics.

The project organized a lecture on July 7 2009 for the participants of the summer camp on the development of the concept of human rights, and the goals and responsibilities' of the National Council for Human rights.

Moreover, the project organized a series of lectures on human rights in the Youth camp organized by the National Council for Youth in Port Said and Rasalbar, and the University Youth camp organized in Port Said by the Institute for Leadership & Development, during the period from 13 to 16 July 2009.

The National Council supported the implementation of four training courses during the months of March, April and May 2009 in accordance to the cooperation protocol signed with the Arab Program for Human Rights Activists. The training courses took place in Beni Suef, Suhag and Qena, two training courses in Suhag and 1 training course in each of the other cities. The main goal of the training courses is to raise awareness and enhance the political participation for University Students affiliated in several NGOs. More than 240 students participated in the training courses representing more than 25 NGOs working in the domains of development, women and social service. The training courses included lectures and workshops on youth participation in the legal and political environment in Egypt, showing a documentary tackling some of the obstacles followed by an introduction to rights of the voter and the candidate. The training courses also included the International Human Rights Conventions and the stance of Egyptian legislations from these conventions, in addition to a case study for the last parliamentary elections as a model, the mechanisms of the political participation enhancement, and discussing their vision for the actual political and rights based participation.

The National Council organized two training workshops in cooperation with the Arab association for democracy and human rights studies and the youth directorate in Suhag. The training workshops targeted youth parliament members in several centers of the city. Furthermore, the training included and introduction to the basic principles of human rights in the international conventions, volunteer work, participation mechanisms, the National Council's efforts in promoting human rights, equality and non-discrimination, a deep study for the obstacles facing political participation through the practicing elections and a simulation of an election day. Sixty participants attended the workshops from several youth centers in Suhag, namely: Suhag city youth center, Rashed district youth center, Alsa'aa youth center, Al-Dyabat youth center, AlSawan'aa youth center, Nida youth center. Ten participants from the model media center of the State Authority for Information in Suhag.

The National Council held another training project in cooperation with the research and training center on family planning and reproductive health. The Council also organized a training course for the trainers in the domain of reproductive rights. The training curriculum was, designed to help create training

calibers capable of raising and promoting awareness on reproductive rights within the context of the comprehensive human rights concept. It aimed to achieve several health gains for the different sectors of the society in compliance with the reference guide prepared by the National Council for Human Rights with the Ministry of Health sponsored by the UNFPA.

The training course was, held during the period from 21 to 24 of May 2009 under the supervision the reproductive health expert. Thirteen participants attended the course after being, nominated from the National Council for Human Rights, the Central Administration, the Governorates of Beni Suef and Suhag, civil society organizations and the ministry of health. The training course discussed the following issues: Advocacy and lobbying, communication and training skills.

Moreover, the National Council followed an intensive training for eleven participants in the training course being, held in Alexandria on June 13 2009, which included a description of the reproductive health concept (the phases and services), the reproductive rights and their relation to human rights, in addition to a description to the required skills and the techniques for a trainer.

The National Council organized a training course on “Promoting the role of civil society organizations in the domain of complaints” on 17-18 May 2009, within the context of the efforts of the regional network for Ombudsmen offices. Twenty eight researchers participated in the training representing 19 NGOs working in the domain of human rights and using the mechanisms of receiving complaints from citizens, and their scope of work varies between human rights, development issues in general, the rights of specific categories like women, children, prisoners, juvenile and disabled, in addition to community participation and freedoms.

The training curricula included theoretical lectures and workshops, which comprised an introduction to the regional network, the purpose of founding it and their work mechanisms in the coming period. In addition to an introduction to human rights concepts, a presentation to the model of the Ombudsman regionally and internationally and the skills required to receive complaints and deal with **. The training also included an introduction to the international mechanisms for dealing with complaints, monitoring and documenting reports. The trainers in this training course were experts known for their experience and expertise in human rights issues.

The National Council held two training course in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) within the context of its interest in the issue of migration and protecting migrants' rights. The first training course comprised an introduction to the International law for migration, the definition of regular and irregular immigration and protecting migrants' rights, an explanation of the responsibilities of individuals and states in this regard, the role of states and their responsibilities towards migrants, the rights of migrant workers and the international and regional cooperation development in this regard.

Thirty participants attended the course representing ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Arab League, the Institute of peace studies in Alexandria, and a number of NGOs interested in migration issues, in addition to a number of researchers in the NCHR. The training course was, carried out by a number of international experts working in the training department in the IOM.

The second training course was, held in November 2009. It included a review of the national and international human rights laws tackling migrants rights, maritime law, illegal migrants rights, Law 3 for the year 1982 on migration and the protection of the rights of Egyptian nationals abroad, the cooperation between the NCHR and civil society organizations in Egypt in the domain of migrants' rights protection. Thirty participants attended this course representing: various NCHR committees, ministries of Foreign

Affairs, International Cooperation, and work force and migration, the Arab League, the Institute of peace studies, Future University, High Commissioner for refugees and NGOs interested in migration issues.

Lawyers training:

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the NCHR and the human rights studies center in law faculty of Assiut University, the NCHR organized a training course for lawyers on October 28 2009. The course targeted fifty lawyers from Assiut governorate, aiming to to strengthen their knowledge in the principles and concepts of human rights, and train them on the use of international instruments on human rights before national courts. The training sessions addressed the following topics:

- Human rights principles and concepts,
- The Egyptian legal system and human rights,
- the rights of suspects during the detention period,
- International human rights protection,
- International standards for fair trial,
- the rights of humans before Jury,
- the minimum of fair treatment for prisoners,
- the role of national institutions in the promotion of human rights, and
- the rights of humans during the period of the implementation of the sentence.

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement with One World association, the NCHR hosted a training course organized by One World association on August 19 and 20th 2009 on the International mechanisms for human rights protection, in which participated more than twenty NGOs working in the domain of human rights. The training course comprised theoretical lectures, capacity-building workshops. The training sessions tackled the following topics: International protection mechanisms, the creation of the International human rights council, the NCHR working mechanisms, the UPR mechanisms, the NCHR International commitments, the guidelines for submitting NGOs reports, and a simulation for a NCHR working session.

The NCHR organized a training course in cooperation with the governorate of Al-Wadi Al-Gadid and the human rights organization in the governorate on training local council members on the integration of human rights concepts in development. The training course was, held on September 27 and 28th 2009 in the media center of the governorate. Forty-four local council members attended the course, which included theoretical lectures and workshops on the following topics:

- the emergence and the evolution of human rights concepts,
- the role of the National Council for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in Egypt,
- the activation of the national human rights plan and the local administration Act,
- human rights complaints mechanisms on the national, regional and international levels and
- the activation of local councils mechanism to achieve sustainable development.

The NCHR organized a training course in cooperation with the human rights association for training and sustainable development (Ensaf) and the local council of Beni Suf governorate on the integration of the

concept of human rights in development. The training course targeting the governorate local council's members was held on March 18th and 19th 2009, aiming to raise their awareness on human rights and the ways to activate them within the frame of the economic and social development. The training course comprised theoretical lectures and workshops on the following topics:

- the emergence and the evolution of human rights concepts,
- the role of the National Council for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in Egypt,
- the social communication between development leaderships,
- the activation the national human rights plan and local councils,
- the human rights complaints mechanisms on the national, regional and international levels, planning media campaigns,
- the activation of local councils mechanism to achieve sustainable development and the required skills to deal with electronic and published media.

The NCHR organized four training workshops in cooperation with Ma'et organization for peace, development and human rights following the cooperation agreement they signed together. The training courses emphasized on building the capacities of students and recent graduates of law faculties of Cairo and Helwan Universities during the period from August 4 to the 17th 2009. The training workshops comprised an introduction to the national and international mechanisms of defending the families of prisoners, and presenting legal support and counseling to prisoners and their families to increase and enhance the participatory process in the administration of public affairs through the promotion of the values of democracy, freedom of expression and acceptance of the other. The training workshops, in which one-hundred students and recent graduates from law faculties of Cairo and Helwan Universities, participated, addressed the following topics:

- human rights concepts,
- the use of international human rights conventions before national courts,
- International human rights protection and
- the required skills to use the International mechanisms in the protection of prisoners.

The NCHR held two training courses for the researchers in the legislative research and development unit and other units in the council, within the framework of the capacity building of the researchers in the domain of human rights. The training courses comprised theoretical and practical sessions on the following topics:

- the international conventions,
- the international human rights legitimacy,
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights,
- the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights,

- the various International and Regional mechanisms of human rights protection and
- the role of the convention against torture,
- the convention against corruption, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women,
- the Convention on children rights.

The second training course addressed the following topics: the skills of social investigation, legal documents analysis, communication. The various features related to the needs and priorities of the community participation, the information and indicators collection means, information analysis skills, how to prepare and write reports, the NCHR experience in the amendment of selected legislations, the system of rights and freedoms in the Egyptian constitution, the philosophy of drafting legislations, the legal documents analysis skills, the family law and personal status analysis, and the obstacles facing the NGOs law.

Within the framework of the partnership agreement between the NCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), several training courses were held in the context of a comprehensive training program on electoral systems for various competent bodies, targeting: media persons, the ministry of Interior, the people's assembly, the consultative assembly and NGOs personnel.

The training courses were, held within the framework of "Building resources in democracy, governance and elections – BRIDGE- "joint project between the NCHR and UNDP aiming to provide professional training for all concerned bodies in the electoral process. The training courses were, carried-out by highly qualified and internationally accredited trainers.

The BRIDGE project includes twenty-three training topics distributed on three groups: designing of the electoral processes, working with the electoral process partners and the electoral process. The participants in these training courses were, introduced to three of the twenty-three topics, and were offered at the end of the courses BRIDGE International certificates.

Training the NCHR researchers:

Within the framework of the enhancement of its employees and researchers capacity building, the NCHR focused on 3 aspects:

The first aspect: Organizing specialized training courses for the researchers in the NCHR, as follows:

- A training course for the researchers and the management of the legislative research and development unit in the NCHR in cooperation with the Spanish Agency of International Development Cooperation.
- Representatives of the State's council, the ministry of justice, the authority of State and the Arab organization for human rights attended the course.
- Dr.Zeinab Radwan the director of the legislative research and development unit started the training course by an opening note, explaining the unit's scope of work, priorities and needs. The working sessions addressed the following topics:

- The change in the global system and its impact on human rights issues, the role of Ombudsman offices in responding to community needs (the methods and the results), the philosophy of legislation along with an introduction to the legal text analysis methods, an introduction to the legislations drafting phases in European countries and linking human rights and development in legislations. Moreover, the training course included workshops and discussions on the above mentioned topics.
- The Unit on “Promoting the culture of the prohibition of torture” held a training course within the framework of the capacity building of the researchers. The training course which was held from the 27th to the 29th of October 2009 for 25 researchers is followed by 3 other training courses on the same topics, with the participation of the same researchers.

The second aspect consists of involving the researchers in the training courses that the NCHR receives invitations to attend, such as the following:

- Assigning to one of the researchers in the Economic and Social rights committee to participate in the training program organized by the International Center for Human Rights Education (Equitas) on “Networking and Strategic Planning” , held in Amman during the period from the 22nd to the 28th of July 2009. The training program aims to strengthen the capacities of the national and regional organizations in order to use human rights education as a tool for social change.
- Assigning to one of the researchers in the Economic and Social rights committee to attend a training course on “ Human Rights and Gender Equality” organized by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), held in Sweden during the period from the 5th to the 30th of October 2009. The training course addressed the following topics: Human rights and social diversity, and drafting projects aiming to integrate the concepts of gender equality and non discrimination.

The third aspect consists of conducting a series of training the trainers’ courses within the framework of the partnership with the UNDP. The training courses were, held in the context of the joint project between the NCHR and UNDP on “Building resources in democracy, governance and elections”. The project aims to provide professional training to all concerned parties in the electoral process. The training included four training courses that were, held in December 2008, January, July and September 2009. The participants received by the end of the training BRIDGE certificates.

Third: Conferences and Workshops:

- **The regional conference for Arab experiences exchange in the domain of legislations development:**

The conference was held in Cairo on June 18th 2009, within the framework of the activities of the legislative research and development unit of the NCHR. The conference was presided by Dr.Boutros Boutros Ghali the president of the NCHR, and Dr.Zeinab Radwan the director of

the unit was present. The various attendance of the conference included: prominent experts, the Spanish Ambassador in Cairo, parliament members from Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Lebanon, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, many representatives of governmental and civil society institutions. The main purpose of the conference is to allow the audience to exchange their experiences and benefit from the examples of Arab countries having developed their national legislations to comply with International human rights conventions. The conference adopted 16 recommendations, of which the most important ones were as follows:

1. The need for Arab countries; which have not, established national human rights institutions to establish them and encourage them to establish units for legislation development.
 2. The need to enhance, and develop; NGOs and national human rights institutions in the Arab world. These NGOs need to have an effective role in the domain of offering advice to juridical institutions and authorities concerning legislations having a negative impact on the situation of human rights, and suggesting their amendment to ensure their compliance with International human rights conventions ratified by the State.
 3. The need for governments to respond to the recommendations and suggestions of the national human rights institutions and civil society organizations concerning some policies and practices that might have a negative impact on the rights of individuals and groups that they need to change.
 4. The need to establish databases containing the texts of legislations and judicial rulings related to human rights.
 5. The need for Arab governments and parliaments to include the Economic, Social and Cultural rights in their national legislations, along with more detailed provisions for specific definitions for these rights, their scope and content in addition to organizational frames to achieve them.
 6. The need for Arab States who have not ratified the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court to ratify it.
 7. The urgent need for law drafts to emphasize on transparency, accountability and the contribution in decision-making.
 8. The need for the Arab legislative authorities to draft proposed legislations that are simple and easy to read for the general public, who need to understand their terms and prohibitions clearly and without ambiguity or vagueness.
 9. The need for reviewing Arab legislations in order to ensure gender equality and the respect for children and family rights, and issuing a legislation prohibiting discrimination against women and criminalizes all forms of discrimination.
- **The workshop on the role of the civil society in combating smuggling:**

The NCHR held a regional workshop in cooperation with the United Nations Office on drugs and crime (UNODC) on the 3rd and 4th of August 2009 on the role of the civil society in combating smuggling. The various attendance of the workshop included: representatives of national human rights institutions and NGOs from Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Lybia. The workshop focused on the following topics: the legal dimensions of the issue, the definitions of smuggling and human trafficking, the trends of migrants smuggling in the Mediterranean

region, the role of civil society in facing the challenges of migrants smuggling and the effective methods of preventing smuggling in cooperation with the civil society.

The participants agreed on the need for ensuring a fair treatment and the respect for the rights of persons subject to the migrants smuggling protocol, and prohibiting all forms of discrimination against them. They also assured on the need to protect the rights of asylum seekers and to adhere to the principle of non-defilement as stated in Article 19 of the Migrant Smuggling Protocol.

Additionally, the participants concluded that the original causes of the irregular migration problem have not been, addressed. They also stressed on the need to dismantle organized criminal groups working on smuggling migrants.

Moreover, they agreed on the important role of NGOs in ensuring the protection of migrants' rights, providing assistance smugglers having been, intercepted, facilitate their safe return home and their reintegration in the society, facilitate their rehabilitation and raise the awareness of the public on this issue. Therefore, it is important to recognize the vital role of NGOs, facilitate their access to resources and reinforce their cooperation with governmental institutions. In addition, there is a need for encouraging the role of NGOs in raising awareness on this issue of all involved parties in combating migrants smuggling. In this context, it would be necessary to give more attention to the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by land, sea and air (The Migrant Smuggling Protocol), Supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

The UNODC must continue to facilitate the work of NGOs in the areas of preventing migrants smuggling, as well as ensuring their protection.

Furthermore, the participants concluded to a number of recommendations, as follows:

1. The need for encouraging the establishment of organizations specialized in irregular migration affairs;
 2. The need to establish a central observatory in the Arab region to issue regular reports on this issue;
 3. The need to establish a network of NGOs within the region working on the issue;
 4. The need to organize an international event NGOs and official bodies from the Arab region and Northern countries aiming to facilitate the exchange of experiences in the area of migrants smuggling;
 5. The need for the provision of assistance and protection against smugglers;
 6. The need for the NCHR to establish, coordinate and maintain this network of NGOs working on the issue.
- **Seminars on human trafficking:**

The NCHR organized seven seminars in cooperation with the national center for social and criminal studies aiming to study the human trafficking phenomenon's various dimensions (social, mental and legal dimensions). A group of experts and professors interested in this issue participated in the seminars.

The first seminar was, held on February 2, 2009, on “The marriage of minors and human rights, within the context of human trafficking”. The seminar addressed topics that included social dimensions of the phenomenon in the Arab World, and various forms of trafficking of women and children. In addition to factors of the expansion of the phenomenon, the seminar also included discussions on the legal dimensions of the phenomenon in Egypt. It further addressed the judicial and security perspectives for combating the phenomenon in accordance with legislative amendments on the law 12 for 1996 (Child Law), the definition of the concept of minors' marriage, and the criminal treatment of the phenomenon being one of the forms of human trafficking.

The second seminar was, held on March 1, 2009 on “Organ trading and human rights, within the context of human trafficking”. The seminar addressed the following topics that included the medical and legal dimensions of the phenomenon, as well as, the links between organs trading and organized crime. The seminar also highlighted the protocol on preventing and punishing human trafficking in particular women and children in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in addition to the social dimensions of the phenomenon and the non-legitimacy of trading in human organs.

The third seminar was, held on March 31, 2009 on “Illegal migration and human rights, within the context of human trafficking”. The seminar addressed the following topics that included the social dimensions of the phenomenon from the perspective of the positive and negative impacts of migration. Further, it discussed the difference between migrants smuggling and human trafficking, the legal dimensions of illegal migration within the context of the transnational organized crime. It also highlighted the Provisions of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants, supplementing the UN Convention, and the national and international efforts to combat the phenomenon.

The fourth seminar was, held on May 31, 2009 on “Forced labor and human rights, within the context of human trafficking”. The seminar addressed the legal dimensions of the forced labor phenomenon, the International Convention on this issue, the International dimension for forced labor, the social dimensions for the phenomenon and children exploitation and forced labor as one of the forms of human trafficking.

The fifth seminar was, held on October 18, 2009 on “Street children and human rights, within the context of human trafficking”. The seminar addressed the social dimensions of the phenomenon and the causes. It clarified the personal characteristics of street children, the methods of trafficking and exploitation and the risks threatening these children. It addressed the economic and social costs for street children, discussing some proposed strategies to combat the phenomenon, the legal dimensions for the phenomenon and its national, regional and international evolution, and the legislative treatment of the issue in law 12 for 1996 and its amendment (Child law).

The sixth seminar was, held on November 15, 2009; entitled “Women Trafficking and Human Rights”. It addressed the social dimensions of the phenomenon, as well as the causes and the extent of its expansion. It shared field study results on sexual exploitation in the Egyptian community, while shedding light on occupational factors leading to the exploitation of women. The seminar also addressed the legal dimensions of the phenomenon, the efforts of the Public Administration for the protection of morals in the protection of women against trafficking and the confrontation mechanisms.

The seventh seminar is to be, held in December 2009 on “House servants and human rights within the context of human trafficking”.

- **The symposium on the relation between reproductive health and human rights:**

The NCHR organized this symposium, within the framework of the cooperation with the UNFPA, in Assiut University on October 28, and 29th 2009. Many civil society organizations in Assiut attended the symposium that addressed the reproductive health, the factors affecting it and in particular the cultural values, the legal dimensions and the reproductive health services.

The symposium concluded to several recommendations, as follows:

1. The need to increase the number of workshops and symposium to promote the culture of reproductive health amongst all sectors of society;
2. The need to produce easy-to-read and easy-to-reach booklets about reproductive health culture;
3. The need to publish a series of publications containing the compilation of all the symposiums and workshops and distribute it to clergymen in both, the Muslim and Christian faiths, school and mass media;
4. The need to train a number of volunteers to undertake field visits in the different governorates aiming to promote the culture of reproductive health.

- **The Arab-African forum on democracy and human rights:**

Following the cooperation with the UNESCO in the domain of democracy issues and human rights on the Arabic – African front, the NCHR held the annual conference for the Arab-African forum on democracy and human rights during the period from the 1st to the 4th of December 2009. This year, the annual conference address migration issues in Africa and the Arab world.

Selected international attendees were, invited to the conference, headed by Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director General, of UNESCO, who was keen on participating in person in the conference and visiting Egypt after assuming her new post. The international attendees at the opening of the conference included Abdou Dyouf, Secretary General of the Francophone Organization; and Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the Arab League; who hosted the opening of the conference at the Arab League premises. It also included Dr. Ahmed Fathi Soroor, Chairman of the Egyptian Parliament; Mrs. Aisha Abdelhai, the Minister of Manpower and Migration; Mr. Frederico Mayor, President of the Culture Association of Spain; and Mr. Bakr Naday, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In addition, the attendees incorporated officials and representatives of international organizations and institutions with stakes in the migration issue and policies from Egypt, Arab and African countries.

The Conference declaration included several recommendations, as follows:

1. The need to urge the Arab and African states to continue joining International Conventions, in particular the Convention for the Protection of migrant workers and their families, the Convention for the protection of refugees and the ILO Conventions.
2. The need to promote and strengthen the role of national human rights institutions in the domain of addressing workers, migrants and refugees rights violations.
3. The need to promote the cooperation between national human rights institutions and State's concerned institutions in the domain of developing legislations, protection and monitoring, and promoting public awareness.

- **The first review conference of the declaration of citizenship (2007):**

Following the NCHR activities in the context of the activation of constitutional principles reflected in the 2007 amendments concerning citizenship, the National Council held the first review conference of the declaration of citizenship (2007) in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Human Rights on December 20 and 21st 2009. The conference aims to review the accomplished progress in the activation of the citizenship declaration issued in the first conference on citizenship organized by the NCHR in the year 2007.

The conference addressed three main topics: equal opportunities and prohibition of discrimination, combating poverty and promoting the realization of economic and social rights, and Egyptians abroad (workers or migrants).

The conference studied five working papers: the first paper addressed the conceptual aspects of the issue of citizenship, the second, third and fourth contributed in the three topics of the conference and the fifth discussed the situation of Egyptians working abroad.

The closing declaration of the conference identified the achievements and the deficiencies' in the realization of citizenship rights, producing ten main recommendations to activate the declaration on citizenship and the promotion of equal opportunities, combating poverty, protecting Egyptian

citizens abroad and strengthening their communication with their home country and supporting their legal rights in the Diaspora. Furthermore, it has been determined to hold a regular annual conference to measure the progress in the activation of the declaration on citizenship (2007).

- **The International conference on Ombudsman offices in a changing social reality:**

The Complaints office in the NCHR organized in cooperation with the regional network for Arab Ombudsman offices an international conference called “Ombudsman office in a changing social reality” in Cairo on December 17 and 18th 2009. The various participants in the conference included Arab Ombudsman offices, civil society organizations and prominent experts.

The conference addressed the impact of international and regional variables on different communities (developed and developing communities), their impact on national policies and legislations, the arising pattern of conflicts and complaints facing Ombudsman offices. The participants studied various case studies, in addition to the environment of Ombudsman offices, in Arab countries in particular.

On the sidelines of the conference, it was, announced that the Regional Network of Arab Ombudsman office has been developed to become “The Arab Organization for Ombudsman Offices”. The newly established organization selected Mr. Mohamed Fayek as its President, Mr. and Mohamed Al-Arafi, the President of the Moroccan Ombudsman, for Vice President. Mr. Abdallah Al-Kayalli, the President of the Jordanian Ombudsman, was, selected for President Deputy, along with Mr. Mohamed Abouzeid, the President of the Sudanese Ombudsman, for the position of Secretary of Finance and Mrs. Alifa Farouk, the Administrative Mediator in Tunisia, as a board member.

Chapter Four

The National Plan for the Promotion of Human Rights

The NCHR preceded during the year 2009 the implementation of the national plan for the promotion of human rights that had been, planned according to the international standards. The plan was, presented to the competent authorities and civil society organizations to be, integrated in the Five-Years-Plan 2007 – 2012 of the State.

The unit of the national action plan for human rights proceeded coordinating with the ministries and the authorities under the supervision of Dr. Nabil Helmy. Coordinating meetings have been, held with 13 ministries and authorities during the year 2009.

The Ministry of Health:

The coordinating meetings took place on the February 11 2009 between the General Director of the Women's Health Center and the population sector represented by the Ministry of Health which demonstrated the basic plan presented by the Ministry. It, efficiently, deals with the human's basic right to health. The most important goals included in the Ministry of Health report were as follows:

- A child's right to proper nutrition, vaccination and all necessary treatment.
- The right to proper and correct sexual education.
- A woman's right to high quality of healthcare during and post pregnancy.
- The right to proper health services at reasonable costs.
- Providing the necessary training to health services providers to be qualified to offer good health services.
- The rights of workers in the field of health care services to financial and moral compensations.

The Ministry of Health plan consist of the following: Dividing the health rights according to age and dividing the work plan to: activity, competent authority and the activity target.

The Ministry's representative added that an article about the health insurance and citizens' complaints shall be added to the final plan.

The unit director suggested dividing the health rights into 3 parts: the rights of patients, workers and healthy people. The plan is to be enhanced by adding performance indicators, the statistics, advantages and the time frames for implementation to acknowledge the actual effort by the ministry to promote human rights.

The Ministry of Investment:

The Unit Director held a coordinating meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Investment on February 11th 2009. During the meeting, discussions were, held on the following issues: the major aspects of the Ministry's future work within the context of the national plan for the promotion of human rights, drafting the plan in addition to requesting the formulation of a draft plan for discussion. Another meeting was held on March 29th 2009 during which the Ministry's representative presented the 4th annual report of the Ministry's performance (2007-2008). The report illustrated three elements at which the ministry aims to arise, as follows: simplifying and encouraging the national, Arab and international investments, managing assets and investments owned by the state and activating the financial non-banking sector (Money Market). It also featured the most essential indicators and data that reflected the development of these elements along with vital procedures and policies that have been, adopted to reinforce and activate working with such elements to serve citizens.

The Ministry of Education:

The unit director held a coordinating meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Education on March 29 2009. The later confirmed the ministry's interests in developing the education for being the most basic right citizens should obtain. The meeting addressed the following issues: the most essential aspects of the future work of the ministry within the context of the national plan for the promotion of human rights; the state has will to provide costs-free education at all levels and integrating the human rights' concepts in the educational curricula. The ministry aims to establish a central unit to address violence among children. In addition, more units shall be, established in all districts to monitor and study children's behavior at home, school and street to conduct positive behavioral training.

The unit director praised the cooperation between the ministry and the council for integrating the human concepts in the curricula and establishing a unit to combat violence among students.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research:

A coordinating meeting was held with the representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research on March 29th 2009, discussing the Ministry's plan to promote and enhance the rights of the Egyptian citizen. Moreover, the Ministry's representatives confirmed that the Ministry seeks to reform the higher education and scientific research system. Furthermore, the Ministry's plan aims to integrate the human rights culture in the curricula and hold training sessions for students and the ministry staff on human rights. In addition to the Ministry's interest to provide assistance to persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of Culture:

The Unit Director held three coordinating meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Culture during the year 2009 on February 11, March 3 and June 28. The first meeting discussed the main aspects of the future work of the Ministry within the context of the national plan for the promotion of human rights. In the second coordinating meeting, the Ministry's representative illustrated the activities of some of the Ministry bodies (during the period from 2007 to 2012) in promoting and enhancing the cultural rights of the Egyptians, as follows:

The Public Authority for the National Center for Culture "Cairo Opera House" aims to develop human values through promoting and providing high quality arts at modest costs for youth. The strategic motto of the center is "*Culture for All*".

The Fine Arts Sector aims to raise awareness on the cultural rights of children, youth and disabled persons. The sector seeks to involve youth and children in art workshops, and organize training programs on cultural work management. Recognizing the creative role of women in the society, the sector holds festivals and exhibitions locally in Egypt as well as abroad to promote women's artwork. Furthermore, the sector was keen to involve disabled persons by establishing a special gallery to promote their artwork, which is included in the activities of the Fine Arts festivals.

As for **The Salvage Fund of Nubian Monuments**, the main role of the Nubian Museum is to raise cultural awareness among citizens through the theatrical, musical and summer activities in cooperation with schools, and arrange special exhibitions of handcrafts and manual activities. It also includes introducing these aspects to the museum visitors and arranging art exhibitions for children and youth. Moreover, the Nubian fund aims to provide workers training sessions in order to preserve and maintain antiques in the Nubian museum. Other training sessions are costless while others are, based on very little costs such as "computers, foreign languages, cameras maintenance and a program to establish and manage the work team." The Ministry's representative also pointed out that archiving documents, rare books and documents of the Nubian heritage are under progress with cooperation of the UNESCO.

There have has an agreement on the necessity to include performance indicators, statistics, advantages and the periods to the Ministry's plan.

In the third coordinating meeting, the representative of the ministry of culture provided the guidelines upon which the ministry plan is, based. Assuring that the ministry is keen to promote the right of

knowledge and culture, spoken or written, among citizens. In addition, the efforts of the Ministry's different bodies for the promotion of cultural rights were, praised during the convention.

It has been, agreed on the necessity of proceeding with the cooperation and coordination to link between the ministries plan and the national plan of the council in order to accomplish common targets to enhance human rights.

The Ministry of Finance:

The coordinating meeting with the representatives from the ministry of finance on May 26th 2009 debated on the method of coordinating and cooperating to activate the implementation of the ministry plans. There has also been a discussion about the most important objectives of the Ministry of Finance to enhance human rights, which are, summarized as follows:

- Establishing a unit of equal opportunities in cooperation with the National Council for Women in order to raise awareness among workers on political, economic and social human rights. It also attempts to promote the culture of small projects along with developing the workers' abilities in the ministry to improve their performance.
- Simplifying the routine custom procedures on Egyptian citizens.
- Reducing taxes on people and companies in order to encourage financiers to provide their taxes settlements.

Ministry of Civil Aviation:

In the coordinating meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on May 26th 2009, there has been a discussion about the method of coordination to activate and implement the plan. In addition to the most essential future work of the ministry within the context of the national plan for the promotion of human rights, which are summarized as follows:

- The Egyptian citizens' right to secure means of transportation.
- Examining and reviewing the security regulations and the operational measurements in airports and airline companies to achieve better quality of security for the passengers.
- Implementing a new health insurance system that provides healthcare services for pilots and hostess staff at any place in the world.

There has been also an agreement on the necessity of including performance indicators, statistics, advantages and periods to the ministry's.

Ministry of Economic Development:

In the coordinating meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development on May 10. 2009, there was a discussion about the most important aspects of the future work of the ministry. The discussion matured, within the context of the national plan for the promotion of human rights, which includes working on supporting the competitiveness of the Egyptian economics, increasing the integration within the global economy and creating a better environment to attract foreign and national investments aiming to provide more job opportunities to decrease the rate of unemployment.

It has been, agreed on the necessity of proceeding with the cooperation and coordination to link between the ministries plan and the national plan of the council in order to accomplish common targets to enhance human rights. In addition to including the performance indicators, statistics, advantages and time frames to the ministry's plan.

The Ministry of Housing and the Urban Slums Development Fund:

As for the coordinating meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Housing, and the Fund of Urban Slums Development on September 6, 2009, the ministry's objectives include the following:

The main objectives of the Housing Ministry in the domain of promoting and enhancing human rights:

- Building residential units for the families in need.
- Improving water and sanitation services including the citizen's right to clean drinking water
- Maintaining the transportation roads to link villages.
- Developing the environmental situation and dealing with solid wastes.

The main objectives of the Fund of Urban Slums Development in the domain of promoting and enhancing human rights:

- Citizens' right to safe residential areas.
- Limiting the urban slums, developing the unsafe areas and housing their residents in the nearest available location.
- Preparing a media campaign that aims to motivate residents of unsafe areas to participate positively in projects aiming to develop their areas.

Moreover, it has been agreed on the necessity on proceeding with the cooperation and coordination to link between the ministries plan and the national plan of the council in order to accomplish common targets to enhance human rights. In addition to including the performance indicators, statistics, advantages and time frames to the ministry's plan.

The Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban development presented a comprehensive report Oct 26th 2009 to the National Council for Human Rights on the role of the ministry to achieve the strategic targets of the council.

The Ministries of Trade and Industry, and Environment:

In the coordinating meeting with the representatives of both ministries of Trade and Industry and Environment on July 20th 2009, there has been a discussion on the most important objectives of the ministry of environment to enhance human rights, which are summarized as follows:

- Moving Cement factories out-borders of greater Cairo.
- Developing the urban slums.
- Attempting to amend the law on the protection of competitiveness process and establishing a food-safety device.
- Improving the recycling process and establishing location to dump the wastes.
- raising awareness among citizens on the importance of locals and bridge the gap between the society and the citizens.

The representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Industry introduced the most important guidelines that have been developed by the ministry, assuring that the ministry seeks providing the citizens needs such as rice, cement or iron at reasonable costs, establishing an internal development project and assigning a hotline to receive citizens' complaints. In addition to the efforts made by all authorities of the ministry in order to spread awareness about the trade and industrial rights.

There has been also an agreement on the necessity of including the performance indicators, statistics, advantages and time frames to the ministry's plan.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation:

In the coordinating meeting that took place in June 28th 2009, there has been a discussion about the most important targets of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to enhance human rights, as follows:

- The rights of Egyptians to clean water.

- Monitoring the quality of surface and ground water and measuring all natural and chemical factors regularly in order to highlight the improvements needed in some locations.
- Increasing the efficiency of workers' skills through holding several training seminars in all fields.

The Ministry of Transport:

The coordinating meeting with the Ministry of Transport took place on June 10th 2008 and July 6th 2009. The representatives of the Ministry of Transport demonstrated the most important aspect of the ministry plan to enhance human rights and targets are represented in the following:

- Improving the quality of transportation services provided to the citizens, and having a regular examination on the stations, the rail transport and the metros.
- Setting plans to train workers to develop their management and technical skills and spreading cultural awareness about human rights through holding training seminars in the field.
- Providing the health and social care to workers and their families.

The representative of the ministry assured that all authorities of the ministry have been addressed within the context of the national plan for the promotion of human rights including: the Maritime Transport Sector, the National Authority for Tunnels, the National Authority of the rail transport and the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety. They were all asked to prepare reports about their contribution to the citizens' rights and shall be included in the ministry's plan.

Chapter Five:

Cooperation with national and international governmental and non governmental organizations

First – Cooperation with non-governmental organizations:

The NCHR continued during 2009 to pursue its strategy of enhancing cooperation with NGO's, especially those working in the field of human rights. This strategy was pursued at the following levels:

Protocols of cooperation were signed during 2009 with the following organizations:

- Maa'et for Peace, Development and Human Rights. (5/1/2009)
- The National Centre for social and criminal Research. (8/1/2009)
- The General Union of National Associations and Organizations. (10/1/2009)
- The Faculty of Information of Cairo University. (12/1/2009)
- The Arab Program of Human Rights Defenders. (13/1/2009)
- The Egyptian Centre for Raising Awareness on the Rule of Law. (5/3/2009)
- "Bedayah" organization for youth empowerment. (24/3/2009)
- University of Menoufiah. (23/6/2009)
- The Arab Organization for Human Rights. (16/7/2009)
- "One World" association for social development. (2/7/2009)
- "Azhar Elkaramah" development organization. (5/7/2009)
- Human Rights Association in Assiut. (19/7/2009)
- Al-Ahram regional institute for Journalism. (22/7/2009)
- Human Rights Studies Centre of Assiut University. (22/7/2009)

Thus, the NCHR signed protocols of cooperation with 34 NGOs, research centres and universities, in addition to protocols of cooperation with the National Council for Women, the Public health department of the Ministry of health and the General institution for Culture Centres.

Furthermore, the NCHR followed the implementation of previously concluded cooperation agreements with other stakeholders. In this context, the NCHR co-organised activities with the following partners:

- Training for students of Cairo University, in cooperation with Cairo University, University of Helwan, the Egyptian institute for Democracy and Maa'et organization for Peace, Development and Human Rights.
- Training programme for local people's councils, in cooperation with Human Rights training and Sustainable Development organization.
- Training program for media specialists in cooperation with the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the Institute of Training for Media professionals of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union (ERTU).

The NCHR also organised expert workshops in partnership with the following organizations:

- The National Centre for social and criminal Research, on human trafficking (seven workshops during the year 2009).
- The Arab Organization for Human Rights, on the preparation for the UN review conference of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action of 2001 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.(28-29/3/2009)
- Adalah organisation on the role of NGOs in human rights and social development: challenges and opportunities. (14/4/2009)

Moreover, NCHR played an active role in supporting NGOs who were facing arbitrary measures. The NCHR intervened with competent authorities to resolve such problems. One of these interventions took place with the ministry of national solidarity in support for the Arab Organization for Human Rights which faced possible penalties for exercising activities prior to the ministerial approval.

The year 2009 also witnessed an important event in the area of cooperation with the civil society. Indeed, 2009 was the year of the preparation of the first Universal Periodic report for the human rights situation in Egypt. The preparation of this report entailed three hearing sessions between the NCHR and Egyptian NGOs working in the field of human rights.

Second– Cooperation with international organizations

1- The United Nations Organization

The NCHR's engaged in various forms of cooperation with a number of United Nations bodies and mechanisms working in the field of human rights. The interaction between the NCHR and the United Nations human rights mechanisms can be, highlighted in as follows:

- The NCHR is regularly represented in different sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. During the session of January 26-29th, 2009 the NCHR was represented by Mr Mohamed Fayek. In 2009 March session, the NCHR was represented by Dr Hossam Badrawy. Its report about this session contained a number of recommendations with respect to the preparation of Egypt's Universal Periodic Review report. The NCHR was also represented in June 2009 session of the United Nations Human Rights Council by Dr Mohamed said Eldakkak.
- The NCHR contributed to the preparatory meetings for the UN review conference of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action of 2001 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Durban review conference regional preparatory meeting for Africa was held in Abuja. The delegation of the NCHR to this meeting included Mr Mohamed Fayek, Dr Salah Amer and Dr Mohamed said Eldakkak. The NCHR also organised its own preparatory meeting for Arab NGO's in Cairo with a view to formulate a broad consensus on an Arab civil society input to the Durban review conference. This meeting adopted a Cairo declaration on combating racism and racial discrimination. The NCHR also participated in the review conference held in Geneva on the 18-25 April 2009, with a delegation composed of Mr Mohamed Fayek, Dr Salah Amer, Dr Fouad Riad and Ambassador Ahmed Hajaj, members of the NCHR.
- The NCHR continued its collaboration with UNDP, within the framework of “INSAN” project, which was initially launched in September 2004, aiming at enhancing the NCHR's capacities to fulfil its mandate and outreach to national and international civil societies. The cooperation with UNDP has been accelerated in view of the preparation of the NCHR's report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- The NCHR also collaborated with UNFP and the Ministry of Health to issue guidelines for reproductive rights. These guidelines were finalised and published during a conference, organised with both UNFP and the Egyptian Ministry of Health on “reproductive rights, from theory to practice”, which was held on April 11th 2009.
- The NCHR organised a regional conference with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the role of the civil society in combating migrants smuggling
- The NCHR organised two training workshops, in cooperation with the International Organization of Migration (IOM), on international migration law and the rights of migrants, in August 2009. Participants in these two workshops included relevant Egyptian ministries, the Arab League and the UNHCR.

- The President of the NCHR, on July 2nd 2009, received a delegation from the IOM (Mr Shahid Alhaq and Mr Mathieu Luciano). The President of the NCHR expressed the importance for migration issues from a human rights perspective and informed the IOM delegation of the intention of the NCHR to initiate an Afro Arab Forum for Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights. In Cairo, in November 2009 in co sponsorship with UNESCO and under the presidency of President Abdou Diouf. IOM was invited to attend this forum, of which the first session was dedicated to immigration among countries of the South.
- Within the framework of its cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the NCHR participated in a workshop organised by the ILO regional office for North Africa in Rabat on the rights of the disabled persons. The workshop particularly focused on the training of persons with disabilities. Many organizations working in this field, from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Soudan and Egypt, participated in the workshop.
- Dr Kamal Aboulmagd, the vice president of the NCHR, along with two members of the council (Dr Nabil Helmy and Dr Ahmed Refaat) received a delegation from the technical office of the ILO headed by Mrs Karin Kartis on April 23rd 2009. During that meeting, Dr Aboulmagd outlined the role and activities of the NCHR in the promotion of human rights in Egypt, praising the efforts of Minister Aisha Abdelhadi, Egyptian minister of labour in enhancing workers rights in the country. Dr Aboulmagd emphasised the importance of ensuring respect for the rights of workers both nationally and abroad. He added that the international financial crisis complicated matters and made workers even more vulnerable than before.
- Furthermore, Dr Nabil Helmy stressed on the great attention given by the council to workers rights and their protection. As the NCHR organised two workshops in this respect and was preparing a third event in May 2009 on human rights and human trafficking. Dr. Helmy also affirmed the rejection of the NCHR to the Kafel system in the Gulf countries. On the other hand, Dr Ahmed Refaat stated that the cooperation with the Egyptian ministry of labor is amongst the plans of the council, in addition to the possibility of organizing a workshop on the rights of Egyptian workers abroad.
- From her side, the head of the ILO delegation stressed that their visit is not placed within any monitoring function but rather a constructive dialogue to improve workers conditions. She praised the transparency of the approach of Minister Aisha Abdelhadi in addressing workers problems. She also highlighted the need to help raise awareness among workers themselves as to their rights and the need to ensure their freedoms and in particular the need to protect their rights within the process of privatisation.
- The NCHR followed its cooperation with UNESCO. The two institutions co- organised an event in the commemoration of the Universal declaration of Human Rights and also decided to establish a permanent Afro Arab Forum for Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights.

2- The European Union

The NCHR participated in the meetings of the Euro Arab Dialogue, held on the 9-13 March 2009. The delegation of the NCHR was composed of Dr Salah Amer and Dr Mohamed Said Eladakkak. The NCHR also took part at the working groups organised within this dialogue, in Amman, 16-20 November 2009 (Dr Said Eldakkak). Moreover, the council participated in the commemoration of the international day of human rights organised in Azerbaijan by the Council of Europe, 16-20 June 2009.

The NCHR followed its important cooperation with the EU in the joint project on enhancing the capacities of the complaints office of the NCHR.

Furthermore, Ambassador Mokhless Kotb the Secretary General of the NCHR received a delegation of the European Commission (Mr Maria Espinosa, Manuel Sanchez and Denoguize), the independent experts in the area of monitoring electoral processes. The discussion focused on the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in Egypt. Ambassador Kotb highlighted that the NCHR has an integrated unit specialised in monitoring elections and that the council is ready to facilitate the task of NGOs elections observers in light of precedents and within the parameters defined by the supreme Committee for Elections. The Secretary General informed the delegation that the NCHR conducted a training of the trainers (TOT) program within the framework of "Building resources for democracy, governance and elections – BRIDGE" joint project between the council and the UNDP with the aim of inspiring confidence, ensuring credibility and, thus, stimulating wider participation in the voting process.

The Secretary General of the NCHR received another delegation of the European commission headed by Michael Rein, on May 14th 2009, where he stressed the need to exchange views and experiences in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights. The Secretary General of the NCHR conveyed the willingness of the President of the NCHR to participate in a plenary discussion with members of the European parliament and its human rights committee in this respect. The European side expressed interest in this idea and promised to consider it, especially after the Egyptian criticism of recent European Parliament reports on human rights in Egypt.

H.E. Ambassador Kotb, outlined to the delegation the most recent initiatives by the NCHR and its proposed legislative amendments aiming at achieving better protection for human rights in Egypt. He added that the NCHR continues persistently pursuing the cancelation of the state of emergency which created a certain culture of impunity as well as the need to rehabilitate those arrested under the state on emergency, some times repeatedly and for too long.

The Secretary General replied to the questions raised by the delegation with respect to the role of the NCHR in the upcoming elections in Egypt. He particularly stressed that the NCHR is keen to contribute to the creation of an environment that is conducive to the widest political participation and higher voting rates. This requires credibility, confidence and monitoring. The participation of international observers would therefore be of great value as well as the national observers whom the NCHR was keen to train in this area, including training of trainers (TOT).

3- The Union for the Mediterranean:

The Secretary General of the NCHR met with Dr Mark Lafarny, director of the centre for documentation and social, economic and legal research (CEDEJ) on April 6th 2009. Dr Mark suggested a program of regular sectorial meetings that aim at creating common visions within the Mediterranean area in fields of politics, economy and culture. He suggested that those three sets of meetings involve civil society figures and be organised annually and alternatively in Egypt and France.

The Secretary General of the NCHR welcomed this proposal in principle, emphasizing the need for good preparation and clear vision of the objectives pursued and means employed to achieve them so as to avoid duplication with other forums.

In a subsequent meeting with the same guest, on May 17th 2009, the Secretary General of the NCHR explored forms of cooperation with the CEDEJ through forums of discussion on specific topics of common interest. The topics invoked included human rights situations across the world, role of international organizations and human rights mechanisms as well as Democracy at both national and international level. Dr Mark welcomed the idea and looked forward to its early implementation.

4- The International organization of the Francophonie:

The year 2009 witnessed closer ties between the organization of the Francophonie and the NCHR. The NCHR participated in the third conference of the Francophony, 21-25 January 2009, represented by Mr Monir Fakhry Abdelnour. The NCHR also took part in the national coordination committee of follow up to the activities of the Francophonie. This committee was, established by a decision of the Prime Minister of Egypt, decision 2016 of 2009 dated 22 July 2009 as a coordination committee.

5- The African Union:

The NCHR continued its cooperation with the African Union. A delegation from the NCHR participated in the 45th session of the African Commission for human and people's rights; the NHCR was represented by H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Hajaj. Such cooperation has been enhanced by the election of Mr Mohamed Fayek as a commissioner in the African Commission for human and people's rights in November 2009.

6- The Arab League:

The NCHR cooperated with the Arab League. It participated in a workshop organised by the human rights department of the Arab League on the Arab Charter for human rights, 4-5 July 2009. The workshop addressed the following topics: the rights enshrined in the Charter, combating human trafficking and the mechanisms of the Arab Charter.

7- Other organizations:

The Secretary General of the NCHR received Mr David Paterson, head of the Aids and Health laws in the international organisation on the law of development, on July 12 2009. Mr Mark Soliman, the legal Councillor in the organisation explained its history and objectives since its establishment in Rome. He outlined the main objective of the organization, which consists of contributing to the promotion of the rule of law and building capacity of state institutions working in the area of aids in collaboration with the WHO.

The Secretary General of the NCHR stated that HIV/AIDS is a health problem which, in our region, is compounded with cultural heritage that raises additional difficulties. Infection, in the general perception, is only limited to sexual transmission of the disease, other factors are neglected and rights of patients are not clear in the public perception. Answering questions of his interlocutor, the Secretary General of the NCHR suggested starting by schools, prisons and other relevant groupings with a view to raise awareness on the variety of transmission possibilities, the importance of early diagnosis and the need for legal protection for virus carrier's rights.

Third– The cooperation between the NCHR and other National Human Rights Institutions and Ombudsman offices

The NCHR has an elaborate and very active network of cooperation with NHRIs across the world, with special emphasis on the Arab region. The NCHR conducted fruitful dialogues with the ICC (International Consultative Committee) of NHRIs in Geneva in March 2009. The council also participated in the 7th conference of African NHRIs in Morocco, 2-7 November 2009 (Ambassador Ahmed Hajaj and Mr Monir Fakhry Abdelnour) as well as the 3rd conference of NHRIs in Namibia, 8-12 November 2009 (Mr Mohamed fayek). The Egyptian NCHR regularly invites numerous NHRIs from across the world to take part in its workshops and conferences in Cairo on different topics, including the most recent Afro Arab Forum on Democracy and Human Rights.

Moreover, the NCHR collaborates regularly with many European NHRIs to share and get experiences from different parts of the world. This included collaboration with the Ombudsman office in Spain with which the NCHR exchanged a number of visits, including to train the NCHR staff. Dr Zeinab Redwan, director of the legislative unit of the NCHR visited Spain for studying the Spanish experience in the development of legislations, 12-18 October 2009.

The NCHR also collaborates with the Arab network of Ombudsman offices, which the NCHR contributed to its establishment and hosts its headquarters. The network held a conference in Cairo, 17-18 December 2009, during which it was transformed into an Arab Organization of Ombudsman offices. Mr Mohamed Fayek was, elected as the first chairperson of this organization.

Forth– Cooperation with international non governmental organizations:

Cooperation with international NGOs is an important dimension of the activities of the NCHR. During 2009, the NCHR received visits of representatives of amnesty International, Freedom House, Human Rights watch and the International federation for Human Rights.

On 12 February 2009, Dr Kamal Aboulmagd, vice president of the NCHR and Ambassador Mokhless Kotb, the Secretary General, received an Amnesty International delegation headed by Mrs Hassibah Haj Saharawy, deputy director of the North Africa and the Middle East division. The discussions related to the state of emergency as well as economic, social and cultural rights, with particular emphasis on the situation of slums of which the delegation had visited some, in the area of Aldowikah. The delegation also inquired about the individual complaints received by the NCHR.

Dr Aboulmagd reiterated the firm position of the NCHR with respect to the state of emergency in Egypt, that there is an urgent need to end it and restore normal legal procedures with all the protection of a due process of law. He also emphasised that the NCHR is closely following the debate and developments of the draft law of terrorism with a view to ensure that it does not re establish unjustified limitations on individual and public rights and freedoms in the name of security considerations. Dr Aboulmagd insisted that civil and political rights are interrelated with economic, social and cultural rights. He said that the NCHR is very concerned with the situation of slums populations, that the NCHR visited those areas, organised workshops on this matter and formulated recommendations to the government in this respect.

Ambassador Mokhless Kotb spoke about the efforts of the NCHR in the area of raising awareness on human rights and the promotion of the culture of human rights in the country, in particular through media and education. He also outlined the development of the work of the NCHR in the area of individual complaints, including the mobile units of complaints that reaches' all parts of the country.

The Secretary General of the NCHR also received a delegation from Freedom House, on May 16th 2009, headed by Ms. Jennifer Windsor. He explained to the delegation the history of the NCHR, its institutional development as well as its main current areas of activity. The delegation asked questions about the plans of the NCHR with respect to the upcoming elections, its role with respect to major legislative debates in the country as well as the state of emergency.

The Secretary General of the NCHR explained that the main immediate challenge is to restore confidence in the electoral process in order to convince more citizens that their vote is important. Replying to a question by the Freedom House delegation, and their expression of interest to participate in the monitoring of the upcoming elections in Egypt, the Secretary General of the NCHR stated that if there could be cooperation in this area with Freedom House, this could take the form of training, capacity building and training of trainers. He also welcomed a continued dialogue with Freedom House and all international NGOs working in the field of human rights.

Dr Kamal Aboulmagd, received another delegation from Freedom house, on October 15th 2009, headed by Mr Thomas Laden. Dr Aboulmagd then explained that the NCHR does not boycott any party and is willing to engage with all stakeholders as long as the dialogue is objective and seeks the improvement of the human rights situation.

From his side, the head of Freedom House delegation affirmed that Egypt is a main country in the region and that it is therefore important to maintain dialogue. He added that the purpose of their visit is to expose their programs and activities and explore areas of possible cooperation, in light of the human

rights situation in Egypt, as their overall objective is to contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation in all parts of the world.

Dr Aboulmagd welcomed the dialogue among all cultures of the world as this serves the cause of international cooperation among all countries and peoples. He emphasized the importance of bridging the cultural divide particularly between the Islamic countries and the rest of the world. He also insisted on the independence of the NCHR from the Egyptian Government and the importance of its role to enhance the human rights movement. He also emphasized the transparency of the NCHR through its regular reports that are credible and well documented. He testified that since its inception, the NCHR was not subjected to any oversight by the government and that its network of healthy working relationships with all civil society organizations in Egypt enhances its independence and credibility.

Dr Aboulmagd affirmed that human rights education is considered to be one of the most important activities of the council adding that the secretary general of the NCHR cooperated with the ministry of education during the past three years in reviewing all educational programs with a view to evaluate its compatibility with human rights norms and standards. This would lead Egypt in the coming years to have educational programs that are completely compatible and reflective of a genuine human rights culture.

Dr Boutros Ghali, president of the NCHR, received a delegation of Human Rights Watch, on May 31st 2009, headed by Mr Jo Storck, deputy head of North Africa and the Middle East division, who praised the fifth annual report of the NCHR that dealt with key issues of human rights in Egypt. He expressed gratitude for the demarches of the secretary general of the NCHR as well as Mr Wael Aboulmagd from the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs to facilitate granting visas to many researchers from Arab countries, while some of them did not get his visa. Dr Boutros Ghali explained this by bureaucracy as well as the security situation related to the visit of the president of the United States of America to Egypt. He also advised that it would be useful to apply for the visa at least two weeks prior to the date of an expected visit to the country.

Mr Storck expressed concern as to the difficulties faced by researchers at the Egyptian Israeli border and their incapacity to bring assistance to the Palestinian people and to prepare their reports. He requested that Egypt facilitates the opening of crossing points at the borders and mentioned an appeal to President Obama in this respect.

The head of HRW delegation inquired about the repeated tensions at the Egyptian Israeli borders. Dr Ghali replied that security measures are an important factor to avoid any terrorist attacks as what happened in Bombay. He emphasized that human rights in Egypt are progressing and this, by definition, is a long term process that requires time and effort. He particularly mentioned the freedom of expression and the free press in Egypt that reached unprecedented levels.

The head of HRW regional office in Cairo was, however, of the view that freedom of expression in Egypt suffered setbacks lately. Journalists are still, exposed to arrest as well as bloggers on the internet. She also mentioned the cancellation of a workshop that was supposed to be, held in Hilton Ramses in Cairo and that they would require the assistance of the NCHR whenever they face such difficulties, especially with the inauguration of their Cairo office. Dr Ghali pledged to give his support as needed.

Dr Ghali concluded that, ultimately, the role of the civil society remains a new phenomenon not only in Egypt but also even across the globe and that true democracy will never be, reached unless and until the civil society plays its full role in the development of its respective societies.

The president of the NCHR also received a Colombian delegation headed by Mr Gama Gardens, president of Idia Born institution for the promotion of human rights culture, on January 3rd 2009. The president of the NCHR made a presentation on the nature of the NCHR, its plans and activities and the challenges it faces in Egypt. One the major challenges is poverty, as those who are deprived of their basic needs are hardly interested in other human rights that their mere survival. He also mentioned the very promising role that individual complaints play in the overall toolbox of the NCHR. He also mentioned the imperative of balancing the observance human rights with security requirements and the importance of building partnerships with the civil society.

The delegation raised questions related to the activities of the NCHR and its financing, particularly in the field of youth and education. The president of the NCHR outlined its plans in this area and explained that financing the activities of the NCHR come from different national and external sources such as American and European funds. The delegation suggested the establishment of a specialised unit for translation and outreach with a view to enhancing the international network and cooperation of the NCHR.

The secretary general of the NCHR received Mr Olivier Luis, director of the centre of mental disability in Budapest on March 4th 2009. The guest explained the objectives of the centre and its interest in establishing links of cooperation with similar institutions around the Arab world and the Middle East and that the European Union supports them in this endeavour.

The secretary general of the NCHR exposed its activities in this area, mentioning also other Egyptian intuitions whose areas of work cover the rights of persons with disability. He mentioned in this context the National council for Childhood, Motherhood, and numerous NGO's. He listed the activities and events co sponsored by the NCHR in this respect. He also emphasised that the NCHR concluded a number of agreements with specialised agencies, NGO's and with the Egyptian Ministry of health with a view to promote a culture of respect for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali received Dr Magdy Basali, chairman of International Alliance Petroleum, on July 4th 2009, who outlined the activities of Foundation child support, of which he is a board member. He particularly mentioned a project of preparing a medical ship to pass across African ports with medical assistance that will start from Dakar mid January 2010. Dr Magdy proposed an honorary chairmanship of this foundation by Dr Ghali who expressed full appreciation of this offer while declining it because of competing responsibilities. He rather suggested any other African personality such as Nelson Mandela or Abdu Diouf.

Fifth – International bilateral relations:

The NCHR received several official delegations from different countries and conducted with them consultations on a wide range of issues.

1- United States and Canada :

The Secretary General of the NCHR , on January 26, 2009, received Mr Bross Abrams from the office of democratic affairs who was informed by the secretary general that Dr Ahmed Refaat was assigned the responsibility of managing the project of raising awareness on human rights.

The guest expressed the conviction that with the beginning of the mandate of President Obama, The United States foreign policy will experience positive shifts in many parts of the world. The guest mentioned that financing is, suspended for all projects in Egypt upon request of the ministry of international cooperation. The secretary general of the NCHR reminded that the law establishing the NCHR allows it to receive donations directly without interference of any governmental institution.

As to the substance of the project of raising awareness on human rights. Mr Bross suggested the merger of the awareness raising dimension with a rights based approach to development. He also suggested the nomination of an expert to fulfil the paper work as required by the donor with respect to reporting obligations. Dr Ahmed Refaat accepted this proposal, while confirming that the rights based approach to development is already an integral part of the project.

The Secretary General of the NCHR also received Mrs Laila Gaafar, Director of the Democratic Institute in Cairo (NDI) who informed that the NDI developed a number of capacity building projects for NGOs and development links of cooperation with a number of NGOs in the area of enhancing democracy and human rights. The NDI also met with officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss avenues of cooperation. The guest expressed gratitude for the Ministry of Interior for the facilitation of getting their visas. She expressed the hope that NDI be formally, registered as an NGO in Egypt and that they are looking forward to training in the area of monitoring elections.

The Secretary General of the NCHR explained that registration of foreign NGOs in Egypt is a process for which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible. He expressed openness and willingness to collaborate with NDI as much as the NCHR collaborates with numerous national and international partners, including in the area of monitoring elections. He mentioned that in collaboration with UNDP, the NCHR established a special unit for that purpose in the perspective of the parliamentary elections in Egypt in 2010. He suggested that the NDI contributes to training of trainers to establish a sustainable national capacity in Egypt not only for the purpose of the upcoming elections but also for future and subsequent elections.

On July 15, 2009, the President of the NCHR received a delegation of AUC students. The discussion touched upon the role of youth in public affairs and regional and international developments. The discussion also touched upon non-state actors, role of civil society, and the reform of the United Nation and the future of international organization.

The secretary general of the NCHR received Mr Donald Blum, Minister Plenipotentiary of the US Embassy, accompanied by Mr Edward White, First Secretary of the Embassy, on 23rd of August, 2009.

The inquiries of the guests centered on the complaints mechanisms of the NCHR, religious freedoms and other activities of the NCHR.

The President of the NCHR received a delegation from the US congress, on November 12, 2009. The delegation, with Dr Boutros Ghali, raised questions related to freedom of press in Egypt, expressing concern as to the filing of over 500 legal pursuits against journalists and wondering what the United States could offer in this respect. They also raised the limited representation of women in the Egyptian parliament.

Dr Ghali reminded that it is not possible to compare developing countries with a country like the United States in the area of freedom of the press because of differences in culture and education. However, comparing freedom of the press in Egypt at present with how it used to be in earlier times shows net improvement. Tens of newspapers daily criticize governmental policies, while radio and television remain under direct government control. As for women's role in society, it has clearly improved, over 22 women Ambassadors, while it is true that women's representation in parliament requires a change of culture that takes time, as it took time in all parts of the world.

As to what the United States would offer, Dr Ghali advised that it would be of utmost importance that a country like the US dedicates greater attention to reviewing its foreign policies. Almost all national issues have an international dimension in the current era of globalization. This applies to environmental issues, financial crisis and trade interest as much as immigration, both legal and illegal.

With regard to the problem of Darfur, Egypt hasn't yet dedicated enough attention to the development of the crisis since many years due to other competing priorities at the national level. The UN and other forces committed the same mistake. The international attention should have focussed on Darfur in a much earlier stage. The same applies to many other parts of the developing world where extreme poverty with ethnic backgrounds can lead to similar dramatic situations. This is why developed countries have a legal and moral obligation to assist in international development.

2- European countries:

The NCHR received numerous delegations and officials from European countries during 2009. The secretary general of the NCHR, on January 28, 2009, received a delegation from the Dutch foreign ministry including Mrs Barbara Van Helmond, the officer in charge of political programs and empowerment and Mrs Ister Van Somren, responsible for policies in the department of North Africa and the Middle East.

The Secretary General gave an overview of the activities of the NCHR and its role in enhancing the human rights movement in Egypt. The delegation raised three questions about the priorities of the NCHR, his sources of financing and the proposal of the international organization for combating torture to collaborate with the NCHR. The Secretary General of the NCHR replied to all these questions and explained that the proposal for collaboration with this organization is under consideration.

The Secretary General of the NCHR also received another delegation of the Dutch embassy in Cairo, on June 8, 2009, comprising Mrs Barbara Van Helmund and Mrs Tesater Ister. He praised the support of the Dutch government to the NCHR and elaborated on a number of ongoing projects with the UNDP, particularly with respect to the preparatory process for the submission of the Egyptian reports to the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in Egypt. His praise was within the framework of the Human Rights Council of the United nations in Geneva. The discussion also extended to the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in Egypt in 2010 and 2011. The Secretary General

emphasized the priority of re-establishing confidence in general elections in Egypt as a prerequisite for participatory democracy. He also touched upon the UNDP projects, supported by the Dutch government with respect to combating torture and rehabilitation of its victims, especially with the hopeful end of the state of emergency.

The President of the NCHR also received a delegation from the Dutch Embassy, including Ambassador Susan Blankart and Mrs Barbara Helmond, First Secretary of the Embassy and Mrs Tesiater Istra. Mr Said Eldakkak, member of the NCHR also participated in this meeting.

Dr Ghali praised the full cooperation extended by the Dutch Embassy to the activities of the NCHR, which lead to many positive and concrete results. The Ambassador pledged a continued support and stressed the need to give priority to combating torture as this figures at the top of their agenda of international cooperation across the world. She referred to the project of cooperation with the international organization for combating torture in Denmark. She made proposals as to the programme of this collaboration as it was, scheduled for consideration between all parties on July 15th, 2009.

Dr Said Eldakkak stressed out that the importance of this project lies in targeting the judicial authority and police forces. Dr Ghali said that combating torture is on the top of the list of priorities of the NCHR.

The secretary General of the NCHR received Mrs Ann Marie Lausanne, previous president of the Senate in Belgium, on February 18th, 2009. He reminded her of their earlier collaboration when she was a member of the socialist group in the European parliament and her contribution in calling for the cancellation of the Egyptian debts. She also had collaborated in ensuring President Arafat visit to the European parliament.

Mrs Ann Marie Lausanne said she continues her political activities from France. She praised President Sarkozy and his Mediterranean policy as well as his position towards the Middle East problem. She said he is eager to find a solution for the situation of the Israeli soldier Shaleet (who also has a French nationality) and that President Sarkozy is convinced that Egypt is the centre of action in the region and has the weight to help bringing all parties to a peaceful settlement.

On March 5, 2009, the President of the NCHR received Mr Fiaz Moghal, advisor to the president of the Free Democrats' Party for dialogue among religions and combating fundamentalism. Dr Ghali stressed that European countries only care about human rights issues that are of interest to them, and not in global and holistic manner. He stressed the importance of more attention to be, granted to the grass roots of human rights violations in areas such as Somalia, Rwanda and Darfur. Dr Ghali mentioned human rights violations committed also in Europe and reiterated that the promotion of human rights culture is, by definition, a long-term process.

Mr Fiaz praised the efforts of Dr Ghali with respect to Iraq and confirmed the selectivity and double standards of many European countries that, in itself, constitutes a discrimination that contradicts the very foundation of human rights. He also stressed the need to re confirm the universality of human rights and expressed the wish to collaborate with the NCHR through civil society organizations in the United Kingdom to enhance the human rights movement in Egypt without interference in its internal affairs.

The President of the HRC welcomed all forms of cooperation. He reminded that he is keen to link Africa with western countries through the annual Afro Arab Forum in Egypt to which many western experts and civil society actors are also invited.

The vice president of the NCHR, on September 30, 2009, received a delegation from the House of Commons in the United Kingdom. Mr Hedgo Sweir headed the delegation. Dr Aboulmagd explained the

approaches and activities of the NCHR and stressed the independence and importance of its role in enhancing the promotion of human rights in Egypt.

The delegation raised a number of questions related to political detainees, especially those belonging to the Muslim Brothers movement, the degree of independence of the judiciary in Egypt and the role of the NCHR in improving key legislation that impact on human rights. Dr Aboulmagd admitted that the number of detained persons is not a small number. Some of these detained persons were, arrested for criminal reasons and others under the state of emergency. He mentioned that the NCHR received numerous paints and communications from citizens who have been, arrested without proper investigations by competent authorities. The NCHR therefore always reiterates its position that the state of emergency should be, abolished and replaced by due process of the normal rule of law.

Dr Aboulmagd, however, confirmed that the Egyptian judiciary enjoys a high degree of independence and provides sufficient guarantees through three stages of judicial process. He said that the NCHR is in close interaction with the Egyptian ministry of interior to promote human rights. He also mentioned that some of the members of the NCHR are also members of Parliament or Shore Council and that they promote the NCHR's suggestions and recommendations within their respective councils.

The President of the NCHR also received the Hungarian Ambassador in Cairo on June 10, 2009 and outlined to him the major axes and areas of activities of the NCHR in Egypt. The Ambassador presented a short introduction that centered on the activities of analogous institutions in his country and suggested cooperation in this respect. Dr Ghali welcomed this suggestion and asked the Ambassador to convey to human rights institutions in Hungary to send a representative to attend the Afro Arab Forum on Democracy and Human Rights to be held in Cairo in December 2009.

The President of the NCHR received a Palestinian delegation on November 16, 2009, headed by Mr Eissa Karakee, Minister of Palestinian prisoners. He raised Dr Ghali's attention to the fact that despite their high number, about 13000 Palestinians are held in Israeli prisons, the issue hasn't yet received the consideration it deserves. Some of these prisoners have been, detained since more than 30 years without intervention or even attention from the international community. He said that Israel resists any international involvement in this matter while continuing its legalization and practice of torture against Palestinian prisoners. He stressed that Israel actions in this respect flagrantly violate international humanitarian law, the UN convention against torture and the convention on the rights of the child. He added that he submitted this file to the Arab league as well as the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva and the International Criminal Court.

Dr Ghali replied that it is of utmost importance to closely monitor and regularly document such violations to use it as evidence for consideration by the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court. He also advised that once evidence is collected, subsequent course of action should be, carefully studied and consulted upon.

The President of the NCHR also received Mr. Hussein Alshefei, head of the Bahrein Observatory for human rights on November 16, 2009.

Dr Ghali started by congratulation the guest for the issuing of the royal decree establishing a national council for human rights in Bahrein. The guest spoke about recent major developments of the human rights situation in his country. Those included an increased number of NGO's, more free press and addressing the problems of temporary workers who have stayed so long that their countries of origin claim that they should be treated as migrants and not simply temporary workers.

The President of the NCHR outlined its vision and main activities as well as the experience gained so far in dealing with individual petitions and communications received by the NCHR.

Sixth – The contribution of the NCHR to the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) Process:

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the most novel human rights mechanism introduced at the UN level to enhance human rights promotion and protection. This process consists of a peer review that provides all States with the opportunity, and the duty, to announce their measures aiming and ensuring respect for human rights and challenges they face in this respect.

The UPR mechanism is one of the main features and components of the newly established Human Rights Council. The modalities and functioning of this new mechanism were, elaborated and endorsed by Member States of the UN on June 18, 2007.

The UPR leads to a review of the human rights situation in all member States of the UN once every four years. Forty-eight countries are thus, reviewed every year. A full review program has been, established for the dull first round of UPR (2008-2011). The Working Group of the UPR meets in Geneva three times each year. The review process is, moderated by a group of three countries constituted as Troika who is, chosen ad random and act as *rapporteurs* for the UPR review sessions of different countries.

The UPR review process is, based on three reports: a report presented by the State under review (a national report) that contains information provided by this State within specific parameters. The second report is, prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), based on inputs by the mandate holders of special procedures as well as the recommendations of different treaty bodies to which the State under review is a party (maximum ten pages). The third report contains views and recommendations of other stakeholders, mainly national human rights institutions (NHRI's) and NGO's (also with a maximum of ten pages).

During the review process, any UN member State can raise any issue or make any recommendation to the State under UPR review. The three *rapporteurs* (troika) compile such questions and recommendations and moderate a dialogue on this basis that constitutes the review session. After the review session, the troika prepares a report of conclusions and recommendations that is, adopted by the Human Rights Council. The review sessions within the UPR started on April 7, 2007 and the review for Egypt has been set for February 4, 2010.

The NCHR as well as interested NGO's presented independent reports as part of the UPR of Egypt according to the parameters previously outlined. These reports have also been, made public.

The NCHR, from the outset, has approached the UPR process for Egypt as an opportunity and indeed a responsibility for the NCHR. The key processes that summarize the approach of the NCHR in this respect are reviews assessment, dialogues and recommendations. Indeed, the NCHR conducted a number of planned and announced working sessions with a number of stakeholders with a view to contribute to achieving the objectives of the UPR which can be summarized in the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground.

The NCHR started this process early enough. Dr Hossam Badrawi, member of the NCHR, conducted numerous contacts in this respect both at the national level as well as with external stakeholders **within his** participation at the regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2009.

The NCHR constituted a special Task Force to be in charge of preparing its report on the human rights situation in Egypt to feed into the UPR documentation in Geneva. The members of this Task Force were: Dr Hossam Badrawi, Mrs Mona Zolfekar, and late Dr Salah Amer. This Task Force, however, was

also open to other members of the NCHR. The Task Force also resorted to external expertise on ad hoc basis.

The following activities and reports were prepared within the UPR mandate of the Task Force:

- A. The Task Force prepared a background information file about the UPR process, its basis and modalities, roles of different national actors and external stake holders as well as best practices on the matter. This file was meant to enable and empower all actors to actively play their respective roles in this important process.
- B. The Task Force prepared a number of substantive reports including:
 - a. A study on the program of action on citizenship, outlining the vision and concrete recommendations of the NCHR in this respect.
 - b. A study on the reservations of Egypt on human rights treaties.
- C. Conducting dialogues with key governmental officials on the UPR process and reforms that the government can consider in this respect.
- D. A wide ranging process of consultation with Egyptian NGO's and civil society actors was conducted by the Task Force in preparation for the UPR of Egypt. This was done through three enlarged hearing sessions in Cairo (6/7/2009), Alexandria (11/7/2009) and Menia (1/8/2009) so as to cover all regions of the country including Upper Egypt.
- E. Preparing and conducting a questionnaire for Egyptian NGO's in addition and in parallel to the hearing sessions just described, with the aim of reaching out to the maximum possible number of civil society views and organizations. (The questionnaire was shared with and replied to by 130 NGO's in addition to posting it on the website of the NCHR.

This questionnaire included 14 specific questions covering the following axes:

1. Civil and political rights, what provisions of the Constitution of the country require amendment, legislative reforms that are of most important priority and impact on human rights situation, state of emergency and the law against terrorism.
2. Rights of children and rights of persons with disabilities.
3. Women's rights in Egypt.
4. Legislation that requires amendment, especially with respect to the law on NGO's, syndicalism, labor laws, law on political parties and political rights.
5. The performance of the NCHR and measures to enhance its effectiveness.

The results of this questionnaire were first discussed at the level of the Task Force then by the members of the NCHR as a whole and were published on the website of the NCHR.

- F. A special internet site was dedicated to the UPR material, background and process with a view to widen the scope of the participatory process of the civil society in this exercise both at its national stage and at the international level.

Within this multi-actor and multi level process, the NCHR finalized its independent report within the UPR process. This report was discussed during a plenary session of the NCHR, enriched by input from all members. The report was then sent to the OHCHR, both in Arabic and in English.

This has been the first stage of the involvement of the NCHR into the UPR process of Egypt. Step two is the follow up to the review process in Geneva itself in February 2010 and, most importantly, the follow

up to the recommendations that the international community will formulate to Egypt as a result of this exercise. This is a fundamental issue and a high priority on which the NCHR will issue special reports.

Chapter Six

Evaluating the NCHR's Performance in its second session (January 2007 – January 2009)

Evaluating the NCHR's Performance in its Second session (January 2007 – January 2009):

The annual report of the NCHR has coincided this year with the culmination of the second session of the Council, sufficient time to present to the community and the state the NCHR's vision about the evaluation of its performance and the estimation of its success or failure in achieving its goals and the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses in its experiments.

Such evaluation complements a similar effort undertaken by the NCHR by the end of its first session which was included in its third annual report. The evaluation focuses on several elements, as follows:

1. The organizational development of the NCHR in compliance with its work requirements and its capacities promotion.
2. The implementation of its duties and tasks with complete transparency.

First: The NCHR's Institutional Structure Development and the Enhancement of Action Mechanism:

The NCHR established during its second session four local branches, in the following governorates: Suhag (April 2008), Beni Suef (January 2009), Port-Said (November 2009) and Al-Wadi Al-Gadid (December 2009). Furthermore, the Council is planning to establish more branches in the following governorates: Assiut, Menya, Luxor, Arish, Mansoura and Fayoum.

These local branches contribute in accessing the public and communicate with them directly, in addition to the promotion of the NCHR interaction with local authorities and NGOs. Moreover, the NCHR was keen to ensure the regular succession of its committees' chairmanship between the Council's members.

Within the context of developing internal work mechanisms in the NCHR characterized with special nature, fast performance and effectiveness, specialized units have been established since the year 2006, each designated to perform one of the projects that would achieve one or more of the goals set. Each specialized unit has the organizing structure of its own in the framework prescribed by the Statute of establishing the council and its bylaws. The actions and activities of these units would be financed from the budget of the council and financing programs granted by foreign bodies for this purpose as agreed with the council.

In its first session, the NCHR had established the following specialized unit : The regional network for Ombudsman offices unit, Human rights and education unit, the media unit for the promotion of human rights culture, NGOs unit, the library and database unit. While in its second session, the NCHR established the following specialized units:

1. **The legislative research and development unit:** The unit is presided by Dr.Zeinab Radwan the NCHR member and the Parliament's deputy, and started undertaking its duties on April 1st 2009.
2. **The unit of the national action plan for human rights :** the unit was established in the year 2007 under the supervision of Dr.Nabil Helmy, aiming to implement and evaluate the national human rights plan prepared by the NCHR.
3. **The Think Tank unit:** the unit was, established and started carrying on its duties on February 2010. Its aim is to analyze the situation of human rights, and present a future vision, proposed plan and suggestions, fast solutions to human rights related issues.
4. **The prohibition of torture unit:** the unit was established on July 2009 under the supervision of Dr. Mohamed Saeed El-Daqaq, aiming to promote the NCHR's efforts in the area of combating torture, and the promotion of the culture of prohibition of torture. Moreover, the unit signed a cooperation protocol with the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture (IRCT) located in Denmark.
5. **The NGOs unit:** the unit includes two sub-units: the training unit, and the elections monitoring promotion unit. The NGOs unit was established within the context of launching the second phase of the support project for NCHR (INSAN2) in cooperation with the UNDP.

The NCHR followed the development of its website on the internet during the second session, within the framework of its continuous efforts of accessing all the sectors of public audience. Moreover, the NCHR was keen to update the available electronic references on the website, increase the available publications and materials, in addition to integrating new ideas and methods of presenting information in order to facilitate using the website and allowing interaction through various issues and discussions. The NCHR also added the monthly agenda for the Council's events, complaints registration forms, and NCHR membership forms.

Furthermore, the NCHR created a special website for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the help of specialized experts. The website contains a comprehensive presentation for relevant information and agencies, in addition to the full report along with the important documents, the important working papers on citizenship and human rights, the documentation of the hearing sessions held by the NCHR with concerned NGOs, the results of the questionnaires prepared by the council with the help of prominent experts and the experiences of other Arab countries in this regard.

The NCHR website development program includes in the next period launching the French version of the website as well as an electronic library to be accessible and helpful to all human rights researchers.

Second: A Brief about the NCHR activities:

In the realm of Promoting Human Rights

1. The conferences, symposia and workshops organized by the NCHR:

One of the most important and significant mechanisms in the area of human right promotion is organizing conferences, symposia and workshops. Additionally, these activities have a great impact as they define the nature of the interests of the organization.

During its second session, the NCHR has organized (36) main conferences, in addition to a number of symposia, workshops and seminars in conjunction with the organizations working in human rights.

The NCHR was keen to involve in these events the representatives of competent authorities, NGOs and experts, and then presenting its analysis and recommendation to government officials.

The type of symposia reflected the NCHR interests priorities during its second session:

- The NCHR has held seven symposia on citizenship rights. In which discussion raised, sub-topics, which included the proposed amendment for the law 106 for the year 1976 on the organization of construction actions (June 2007), and equal opportunities and combating discrimination (July 2007). The discussions also included administrative provisions and identity cards, adopting a prohibition of torture strategy, the problems of implementing the administrative judiciary provisions on the religion category in identity cards, in addition to two conferences on citizenship rights (November 2007 and December 2009).
- The NCHR has held seven symposia on the promotion of public freedoms, discussing the following sub-topics: the demand for a just electoral system (August 2007), the Arab experience in election management (December 2008), The freedom of opinion and expression (July2008),Human Rights and Egyptian media (June 2007),the right to information access (February 2008), the proposed amendments on NGOs law (December 2008), and National legislations and human rights (March 2009).
- The NCHR has held seven symposia on Economic and Social Rights, discussing the following sub-topics: social justice policies management (June 2008), the water crisis (September 2007), the unemployment (October 2007), the subsidies (January 2008), the elimination of street children phenomenon (October 2008), the illegal migration (March 2009), and youth right to health, education and job opportunities as an entry to development (April 2007).
- The NCHR has held two symposia on the promotion of vulnerable groups rights, discussing the following sub-topics: combating human trafficking phenomenon (this sub-topic was addressed in six seminars during the year 2009), and trading human organs (March 2009).
- The NCHR has held 3 symposia on the promotion of human rights, discussing the following sub-topics: The activation of the national human rights plan (April 2007), The death penalty regulations (October 2007), and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (December 2008).
- Moreover, the NCHR has held five international conferences, among which three conferences were held in cooperation with the UNESCO on the occasion of the Universal declaration of human rights celebration, discussing the following topics: the establishment of the Arab-African dialogue (December 2009), the preparation for the International conference for Durban review (March 2009) and the dialogue with Ombudsman offices (December 2009).

Furthermore, the NCHR published its activities and recommendations in a dozen of publications which are also available on its website on the internet⁴. These publications include: the NCHR's five annual reports and their translated versions to foreign language (in English language in particular), and the executive summaries of the annual reports. In

addition to the results and outcomes of the conferences and workshops addressing main issues facing the community like unemployment crisis, water crisis, citizenship rights, the national plan for human rights promotion, proposed legislative amendments, women empowerment, the role of national human rights institutions in the promotion of democracy and human rights in Africa, Ombudsman offices in the Arab world, personal status legislations, the NCHR fifth and sixth meetings with civil society organizations, the reference manual for reproductive rights , reports on electoral processes, and NCHR activities during the previous six years.

2. Training:

Since its establishment, the NCHR developed an ambitious training program in cooperation with specialized experts in several sectors (University, NGOs...etc). The training program targeted the following groups:

- The groups capable of influencing the public opinion culture and views like persons working in mass media, press and social specialists.
- The groups working in the domain of the protection of human rights from violations like lawyers, civil society organizations employees, or local councils members.
- The NCHR targeted two categories of youth: the first category consists of the University and high institutes' students and fresh graduates of faculties related to public participation like education institutes, faculties of law, mass communication, economics and political sciences. The second category represents youth from youth camps.
- The concerned civil society organizations to monitor the elections, the NCHR organized in this context a dozen of specialized training courses for hundreds of NGOs members.

3. Integration of Human Rights Values in Educational Curricula:

In its first session, The NCHR had established a committee of educators and education experts within the framework of the Council's growing interest in the development of school curricula and their purification in order to comply with human rights concepts. The council achieved three phases of this development program: the first phase included the purification of the elementary education books (27 books), the second phase included the secondary education books (46 books, covering religion, Arab language and other subjects books), and the third phase included University education curricula which comprised an analysis to human rights concepts in nine curricula in Egyptian Universities, Academies and Institutes.

The ministry of education has showed a great cooperation with the NCHR in this program, by providing to the committee the required school books. And therefore, the project started developing some school books according to the NCHR recommendation.

4. Promotion of the Culture of Human Rights through the Mass Media:

The NCHR understands and values the great impact of the mass media on the public opinion. Therefore, the Council was keen to maintain a close relationship with the radio and television union, a human rights committee was established within the Egyptian radio and television union (ERTU) with the membership of the NCHR Secretary General. And thus, committee has developed its scope of work to include citizenship rights.

The ministry of information and the radio and television union show a continuous cooperation with the NCHR. Within the framework of such cooperation, the NCHR organizes training courses to promote and strengthen the capacities of media persons in the area of promoting the culture of human rights and the introduction of the sources and evaluation of such culture. The NCHR also cooperated with the radio and television union in the area of broadcasting direct programs to promote the culture of human rights like the programs “ human rights in Islam”, “ You are right” on the Youth and Sports radio station. Moreover, the Council held human rights related cultural competitions.

Developing a National Plan for Improving, Enhancing and Protecting Human Rights:

The NCHR establishment Statute mandates it with developing a national action plan for enhancing and developing human rights and suggesting the methods that would bring this plan to life. The Council has taken to preparing and developing this plan since the early year of its establishment and deployed a team of experts to prepare the draft plan. , and discussions have been deliberated at many different levels within the council with the relevant bodies, in order to be integrated in the general plan of the State 2007/2012. The plan draft included four strategic goals:

1. Enhancing human rights status
2. Promoting the culture of human rights
3. Supporting protection mechanisms
4. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The process of the implementation of the plan is constantly being evaluated in order to measure progress towards the achievement of the goals. Accordingly, the NCHR established a special committee to follow up the implementation of the plan on March 2007 presided by Dr.Nabil Helmy the NCHR member. The committee held a conference targeting Government and NGOs representatives, and experts aiming to clarify the responsibilities and duties of all involved parties in the implementation of the plan. The NCHR engages in an ongoing dialogue with various ministries for the activation of the plan implementation. During its second session, the NCHR held coordinating meetings with 26 ministries and some government bodies.

Defending Human Rights

1. Complaints:

The main goal of the NCHR since its establishment is defending human rights and combating its violations. Therefore, the NCHR was keen to establish a complaints office (Ombudsman) and provide it with the necessary resources to effectively fulfill its duties and tasks, and reinforce its capacities to access the public by launching the mobile units project in 2008 which receive citizens' complaints in cooperation with local government bodies and NGOs. The mobile units visited in the last couple of years all the governorates in Egypt according to a specific time frame, some governorates were re-visited according to the work needs.

The Ombudsman received 38000 complaints during the NCHR second session, and 15500 during the first session with an increase of 150%.

Furthermore, a significant proportion of the complaints doesn't represent law violations being letters from some citizens requesting to enhance their economic and social status. The NCHR referred such requests to the State's competent and relevant bodies and briefed the citizens.

The NCHR communicated the complaints representing human rights violations to 34 ministries, 29 governorates, 39 government bodies, 26 economic association (Banks and private firms), 18 syndicates, NGOs and political parties and 26 other bodies.

The response of the government and relevant bodies has significantly increased, from responding to 12% of the total number of complaints in the first year to 40% in the year 2009.

2. Fact-finding Missions:

The NCHR had dispatched several field fact-finding missions and held a number of hearing sessions on specific events within the framework of its human rights protection tasks. During its second session, the NCHR dispatched 32 fact-finding missions, as follows:

- Thirteen missions were sent to locations witnessing security tensions or sectarian events in several governorates.
- Nine missions were assigned to investigate in labor strikes.
- Five missions investigated the issue of the collapse of the Moqatam rock and the slums conditions.
- Two missions took charge of investigating individual complaints: the first one consisted of the strike of a female citizen after being abused, and the other one was an allegation of torture.

3. Elections Monitoring:

The NCHR was engaged in the monitoring of public elections during the presidential and parliamentary elections in the year 2005, and documented its efforts in this regard in its annual reports in addition to a separate publication.

The NCHR followed this role during the local councils elections in April 2008, and the supplementary elections held in some constituencies by cooperating with civil society organizations, in addition to training hundreds of observers on the monitoring of the elections.

Within the framework of the preparations to monitor the coming presidential and parliamentary elections, the NCHR established a unit on elections support to work on developing the national capacities in the area of elections monitoring, which includes the following:

- Supporting elections units in all the governorates of Egypt.
- Building national capacities to be able to monitor the elections.
- Developing the training curricula to train 500 observers.
- Creating a website for the elections monitoring unit for public awareness purposes.

- Preparing an electoral map.
- Encouraging voters' registration, designing and distributing manuals to promote elections monitoring.

4. In the area of the human rights- conductive legislations:

Developing national legislations:

The NCHR was occupied since its establishment with developing the legislations for eliminating such ones in contrary to human rights, and aiming to remove all the legislations restraints leading to human rights violations, and support all legal guarantees for protecting and enhancing the basic rights and public freedoms.

In this context, the NCHR continued persistently pursuing the cancelation of the state of emergency during its second session in addition to making the anti-terrorism Act publicly available before the community before presenting it to the Parliament. The NCHR also presented legislations drafts on the following topics: places of worship construction, equal opportunities and combating discrimination (the draft includes establishing a special commissioner to follow up the implementation of the legislation). The NCHR followed its previous efforts in the domain of performing legislative amendments in the area of torture prevention, the activation of the right to a fair trial, prisoners and detainees protection and prisons supervision.

Furthermore, the NCHR suggested legislations amendments to amend legal texts related to anti-corruption, in addition to presenting separate recommendations to amend the laws on political rights, syndicates and NGOs law.

5. The Cooperation with civil society organizations:

Since its establishment, the NCHR was keen to strengthen its relationship with civil society organizations working in the domain of human rights and development. The NCHR's cooperation with NGOs has taken many channels, as follows:

1. Holding regular conferences to organize the cooperation with NGOs.
2. Communicating with NGOs on the issues of common interest.
3. Inviting NGOs to participate in the activities of the NCHR, and inviting the NCHR to participate in the activities of the NGOs.
4. Allocating (88) activities for the cooperation with NGOs in the national plan for human rights promotion.
5. Supporting the efforts of NGOs in their efforts to develop the NGOs law, in order to remove the restraints of the work of NGOs.
6. Supporting the NGOs which are exposed to the violation of their legal rights by communicating their complaints to competent bodies.

During its second session, the NCHR reinforced the above mentioned cooperation channels with the NGOs by signing cooperation protocols with (34) NGOs, in addition to the cooperation protocol with the National Council for Women (NCW).

6. The International cooperation:

The NCHR is engaged in a regular cooperation with ten UN agencies: The human rights council, the UN high commissioner for human rights (UNHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, the international labor organization (ILO), The UN high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the joint United Nations Programme on Aids (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Furthermore, the NCHR followed during its second session reinforcing this cooperation.

The scope of this cooperation includes the participation in various activities in addition to a broader cooperation that consists of engaging in specific programs, such as: INSAN project in cooperation with the UNDP which supports many of the NCHR activities, reproductive health programs in cooperation with the UNFPA which include the production of an important manual on reproductive health and a training program.

Moreover, the NCHR is involved in regular cooperation with the European Union (EU) and its various agencies. This cooperation includes engaging in an ongoing dialogue on human rights issues of common interest. The EU supports the NCHR Ombudsman which is one of the main NCHR activities.

The joint cooperation activities between the NCHR and the International Francophone organization include holding joint international conferences, in addition to the NCHR representation in the coordinating committee of the Egyptian ministry of foreign affairs in charge of the cooperation with the International organization.

The NCHR initiated a regular cooperation with the African Union by participating in the meetings of the African commission on human and people's rights. The NCHR's relations with the commission were reinforced with the nomination of one of its members to be the African commission on human and people's rights' commissioner.

Also, the NCHR cooperates with the Arab league as the two parties participate in the activities of common interest.

The NCHR engages as well in bilateral cooperation relationships with several countries and international groups. The Council is having several joint projects with some of these countries, as follows:

- The US Agency for International Development (USAID) supports the NCHR project on the promotion of the culture of human rights.
- Sweden supports the NCHR project on establishing a regional network for Arab Ombudsman offices.
- Norway supports the NCHR project on establishing an electronic library.
- Spain supports the NCHR project on legislative development.

- The Netherlands supports the NCHR project on the promotion of the culture of the prohibition of torture and the rehabilitation of its victims.

On the other hand, the NCHR engages in international gatherings related to national human rights institutions, like the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) and regional African, Asian, European and Arab organizations. However, the NCHR paid a great attention to cooperate closely with Arab national human rights institutions. The Arab national human rights institutions established a special and regular gathering, as they meet regularly on annual basis, each year in an Arab capital.

The NCHR cooperates with Arab Ombudsman offices through the regional network for Arab Ombudsman offices presided by the director of the NCHR Ombudsman. The regional network for Arab Ombudsman offices is cooperating closely with a number of International Ombudsman networks, like: the Euro-Mediterranean network, the Union network for the Mediterranean, the African and the Asian networks.

The NCHR held a meeting for these networks in December 2009. Moreover, the network has developed its organizational structure by the end of the year 2009 to become the Arab organization for Ombudsman offices.

The NCHR cooperates as well with a number of International NGOs working in the domain of human rights, like: Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, and others.

ⁱ www.nchr.org.eg