



Free Iraq Foundation
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**HEWAR INITIATIVE TO ENHANCE JUDICIAL
OUTREACH AND TRANSPARENCY
Progress Report
(January 1 - March 31, 2015)**

Executive Summary:

During this reporting period, the Iraq Foundation (IF) successfully held the 3rd Stakeholders meeting on February 26, at the Judicial Development Institute (JDI). A total number of 36 participants attended the meeting including: 6 participants from the HJC, headed by Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar; 10 lawyers; 6 journalists; Mr. Kamil Ameen-Director General of the Monitoring Directory in the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR); 2 representative from the Iraqi-High Independent Human Rights Commission headed by Dr. Bushra Al-Obaidi and Mr. Mohammed Al-Nuwab-Director of the Public Relations Directory at the Commission; 8 representatives from the partner NGOs in Kirkuk, Al-Diwaniya, Al-Muthana, and Kerbala; 2 representatives from Starts Orbit M&E; and 2 IF Staff. The meeting started with a welcoming word by Mrs. Suhaila Alssadi, Senior Projects Manager and HEWAR Project Manager in Iraq. Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar explained the main steps taken in HJC according to the communication strategy, which included the development of: the HJC Website; the communication with the civic society; the communication with the MOHR and the IHCHRI; and the communication with the Media. The participants indicated multiple notes on the judiciary as well as some suggestions. The participants discussed the noted development on the communication strategy that was developed by the S2C Company. On January 21, 2015, IF contracted with Al-Rasheed Satellite Chanel to produce and broadcast 4 TV spots , the 4 TV spots will be broadcasted as radio spots for 200 times. Also to produce and broadcast 21 TV programs on judicial procedures. During February IF produced the Citizen Guide, and printed out 30000 copies, and printed out 10000 posters on the citizens' rights as well as printed out 5000 brochures on citizens' rights. IF and partner NGOs started hold training on rights and legal issues detailed in the "Citizens' Guide" in Kirkuk, Diwaniya and Kerbala. IF will also implement this training in Baghdad during the coming reporting period. During this reporting period, IF contracted with Al-Baghdadiya Co. to design and activate the mobile application for the HJC. On February 4, INL approved IF's request to contract with 2 alternative partner NGOs: 1- Al-Rafidain Organization for Development of Society and Construction in Kirkuk, and 2- Iraqi Human Rights Watch Society in Kerbala instead of 2 partner NGOs in Ninawa and Anbar due to the deteriorated security situation in these 2 provinces.



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Addendums:

- SF-PPR form
- HEWAR FFR SF
- Pictures of the 2nd and 3rd Stakeholders meeting
<http://www.iraqfoundation.org/hewar-2nd-and-3rd-stakeholder-follow-up-meetings/>
- List of participants in the 2nd and 3rd Stakeholders meeting
- Copy of the Citizen Guide
- Copy of 5 posters on legal rights of citizens
- Copy of the pamphlet on legal rights of citizens
- The launch of HJC's mobile application:
<http://www.iraqfoundation.org/hewar-mobile-application-launched>

Number of IF Staff (based in Iraq) working on HEWAR Project: 2 Staff

I. Activities and evaluation of progress on goals/objectives

Objective 1: Diagnose gaps in judicial stakeholder relations and establish a medium-term communications strategy and outreach plan for the High Judicial Council HJC

Stage 1: Activity 1.1: Develop and distribute survey on the relationship between stakeholders and the HJC and administrative issues affecting HJC:

This activity has been accomplished during the (October, 01 - December 31, 2013) reporting period.

Stage 1: Activity 1.2: S2C conducts 6-day training of 15 HJC officials and 2 experts in Erbil on setting communication objectives, defining content, formulating a clear communication strategy, protocols for speaking with media and consistent messaging.

This activity has been accomplished during the reporting period 01/01/2014 – 03/31/2014). IF in collaboration with S2C held the “Communication Strategy Workshop” from January 17 – 22, 2014 at the High Crest Hotel in Sulaimaniya.

Stage 1: Activity 1.3: IF-designated experts hold 3 2-day meetings at the HJC headquarters to provide ongoing mentoring to HJC

The 2 HJC-Experts have continued mentoring with their colleagues at HJC, and provided ongoing mentoring.

Stage 1: Activity 1.4: S2C firm provides 2 5-day follow-up trainings for media specialists within HJC in Beirut



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First Media Follow-Up Workshop: *This activity has been accomplished during the reporting period (03/01/2014 – 06/30/2014). IF and in collaboration with S2C held the “First Media Follow up Workshop” for the period from 05/24 – 28/ 2014 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Beirut, Lebanon.*

Second Media Follow – Up Workshop: *This activity has been accomplished during the reporting period (06/01/2014 – 09/30/2014). IF and in collaboration with S2C held the “Second Media Follow up Workshop” for the period from 08/24 – 28/ 2014 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Beirut, Lebanon.*

Stage 1: Activity 1.5: Hold 5-day organizational management training for staff of HJC in Beirut

This activity has been accomplished during the reporting period (October 1- December 31, 2014). IF in collaboration with the Jordanian International Business Legal Associates (IBLAW) held the “Organizational Management Workshop” in Beirut from December 9-13, 2014.

Objective 2: Increase transparency and outreach to Iraqi citizens through enhanced stakeholder relations and cooperation

Stage 1: Activity 2.1: Hold 2-day First Stakeholders’ Meeting.

This activity has been accomplished on March 25 and 26, during the reporting period (01, 01 – 03, 31, 2014).

Stage 1-2: Activity 2.2: Hold 3 1-day Follow-up Stakeholders’ Meetings

First Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting: This activity has been accomplished on 06/14/2014 during the reporting period (April 1-June 30, 2014).

Second Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting: IF held the 2nd Follow-up Stakeholders meeting on October 30, 2014 at the Judicial Development Institute. Total of 33 participants attended the meeting, including: 11 lawyers, 8 media persons, 4 representatives from partner NGOs, 8 staff from the HJC, 1 representative from the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR), and 1 representative from Starts Orbit M&E Company. The meeting started at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The meeting started with reviewing the communication strategy that is produced by the S2C Lebanese Company. This presentation on this strategy aimed to inform the stakeholder’s participants and get their suggestions and recommendations. The goal of this 2nd follow-up meeting is to identify the developments on the communication strategy between HJC and the judicial stakeholders. The meeting was very interactive among the participants. Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar, the HJC spokesperson and Head of HJC’s Media Center talked about the most recent updates of the communication strategy. After that, the participants interacted with their discussions and suggestions. Judge Al-Bayrikdar reviewed the latest recommendations approached



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during the second Media Follow-Up workshop that was held in Beirut from September 24- 28. The participants were distributed by their groups (lawyers, media persons, and MOHR) in order to present their reports about the most important achievements regarding the pre-taken steps that were discussed in the previous meetings. The participants had a discussion about the forthcoming Organizational Management Workshop, in order to identify the best dates to hold that workshop in Beirut-Lebanon. The most important achievement of this meeting was mainly discussing with Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar, the HJC spokesperson and the expert from HJC with IF on HEWAR Project, the judicial challenges or problems that the judicial-stakeholders are suffering from. Judge Al-Bayrikdar presented clear and honest answers on these problems. He talked about the HJC Website and the need to develop it, and about the HJC's media campaigns within the communication strategy, he indicated that HJC and IF have prepared the content of the Citizen Guide on legal procedures, and the intention that that guide will be simple, easy to read and understand by any simple person and guide people on the main legal procedures that were indicated in the current Iraqi Criminal Justice System. So any citizen can follow in case he or she were put on custody, or went for investigation or in court.

Third Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting: On February 26, IF successfully held the 3rd Stakeholders meeting from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Judicial Development Institute (JDI). A total number of 34 participants attended the meeting and as following: 6 participants from the HJC, headed by Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar; 10 lawyers; 6 journalists; Mr. Kamil Ameen-Director General of the Monitoring Directory in the Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR); 2 representative from the Iraqi-High Independent Human Rights Commission headed by Dr. Bushra Al-Obaidi and Mr. Mohammed Al-Nuwab-Director of the Public Relations Directory at the Commission; # representatives from the partner NGOs in Kirkuk, Al-Diwaniya, Al-Muthana, and Kerbala. The meeting started with a welcoming word by Mrs. Suhaila Alssadi, Senior Projects Manager and HEWAR Project Manager in Iraq. She thanked Judge Midhat Al-Mahmoud, Chief Justice for his continuous support and continuous responsiveness in implementing relevant HEWAR Project's activities. IF also thanked Judge Al-Bayrikdar, who has been working as an expert from HJC, facilitating the activities of this project with great intention in having successful outcomes. The meeting reviewed the communication strategy that was basically prepared by the Strategic Communication Consultancy (S2C) for HJC. The review covered what was accomplished so far by S2C strategy and the changes that it applied in HJC's communications level, changes in the HJC Website. Then Mr. Iyas Al-Samouk-The Director of the Media Center at HJC briefed the participants about the achieved progress in HJC's Media Center as well as talked about the developed HJC-Mobile Application. From his side, Mr. Kamel Ameen-(MOHR) talked about the the developed relationship between the ministry and HJC, indicating that there has been more openness, HJC responded to all issues that were previously postponed before activating the communication strategy of S2C. Mr. Haider Al-Awadi, Head of Sawa Organization for Human Rights and partner NGO, talked about the



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achieved progress between HJC and NGOs, indicating that there is clear positive change in the collaboration attitude and progress of relationship between lawyers and judges. Mr. Al-Awadi indicated that he personally felt this positive change as a lawyer.

HJC: Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar explained the main steps taken in HJC according to the communication strategy, which include:

- 1- The HJC Website, which represents our most important communication tool with the public. This website has been developed in accordance to the advisory received from International experts, where the design of the HJC Website has been modified accordingly, and HJC has implemented what the Int. experts advised on.
- 2- The communication with the civic society: Many meetings have been conducted between SCOs and Judge Midhat Al-Mahmoud, Chief Justice and the General prosecutor and the Head of the Judicial Observation. As well as held meetings with women NGOs, discussed many problems and HJC studied these problems and presented solutions accordingly.
- 3- The communication with the MOHR and the IHCHRI: Multiple side-meetings took place.
- 4- The communication with the Media: An open meeting with the media (A press conference) took place before the end of 2014. And a research was conducted on the potential media questions to the HJC. There is a daily communication with the media, and HJC publishes all issued decisions by the Federal Court and the Judiciary Authority news.

The rest of participants indicated the following notes:

- 1- Since HEWAR Project has been implemented, openness in dialogue and communication between NGOs and HJC became more visible. E.g.: In Diwaniya there wasn't there communication from judges with NGOs before, while now there is good communication by the Head of Cassation Court and the Public Prosecutor to NGOs.
- 2- Many judges don't ratify that there is a role to NGOs and they don't care about it.
- 3- There is a lot of grow against the Central Criminal Court, indicating that investigations usually take place in the Police brigades, and the destiny of the accused person is unknown or the place he or she is arrested at. Adding that investigations take place by police brigades and in absence of the Criminal Procedures Law. Adding that Articles from 123 to 128 of that law are unimplemented. Lawyers are prevented from entering the police brigades, and the accused person kept for a duration, where the signs of torture disappears, and if 6 months passes after the torture, then the reason would be unknown behind the scars and signs of torture. Therefore, lawyers should be allowed to be present with their accused client as stated by law.



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- 4- There is no communication or affiliation between HJC and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). In fact, there are accused persons, whom have been detained for 10 years and without sending them to courts.
- 5- Some satellite channels discusses cases that no final verdicts have been issued yet on them, and directing accusations against persons, whom to be proofed innocents afterwards by a verdict. These satellite channels should stop showing accused persons whom are under premier investigation.
- 6- There is a misunderstanding in the society about the difference between HJC and other executive associations. E.g. SWAT Forces duty is to boring employees, some individuals of this force treat people harshly and this reflects negatively on HJC. The suggestion is to establish police unit for the duty of brining seized persons.
- 7- Some judges treat the citizens in a harsh way. Judges should be trained on the art of treating citizens.
- 8- Educating judges to be committed with justice according to the International treaties.

Mr. Iyas Al-Samouk from HJC clarified that all these mentioned notes, problems, and suggestions have been noted, and asked the NGOs' representatives to communicate with him, and provided them with his cell phone number, in order to continue their communication with HJC and present their communications.

Communication Strategy indicator: The participants specified the main accomplishments' indicators:

Mr. Iyas Al-Samouk indicated that he noticed during the last 3 months, an increase in the chart's line of the HJC's follow up in regards to the Media side, adding that HJC knows what media needs. He also added that the HJC Website has converted during the last 6 months to a judicial news agency, where HJC started including sensitive themes regarding media investigation and this represents a tremendous success. He added that media consists 60% of the communication between HJC and the general public. The HJC focused on this development in a very well-studied way. Adding that in last January, the HJC communicated with university students in order to interact with all colleges. Mr. Al-Samouk added that the HJC is thinking to submit a suggestion to hold a conference in the Media School on theme of Facebook

And planning that this conference to be attended by judges who issued a decision that considered insults and verbal abuse through the Facebook is considered as a crime. And that these judges will answer all question presented by the audience. Mr. Al-Samouk, emphasized on the importance of the Mobile smart application.



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NGOs:

- 1- The positive communication and responsiveness by the Public Prosecution system and the HJC-Spokesperson.
- 2- The clear openness by HJC.
- 3- The judges' participation in social activities.
- 4- The quick responsiveness to judges regarding urgent social cases.
- 5- The HJC's website design became as a News agency, featured with quick publishing.
- 6- Some International and Arabic Media entities have adopted the available information in the HJC-Website as it is, without re-editing them.
- 7- The HJC Website included important statistics that are reliable by other associations.

Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHRI): Dr. Bushra Al-Obaidi indicated that the HJC has been transparent with the IHCHRI through activating Article no. 5 of the IHCHRI Law, which identify the role of IHCHRI in: receiving complaints from NGOs and citizens regarding previous and current violations, conducting primer investigations, checking the accuracy of the received compliant, transferring cases of human rights violations to the public persecution. And according to Article 5 of this law, 16 courts have been established in Iraq's provinces on January 14, 2014 according to the order of Judge Midhat Al-Mahmoud, Chief Justice. These courts have been supported with a public persecution unit. All of the above represents openness of the HJC to other governmental entities. Other examples of this transparency are: the HJC's collaboration with the Central Committee of Combatting Human Trafficking; the HJC Website has very rich information that other governmental entities can benefit from. Dr. Al-Obaidi emphasized on the importance of focusing on spreading the concept of complaint, where we can see very little number of people who submit complaints to the IHCHRI. She recommended and asked IF to focus on spreading the concept of complaints. She also urged to implement the International treaties, where the IHCHRI have submitted to the Cabinet since the end of 2013, a draft law on protecting children's rights which includes 155 Articles and UNICEF is helping by putting a pressure in order to legislate this draft.

MOHR: Mr. Kamil Amin indicated that during the last two years there has been a dramatic improvement in the nature of HJC's responsiveness, and after the adoption of the communication strategy the work has changed a lot between the Public Relations Directory of the MOHR and the Media Center of HJC and witnessed responsiveness to our multiple requests including requests to establish courts on human rights.

By the end of the meeting, the participants suggested the following:

- 1- Involving the Public Prosecution in legal workshop, and strengthen the principle of submitting complain without fear.
- 2- Educating judges on the art of negotiations and conflict resolution as well as on the humanitarian mechanisms in dealing with citizens.



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3- Educating judges on the International treaties that Iraq has ratified.

Stage 1: Activity 3.1: Enhance HJC's website:

During this reporting period, HJC and in cooperation with the Iraq Foundation and with the support of DOS - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) have launched a mobile application for HJC. The application provides several services including news updated, investigative journalism, Federal Supreme Court decisions and Cassation Court decisions. This application comes as part of HEWAR project efforts to boost HJC's communication with stakeholders and citizens. To download the application please follow the following links:

- iTunes:
<https://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=964921013&mt=8>
- Google play store:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appbuilder.u1106159p1477040>

Stage 2: Activity 3.2: During this reporting period, IF produced and Printed out 30000 (Thirty Thousand copies) of the "Citizens' Guide on the Criminal Justice System on February 17 and started disseminating it to multiple entities, including partnering NGOs.

Stage 1-2: Activity 3.3: Produce and broadcast 64 TV spots and 200 radio spots on the legal rights of citizens

On January 21, 2015, IF signed a contract with Al-Rasheed Satellite Chanel to produce 4 TV spots and to broadcast them on Al-Rasheed TV as well as to broadcast the same produced TV spots as radio spots for 200 times. IF, the HJC, and Al-Rasheed TV Satellite Channel are coordinating among each other in order to produces these TV spots. Until the end of this reporting period, HJC is studying the content of the TV spots, in order to insure their accuracy and suitability. IF is following up with Al-Rasheed Channel on weekly bases in this regard.

Stage 1: Activity 3.4: Produce and broadcast 21 TV programs on judicial procedures
On January 21, 2015, IF signed a contract with Al-Rasheed Satellite Chanel to produce and broadcast 21 TV programs.

Activity 3.5: Distribute posters and pamphlets on legal rights of citizens

On February 17, IF printed out 10000 (Ten Thousand posters on judicial procedures). IF produced 5 templets and printed out 2000 (Two Thousand copies per templet*5



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templets). During March IF printed out 5000 brochures (Five Thousand copy on judicial procedures). (List of distribution is attached with this report).

Stage 1-2: Activity 3.7: Post videos on judicial proceedings on YouTube channel IF is coordinating with HJC in order to identify 10 themes relevant to the “judicial procedures” and produce the YouTube videos in collaboration with HJC.

On 03/ 23 IF contracted with Al-Rashid Satellite channel in order to produce these videos. IF is coordinating with HJC and Al-Rashid Satellite channel accordingly.

Stage 2: Activity 3.8: Law students hold 20 training sessions for youth and vulnerable women in semi-rural areas

During this reporting period, partner NGOs in Kerbala, Diwaniya, Kirkuk, identified and contracted in March with 4 law school-Senior students as trainers, 2 female and 2 male to train total of 100 students in each province on Citizen Guide. The trainees will be 50 women and 50 men. The following partner NGOs implemented the following trainings on the Citizen guide in their provinces and as following:

- 1- The Iraqi Human Rights Watch Society – Kerbala, held the first training to 30 female-trainees on March 26 at: Al-Hoor area/ Al-Askari District.
- 2- Awan org. for awareness & capacities development in Diwaniya, held 2 training sessions during this reporting period the first training to 25 female-trainees on March 27 in Al-Shafi'eya area-Diwaniya Province and the second session was held on the March 28, 2015 for 21 female trainers
- 3- Al-Rafidain Organization for Development of Society and Construction in Kirkuk implemented 2 training sessions 25 by 25 trainees on March/ 28 for 25 female and 25 male trainees in Dakouk Area-Kirkuk Province.

The participants were oriented on the following subjects:

1. How to initiate the criminal complaint, and how to report crimes, and what are the bodies responsible for receiving those complaints.
2. The rights enjoyed by the accused during interrogations.
3. The most important women's rights, including the right to resort to the courts to submit a complaint concerning GBV.

There was mutual benefit (For the participants and IF) of these sessions due to the following:

1. Women on how to get their rights if subjected to GBV.
2. Communication between the trainees and the trainers post-workshop to seek legal advice.
3. Viewing the challenges and problems facing women they cannot reveal them to the courts because of customs and traditions
4. Introducing the participants to the differences between civil and criminal cases.



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The Organizations will send their reports on the above implemented trainings later on. The other trainings by all partner NGOs are planned to take place during April. Sawa Organization For Human Rights in Al-Muthana is expected to identify and contract with the trainers during April. IF will also implement this training in Baghdad during the coming reporting period.

II. Deliverables:

- IF successfully held the “2nd Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting
- IF successful held the “3rd Follow-up Stakeholders Meeting
- IF produced the Citizen Guide and printed out 30000 (Thirty Thousand copy on legal rights of citizens).
- IF produced and printed out 10000 (Ten Thousand copy on legal rights of citizens)
- IF produced and printed out 5000 Brochures (Five thousand copy on legal rights of citizens)

Other: During this reporting period, IF contracted with Al-Baghdadiya for design and activate the mobile application for the HJC.

III. Challenges and remedial actions

Challenges	Remedial actions
The responses of HJC to IF’ relevant project’s activities, usually take long times, which effects the activities’ timeline	IF continuously follow-up with HJC
Due to the deteriorated security situation IF requested INLs approval to replace the 2 following partner NGOs in HEWAR Project: 1- The Corporation of Child Rights and Family Protection in Ninawa, and 2- AL-Tadhamun Iraqi League for Youth in Al-Anbar.	IF nominated to INL the two following alternative NGOs, in order to fill the gap and implement the remaining relevant NGOs’ activities: 1- Al-Rafidain Organization for Development of Society and Construction – Kirkuk, and 2- Iraqi Human Rights Watch Society- Kerbala. INL approved IF’s request on February 4, 2015. Accordingly, IF signed sub-contract agreement with the 2 NGOs on February 6, and 12, 2015.
The participants in the 3 rd Follow-up Stakeholders meeting found the entry process to the JDI is difficult although they obtained entry	This is a procedure that is under the control of the Iraqi authorities.



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authorization.

IV. Impact:

- During the 3rd Follow-up Stakeholders meeting, Judge Abdulsatar Al-Bayrikdar, Spokesperson of HJC said: “The HJC has benefited very much from HEWAR Project that has been implemented by IF, where the program presented a lot for us and in a very practical and effective manner”.
- There has clear enhancement in the HJC Website design and details during this reporting period. Participants in the 3rd Follow-up Stakeholders meeting indicated this enhancement note as well as noticed more openness and responsiveness and better communication from the HJC with relevant stakeholders. HJC Website: <http://www.iraqja.iq/>

HJC and in cooperation with the Iraq Foundation and with the support of DOS - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) have launched a mobile application for HJC. The application provides several services including news updated, investigative journalism, Federal Supreme Court decisions and Cassation Court decisions. This application comes as part of HEWAR project efforts to boost HJC's communication with stakeholders and citizens. To download the applications please follow the following links:

- iTunes:
<https://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=964921013&mt=8>
- Google play store:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appbuilder.u1106159p1477040>