

The right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association



Profile 2022

Profile₂₀₂₂

of Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights



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Birati Foundation for Human Rights e.V

ABOUT

Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights-FFHR, a non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization. established on the first of January 2013 in Syria and its permanent headquarters is in Germany. led by Syrian human rights defenders

FFHR seeks to promote and protect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for all Syrians. And advocating the Syrian individuals and groups to ensure that they have this right and can implement it. and support their role in effective civic engagement in political decision-making

Promote

We raise awareness of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Our focus is on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, to promoting a culture of non-violence, and supporting CSOs role in effective civic engagement in political decision-making. We hold Training workshops on human rights concepts and international conventions Capacity building and legal workshops for the CSOs and human rights defenders We hold also seminars-webinars for CSOs and decision-makers, and public policies to enhance civic engagement

Defend

Civil society activists and members of NGOs, representing the most important factor in promoting democracies and resisting tyranny, are subjected to pressure and widespread abuse by the authorities. Therefore, we monitor and document these violations, we defend the victims and we concentrate our efforts on enabling NGOs and its members to exercise their belief in accordance with international human rights law and covenants. Monitor local laws and criticize where they are wrong and publication of these abuses Documenting human rights violations Mainly violations against the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association Supporting activists

Advocate

we work to mobilize public opinion and we collaborate with local and international organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with the rights and safety of the civilian workers. We also work to improve the local rules and regulations governing the civil work and its suitability for international law We design advocacy campaigns to mobilizing public opinion and collaborate with local and international organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with the rights and safety of the CSOs workers. We seek to open communication channels between CSOs and international organizations to enable them to regain their capacity and capability to exercise their role and peaceful beliefs. We also work to improve the local rules and regulations governing the civil work and its suitability for international law.



Our cases

FFHR seeks to promote and protect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for all Syrians. And advocating the Syrian individuals and groups to ensure that they have this right and can implement it.

FFHR monitors local and national laws of peaceful demonstration and Association and regulations in Syria and seeks to accordance them with international human rights law and covenants. we monitor and document these violations, we defend the victims

PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATIONS IN SYRIA

FFHR seeks to pave the way for civil and societal engagement of the concerned parties to influence local policy-making and decision-making on the one hand, and to strengthen the rule of law derived from international human rights standards, mainly global standards related to the civic engagement and Political participation on the other hand.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN SYRIA

At the time when the Syrians are starting to discuss a new constitution as one of the fundamental components of the political solution recognised by the international community through Resolution 2254 dot 18.12.2015, it is noticeable the absence of active civil forces from the process which was limited to committees imposed by regional countries involved in the Syrian conflict. On the one hand, the direction of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria is seeking to formulate a new social contract in the area under its control. we believe in the importance of continuing our work as a pressure group and advocating for our main goal in making human rights the primary and fundamental source of local and national legislation in Syria

HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE THE SOURCE OF SYRIAN LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION

What we do and How we do it

We work through 3 integrated work units, to achieve our goal of promoting the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

AWARENESS UNIT

Training workshops on human rights concepts and International standards of legislation

Capacity building and legal support for the CSOs and human rights defenders

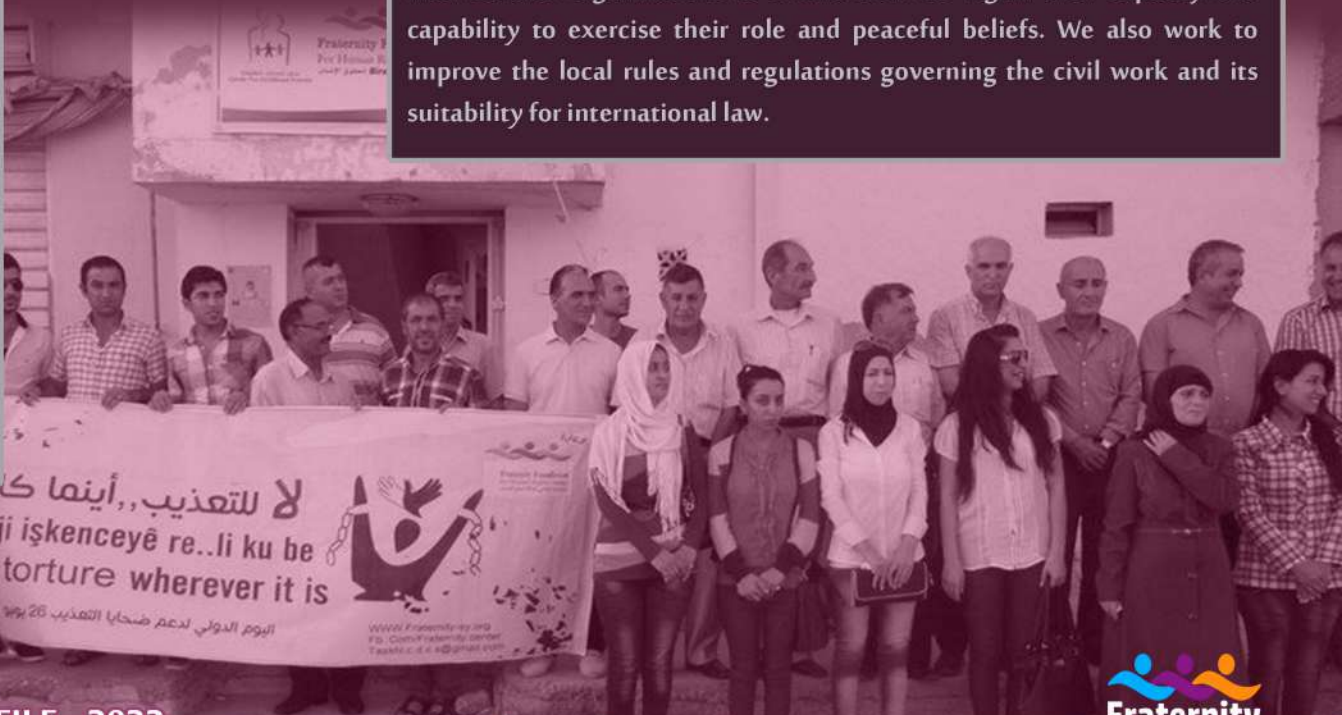
Designing training manuals and translating international human rights conventions into local languages

LEGAL SUPPORT UNIT

we monitor and document the violations, defend the victims and we concentrate our efforts on enabling NGOs and its members to exercise their belief in accordance with international human rights law and covenants

Advocacy UNIT

we work to mobilize public opinion and we collaborate with local and international organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with the rights and safety of the civilian workers. We also work to improve the local rules and regulations governing the civil work and its suitability for international law We design advocacy campaigns to mobilizing public opinion and collaborate with local and international organizations and United Nations bodies concerned with the rights and safety of the CSOs workers. We seek to open communication channels between CSOs and international organizations to enable them to regain their capacity and capability to exercise their role and peaceful beliefs. We also work to improve the local rules and regulations governing the civil work and its suitability for international law.



OUR STRUGGLE

TOWARDS A MORE EFFECTIVE AND INTERACTIVE CIVIC SPACE WE NEED
STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

Medya Dhir
FFHR co. Founder & General Director



Right to Freedom of Associations in Syria

The organization and establishment of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations in Syria is governed by a 1958 law. Under this law, it is almost impossible to register an independent civil organization. This law witnessed a breakthrough during Bashar al-Assad's assumption of power in Syria. The Syrian regime is alert to the seriousness of this situation, so the movement has been stoned, its members arrested and its organizations dissolved and banned.

Under this law, many organizations were established for children, youth and women, but they were the exclusive preserve of the Baath Socialist Party. In late 2015 a draft law was prepared to regulate the civil work in Syria and was submitted to the People's Assembly in the hope of assisting relief and economic development organizations to provide assistance and support to the victims of the Syrian conflict. However, the law was withdrawn in early 2016 and the file was closed.

This situation is not absent in the rest of the Syrian regions in the Syrian opposition areas. There are no laws regulating this issue, especially since the Islamic courts that administer the legislation do not include a basis for civil work and democracy and human rights issues which in their opinion are considered a Western heresy. Civil organizations are subject to military control and military faction trends, many of whom have been abducted and their headquarters closed.

IN 2014 Northeastern Syria has gone out of government control due to the ongoing bloody conflict between the Syrian government and the opposition. The region is subject to the influence of the USA. A local government was established independent of the Syrian government It is led by the Kurds of Syria. The official name of this government is The Democratic Self-Administration in northern and eastern Syria. This administration implements a law on associations No. 3 of 2017 Which violates global standards of the right to freedom of association.

Since August 2018, FFHR has been seeking to change the Associations Law in The three regions FFHR has held several activities to achieve the goal of its campaign. FFHR worked on two tracks relied on the strategy of empowering civil society organizations in northeastern Syria regarding the right to freedom of association and the exercise of its activities. Then we mobilized them to demand the authority to amend In 2019, Law No. 3 of 2017 was amended to Law No. 2 of 2019 and amendments were made to its articles in NESyria

The six indicators of the status of the right to freedom of association

FFHR The Syrian organization specialized in protecting and promoting the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in Syria, launched its six indicators to measure the state of the right to freedom of association in Syria. The approval of these indicators came after four years of efforts, from 2018 to 2022, through questionnaires, training workshops, Seminars and reports documenting violations of the right of associations in Syria. It is worth mentioning that our Foundation is the first Syrian organization to launch indicators to measure the state of the right to freedom of association and is preparing to launch its first report in 2022.

Legal framework indicator

measuring the extent to which the law and administrative procedures meet the international standards of the right.

Establishment Indicator

Measuring the effectiveness and duration of the registration method.

Security restrictions

measuring the extent of interference by the state security authorities in establishing Phase and exercising the right to associations.

Funding Receipt Indicator

Measuring the extent to which the local's ruling authorities allow local associations\NGOs to receive funding from international donors

Freedom of movement and work indicator

measuring the mutual interaction between the ruling authority and local associations. As well as the extent of freedom of interaction and dealing with political organizations in the region, including the opposition to the ruling authority and the target audience.

Freedom of opinion and expression indicator

measuring the extent to which associations\NGOs are able to express their opinion on the performance and policies of the local ruling authority. And the extent to which this authority accepts the criticisms and views of these associations\NGOs and thus the effectiveness of associations\NGOs' civic engagement in policy-and decision-making.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN SYRIA

Human Rights Defenders are not fighting alone, not anymore.!

Since the launch of our foundation in 2013, we never ceased to defend human rights for all segments of our society. Over time, we accumulated experience and developed valuable skills, which we consider to be vital for improving our performance and methods for our ongoing struggle for a strong and empowered civil society where civil society organisations and human rights defenders have the leading role in promoting the emerging democracy which is essential to triumph in our continued fight against authoritarianism and human rights violations.

Only out of specialized advocating of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and ensuring effective participation of civil society, we will be able to build and develop the capacity of our foundation and that of our fellow organisations to ensure resilience and victory in our struggle and to consolidate values of freedom, democracy, equality and justice.

Because we are stronger together, the Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights sees the importance of a constructive practical alliance between civil society organisations through joint work rather than through fragile alliances that focus on administrative forms instead of focusing on working for human rights issues and civil liberties.

Since 2013 we have achieved



Training workshops on human rights concepts and International standards of legislation



3217

activists



2641



Training workshops on HRs concepts and International standards of legislation and Laws of Peaceful Assembly and Association

197



CSOs



Designing training manuals on HRs concepts and the International standards of peaceful Assembly and Association and ADVOCACY

17 training manual



HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE THE SOURCE OF SYRIAN LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Since 2019, FFHR has been striving for human rights conventions to be the primary source for Syrian local and national legislation. The Fraternity Foundation was the first Syrian organization to demand the amendment of the social contract for the democratic self-administration of northern and eastern Syria and relied on a clear plan to demand that international conventions be in a position that transcends the social contract or the local constitution, for that reason, it worked on injecting concepts of alignment legislation pyramid with international conventions, and it was necessary that all workers in civil society organizations be provided with basic informational knowledge and experience, at the very least, in order to prepare the ground to mobilize support and demand the achievement of a common goal centered around the legislation being derived from international human rights conventions.

Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights firmly believes that the constitution is the supreme law that sets the ground rules for the form of the state, the system of government, and it regulates public authorities, the relationships between authorities, the limits of each authority, and the duties and fundamental rights of individuals and groups. Because of this consideration, Fraternity Foundation for Human Right continuously seeks to ensure that human rights conventions are the main source of the Constitutional Committee's work as a first step, and later placing international human right conventions at the highest place in the hierarchy of Syrian legislation as a second step.



Partners



Since March 2020

Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights is
an Associate member of CIVICUS

EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT FOR
DEMOCRACY

2019-2020



2021



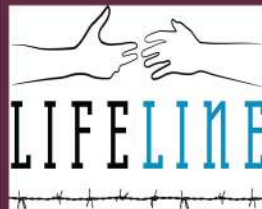
Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
المؤسسة الأورو-متوسطية لدعم المدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان
Fondation euro-méditerranéenne de soutien aux défenseurs des droits de l'Homme

2021-2022



EuroMed Rights
EuroMed Droits
لأورو-متوسطية للحقوق

2015-2016



Freedom
House

2018



2019

fidh

2013-2015



Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
المؤسسة الأورو-متوسطية لدعم المدافعين عن حقوق الإنسان
Fondation euro-méditerranéenne de soutien aux défenseurs des droits de l'Homme

2014-2015/ 2021

coffey
International Development

2014

Our Story

After the decline of the demonstrations and the civil action mostly turned in Syria into armed opposition to the Syrian regime, the situation in the country turned into chaos. Accordingly, extremist groups of foreigners and locals emerged in the country, ending the civil peaceful popular uprising led by Syrian activists of various components in March 2011. This led to continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in the country.

Therefore, the FFHR founders saw themselves outside the military circle of the conflict due to their absolute faith in civil and peaceful work inspired by the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of choosing the system of government in their country in addition to their active participation at the beginning of the Syrian revolution in 2011.

The FFHR founders also have experience in civil work before the Syrian Revolution as most of them were descended from the country's predominant Kurdish region which was mainly in a peaceful civil struggle against the Syrian regime and the totalitarian authority of the Baath party during the last five decades.

Thus, it was necessary to change the style of the revolutionary act from coordinating demonstrations into the organizing of a civil society that struggles to spread the mentality and culture of human rights and strengthening of civil peace. Civil peace in the country began to deteriorate by the emergence of the concepts of nationalism, religious and sectarian conflicts since 2012. So the necessity of change was based on the need to promote and strengthen the concepts of peace in an area considered one of the most complex ones in Syria.

The name of Fraternity Foundation for Human Rights (FFHR/Birati) was chosen based on the desire for equality, justice and dignity for all components of the region. Many factions of the region participated in the launch of the foundation, including Kurds, Arabs and Chechens.

The Danish Foreign Ministry provided material and moral support for the foundation under the auspices of the International Federation for Human Rights in late 2012.

On January 1, 2013 the foundation was launched under the name "The Fraternity Center for Democracy and Civil Society," the first civil society organization that opens its headquarters officially in the city of Hasaka and then in Qamishli city and Ras al-Ayn.

Then, the foundation carried out a series of successful events and built its activists' capabilities in the field of human rights to provide the region for the first time with trained experts. A series of trainings were carried out under the supervision of trainers sent by the International Federation for Human Rights.



