

Newsletter 01/2013 (July)



Bab Al Shams in Ezarriya Town Lands (Maale Adomim), settlement in the background, March 20, 2013/ Photo by Fadi Arouri.

Dear friends of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung,

We are happy to present the **third edition** of our newsletter informing you about our work during the first half of 2013. The year started with a protest village in an area designated for new Israeli settlements. The village in the “E1 corridor” was called Bab al-Shams and created worldwide attention. This was a new step on the path of unarmed civil resistance. In April, HBS brought young activists from the West Bank to talk about their struggle to Berlin. Find more about this topic in the newsletter.

Meanwhile, Salam Fayyad stepped down as Prime Minister, Palestinian reconciliation failed as well as US efforts to revive negotiations. In the second half of the year, an anniversary will be commemorated by Palestinians and Israelis with little enthusiasm: 20 years of Oslo. HBS will provide room for discussion of Palestinian perspectives on a “Peace Process” which produced lots of process, but no peace.

Recently, much more attention was devoted to Muhammed Assaf wining Arab Idol, every Friday and Saturday for the past months the Westbank and Gaza were watching a new Palestinian symbol of unity emerge. If you read German, you can read our [new HBS blog](#) (called Heinrich of Arabia, an ironic reference to Lawrence) on this and other topics, with contributions from HBS offices across the region. As always, we thank you for your interest and encourage you to [keep in touch with us](#) and visit our office.

Dr. René Wildangel, Director hbs Ramallah (Palestine/Jordan Office)
(on Twitter: @rewiram)

News from hbs-Ramallah office (Palestine-Jordan)

Visits and delegations

Between 30 April and 04 May 2013, the *Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (hbs) Ramallah* organised the Palestine visit of **Renate Künast, Co-Chairwomen of the party Alliance '90/The Greens in the German Bundestag**. Künast devoted two full days for an [in-depth programme](#) on the political and human rights situation in Palestine, including various field trips to East Jerusalem, Hebron, and the Jordan Valley. She met with various Palestinian human rights and civil society actors, as well as politicians such as the departing Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

Frithjof Schmidt, Deputy Chairman of the Green Group in the German Parliament as well as member of the committee on foreign affairs visited Palestine from 22nd to 24th of May 2013. hbs organized his visiting programme, including a guided tour through East Jerusalem with the Negotiation Support Unit and a visit of the [Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Silwan](#), as well as meetings with Palestinian political actors and activists.

On 1st and 2nd of April, **German MP Sven-Christian Kindler**, member of the Budget Committee, visited the occupied Palestinian territories. Kindler went on a guided tour through Silwan (see above), and visited the Palestinian villages of Mghayer Al Abid and Susya in the southern West Bank as well as Nablus, in addition to meeting with various Palestinian human rights activists and experts.

On June 27th Minister-President **Winfried Kretschmann** [visited hbs in Ramallah](#). Kretschmann is the first ever Green Party head of state, since May 2011 he is Minister-President of Baden-Wuerttemberg. A delegation of over 40 people came to visit HBS to discuss with human rights activists from our partners and friends from [Al-Haq Organisation](#), [Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling \(WCLAC\)](#), [Society of St. Yves](#) and [Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#).

Past Events

On April 2nd, HBS held a public [“Boell debate” on reconciliation](#). Since 2007 the separation between the West Bank and Gaza is growing, and the ongoing split deeply affects internal and external Palestinian politics. Experts and practitioners who have deep insights into the process discussed this question at the event. After a welcome by Dr. René Wildangel, director of hbs Palestine/Jordan, [Dr. Mustafa Barghouti](#) discussed the latest efforts between the parties, **Hani al-Masri (Masarat)** talked about informal initiatives to achieve reconciliation, and **Mouin Rabbani (CMI)** focused on the important role of the international community, followed by a discussion.

The Euro-Med Conference of civil society organizations and networks “**Women’s Rights and Democracy Building: Promoting a common agenda for equality between women and men**” took place on 7 – 8 June in Amman, Jordan. The Heinrich-Böll-Foundation was among the supporters of the conference, which was co-organized by Heinrich Böll Stiftung’s partners Arab Women’s Organization (AWO) from Jordan and Women’s Studies Centre (WSC) from Palestine. The conference was a result of the two years regional process to promote a common agenda for equality between women and men through the Istanbul-Marrakech Framework of action and to sustain the Framework of Action as a major regional tool for improving of women’s’ rights and to contextualize it in the present developments in the MENA region. Find the full article [here](#).



In **April 2013** HBS invited to activists in the **popular unarmed resistance** to talk about their struggle in Berlin. An evening event was attended by approximately 100 people, additional to meetings with several NGOs, the German Federal Foreign office and members of the Young Greens. The activists talked about the unarmed protests in the West Bank including the January 2013 Bab al-Shams protest village. You can listen to the event on audio stream (introduction in German, lectures in English) [here](#). Find an article by Irene Nasser, who was part of the trip, [here](#).

On **June 25th** the **Women’s Affairs Centre** in the Gaza Strip conducted [a debate on “The Woman and Arab Revolutions”](#). The workshop was attended by women representatives from Egypt, Yemen and Morocco and Palestine. The documentation of the debate will be published in the next issue of AlGhaida magazine in the Gaza Strip. On **June 26th** a conference was conducted on the same subject during which Mrs. Sahar Ramadan (Egypt), Mrs. Najla’ Alomari (Yemen) Mrs. Hind Rajab (Tunisia) and Mrs. Zeinab Alguneimi (Palestine) presented papers about the role of the women in the Arab Spring. Achievements of the women’s movements were discussed as well as the current backlash.

Muwatin – The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy held a conference under the title [“From Oslo to Tahrir: Signposts of the Arab Transitions”](#) in **June 2013**. Find a Wattan TV report in Arabic [here](#).

From **18 to 20 June 2013**, [Estidama for Environment](#) invited a group of Jordanian journalists to a training workshop on “The Art of Preparing for Environmental Investigation: Media Coverage for Environmental Topics”. The training was conducted by environmental

experts **Dr. Munjed Al Sharif** from Jordan and **Mr. Habib Ma'louf** from Lebanon who addressed topics such as current environmental challenges in Jordan and the region, tools and techniques for covering environmental issues, and ways to prepare for an environmental investigation.



On **25 June 2013**, *hbs* conducted a **public debate on “The Future of Nuclear Energy in Jordan and Worldwide”**.

The keynote presentation of the event was given by Mycle Schneider, lead author of the World Nuclear Industry Status Report who presented findings of the upcoming 2013 Report. He was joined on the panel by Dr. Ned Xoubi, Dr. Ghazi Saffarini, and Mr. Bahjat Tabbara. The debate was jointly hosted by [Arab Women Organization](#), [Estidama for Environment](#), [Jordanian Friends of the Environment](#), [Jordan Environment Society](#), as well as the [Society for Energy Conservation and Sustainable Environment](#). The event was part of Mycle Schneider’s **visiting and meeting program** organized by *hbs* on **25 and 26 June**, during which he held a briefing at the Jordanian Parliament and met with several Jordanian anti-nuclear actors. You can find pictures of the debate as well as of the briefing at the Parliament [here](#).

In Cooperation with *hbs office Ramallah*, 19 women (journalists, women’s rights activists and newly elected women to the local councils) increased their media skills with two training courses at the [Media Development Centre](#) of Birzeit University. The Media Development Centre also ended the production of 24 Episodes of the Radio Program “A Cup of Tea”, which will be broadcasted in 18 local Radio Station in the second half of the year.

In cooperation with *hbs* the [Centre for Women’s Legal Research and Counselling \(CWLRC\)](#) conducted a central workshop in the Gaza Strip with representatives of the Sharia courts on the legal procedures to make divorce during the engagement period easier for women and end their increasing legal and social marginalization. The judges who attended the workshop agreed to consider the recommendations and work on amendments for improving the relevant procedures. In recent months, women’s rights in general came increasingly under attack in Gaza.

Upcoming Events



The **Third Regional Summer School** of the *hbs* offices *Ramallah*, *Beirut*, and *Tunis* in cooperation with **IUCN Regional Office West Asia** will take place in Amman from **01 to 05 September 2013**. The Summer School will

provide an introduction to Natural Resources Governance in the Arab Middle East and North Africa and addresses young professionals, postgraduates, activists, and researchers from

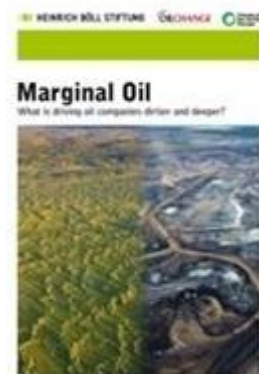
Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, and other North African countries. **The Call for Application is open until 10 July 2013.** Please find more information on our website in [English](#) and [Arabic](#).

The [institute of Jerusalem Studies](#) is planning to conduct its annual conference on the occasion of 20 years of Oslo. Muwatin is planning to conduct its annual conference in September on the role of youth in the Arab revolutions. Check the [hbs website](#) for updates.

In July and August 2013, [Meezan for Sustainable Development](#) will be installing their “Freedom Machine” on a rooftop in the Hebron area – a [greenhouse unit](#) which is able to simultaneously produce agricultural goods, fish, and energy. According to [Bashar Humeid](#), founder of Meezan, the idea behind the Freedom Machine centers on the belief that green technology and alternative energy can establish the infrastructure to a new form of political freedom. The project aims to increase self-sustainability and steadfastness. The pilot project will be accompanied and documented by Palestinian film maker **May Odeh**.

Resources/ Miscellaneous

The hbs has translated a [publication](#) on “marginal oil” in Arabic language. The report “Marginal Oil: What is driving oil companies dirtier and deeper?” tackles a current and highly discussed topic. With conventional oil production in decline, the global oil industry is investing heavily in dirtier and riskier forms of unconventional oil such as heavy crude, tar sands, and oil shale. These investments pose a challenge to the climate, the environment, and local communities. This report is a document that describes the drivers behind marginal oil investments and gives an overview of existing and potential projects across the globe. The Arabic translation of the report, including an additional case example focusing on oil shale in Jordan by Amal Aldababseh, can be downloaded now and will be available in print soon.



Germany has drawn a lot of attention for the Energiewende - the aim to switch to a renewable energy economy, phase out nuclear power and leave fossil fuels behind. But what exactly is the German energy transition: How does it work and what challenges lay ahead? To answer these questions, *hbs* has commissioned a website, www.energytransition.de, to address these issues. It is intended to provide facts and explain the politics and policies to an international audience. The [website](#) highlights the effects of the Energiewende on the German economy, environment, and society and addresses the most important questions.

The AIDA network of international organizations active in Palestine published a [report](#) on area C and how the EU needs to improve their work there. The report comes to the conclusion that the EU needs to step up their efforts if any real improvements for inhabitants of area C are desired. Over 60 percent of the occupied West Bank is designated as “Area C,” meaning it falls under full Israeli government military and civil control. An estimated 150,000 Palestinians live in Area C, with approximately 325,000 Israelis living in settlements there. Area C is home to some of the most vulnerable Palestinian communities. They struggle to build simple homes, graze sheep and goats, make a living and raise their access to land, water and basic services such as schools, medical facilities and a responsive police force. Isolated from services provided by the Palestinian Authority in other parts of the West Bank, Palestinians living in Area C rely heavily on humanitarian and development assistance. Read more [here](#).

Since the last newsletter, our partner organization MA’AN Development Center has issued five editions of its environmental online magazine in Arabic. You can find the June issue here and all other editions on the website:

55: <http://www.maan-ctr.org/magazine/Archive/Issue55/index.php> (June 2013)

MA’AN produced a documentary about child labor on dump sites in the West Bank. The short film “Young Scavengers” is available on [youtube](#). (Note: the link leads to a draft version of the video. You can soon find the final video on MA’AN’s [youtube channel](#).)

hbs Ramallah offers **internships** to students and graduates from Germany and elsewhere, for those with a strong interest in political and social development in the region and whose interests align with the hbs program. Our next call is for the period from **January through March 2014**. For further information please check our [website](#).

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