



# NEWSLETTER



EDITION 1

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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## KAS AMMAN OFFICE

Since 1982 the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) has been represented in Amman. In addition to its responsibilities in Jordan, the Amman office is also in charge of activities in Lebanon. The Mediterranean Dialogue is of key significance for our work in the region. Moreover, there is an increasing interest of our office activities in the developments in Iraq and Syria.

Since January 2010 Dr. Martin Beck has been serving as the new Resident Representative of the Amman office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. In the first half of the current year the Amman office has organized under his guidance and in cooperation with local partners events on failed states, social market economy, local participation, civic education, the Jordanian electoral law and the impact of the global financial crisis. Further members of the KAS Amman Team include Ms. Léa Collet, Ms. Afaf Maraqa, Mr. Ghassan Mashkhaj, Mr. Mohammad Qaraman, Ms. Josefine Sanchez and Ms. Nida'a Al-Shraideh.



KAS Team

In the following you will find brief overviews of our events. To find the full articles please go to our webpage.

### **Social Market Economy versus Free Market Economy (March, with GJU)**

The German-European concept of Social Market Economy carries an opportunity also for the economic policies of the Near East. The idea of preserving a free market mechanism while offering a social balancing system provides an exemplary model for countries like Jordan to develop itself on a reasonable economical and social basis alike. The transfer of

the social market economy concept to countries of the MENA-region is, however, quite difficult. Cultural, historical and socio-economic differences as well as institutional path dependence are strong parameters which may decisively shape the transitional process.

During a two-day workshop held on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, organized by the KAS Amman office with the Talal Abu Ghazaleh College of Business (TAGBC) and the German-Jordanian University (GJU), the concept of social market economy and its suitability for the Jordanian economy was a priority interest discussed by over 50 participants.

### **International and Arab Perspectives on the Recent Economic Crises: State or Market Failure? (June, with AUB)**

After three decades of market reforms and liberalization, many developing countries have experienced an increase in allocation efficiency, but not equitable social development. In many places, uneven social development has led to a questioning of economic reforms, even political instability. The effects of the recent global financial and economic crisis have accelerated this process. KAS Amman and the Institute of Financial Economics of the American University of Beirut organized a workshop held on June 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the role of the state in the process of economic development in light of worldwide economic slowdown. The workshop promoted a fruitful discussion between leading Middle Eastern academics and high-ranking experts from the financial sector.

### **Rule of Law**

### **Human Rights Training for the Education Sector Staff (March, with JCCES)**

During the workshop held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> until 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> until 11<sup>th</sup>, organized by KAS Amman and the Jordan Center for Civic Education Studies, participants and experts discussed on how to integrate human rights concepts in school curricula by training curricula writers,

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*Group picture of the experts and participants*

school administrators and teachers to acquire the necessary skills to teach and promote democratic participation among school students. At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants drafted a document to be adopted as a preliminary reference on how to integrate human rights and citizenship concepts into school curricula.

**Civic Participation and Local Development (April/May, with Visions Center)**



*Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Mr. Nayef Soud Al-Qadi*

On April 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> KAS Amman and the Visions Center for Strategic and Development Studies hosted a series of conferences on the possibilities to improve the civic participation and the local development. The workshops held in Salt, Zarqa, Irbid and Karak focused on the question of how to build effective communities in Jordan in the context of the decentralization initiative launched in 2005 by the government. High ranking decision-makers from the government, such as the Minister of Interior Mr. Nayef Soud Al-Qadi and political and scientific experts from Jordan and Germany, contributed to the success of the workshop series.

**The Jordanian Electoral Law and International and National Standards (June, with Al-Quds Center)**

The government endorsed on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the new temporary electoral law for Jordan,

keeping the one-person, one-vote system, yet introducing a new distribution of constituencies and changing the quota system. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, KAS Amman organized in partnership with the Al-Quds Center for Political Studies a workshop to discuss various issues related to the new electoral law. Participants and experts focused particularly on subjects such as regulations on quotas, the role of political parties and international monitoring. Both participants and experts highly appreciated the opportunity to have a critical exchange of views on the new law and on its impact on the upcoming parliamentary elections in autumn 2010.

**Cooperation & Political Dialogue**

**Failed States in the Arab World (February, with LCPS)**



*Dr. Echty, Dr. Hakim, Dr. Al-Sharagabi and Dr. Qatameh (left to right)*

Since the emergence of the failed state concept in the 1990s, the subject of failing states has gained in importance. More and more countries, especially in post-colonial Africa and Latin America, have been losing attributes of sovereign statehood or showing deficits in providing security and welfare to their citizens. Together with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, the KAS Office Amman organized a roundtable discussion on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in which high-ranking experts from the academic, economic and political sector shed light on experiences of Lebanon and selected Arab countries in state building process and state failure. Thereby, it turned out that applying the concept is very fruitful even in cases in which states do not or only partially fail.

**Education as Leverage for Building a Culture of Peace (May, with ACPD)**

As a follow-up of the EU-Partnership for Peace Program "Utilizing Middle Eastern Civic Education as Leverage for Peace" which was carried out from April 2007 to March 2009,

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KAS Amman organized a workshop in partnership with the Amman Center for Peace and Development on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.



*Dr. Munther Al Share', former Minister of Political Development, hands out a certificate to one of the participants*

During this workshop 20 participants who took part in the EU-Program were provided with further training on democracy education and its implementation among the youth.

**KAS has a face**



**Today's is:** Afaf Maraqa  
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**Afaf about Afaf:** With KAS Amman I am working as the PR and office manager. I am married and I have three children. Originally I am Lebanese, but I lived in Qatar and Tunis, too. Since 1992 I have been living and working in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As a child I dreamed of becoming a lawyer for human rights issues, but then, later, I decided to do my major in English. In my free time I love reading, swimming, knitting and watching detective series. When I was unmarried I often travelled to Europe. Cities, such as Rome, London, Paris, Venice and Frankfurt have impressed me most. In the future I would like to do my PhD in Islamic Sciences.

**Upcoming events**

▪ **Bloggers for Elections Observation**

*Workshop, Amman July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>  
With the Arab World Center for Democratic Development and Human Rights*

▪ **Media for Youth**

*Two Workshops, Amman July 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>-  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
With the Arab Women Media Center*

▪ **WOCMES**

*World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies  
KAS Panel on "The Multi-Level Facet of Middle Eastern Security"  
Barcelona, July 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>*

▪ **National Strategy Towards a Modern Competition Law for Jordan**  
*Conference, Amman September 25<sup>th</sup>  
With the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization*

**Political Reports**

**On Politics in Syria and the Situation of its Christian Minority** *(May, in German)* Dr. Martin Beck

Recently, Syria turned out to act in a more flexible, moderate way on the international and regional level. Yet, ridding itself of its "paria role" has not been accompanied by decisive changes of its internal authoritarian system. Citizen rights and human rights in general are constrained. This applies to Christians not more or less than to other religious and social groups in the country.

**Iraqi Elections Ahead: The Shi'a-Sunni Factor** *(February, in German and English)* Dr. Martin Beck / Luciane Fangalua, M. Litt.

For the third time since the downfall of Saddam Hussein's iron fist rule over Iraq, national elections were held on March 7, 2010. This basically positive finding should, however, not deter from the fact that the Iraqi system still faces a lot of problems not only in terms of security but also on the political realm. As became obvious during the campaign period, the deep divisions between Shi'a and Sunni actors are still unsolved.

**Jordan Going Astray?** *(January, in German)* Dr. Martin Beck with the assistance of Jennifer Schuster, M.Sc.

The dissolution of parliament and the postponement of the re-election caused the depreciation of Jordan in the Freedom of the World Report 2010. Thitherto Jordan was one of the few Arab countries whose political condition was ranked as at least partly free in 2009. Now Jordan finds itself in the masses of 'not free' countries in the Middle East.

**Please find the full political reports on our webpage.**