

الكرامة لحقوق الإنسان
Alkarama for Human Rights
Alkarama pour les Droits de l'Homme



ANNUAL REPORT

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1. Introduction

Alkarama was founded in 2004 by a team of volunteer lawyers and activists on Human Rights to help ensure the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in the Arab World.

Its international character and its direction have been clarified in its comprehensive strategy document, which was adopted in February 2006 and sets the following priorities with regard to the activities of Alkarama:

- To provide information on human rights violations in the Arab world;
- To provide moral and judicial assistance to the victims of those violations;
- To pursue the perpetrators of these violations and fight impunity;
- To encourage, and if need be pressure, governments to respect human rights;
- To propagate a culture of human rights in Arab societies and make citizens aware of their constitutional rights and the means for protecting them;
- To train human rights defenders;
- To support every political, judicial and educational system tending to reinforce the protection of citizens against human rights violations.

In addition, Alkarama has set as a priority to use the tools of international law, including the United Nations mechanisms, to help the victims of the following four violations of human rights: arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial executions, and enforced disappearance.

During the first two years of its activity, Alkarama was able to carry out a large number of actions and recruit activists in many countries of the Arab World and Europe (see Annual Report 2006).

The year 2007 was full of important developments for Alkarama. This concerns both operational and organisational aspects. The commitment of Alkarama to the defence and promotion of human rights was confirmed by the growing number of media and legal actions being carried out to ensure the protection of the victims.

The presence of the organisation at United Nations bodies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been strengthened through the growing number of communications sent to the various special procedures and thanks to sustained contacts with the staff from the OHCHR. Alkarama submitted 525 cases to the special procedures of the United Nations in 2007.

The visibility of the organisation has increased markedly in the Arab World, thanks to the numerous legal actions undertaken, various interventions in the media, as well as training sessions that have made Alkarama known to tens of Arab human rights activists.

The relationship between Alkarama with other NGOs for human rights, international or Arab, was also strengthened by regular contacts and joint actions.

This report covers the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 and is aimed at showing the various activities undertaken by Alkarama and future prospects of its work.

Section 2 of this report deals with organisational aspects. Chapters 3 and 4 present the legal and media activities respectively. Section 5 deals with the two training seminars for activists of human rights organized by Alkarama this year. Section 6 is devoted to thematic projects carried out in 2007: arbitrary detention in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, enforced disappearances in Algeria and the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay. Section 7 provides an overview of the networking done with other NGOs and Section 8 enumerates

the various meetings to which took part the Organisation. Section 9 provides the outlook for the year 2008. Finally, section 10 closing this document presents the financial report for the year 2007.

2. Organisation

Alkarama was initially formed with the legal status of a society (*Association*) under Swiss law, based in Geneva.

At its December 2006 meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, the Board of the Association took the following decisions:

- To Transform Alkarama as a Swiss Foundation;
- To research funding sources to hire employees as the increased workload could not be tackled only by volunteering;
- To create a legal department, a department for external relations (also managing media activity), and finally a secretariat managing administrative and financial matters as well as human resources;
- To apply for consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);
- To establish a network of correspondents (lawyers and activists of human rights) in various countries for the collection of information and monitoring of cases handled by Alkarama;
- To strengthen the media activities;
- To organise two training sessions in the field of human rights in 2007.

Those decisions have all been put into practice during 2007.

Thus, Alkarama Foundation became official on June 19, 2007. This change in the legal form of Alkarama reflects the will of its initiators to instil in the organisation greater rigour and

transparency in its management, a guarantee on the continuation of its goals and a pledge for constancy towards the various partners and authorities. The minutes of the Foundation's Constitution reaffirms the purposes mentioned above and announced its entry in the register of the Canton of Geneva and its placement under the supervision of the federal authority responsible for monitoring foundations dependent on the Federal Department of the Interior of the Swiss Confederation.

By law, an external independent external auditing company was mandated to verify annually the accounts of the Foundation.

The Council of the Foundation consists of the following: Abdul Rahman Omair Alnaimi of Qatar, Abbas Aroua of Switzerland and Mohamed Larbi Zitout of Great Britain.

During the month of May 2007, Alkarama officially filed with the ECOSOC an application for consultative status. Achieving this status for Alkarama is very important because it will enable it to take direct part in various sessions and the work of the United Nations mechanisms.

In September 2007, Alkarama hired as director of the Legal Department Barrister Rachid Mesli. Other collaborators in Europe and some Arab countries have also been approached for specific tasks concerning legal and media activities. Alkarama plans to hire more staff from the first quarter of 2008 to strengthen its activities.

A major effort was also made to ensure adequate funding to the Foundation, from both private donors and state agencies.

The headquarters of the Foundation is in Geneva with offices in London, Beirut, Qatar, Cairo and Sanaa. In total there are some fifty members and volunteer activists, both in Europe and in most Arab countries, who contribute to the action of Alkarama.

3. Legal Activity

3.1. Introduction

During the period covered by this report, Alkarama pursued its legal activities in accordance with the established program and has continued to rely primarily, as in previous years, on urgent communications as well as special procedures (“non conventional” mechanisms).

Alkarama has also expanded its activities into new areas, and for the first time, it has submitted an alternative report to the Human Rights Committee.

Similarly, after the reforms recently introduced in the framework of the Human Rights Council (HRC), and the new institutions put in place, Alkarama undertook to examine the situations of Arab countries subjected to the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) and to prepare reports for each of them. For example, 3 of 4 Arab countries discussed at the HRC in 2008 have been the subject of a report by Alkarama.

After three years of activity, it is now quite possible to assess the impact of actions taken, particularly through the opinions of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the annual reports prepared by the Working Groups and Special Rapporteurs, as well as compilations of NGO reports submitted under the UPR procedure and consideration of the recommendations proposed at the HRC.

3.2. Actions under special procedures and urgent actions

A total of 525 individual cases of violations of human rights have been submitted in the form of communications to various special procedures bodies or urgent appeals. These cases are divided as shown in the attached table.

3.2.1. Actions under the special procedures

A total of 418 cases were submitted to various special procedures, covering 8 mechanisms concerning 11 Arab states and the United States.

3.2.1.1. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

A significant number of cases have been submitted to this procedure as 194 cases involving 3 Arab countries have been the subject of communications (see attached table).

This procedure is characterized by the slow processing of cases most notably because of the total lack of willingness to cooperate by some states. Nearly 900 cases submitted by Alkarama since 2005 have not yet been clarified; these mainly concern Algeria where the situation remains worrying.

3.2.1.2. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

159 individual cases regarding 9 countries have been subjected to this mechanism, which primarily concern countries particularly affected by this type of violation: Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Libya where the situation is particularly worrying.

3.2.1.3. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

All the Arab countries, with varying degrees, are affected by the use of torture against those accused by the authorities of breaching the public

order or, in most cases, acts of terrorism, which are very widely defined. 44 cases were submitted covering 10 countries (see attached table).

3.2.1.4. Other special procedures solicited

Five other special procedures have been subject of submission of cases – these are the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of defenders of human rights, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (see attached table).

3.2.2. Urgent Appeals

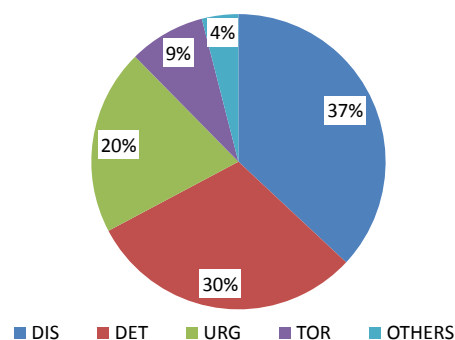
Communications and urgent appeals have been one of the priorities of our organisation because of the risks and dangers faced by victims of violations. A total of 107 urgent communications were sent to the OHCHR and the various special procedures covering our field of action, and they have involved 12 countries: 11 Arab countries and the United States of America (see attached table).

3.2.3. Some comments

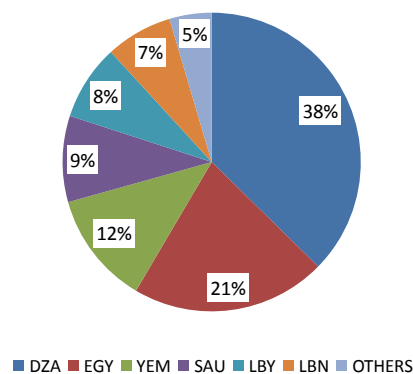
Figure 1 presents the data in the Annex as a chart with the percentages of communications by mechanism (special procedure or urgent appeal) and country.

It can be seen that more than a third of communications concern enforced or involuntary

disappearance and nearly a third concern arbitrary detention. Numerically, these are the two main procedures worked on in 2007. It should be noted that the high proportion of arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances worked on by Alkarama was largely due to the conduct of thematic projects concerning Algeria and Egypt (see section 6).



- DIS Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance
- DET Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- TOR Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- URG Cases submitted in the form of urgent appeals



- Algeria DZA
- Egypt EGY
- Yemen YEM
- Saudi Arabia SAU
- Libya LBY
- Lebanon LBN

Figure 1. Breakdown of cases submitted by mechanism and country

Figure 1 also shows that one fifth of the cases submitted correspond to urgent appeals, that torture complaints account for nearly one-tenth of the cases and that the five other procedures represent 4% of the cases. They are:

- Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;
- Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders;
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;
- Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.

It is important to note that these percentages reflect the allocation of cases submitted by Alkarama and are not an indication of the relative importance of the types of violations in the Arab world.

Regarding the distribution of cases by country, Figure 1 shows that more than a third concerns Algeria and one fifth concerns Egypt. Four other countries represent nearly one tenth each: Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Lebanon. Finally five countries account for nearly 1% each: the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia. This distribution reflects the cases handled by Alkarama and is in no way indicative of the relative severity of violations of human rights in those countries. Again Algeria and Egypt are in the lead because of the thematic projects associated with them (see section 6).

In 2007, Alkarama has submitted cases involving 11 Arab countries out of a total of 23 countries, representing coverage of 48%. Those countries not covered are Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Western

Sahara, Somalia, Sudan and Syria. They have not been overlooked by negligence or rejected because there is a good situation for human rights, but only due to a lack of resources at Alkarama. In fact, most of these countries are experiencing a dramatic situation characterised by massive and systematic violations of human rights under repressive regimes (e.g. Syria), under occupation (Iraq, Palestine, Somalia) or in situations of armed conflict (Western Sahara and Sudan).

The following table presents a comparison of the number of cases submitted in 2007 compared to the number submitted in 2005-2006. It is better in this comparison to single out cases of Enforced Disappearances in Algeria and Arbitrary Detentions in Egypt, whose magnitude can be explained by the corresponding thematic projects (see section 6). If one compares the rest of the cases submitted, one notices an annual increase (07/06) of about a factor of 4: The number increased from 100 in a year and a half to 255 in one year.

	01.07.05 to 31.12.06	01.01.07 to 31.12.07
Total cases	927	525
Enforced disappearance in Algeria	674	186
Arbitrary detention in Egypt	153	84
Remaining cases	100	255

3.3. Actions to the Human Rights Committee

Only two Arab countries have signed the First Optional Protocol and are concerned with

individual complaints to the Convention Procedures: Algeria and Libya. For the first time, Alkarama appealed to the Human Rights Committee with two complaints regarding Libya.

In addition, fifteen Arab countries are party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and are therefore obliged to submit periodic reports to the Human Rights Committee. Many of these States are lagging behind with the presentation of their reports.

Alkarama, in the framework of the development programme of its activities has initiated contacts with NGOs and local stakeholders with a view to systematically submit alternative reports to the Human Rights Committee.

An alternative report, prepared jointly with the organisation Algeria Watch, on the situation of human rights in Algeria was submitted during the review of the 3rd periodic report of this State party. Many of the recommendations formulated in the alternative report received special attention among the Committee experts.

3.4. Actions to Human Rights Council regarding the UPR (Universal Periodic Review)

This new possibility of intervention by NGOs in the proceedings of UPR enabled Alkarama to study in a broader context the situation of many countries to be reviewed. Alkarama was able to make reports on the situation of human rights for 3 out of 4 Arab countries scheduled at the first meeting devoted to the review before the HRC, namely Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

3.5. Follow up of cases and communications

In addition to the urgent communications and the various special procedures, the cases submitted

require permanent monitoring, until their final resolution, which requires the ending of the breach of the fundamental rights of the victim, either by release or being placed under protection of the law, or by the "clarification" of his or her fate.

3.5.1. Monitoring of individual cases with local source(s)

The follow-on operation involves maintaining contact with the local correspondents of Alkarama, local NGOs and the victims themselves or their families, the collection of new data on the development of the case as well as communicating the newly available information to the various UN mechanisms handling the case.

3.5.2. Monitoring of individual cases with certain special procedures

Submissions made to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention require special attention. Both of these special procedures allow sources to comment on governments' replies.

This task requires special attention, because of the number of cases still pending before these two mechanisms. It is increasingly taking up the daily activity of Alkarama to provide necessary updates to our records and respond to comments made by governments.

Finally, this task is not without difficulties. Some governments in the region are trying by all means to intimidate victims and their relatives to dissuade them from communicating with the defenders within their borders as well as those outside. The safeguard clause cited by the mechanisms is not always respected by the governments of the region. Several human rights

activists who have submitted information on violations of human rights in their country were arrested and imprisoned in 2007.

3.6. Evaluation and measurement of the impact of our legal activities

Measuring the extent of our impact causes some methodological difficulty because of the uniqueness of our field of action and also due to the diversity of modes of operation of the United Nations mechanisms for the protection of human rights, their confidentiality and the disparity in attitudes among states in the region.

To measure the impact of the action of Alkarama, it is also worth noting the gap between the time of the intervention by referral to the appropriate mechanism and the effective date of his handling through its publication in the periodic reports of the holders of the mandates.

To evaluate the impact of Alkarama actions, three complementary approaches are used.

The first focuses on the impact on the victim: recovery of freedom, placement under the protection of the law, the alleviation of their suffering by improving their conditions of detention and access to rights governing the deprivation of liberty.

This assessment is completed by the statistical measurement, whenever this is possible, of the efficiency of the referral to special procedures, in terms of cases examined and found to be admissible, positive opinions along the lines of our recommendations, and the number of cases submitted by our organisation with respect to the total number of cases subject to these procedures.

The third approach assesses the impact on the work of committees and the process of the UPR.

3.6.1. Victim oriented approach

More than 60 releases of prisoners were recorded after referral to the Working Group, mainly in Egypt. Admittedly, the cause of these releases is not known or communicated by the Government on the occasion of its comments, but one can notice that there has been a chronology in the events.

Others considered as missing were finally released or placed under the protection of the law.

Finally, for those detained, often their conditions of detention have improved.

3.6.2. Approach oriented towards special procedures

This approach is only possible in the case of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) which renders opinions, which makes it possible to measure quantitatively, the impact of actions undertaken.

In 2007, the WGAD determined a total of 40 cases in three successive sessions (pp 5-8, Activity Report) of which 17 related to the Arab region. Among these cases, 13 were submitted by Alkarama.

In terms of opinions rendered, the number of cases submitted by Alkarama represents nearly one third of the total and more than three-quarters of the cases submitted to WGAD concerning the Arab world (see Figure 2). All were declared admissible and led to the issuance of an opinion recognizing them as arbitrary detention by the WGAD. One case was dropped because of the release of the victim during the proceedings.

In terms of numbers of victims, the WGAD considered 143 cases during 2007 concerning

people for the whole world including 99 for the Arab world. 92 situations were communicated by Alkarama. Thus, as shown in Figure 2, the number of victims treated by the WGAD and submitted by Alkarama represents almost two-thirds of the total and 93% of cases concerning the Arab World

Several individual submissions were grouped by this special procedure because of the similarity of situations and have been the subject of a single opinion.

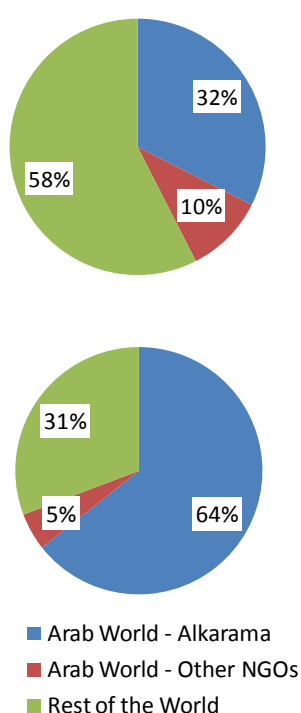


Figure 2. Fraction of opinions rendered (upper) and cases of victims treated (lower) by the WGAD concerning the Arab World and handled by Alkarama.

3.6.3. Committees and HCR oriented approach

It is not yet possible for Alkarama to make an objective assessment of the impact of the reports submitted to the procedure of UPR. We can, however, point out that in the Summary of stakeholders' information prepared by the

OHCHR and sent to the Human Rights Council relating to the UPR, Alkarama constituted a valuable reference.

Alkarama became a relatively important source of information for the OHCHR because of the number of cases submitted which have been acknowledged by the reports of special procedures, as well as the consideration of its recommendations by the same mechanisms and during the examination before the committees.

The noticeable change in the attitude of some states, which are more likely today to cooperate with the special procedures, for obviously various and complex reasons among which, however, the referral of cases to the special procedures has certainly played an important role, and so is worth noting.

3.7. Action towards countries under occupation or where conflict occurs

As mentioned earlier, most of the countries under occupation or torn by conflicts in the Arab world were not covered by communications, urgent appeals or reports. Alkarama nevertheless acted in the cases of Iraq and Somalia. In both cases, meetings were held in order to inform activists of human rights issues in these two countries (and to train them) concerning opportunities offered by international law and to familiarize them with the particular UN mechanisms which protect human rights (see section 8).

Alkarama has also been closely following the events of Nahr al-Barid in Lebanon and prepared cases concerning violations of human rights, including arbitrary detention, torture and summary executions. It also conducted a coordinated action with other Lebanese NGOs, regional and international organisations to put an end to these violations.

3.8. Legal assistance to victims

Alkarama provided tips and legal assistance to many victims, their lawyers and NGOs and local activists of human rights, and several cases of violations of human rights were submitted by local actors after consulting our organisation.

This assistance has focused on torture, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial executions, the infringement of freedom of expression, obstacles to the freedom of judges and lawyers and defenders of human rights, and on the right to reparation.

Direct assistance to victims in the referral to national judicial remedies and administrative authorities, has been provided with a view to resolving certain situations on the domestic front and to only submit cases of violations to the international forums and mechanisms of protection when domestic remedies have been exhausted.

Nationals of countries where torture is established, as well as those threatened with rendition to their countries have also been supported by legal assistance from Alkarama.

3.9. Conclusion

Despite their expressed willingness to abide by their international commitments regarding the protection and promotion of human rights and to cooperate with the appropriate mechanisms of the United Nations, a large number of Arab states remain reluctant about the real and effective consecration of those rights.

Nevertheless, the experience of Alkarama highlights the progressive taking into account by some states in the region of the actions taken at the level of the special procedures. They should be encouraged to continue in this direction. We

must persevere and take further action covering the whole region, in order to alleviate the suffering of victims of violations and the restoration of their rights.

4. Media activities

Based on the principle that a coherent media policy is complementary to legal action a communication strategy based on four components was adopted. It manifests itself by: (1) presence in audiovisual media and press in the Arab world and Europe; (2) maintenance of relationships with journalists specializing in the field of human rights; (3) the development of a website for the organisation; (4) the establishment of a list for the dissemination of press releases.

Papers, correspondence and other information shared with Alkarama partners constitute the reference for the media activities.

4.1. Presence in the media

Representatives of Alkarama participated in several television shows on channels such as Aljazeera, Al-Aalam, Alhiwar, the BBC and other media outlets, like national and international news agencies and newspapers, such as ATS, Le Temps, Le Courrier, Le Matin, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, Basler Zeitung, 20 Minutes, International Herald Tribune, Le Monde, Al Bilad, News Yemen, Al-Sharq, Al Watan, or Internet sites such as Aljazeera.net, SwissInfo, IslamOnline, Oumma.

4.2. Website

The year 2007 was marked by a new design of the website. It is now available in three languages: Arabic, English and French. It is regularly updated

by issuing Alkarama press releases and reports. A breakdown by country enables one to easily find the various cases of violations of human rights and the actions taken by Alkarama to treat them. Online forms enable victims to report the violations suffered. The Alkarama website has emerged as an essential media tool.



which were invited twenty trainees from North Africa.

The main issues addressed during these sessions were:

- Historical overview about human rights;
- How we can ensure human rights during armed conflicts;
- A comparative study on human rights in the Arab constitutions;
- Human dignity, human rights and prohibition of torture in Islam;
- Human rights in international law;
- The United Nations mechanisms for the protection of human rights;
- Special procedures with the Human Rights Council of the United Nations;

- Defenders of human rights: rights, duties and protecting mechanisms;

5. Training

Alkarama has always considered that the defence of human rights requires sustained awareness and training. This need is even more vital when it comes to act in the Arab world, where interest in human rights must be accompanied by concrete efforts regarding awareness and training. It has also been found that the collection of information on violations of human rights in the concerned countries required knowledge in the field of law, international conventions and the United Nations mechanisms.

With this in mind Alkarama organized in 2007 two training sessions. The first was held from 28 to 30 March 2007 in Doha, Qatar. It brought together over 25 students, lawyers and activists of human rights from the Middle East. The second was held in Geneva from 12 to 14 November 2007 and at

- Role of NGOs in the promotion of human rights;
- Practice sessions: how to write communications with the United Nations mechanisms.

The courses were provided by members of Alkarama and trainers from other organisations, including the OHCHR.

Despite the success of these training sessions, it became apparent that they were a heavy burden in time and resources for Alkarama. It was therefore decided that in the future, Alkarama will seek assistance from specialised organisations to provide training for its members and collaborators.

Alkarama hosted for a period of several months two post graduate students from the University of Geneva and the IUED; one has worked on detentions in Egypt and the second on the situation of Iraqi refugees in Syria. The

supervision of students from the University of Geneva will be maintained and expanded in the future.



6. Thematic projects

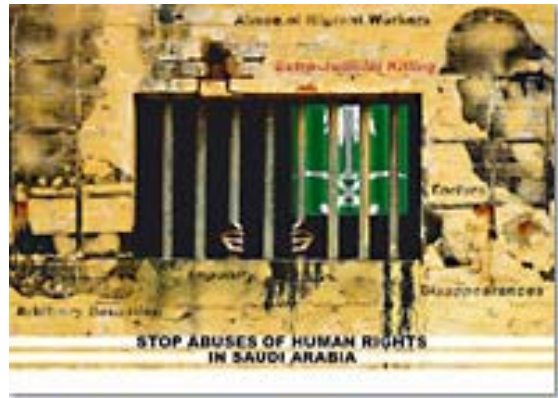
6.1. Arbitrary detention and torture in Egypt

This is a real scourge. The country that has lived under a state of emergency since October 6, 1981, has more than 15,000 political and opinion prisoners. The job of Alkarama has been to consider the hundreds of files collected during 2006 by lawyers hired in that country to verify the information and analyse it, and to explore the legal and media possibilities to alert the international opinion on the fate of these victims.



6.2. Arbitrary detention and torture in Saudi Arabia

A campaign was organized in August 2007 on Arbitrary Detention and Torture in Saudi Arabia, aimed at raising awareness about violations of human rights in that country. A postcard addressed to King Abdullah was distributed in several European capitals.



6.3. Enforced disappearances in Algeria

In Algeria nearly 12,000 people were abducted during the nineties by the security services and are so far still missing. The project was to gather information about the victims, either new or adding to case files already recorded, as well as to collect powers of attorneys from families of the disappeared and to record testimony of their relatives.



6.4. Detentions at the camp of Guantánamo Bay

In 2006 Alkarama commissioned a Swiss medical team, led by Professor Patrice Mangin of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Lausanne, to perform an autopsy on the body of Ahmed Ali Abdullah, a Yemeni citizen who died at the detention camp at Guantánamo Bay, having reportedly committed suicide according to US officials. In early 2007 testimonies were collected from former inmates of the victim.

A press conference was held on March 2, 2007 at the Swiss Club de la Presse in Geneva entitled "Suicides at Guantánamo Bay: Victims extrajudicially executed or perpetrators of an act of war against the United States?" The autopsy report and testimonies gathered were presented on this occasion to the national and international press. Another press conference on the Guantánamo Bay camp was also held on November 14, 2007 in order to inform the general public about the steps taken by Alkarama in relation to the American detention camp in Guantánamo.



7. Networking with other NGOs

Alkarama continued to maintain relations of cooperation and partnership with many human

rights organisations in Europe and the Arab World. It has established new relations with organisations and has assisted in the foundation of others as in Yemen, Bahrain or Kuwait.

Alkarama held regular meetings in Geneva with NGOs such as "Justice and Truth" on the issue of arbitrary detention in Libya, "Trial" on the subject of forced disappearances in Algeria, and Cordoba on the subject of human rights training.

Alkarama worked with other NGOs such as the Arab Commission for Human Rights and Algeria Watch, in the preparation of communications and reports submitted jointly to the United Nations mechanisms.

8. Meetings

Alkarama organized, co-organized, or participated in events for training or information with other NGOs, including:

- A roundtable held in Doha on March 29, 2007 with several Iraqi NGOs on the situation of human rights in Iraq and the potential for a coordinated network;
- A roundtable held in Doha on March 30, 2007 with several NGOs in the Gulf countries on the situation of human rights in the region and the possibilities for a coordinated network;
- A seminar held in Geneva on April 20, 2007 by the Centre for Peace Studies of the Cordoba Foundation, on the Iraqi conflict and in particular the situation of human rights in that country, in the presence of a delegation of Iraqis;
- A theme day on Human Rights in Kuwait held on April 25, 2007 in Geneva with Kuwaiti human rights activists;
- A symposium organized on May 10, 2007 in London on the situation of human rights in Libya;

- A seminar on the situation of human rights in the Maghreb, organized on 12 and 13 May 2007 in Brussels by the Alliance for Dignity NGO;
- A meeting held in Tripoli (Lebanon) on September 27, 2007 with a representative of the OHCHR and a group of Lebanese Human Rights NGOs on the situation of human rights following the events of Nahr Albarid;
- A symposium held on October 20, 2007 in Paris by the French section of Amnesty International on the theme of enforced disappearance;
- A symposium held on October 30, 2007 at the French National Assembly on the theme of "Guantanamo or how to make commonplace the systematic violations of human rights" in collaboration with several NGOs including the Arab Commission for Human Rights, the American Association of Lawyers, the Arab Lawyers Union and the Reprieve organization;
- A theme day on Libya on Nov. 8, 2007, at the end of which Alkarama accompanied a delegation of Libyan NGOs and dignitaries at the Office of the OHCHR in Geneva to submit a memorandum on the human rights situation in the country;



- A round table held in Geneva on November 14, 2007 with several North African NGOs on the situation of human rights in the Maghreb countries and the possibilities for a coordinated network;

- A theme day on the subject of enforced disappearances in Algeria, with the National Coordination of Families of Disappeared Detainees (CNFD), Geneva, November 15, 2007;
- A roundtable was organized in Geneva on November 21, 2007, with a Somali delegation on the margins of a seminar organised by the Centre for Peace Studies of the Cordoba Foundation on the Somali conflict. That delegation was able, as a result of the roundtable, to meet with the assistant of the Independent Expert appointed by the UN Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia for a briefing;



- An information day on Enforced disappearances around the world co-hosted on December 8, 2007 in Meyrin, Switzerland, by the association "Garden of the Missing".

9. Perspectives 2008

The Foundation Board met in June and December 2007. It decided as follows:

- Continuation and strengthening of legal activities;
- Recruitment of new employees for the year 2008;
- To stop training seminars given the substantial burden of work required. The training, however, will be encouraged and entrusted to competent partners in this area;

- Development of media activities;
- Fund raising;
- Continuing the collaboration and networking with organisations of human rights;
- Exploration of new actions and mechanisms for the defence of human rights.

From a legal standpoint, and insofar as the Alkarama human resources permit, it is envisaged to develop the legal work on several axes.

The large number of cases of violations that are before Alkarama, especially for some countries, and the limits shown by some mechanisms to deal with a large number of individual communications encourages the organisation to use alternative routes, particularly the new complaints procedure on the situation of countries in cases of systematic and gross violations of human rights.

It is also envisaged the greater use of some special procedures and in particular the Independent Expert on the Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism.

The institutional framework put in place by the HRC offers new opportunities to Alkarama for action. In particular, it is planned as of this year to systematically submit reports for the UPR sessions of Arab states and for which Alkarama has already initiated systematic studies of their situations.

It is also expected to produce alternative reports on the occasion of the consideration of periodic reports of States parties to the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture, in particular with regard to States for which Alkarama has provided numerous communications to the UN procedures.

To summarise, Alkarama, through the expertise it has acquired and the network of members, activists and NGO partners it has developed, has a real potential to expand its activities in the future by increasing the coverage of the Arab world and by intensifying the collection of information in each country. This remains, however, conditional

on the financial resources it can mobilise and human resources that it can recruit.

10. Financial report

Alkarama was able to balance its 2007 fiscal year with a reserve of CHF 36,796.- after covering all its expenses. The activity and dynamism of Alkarama however, has been made possible only through the collaboration of many volunteers. This explains the relatively low budget with which the Foundation has been able to operate so far. The processing of the flow of information and cases received requires the allocation of greater financial resources to recruit more qualified staff. Indeed, the development plan approved by the Board of the Foundation plans to recruit at least three new employees during the year 2008. This will require a sustained effort of fund raising.

The accounting and management at Alkarama, during the year 2007, were audited by the company "Fidéc Fiduciary SA", an official auditing body, which found, on 22 February 2008, that they were consistent with legal standards and detected no irregularities. The following table summarizes the financial report of our foundation (figures in Swiss francs).

Incomes	
Donations from founders	131,641
Other donations and subscriptions	36,453
Total	168,094
Expenses	
Rent, charges	28,364
Wages and Salaries	69,160
Travel, seminars	22,543
Computers, printing, post	11,231
Total	131,298
Result	+36,796

11. Annexe

Number of individual cases subject to the various special procedures UN human rights between 1 January and 31 December 2007

Procedure	By country	Total
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	Algeria: 186 Saudi Arabia: 2 Libya: 6	194
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	Saudi Arabia: 16 Egypt: 84 United Arab Emirates: 1 USA: 1 Jordan: 1 Kuwait: 1 Libya: 10 Morocco: 1 Yemen: 44	159
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Algeria: 7 Saudi Arabia: 3 United Arab Emirates: 1 USA: 1 Jordan: 1 Kuwait: 1 Lebanon : 19 Libya: 9 Morocco: 1 Yemen : 1	44
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Algeria: 1 USA: 1 Jordan: 1	3
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders	Saudi Arabia: 3 Morocco: 1 Yemen: 1	5
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism	Jordan: 1 Libya: 2 Morocco: 1	4
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Saudi Arabia: 1 United Arab Emirates: 1 Jordan: 1 Libya: 2 Morocco: 1 Yemen : 1	7
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	Saudi Arabia: 1 Libya: 1	2
Cases submitted in the form of urgent appeals (some of these cases have also been subjected to one or more other special procedures)	Algeria: 2 Saudi Arabia: 23 Egypt: 27 United Arab Emirates: 1 USA: 1 Jordan: 1 Kuwait: 1 Tunisia : 1 Lebanon : 19 Libya: 13 Morocco: 1 Yemen : 17	107
Total		525