Training course on security awareness for Human Rights Defenders.
NPWJ office, Gaziantep, Turkey, 18-19 January 2017

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Over the course of the last five years, a large amount of information about violations of international human rights and humanitarian law is being gathered by Syrian and other groups; however these efforts did not result in a deterrent effect by putting people on notice that violations are being investigated and, therefore, abate the level of violence within the country, quite the opposite.

Organisations and individuals working on documentation and human rights protection have been targeted by those committing crimes, irrespective of the position or allegiance of those involved, due to the threat that the documentation gathered constitutes for them in the long term. Since March 2011, the security apparatus of Damascus, terrorist groups and local militias have all targeted civil society representatives and human rights defenders, particularly those working on, or suspected of working on, documenting human rights violations and crimes under international law.

Without sufficient security and safety awareness and protocols to guide their everyday work, the efforts of Syrian civil society organisations and human rights defenders risk becoming a liability for them and a direct threat to their personal and organisational security and safety, and that of those with whom they interact.

Activity

The two-day training will engage a number of Syrian civil society activists on the main components of physical and personal security awareness, particularly in the context of investigating and documenting human rights violations and crimes under international law, in addition to focus on the psycho-social issues and particularly about post-traumatic stress primary and secondary in victims and in those speaking to victims, Trauma concept, the effects on the people's lives, Potential effects on psychological level with who works with survivors of crisis conditions, Stress Management, with a Stress test to Highlighting on their stress, and the development of strategies and protocols to guide their everyday work.

Objectives

By boosting civil society actors’ capacity to work in a more secure and protected environment, the training course will support their ability to investigate and document current events in Syria. The training course is specifically designed to strengthen the capacity of participants to document and bring credible information to accountability processes and bodies, both at the national and international level through building their capacity to do so safely and securely.

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