Meeting Report
“An Initiative of Transitional Justice, Truth and Reconciliation”

Tuesday, 13 September 2011
Hotel LE BELEVDERE - Tunis
1. Introduction

On Tuesday, 13 September 2011, Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center (KADEM) and No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) held two events on An Initiative of Transitional Justice, Truth and Reconciliation (the TJTR Initiative) at the Hotel Le Belevdere in Tunis. The first event was held in the morning and engaged judges of the National Fact-Finding Commission to Investigate Abuses (the Commission on Abuses), members of the judiciary, legal professionals, academicians, representatives of non-governmental organisations, political parties and victims’ families.

The second event, which was held in the afternoon, was open to the participants in the TJTR Initiative and a broader audience of individuals selected by KADEM (the “Civil Society Consultation on the TJTR Initiative”). In addition to the target groups represented in the morning, there were members of the media and students. It aimed at informing and consulting with a broader public on the conclusions and recommendations reached during the morning and achieved the result of adopting the main recommendations.

2. Main recommendations

The following are the main recommendations adopted as a result of both events:

- A Tunisian Group on Transitional Justice (the “TGTJ”) is created under the auspices of KADEM and NPWJ. The Tunisian Group works throughout the country to provide correct information and raise awareness about transitional justice (TJ) with the purpose of promoting the establishment of a National Commission on Transitional Justice (the “National Commission”), whose mandate should cover violations that occurred prior to December 2010, which is the start date of the Commission on Abuses. In order to ensure continuity between the work of the TGTJ and the Commissions on Abuses and on Embezzlement and Corruption (together, the “Existing Commissions”), some members of the TGTJ are also member of the Existing Commissions.

- The National Commission should build on the work of the Existing Commissions as well as the evidence they gathered and should involve their staff.

- The TGTJ will develop a workplan of its own work, which will include efforts to undertake advocacy activities, in particular with members of the Tunisian Government and the Constituent Assembly, to be elected on 23 October 2011.

- Individual members of the TGTJ, depending on their expertise and network of contacts, will focus or mobilise expertise on some specific areas that are at the core of the TGTJ work, namely:
  - psychological and legal support of victims;
  - lobbying and capacity building of the Government and the Constituent Assembly on TJ;
  - capacity-building of the media on TJ; and
  - outreach and capacity-building on TJ of relevant stakeholders and actors.

- The TGTJ has an open structure in order to include additional experts and partners, as it appears necessary and appropriate. During the Civil Society Consultation on the TJTR Initiative, it was decided that media representatives would be partners in the TGTJ instead of just beneficiaries.
• A strategy indicating the main steps to establish a TJ mechanism in Tunisia will be developed and submitted to the Government.

• A National Conference on TJ is envisaged and it could be used as an opportunity to present and discuss a draft strategy with a broader public with a view to have the strategy adopted as main outcome of the conference.

• The TGTJ will interact and work closely with the Existing Commissions and build on their work.

• The TGTJ will work throughout the country to provide correct information and raise awareness about TJ. Before organising activities in a specific area, preparatory work will be carried out to ensure that misconceptions are not an obstacle to conduct the activities effectively.