

PRESS RELEASES BY

Trust Africa, Brazil Fund for Human Rights, The Fund for Global Human Rights and the Law and Justice Foundation (Russia)

welcoming the launch of the Arab Human Rights Fund



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PRESS RELEASE

TrustAfrica Expresses Solidarity with the Arab Human Rights Fund on its Launch

March 7, 2008

TrustAfrica, an African foundation dedicated to the advancement of human rights and development throughout Africa, is proud and delighted to be associated with the Arab Human Rights Fund, which is being launched today.

Africa and the Arab world have a long history of solidarity that goes back into centuries. The launch of the Arab Human Rights Fund, whose history TrustAfrica has been privileged to know about, represents a very important milestone in strengthening the solidarity links between our two worlds. It represents a very important pillar in our global network of highly dedicated individuals and communities working for peace and justice throughout the world.

In the words of Akwasi Aidoo, the Executive Director of TrustAfrica, "The Arab Human Rights Fund will emerge as one of the giant pivots around which the global human rights community will evolve in the years ahead, partly because of the courageous and distinguished professionals who have established it and partly because of its pioneering role in a region that is critically important for peace, social justice and development of our world."

As we heartily applaud the launch of this new and exciting member of the global human rights community, TrustAfrica's trustees, staff and partners in Africa call on all people of goodwill in the Arab world to lend their unflinching support to the Arab Human Rights Fund.

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BRAZIL FUND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATES THE LAUNCH OF THE ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

This Friday (7.3.2008), in Beirut, Lebanon, an independent fund to support organizations and activists of human rights in the entire Arab region is being launched.

The Arab Human Rights Fund is an independent private foundation that aims to provide financial resources and technical assistance to human rights organizations and activists based on their regional and local needs. According to the Fund's Executive Director, Fouad Hamdam, "the Fund is at the heart of the Arab region", and it is capable of understanding the human rights needs, priorities and agendas of the Arab community. The foundation is committed to long-term solutions: "we will listen to our grantees because people on the ground know best what the problems are and how to address them", affirms the Executive Director.

The Brazil Fund for Human Rights applauds this initiative and recognizes its relevance. Human rights are currently violated all over the world, and its defenders still face huge difficulties to take over their work. Financial support from international agencies has often been used to justify the lack of internal investment and support to human rights organizations, as well as to disqualify those who are willing to fight discrimination and to guarantee people's rights to freedom and to a life of dignity. The Arab Human Rights Fund intends to be an efficient response to this kind of argument, becoming a mechanism to reduce dependence on foreign funding, and to encourage social justice philanthropy in the region. In order to do so, it plans to raise funds in the Arab region and from the Diaspora, operating in a transparent way, far from politicians, political parties or any other sources that could compromise its independent decision-making process.

The Arab Human Rights Fund is bound to the principles established by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and intends to contribute to the promotion of human rights without discrimination by reason of ethnicity, religion, gender, national or social status, political opinions or of any other kind. According to the Executive Director of the Brazil Fund for Human Rights, Ana Valéria Araújo, "this is an innovative proposal with major potential to build new paths for social justice in the region, as it will mobilize and touch the most diverse sectors of the Arab society".

More information on the initiative can be found in their webpage www.ahrfund.org.

São Paulo, March 07th 2008.

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FUNDO BRASIL DE DIREITOS HUMANOS COMEMORA LANÇAMENTO DE FUNDO ÁRABE DE DIREITOS HUMANOS

Em Beirute, Líbano, ocorre nesta sexta (7.3.2008) o lançamento de um fundo independente que pretende apoiar grupos e ativistas de direitos humanos em todo o mundo árabe

O Fundo Árabe de Direitos Humanos é uma fundação independente que pretende oferecer recursos financeiros e assistência técnica a organizações e defensores de direitos humanos de acordo com as necessidades regionais e locais do mundo árabe. Conforme ressalta o seu Diretor Executivo Fouad Hamdam, “o Fundo está sediado no coração do mundo árabe” e é capaz de “entender as necessidades, prioridades e a agenda dos defensores de direitos humanos em toda a região”. A fundação tem compromisso com soluções de longo prazo: “vamos ouvir os nossos beneficiários, pois as pessoas que trabalham diretamente com as comunidades sabem realmente quais são os problemas e o qual a melhor forma de resolvê-los”, afirma o Diretor Executivo.

O Fundo Brasil de Direitos Humanos aplaude a iniciativa e reconhece a sua relevância. Direitos humanos seguem sendo violados em todas as partes do mundo e os seus defensores enfrentam imensas dificuldades para levar adiante o seu trabalho. É comum que o auxílio financeiro da cooperação internacional à Região tem sido usado para justificar a falta de investimento e apoio interno às organizações de Direitos Humanos e para desqualificar o trabalho de quem se propõe a combater a discriminação e a garantir o direito de todos à liberdade e a uma vida digna. O Fundo Árabe de Direitos Humanos pretende ser uma resposta eficiente a isso, constituindo-se em mecanismo de redução da dependência de recursos externos e de incentivo à filantropia de justiça social na região. Para tanto, pretende captar recursos de doadores no mundo árabe e junto à diáspora, operando de forma transparente, sem qualquer relação com políticos, partidos políticos ou outras fontes que possam comprometer a sua independência de decisão.

O Fundo Árabe de Direitos Humanos pauta-se pelos princípios estabelecidos na Declaração Universal dos Direitos Humanos e pretende contribuir para a promoção dos direitos humanos sem discriminação por razões étnicas, religiosas, de gênero, status social ou nacional, opinião política ou de qualquer outra ordem. De acordo com a coordenadora executiva do Fundo Brasil de Direitos Humanos, Ana Valéria Araújo, “a proposta é inovadora e, ao envolver e sensibilizar os mais diversos setores da sociedade árabe, tem imenso potencial para construir novos caminhos para a justiça social na região”.

Maiores informações sobre a fundação podem ser encontradas em www.ahrfund.org

São Paulo, 07 de março de 2008.

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PRESS RELEASE

**Fund for Global Human Rights Applauds Launch of Arab Human Rights Fund
March 7, 2008**

The Fund for Global Human Rights applauds the launch of the new Arab Human Rights Fund. “We’ve seen first-hand that getting financial resources to activists on the ground makes an enormous difference. We are delighted to have a fund based in the Middle East join the network of human rights funds based all over the world,” says Regan E. Ralph, the Fund for Global Human Rights Executive Director.

Human rights activists in the Middle East and North Africa must grapple with hostile regimes and a dearth of resources. Those that challenge authoritarian regimes suffer harassment and abuse. To undermine support for human rights, officials in the region have denounced activists who accept funding from outside sources as illegitimate or simply cut them off from any access to funding sources. The Arab Human Rights Fund provides a critical response to such cynical politics. The Arab Human Rights Fund will be able to highlight and build local support for human rights and act as an independent, indigenous source of sustained funding for human rights organizations. “In every corner of the globe, there are dedicated activists working for a life of freedom and dignity for their communities. These activists work on the frontlines of the human rights struggle, with extremely minimal resources, and often out of the headlines,” says Ms. Ralph. “The Arab Human Rights Fund will be a critical partner for human rights activists challenging abuses throughout the Middle East.”

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**ФОНД ПОДДЕРЖКИ ГРАЖДАНСКИХ ИНИЦИАТИВ В СФЕРЕ ПРАВ
ЧЕЛОВЕКА И СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ СПРАВЕДЛИВОСТИ
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“LAW & JUSTICE” FOUNDATION CONGRATUALTES COLLEGUES FROM LEBANON

On March 7 2008, The Arab Human Rights Fund launch ceremony will be held in Beirut, Lebanon. “This event is an important milestone in advancing the philanthropy-for-social-justice movement in the world”, says Irina Efremova-Garth, Russian “Law and Justice” Foundation director.

The Arab Human Rights Fund is a member of the international community that brings together 18 foundations from 13 countries, spanning Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and South Asia, which work to strengthen local philanthropy.

Russian Human Rights Foundation “Law and Justice” congratulates colleagues from Lebanon with launching of the independent indigenous foundation. “We believe that Arab Human Rights Fund will become a strong voice in promoting human rights and social justice in the Arab region. Our Foundation looks forward to working with our Arab colleagues and learning from each other’s efforts while addressing the issues of social justice, promoting human rights and advancing local philanthropy in our countries”, says Irina Efremova-Garth, Russian “Law and Justice” Foundation director.

The mission of the Arab Human Rights Fund is to provide support for the promotion and realization of all human rights in the Arab region. According to Fateh Azzam, Chair of the Arab Human Rights Fund Board “The idea of establishing AHRF was prompted by the desire to increase resources for human rights protection in a focused manner, to reduce dependence on foreign funding and to encourage social justice philanthropy in the Arab region.”

To fulfill its mission the Arab Human Rights Fund will attract donors in the Arab region, from the Diaspora, as well as from international foundations. More detailed information about the Foundation may be found at www.ahrfund.org

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**РАСШИРЯЕТСЯ МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ СЕТЬ БЛАГОТВОРИТЕЛЬНЫХ ФОНДОВ,
ПОДДЕРЖИВАЮЩИХ ИНИЦИАТИВЫ В ОБЛАСТИ
СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ СПРАВЕДЛИВОСТИ И ПРАВ ЧЕЛОВЕКА**

7 марта 2008 года в Бейруте, Ливан, состоится официальная церемония открытия Арабского Фонда Прав Человека. Это событие станет важным этапом в развитии международной сети благотворительных правозащитных фондов.

«Идея создания Арабского Фонда Прав Человека основана на стремлении мобилизовать ресурсы для целенаправленной поддержки правозащитной деятельности, снизить зависимость данного направления от зарубежного финансирования и способствовать развитию благотворительности в сфере социальной справедливости в арабском регионе», отмечает Фатех Аззам, председатель Совета директоров Фонда.

Для выполнения своих программ Фонд будет привлекать средства доноров и партнеров на Ближнем Востоке, национальных диаспор и международных фондов, которые разделяют ценности нового Фонда и уважают право его руководящих органов на независимое принятие решений. Более подробную информацию о Фонде, его миссии и инициативах можно найти на сайте www.ahrfund.org

Арабский Фонд Прав Человека входит в международную сеть, объединяющую 18 благотворительных фондов в 13 странах мира, включая Бразилию, Индию, Израиль, Кению, Мексику, Россию и США. Основной задачей сети является развитие филантропии в своих странах и привлечение локальных финансовых ресурсов для борьбы с социальной несправедливостью и нарушениями прав и свобод человека.

Российский благотворительный правозащитный Фонд «Право и справедливость» приветствует создание Арабского Фонда Прав Человека и желает коллегам успехов в их начинаниях по развитию благотворительности в сфере прав человека и социальной справедливости.

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