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Making Human Rights Real: New Manuals Promote Human Rights Mobilization among Algerian and Tunisian Women

March 31, 2006 (Rabat, Alger, Tunis) — The *Global Rights* Rabat-based field office, in collaboration with local women's rights groups, development associations, lawyers and activists in Algeria and Tunisia, announces the publication of the Algeria and Tunisia specific versions of its human and legal rights education for women program manual, "*Making Human Rights Real*."

Written in Arabic and 300 pages in length, the two Algeria and Tunisia versions of the manual are the latest result of more than six years of collaboration between *Global Rights* and local organizations to promote human rights and enhance legal awareness among women at the grassroots level across the Maghreb.

"This program is unique because it doesn't just provide women legal information about their human rights - it also develops their personal capacities to defend their rights and to mobilize collectively for change," explained Asma Cherifi, lawyer and program facilitator from Algiers.

The Algeria and Tunisia versions of the manual are the result of more than two years of collaboration between *Global Rights* and its local partners in these two countries to promote women's rights education and advocacy. Designed for program facilitators, *Making Human Rights Real* contains an introduction to human rights education, a practical facilitating guide, numerous two-hour sessions on a wide diversity of women's human rights themes for program facilitators to hold with groups of women participants, and appendices with additional resources.

Each of the program sessions contains a lesson plan accompanied by a legal reference sheet with relevant international human rights conventions, national laws, and local customary law.

"This manual is a very helpful tool for our mobilization work with women in our community," said Saida Garrach, lawyer and editor of the Tunisia manual. "The diverse topics addressed in program include introductory sessions on women's human rights concepts and the legal sources of human rights, as well as specific subjects such as women's rights in the family, the right to freedom from violence, and the right to work, education, property, equitable development, and participation in public life."

The manual targets human rights education with illiterate women, but was designed to be flexible and adaptable for implementation with other groups of women. However, using participatory methodologies rather than written materials, the essential characteristic of the program is that none of the sessions require reading or writing skills on the part of the participants.

As part of its Maghreb Initiative, *Global Rights* conducted its intensive series of training workshops titled, "Facilitating for Women's Human Rights Education," for members of diverse local organizations from across Algeria and Tunisia in the summer and fall of 2004. Following these workshops, *Global Rights* worked with its in-country partners as they trained additional facilitators, implemented pilot programs of legal and human rights education with groups of women, and elaborated Algeria and Tunisia specific versions of the program manual.

Previous Morocco-specific versions of the program Manual were published by *Global Rights* in 2002 and 2004, created in collaboration with 31 local women's rights groups and development associations. In the more than five years of program implementation in Morocco, *Global Rights* has trained hundreds of members of local organizations across the country as program facilitators, and its local partners have reached tens of thousands of women with the program.

In the coming weeks, *Global Rights* and its partners in Algeria and Tunisia will distribute hundreds of copies of the Manual in book form and on CD-Rom for local NGOs to use in human rights education programs for women.

The Manuals will be available in PDF format on the *Global Rights* website at <http://www.globalrights.org>. To obtain a hard copy of the Manuals, please phone the Morocco field office of *Global Rights* at 212.37.66.04.10 or send an e-mail to wrapmorocco@globalrights.ma.

Global Rights is a human rights advocacy group that partners with local activists to challenge injustice and amplify new voices within the global discourse. With offices in countries around the world, we help local activists create just societies through proven strategies for effecting change.

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