Social Innovation in a Digital Context.

Rönkkö, Kari; Svensson, Måns; Palmqvist, Linda

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Change reports within the academic scholarship programme

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN A DIGITAL CONTEXT

LUND 2012-2013 | LUND UNIVERSITY |

Change Projects within the
academic scholarship programme

Social Innovation in

a Digital Context

Final Reports

2012-2013

DEDICATION

This anthology is dedicated to the memory of Ibrahim Mothana, one of the participants of the programme, who tragically left us much too early when he passed away in Sana'a, Yemen, on 5 September 2013, at the age of 24. Ibrahim was an international prominent Yemeni youth leader, activist and writer; co-founder of the *Watan* political party, and *Arab Thought Foundation*'s youngest ambassador. Ibrahim dreamed of a better Yemen and dedicated his life to achieving this goal. He was full of energy and established ties with many individuals and organizations worldwide. Ibrahim was a bright, friendly, smart, talented and witty young man that impressed and inspired us all in the programme. His passing is a great loss for the world. Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends.

Ibrahim's legacy lives on in many ways, including through his fellow participants in the SIDC programme. We hope the large variety, innovative problem solving, and sheer youthful energy apparent in every project report of this anthology, will serve as an inspiration to you as a reader, as it does to us in our daily work.

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PREFACE

This book is an anthology of change projects conducted by participants of the academic scholarship programme *Social Innovation in a Digital Context* (SIDC), given at Lund University, Sweden, during the academic year 2012-2013. Lund University Internet Institute (LUii) is responsible for the content of the programme, while Lund University Commissioned Education (LUCE) is responsible for the programme administration. The programme is given at the request of, and generously financed by, the Swedish institute.

The Swedish Institute (SI) helps Sweden reach various international goals concerning foreign policy, education, and international aid and development. Their activities span over fields such as culture, society, research, higher education, business, innovation, democracy and global development. SI acts as a coherent representative of Sweden and of Swedish skills, values and experience in the world. SI operates within the framework of public diplomacy, understanding, informing, influencing and developing relations with people in other countries. Please find more information about the Swedish Institute at www.eng.si.se.

Lund University Internet Institute (LUii) is a multidisciplinary platform within Lund University dealing with digitization from a number of perspectives. LUii was established in 2012 and has its headquarters in the sixteenth-century citadel of Landskrona, Sweden. Staff and associates of LUii are responsible for the content, management and teaching within the programme SIDC. Learn more at www.luii.lu.se. Thank-you to all the dedicated teachers and mentors (as was also the editors of this book) **Johanna Alkan Olsson**, **Håkan Hydén**, **Marcin de Kaminski**, **Stefan Larsson, Anders Sommarmo** and **Lars Persson.**

Thanks also to the great team at Lund University Commissioned Education (LUCE), especially Jessica Hansson and Florencia Aguilera Flores for their wonderful work and dedication in administrating the programme, including the planning and implementation of activities, participant service and quality assurance. LUCE's motto is *bridging knowledge for a better world*. LUCE is a division of Lund University specializing in the marketing and administration of education commissioned from the

University. Many thanks also to Linda Palmqvist at LUCE for content suggestions, set, formatting, editing and proofreading of this anthology.

Finally, and most importantly, we would like to give a heartfelt thank-you to all the participants in this very first batch of the academic scholarship programme *Social Innovation in a Digital Context*. They are agents of change whose vision and ingenuity continue to inspire us, and who have contributed to the defense of human rights in their respective countries, through a truly global network.

Lund, February 2014

Kari Rönkkö and Måns Svensson

Lund University Internet Institute

INTRODUCTION

Large parts of the world today are characterized by protests and demonstrations caused by dissatisfaction with governance, income discrepancies, and human rights abuses. Public institutions have had difficulty keeping up with the changes and are often designed for past time periods with other sets of problems. Global inequality, for instance, is one area that has proven too challenging for single government institutions in single nations to handle. A globalized world also leads to an increase in diversity of people and processes that institutions find difficult to manage.[1] An historic series of demonstrations and protests regarding these issues erupted in Tunisia in 2011, and is yet ongoing across the Middle East and North Africa, referred to as the Arab Spring.

One aspect uniting the uprisings and revolutions, violent and non-violent, across these areas is the role of the Internet, and especially the use of social media, to raise awareness and organize responses to government attempts at repression and censorship. Information technology and the digitization of media have in turn contributed to a globalized world. While we now witness injustices and disasters right in front of us, technology also makes it easier for people with creative solutions to reach out in response. That is to say, there have always existed people with energy and motivation to "change the world for the better", and lately conditions have emerged that substantially benefit these social innovators. New social innovations are emerging in the face of the challenges that cannot be met by traditional approaches. Many people have realized that it is time to work together to find new solutions to the challenges facing our society. Initiatives putting digital technology to use are launched all over the world, by individuals, research institutions, companies, and independent organizations.

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[1] www.socialinnovation.se 2014-02-06

Lund University's programme Social Innovation in a Digital Context (SIDC)

The academic scholarship programme represented in this anthology is designed to support individuals who want to take on the challenge of new social innovations. It provides young people with adequate knowledge, tools and networking opportunities to meet these challenges. It includes both interactive and practical components focusing on the relationship between digital technology and sociopolitical change, and how change makers can harness this relationship to build better societies. The aim is to influence social change in correspondence with international human rights values, spanning fields as diverse as culture, research, business, democracy and global development. Besides contributing by supporting change projects in their own countries, the participants also play an important role as grassroots public diplomats. Hence the programme supports the creation of relationships with proven international actors, as well as uniting young people from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia that are eager to change the world for the better.

The Concept of Social Innovation

Social innovations come from individuals, groups or organizations, and can take place in the for-profit, nonprofit and public sectors. Increasingly, they are happening in the spaces between these three sectors as perspectives collide to spark new ways of thinking.

Definitions of the concept of social innovation are widely varying among the growing amount of people and organizations engaged in the area, but generally refer to new ideas that resolve existing social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges. The social innovation theory of 'connected difference' emphasizes that innovations are usually new combinations or hybrids of existing elements, rather than wholly new.[2] Despite this, they leave behind compelling new relationships between previously separate individuals and groups. A true social innovation is systems-changing; it permanently alters the perceptions, behaviours and structures that previously gave rise to these challenges. Optimally, a social innovation also includes value based participatory design approach, meaning that the people affected by the changes are invited and involved to have a say in the design and implementation of the change.

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[2] http://socialinnovation.ca/about/social-innovation 2014-02-06

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The SIDC 2012-2013 Projects

SIDC focuses on the relationship between social innovation and digital technology, and how change makers can harness this relationship to build better societies. It contains both practical and theoretical components and is designed to support social and digital innovators to pursue work in the fields of digital technology, new media, and social and political change. In this anthology we report from projects performed by eleven participants in the programme that started 2012. They worked on developing projects aimed at creating sociopolitical change through digital technology. The projects focus on a broad range of issues including human rights, gender-based violence, radicalism and youth empowerment.

Three projects had in common the use of artistic means for spreading awareness. Poetry and rap was used in the project *Hope Spoken/Broken – A People's History in Beats and Bars* (Project 3). The project aims to "increase awareness and empathy for Palestinians, inspire…activism for necessary change" and "draw connections between the social justice struggles of marginalized and oppressed communities around the world." This project illustrates the great power of networking through a common art form and bridging disparate groups globally, a cornerstone of social innovation.

The second artistically themed project, human rights *Without Words* (Project 5) was aimed at illustrating the UN Declaration of Human Rights through the use of photography. The change project raised women's awareness of their rights, even if they were illiterate, and in a world where, as the participant puts it "there is often not enough time to read, whereas a picture is instant". The women involved in this project were further empowered through their new skills in photography, computer use, and digital photo editing, which at some occasions led to employment.

The third artistically themed project is the production of the film *A Woman's Lens Reveals the Desire for Freedom* (Project 2), which gives voice to the unique female experience of living and working in a Palestinian refugee camp. The work reflects feelings of duty to understand and highlight the feminist movement, and also reflects the feelings of determination and anxiety that women will experience if the context remains as it is.

Five projects had in common the building of platforms for support and awareness creation. *Gaza Digital* (Project 4) was aimed at "unifying the efforts of Gaza's active youth in a collective venue" and shows a diverse and impressive quantity of initiatives to overcome barriers to communication and trade. The project was a counter reaction to the Israeli siege that was imposed on the strip in 2007, which led to physical isolation and skewed perceptions about Gaza. The platform includes concepts as *Siege*

Explained, Support Gaza Ark, Breaking Stereotypes, Employ Someone from Gaza Online, and a larger subdomain *Explore Gaza*.

Moua.tn (Project 11) is a grand technical support platform for the crowdsourcing of knowledge and discussion around the political development of Tunisia following the revolution that sparked the Arab Spring. It is a social network coupled with a set of collaborative tools promoting digital citizenship, which enables local and direct democracy through user-generated content. The technical solution is scalable, and adaptable to different needs, providing a package of services enabling individuals, sometimes unaware of each other, to contribute to the goal of democracy through truly democratic means.

Democracy Web TV (Project 1) takes on the lack of knowledge on how to engage and develop the Algerian civil society. The platform provides courses for young people addressing the strengthening of civil society through both theoretical and practical means. Distribution through the Internet enables it to bypass the censorship system of national television in Algeria. Making courses downloadable allows spreading them to youth in areas without Internet to access them.

The Forgotten Voices platform (Project 10) was created as a hopeful look toward a post-conflict Syria and aims to be instrumental in the rebuilding of economic and employment structures. Powered by open source technologies, a social media characterised website was developed that includes an online English language media and communication platform, along with a multi-purpose web portal. The main goal is to allow the labour force to find suitable jobs by allowing jobseekers to search for a suitable job online.

3adad (Project 7) addresses the challenge of providing a platform for proper documentation of human rights violations, fundamental to achieving goals of justice set in Jordan. A campaign was arranged that, besides the development of platform, also included following up on torture cases filed against security officers.

The remaining three projects were about spreading awareness and empowerment, as well as arranging meeting opportunities for different types of actors. The *Peace Tech Camps* (Project 6) were arranged in Iraq to allow bloggers, journalists and human rights activists to learn how to use digital tools for encrypting emails and chats, and how to protect their privacy when using social media. It also allowed workshop participants to sit down and engage in dialogue with both Iraqi authorities regarding new legislation, as well as with representatives of Western social media companies such as *Facebook* on essential issues of digital security.

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Iamsyrian.com (Project 9) did publish as well as archive illustrations of helpful procedures and solutions related to the adverse circumstances that the people inside Syria are facing in their everyday lives. The illustrations cover areas such as psychological support, first aid, useful procedures in emergency cases, alternative solutions for common challenges, raising awareness, digital security, job vacancies and scholarships. The information was displayed on slideshows containing photographs and a written summary. The illustrations were constructed as simple instructions that can be applied on the ground.

Empowering Independent Media Centres (Project 8) aimed to enable fledgling media centres in the midst of the Syrian conflict to retain their independence, by providing logistical assistance including communication equipment; and by creating an Internet solution through which media centres can retain the help of experts on editing, Internet security, professional documentation, and journalistic methods specific to human rights issues.

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PROGRAMME PROFILE

Social Innovation in a Digital Context

This programme is designed to support participants in the development of creative and viable individual projects that help strengthen human rights and democracy-building in their home countries, as well as boosting understanding of the use of digital tools for sociopolitical change and innovation. The programme is primarily aimed at individuals with existing outreach platforms in their home countries who want to engage in innovative project work. It is a programme for social innovators wishing to bring a project proposal from idea to reality, and those wanting to further develop an existing project. SIDC suits innovators who intend to return home upon completion of the programme and launch the projects they have developed in Sweden in their home environments. The applicants have different backgrounds, for example within IT, entrepreneurship, sociology, or political science. The applicants have academic competence as well as practical skills. Furthermore, knowledge of and some experience and skills in computer technology and Internet security have been highly valued qualifications.

The programme relates to key aspects of societal construction in the contemporary digitized global society. The SIDC programme emphasizes the use of human rights knowledge and experiences made throughout the world. Safety critical information and technology for safety is another important part. The programme addresses the value-base of design in new technology, its functions, how to empower people, as well as the politics of security issues in and around digital infrastructure. This includes the struggles in and around the infrastructures of new media, which are a politicized domain and among the emerging grand challenges of modern global society.

The programme is split into two parts and currently runs for one year, mixing academic coursework with interactive workshops and seminars. An individual one-year project is the final result of the programme. These projects are presented here in this anthology.

The initial six months of the programme are held in Sweden, while during the second half participants conduct independent work on their individual projects, in close contact with their mentors. A one-week follow-up seminar is held in Lund during the second half of the programme.

Overview of the Six-Month Period in Sweden

The part of the programme that conducted in Sweden consists of four modules:

1. Human rights, International Law and Democracy
2. ICT and New Media in Social Movements
3. ICT and New Media in Society
4. Technological Challenges and ICT Safety

All modules include a combination of lectures by experts, seminars and workshops; with a strong linkage to the projects owned and conducted by the participants themselves. Furthermore, based on the view of learning as a reflective process, guided reflection sessions are held with the participants on a bi-weekly basis. The reflection sessions focus on recognizing new perspectives and ways of expressing oneself. Teambuilding and professional project management are also included in the programme.

Module 1 has the aim of providing the participants with a useful overview of the existing international discourse on human rights, democracy and governance. The aim of Module 2 is making the participants aware of the relationships and interplay between technical infrastructure, power games and politics. The aim of Module 3 is extending the participants' knowledge about social innovation through digital means, and methods for user inclusiveness in change-oriented value based work. The aim of Module 4 is increasing the participants' knowledge about how to identify and assess safety critical information, and increasing their knowledge about technology for safety.

Module 1 - human rights, International Law and Democracy, focuses on a theoretical understanding of the development of the human rights field, in relation to the development of international discourses of law and democracy. This is done through proving a historical perspective on the development of human rights and law, which is essential to strengthening and contextualizing the human rights aspect of the individual projects. The module addresses societal and social changes and discussed their identification and potential. It also discusses the potential of social change in relation to each individual project.

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Module 2 - ICT and New Media in Social Movements, focuses on the political dimensions of new media in relation to its technical infrastructure. The interplay between global flows and interconnectivity is addressed, as well as local cultures and their social and technological expressions. The module includes discussions on activism, social movements, security and threats. It elaborates on the role that new media can play in social and political change movements. It also highlights patterns and structures used in power games and politics that at first glance are difficult to discover behind technology and infrastructure.

Module 3 - ICT and New Media in Society, focuses on the participatory dimensions of digital technology and its infrastructure. Historical developments of change and social innovations are addressed, together with fundaments important to understand when working with change projects. It addresses the interplay between laws, norms and other structures in society and technology, and theory and vocabulary useful for understanding and communication on the subject. It includes elaboration on the challenge of incorporating 'soft' human values into design, as well as the so-called "wicked problems" following from including and empowering different stakeholders in the change processes.

Module 4 - Technological Challenges and ICT Safety, focuses on knowledge and orientation of safety measures, content classification and secure communications. This module helps the participants identify and frame threats from the outside, through knowledge about evaluating what might be safety critical information. A general orientation about risk assessment in online interaction is also provided. Through hands-on guidance in a range of technological tools and strategies, this module also gives the participant basic training in technological safety and how to mitigate the risks involved in online communication.

The programme also includes a course in professional project management fundamentals, hands-on training using the individual projects, monthly reports and assessment of the project progress at project review meetings, and individual tutoring by a mentor. Moreover, participants have the opportunity to receive and give feedback on other participants' projects. Coaching is thus carried out individually and in groups. Participants also have the possibility to receive other types of knowledge and support from contact person at different faculties at Lund University.

Overview of Six-Month Individual Project Period

In the second half of the programme – a six-month period placed in participants' respective home countries – the participants work on executing the individual projects. The individual project is prepared and judged for feasibility during the first

half of the programme and implemented during the second half of the programme. In the latter period the mentors monitor and support the execution of the projects. Finally the project report is presented alongside with lessons learned at the end of the programme at a follow-up seminar in Sweden. The project reports for 2012-2013 programme constitute this anthology.

The following criteria are presented as necessary in the participants' work on their individual projects, all of which were achieved with good measure by each participant of the 2012-2013 programme:

- *Creativity* – The projects must have creative quality. Something new and valuable should be created. The programme lectures, workshops and study visits aimed to be an inspiration to the creative process.
- *Innovation* – The project must develop a new solution that meets new requirements, or existing and/or articulated needs. Participatory design and social innovation are key characteristics of project execution.
- *Strengthening human rights and/or democracy using ICT and social innovation* – The project must tie back to the overall purpose of the programme. The projects are critically assessed related to human rights and democracy and commented upon its relevance.
- *Good project management* – This is essential for planning, organizing, motivating, and controlling resources to achieve the targeted goals.
- *Realization* – The primary challenge is to meet successful project goals and objectives, while honoring the preconceived constraints of scope, time and resources.

PROJECT REPORTS

1
ALGERIA

Democracy Web TV

Abderrazak Bendjoudi

1. Introduction

Following the popular revolt of October 1988 in Algeria, the existing regime was forced to open up the field of politics. This period is often called the Algerian Democratic Spring. During this period, several parties of different political convictions emerged. After the first round of legislative elections in 1991, an Islamic fundamentalist party (FIS)[3] won the majority of seats in parliament. The party's first speech encouraged violence in the country, which led the army to intervene and stop the electoral process in order to "block the way for this fundamentalist party". But many believe the main purpose of this intervention was simply to find a reason to stay in power!

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[3] FIS, Islamic Salvation Front: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Salvation_Front

During a recent protest in Algeria

After these events, Algeria suffered what is often referred to as "the black decade", 10 years of Islamist rule and suppression of different political views by the authorities[4]. This "black decade" led to the near complete destruction of political practice, the practice of citizenship and the concept of social solidarity, making it very difficult to form a political basis upon which to achieve change.

During a police arrest

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[4] Algerian civil war: *http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algerian_Civil_War*

Following this decade, Algeria is relatively and slowly recovering and turning into a more stable and secure society; human rights activists are trying to rebuild their networks, despite all the restrictions on freedom of expression created by the regime.

What is needed?

Human rights defenders and democracy activists are currently trying to rebuild their associative networks in order to revive the spirit of citizenship, while facing the substantial restrictions of freedom put in place by the current regime. This is not an easy task and requires action at different levels.

One of the greatest challenges is a lack of knowledge on how to engage and develop civil society, and this project aims to be one step in strengthening the capacity of Algerian civil society.

The author at the United Nations

2. Results

The current project entails the development of a web television channel that publishes speeches and interviews with experts and activists, in order to develop and strengthen knowledge in Algeria concerning human rights, democracy and citizenship.

Web TV as an Innovative Solution

Democracy Web TV will serve as a web-based course covering both theoretical and practical aspects of how to strengthen civil society.

It will be an innovative tool that will allow users to watch videos through the website. As it will be web-based it will bypass the regular censorship system of national television, which will increase the possibility for the lectures to reach a broad audience.

The Web TV aims especially to strengthen youth involvement in public life, and to improve the nature and content of exchanges within civil society. Hence lectures and interviews will target the situation and future of youths, to facilitate their learning processes and engagement.

Content of the Web TV

Courses in political concepts and citizenship will be given in the form of videos, featuring both local and international lecturers. It will be possible to download the videos to be used in an offline context, to strengthen civil society in areas without internet access. Live political debates will be broadcast. Efficient broadcasting will be ensured with the help of social networks, other websites, blogs, etc.

The aim is for the Web TV to serve in the long run as a centre for education on civil society and development issues. The development and structuring of the archive of the channel is therefore essential. It is of central interest that the Web TV should – after a start-up phase – be able to function independently and be developed through the contribution of the growing civil society itself.

Target Group

The Web TV School aims to strengthen youth involvement in public life, and to improve the nature and content of exchanges within civil society. The target group is young Algerians who wish to become involved in civil society movements and politics, to rebuild the associative network, and be a part of reconciling Algerians with political practice.

Status of the Project (December 2013)

Pending the official launch of the website, the project is completed and ready for launch. The domain name (www.democracywebtv.com) and hosting is purchased, and the construction of the site is complete. Contact has been made with contributors, and the realization and editing of several video interviews is completed. Downloading functionality on the website is also completed.

Developing the Project

The announcement of the project has been well received within the social networks in Algeria; dozens of contributors wish to participate through video interviews and documents, which is a good sign for the future development of the website.

The project will initiate interesting discussions on politics in Algeria and in the region; it will promote a public voice unknown until now. The Web TV provides new ideas and a new approach to analysis and policy work. As this project will bypass the legal restrictions on non-partisan political activism, it will give a more complete picture of the current human rights defenders and democracy for the Algerian diaspora abroad.

Several proposals to work with private Algerian television, and to adapt the concept to schools, have been proposed. There are also discussions underway regarding if and how the Web TV will become a media platform, a base of journalistic and educational data for democracy in Algeria. The establishment of a training school is also in the offering that will use the content of the Web TV as its training material.

Abderrazak "Abdou" Mohamed Bendjoudi has a degree in Business and Management Science, and professional experience in renewable energies in Algeria. He is an Algerian human rights defender and democracy activist, a blogger since 2006 (His blog is censored in Algeria), and a political columnist focusing on geopolitics. He is currently working as a

freelance journalist and lecturer on topics related to changes in North Africa and the Middle East. He is a founding member of the Independent Youth Movement for Change in Algeria, an oppositional political movement created in 2011. He is heavily involved in the peace process and conflict regulations in the MENA region, and since 2012 a member of the international coalition for the adoption of the treaty on the arms trade to the United Nations. His main interests include geopolitics, politics, Islamology, sociology and secularism.

Contact Details: abdoubendjoudi@gmail.com, +33 68 67 36 676

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GAZA

A Woman's Lens Reveals the Desire for Freedom
– a film

Mohammed El Majdalawi

1. Introduction

This work reflects the feelings of hope that women can partner in the struggle for freedom and liberation. It explores the perspective of the rebellious woman dreaming of freedom, as well as that of the more conservative or traditional woman.

The film follows the journey of the lenses of a camerawoman who, unlike men, due to customs and traditions, can film wedding parties. This gives her unique experience in observing the diverse behaviours of various social classes.

The camerawoman moves with her imagination from one marriage ceremony to another. She imagines the nature of a girl's life in middle-class society. How does she find the space for freedom? What is the role of parents? What are the social

consequences? The camerawoman asks, and the recording answers. She eventually discovers that everyone suffers.

Quotes

The following are quotes from women interviewed in Gaza, and an inspiration for the film.

"Sometimes, the way the people in my society look at me as a woman working in the evenings drives me to think of quitting. But my inner feeling says to me that I have chosen this work and I have chosen to challenge. In addition to that I have chosen a husband who keeps insisting that I should continue, and that I should challenge."

– Rabab Al-Danaf, wedding camerawoman

"Each time I hold my camera I feel I am ready to take photos that are different from the ones I took before, something new. It is impossible to find repeated photos, all are new and with a new vision. You will be able to find photos of liberal/free families that are open to the world, and not necessarily rich. Those families have left many conservative ideas behind and let in the joy of expressing their thoughts."

– Rabab Al-Danaf, wedding camerawoman

"The most serious photo I take for weddings looks like a Berthelot since you can feel the clear indolence. Everything looks strange. The celebrating family usually controls everything in the wedding. Seeing the way the girls in the refugee camp dance, you can feel they are releasing an inner tension."

– Rabab Al-Danaf, wedding camerawoman

"There is a huge space in our society, both at the leadership level and at the level of principles and values. This space is being filled by religious men and extremist religious rules. How can we be brought up to be told that Christians are unbelievers? How can I be a neutral human being when you are asking me to not even speak with my colleague, a man, in the street? Those extremist people are allowed by the government to go into schools and

educate the students with those thoughts. The government teaches the kids at school how to use guns, so I wonder what is left for them!

This space should be filled by civil society organisations, or by actions; revolutionary actions. I should dare just once to ride a bicycle in the street, and tell those who try to stop me that I am leaving their ignorance behind and they do not have the right to stop me from riding the bike."

– Asmaa Al-Ghoul, journalist and activist from Gaza

"I like Gaza beach, though I don't know how to swim. The idea of being in its water gives me a feeling of comfort, security and freedom. For me as a woman, this feeling of freedom is limited. My brother can swim with a swimsuit, but for women it is not allowed culturally. Even if I want to just walk by the beach, I must be with my brother or my father, and this is a limitation of my freedom."

– Samaher Abudaher from Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp

"My family has allowed me to leave Gaza, and to travel to the USA. My family is much better than other families in the refugee camp, but I am not allowed to sleep at my friend's house or to stay out past 19:00. The reason is that they care about what my neighbours and relatives will say about me."

– Samaher Abudaher from Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp

2. Results

The project resulted in the film *A Woman's Lens Reveals the Desire for Freedom.*

The work reflects feelings of duty to understand and highlight the feminist movement which is trying to be found, and to create spaces for the presence of the proven self. It also reflects the feelings of determination and anxiety that the wife, daughter, mother, sister and aunt will experience if the context remains as it is.

During filming

In addition to this, the aim is to discover what possibilities may exist to simultaneously drive this "tank" to break down walls, while also maintaining the

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harmony of society, through the use of soft power to loosen the ruling systems of human relations between the sexes.

The work explores the thoughts that revolve in women's minds in all societies and in various classes; thoughts which spin rapidly and collide with a sometimes terrible reality, and often without finding a window of expression. It is an attempt to enter the awareness of women in general, through the eyes of one woman who has mingled in communities throughout Palestinian society.

Above all, the work is a gift to the mother, the sister, the wife, the daughter, the oppressed friend.

Still shots during filming

Mohammed El Majdalawi is a Palestinian filmmaker and youth activist from the Jabalia refugee camp in the north of Gaza. He has worked extensively with young people, especially those who live in the border areas of Gaza, with international and local NGOs such as the American Friends Service Committee, *the* Quakers, *the* Union of Health Work Committees, LifeSource, Avaaz, *the* World Bank, *and the* Middle East Children's Alliance. *He was a member of the* British-Arab Exchanges *leadership programme, in which he gave lectures about daily life in Gaza and presented his film "Gaza Art through Barbed Wire." It is his hope that through work in media he can help bring about change. It is his passion to raise the voice of his people to the outside world.*

3
GAZA

Hope Spoken/Broken
– a People's History in Beats and Bars!

Osama Shomar and Bashar Lubbad

1. Introduction

This report covers the progress of the project *Hope Spoken/Broken* from October 2012 to October 2013. The report includes description of the project, the working team, activities implemented and the results of networking, and fundraising as well as future plans, and the lessons learned.

Hope Spoken/Broken is a social innovation project that records stories of hope and change from the Palestinian Refugee Camps and invites rappers and spoken word artists to reflect on these stories using Hip Hop and Spoken Word poetry. The project team interviews Palestinians from different age groups, records their oral histories and works with rap artists and poets (Spoken Word artists/lyricists) to turn their true stories into performance pieces for a wider audience. Using digital and social media, the project spreads the words, thoughts, and feelings of Palestinians living in the refugee camps to viewers around the world who would otherwise never

hear these stories. By connecting with poets who live in both Washington, D.C. and Palestine as well as with rappers from Sweden, Denmark and Palestine, the project builds an international partnership to create, record, and share an original collection of poems and songs inspired by recorded oral histories from the refugee camps. Artists (poets and rappers) attempt to draw parallels between the lives of Palestinian refugees and those of ethnically, socially, politically and economically marginalized groups in the United States, Denmark and Sweden.

This project aims to increase awareness and empathy for Palestinians and inspire more people to get involved in advocacy and activism for necessary change, to help increase understanding and build popular support among a wide range of people around the world for the Palestinian cause, to empower the target group by enhancing their desire for change, and to accurately represent the stories, emotions, and will of the Palestinian people so that others around the world can hear and understand for themselves the gravity and exigency of the struggles Palestinians face daily. The projects strives to display the seriousness, humanity, and passion of the Palestinians we interview, and help draw connections between the social justice struggles of marginalized and oppressed communities around the world.

Project Team

Osama Shomar is Project Manager and coordinates the various activities of the project, translates the needed material, organizes the networking events, works on fundraising and connects different individuals working on the project.

Bashar Lubbad is a filmmaker, whose role includes arranging and producing the interviews, writing the narrative and updating the content of the online platform, shooting interviews and editing the project material. The project is also supported by many other individuals who believe in the project, such as those providing technical support when needed.

2. Results

The results of the project are far-reaching:

1. The project team established the online platform for the project, working on the design, implementation and the updates of the content. The team developed a "beta" website in three weeks. The online platform includes information and

background about the project, archive of the produced material under the project, and contact information for people interested to collaborate.

2. The team created social media pages to support the online platform, by publishing the content of the website on *Facebook*, *YouTube*, etc. The team is planning to develop the website in the future to enhance the reach and improve the documentation of the material.

3. The project team conducted 20 interviews in Jabalia Refugee Camp in Palestine. The process of conducting the interviews started in February 2013, asking the interviewees about their hopes for change in their local communities. The interviews were edited into videos and texts to be screened later in the workshops.

4. Four workshops were organized with artists and rappers in Washington, D.C., Copenhagen and Malmö. More than 80 persons attended.

5. The team wrote and reflected on the work.

6. More than 20 artists, rappers and poets, participated in the process by reflecting on the interviews. The team video-recorded music videos as well as interviews with some of these artists.

7. The team worked on the production of The Final Videos.

8. The project team worked on editing the final product by remixing the recorded interviews with the reflections produced by the participating artists. All of the produced material was posted on the website and social media pages.

Networking: Building Partnerships with Organisations

- Local partnerships in Gaza city with a non-profit organisation; Gaza Community Media Center informed their volunteers about the project and they are willing to host workshops & screenings.

- Partnership with RGRA (a hip hop organisation in Sweden) who hosted two workshops in Malmö and offered the team their studio facility to be used for recording. They have agreed to screen the project material in future workshops and venues.

- Partnership with *Rapolitics*, a non-profit organisation based in Copenhagen, Denmark. *Rapolitics* promotes youth empowerment through a creative and constructive focus on urban artistic expression, raptivism, communication and raising democratic awareness. The organisation hosted one workshop in Copenhagen on the 14 September 2013 and is currently enthusiastic to promote the project by involving more artists.

- Partnership with *Split This Rock*, a non-profit organisation dedicated to poetry for social change in Washington, D.C. The organisation hosted one workshop in March and they will organize a screening in the next two months.
- Building a wide network of rappers and artists who are working with the project from Sweden, Denmark, Palestine, the UK, the USA, Egypt, etc.

Networking: Screening Events

- Lund Culture Night Screening: on 21 September 2013 the project team was invited to showcase at Lund Culture Night. More than 100 attendees attended the Screening. The screening included an open mic night featuring artists from RGRA and *Rapolitics*. Osama and Bashar received positive feedback from journalists, academics as well as students in Lund University. The team coordinated with Lund University to print posters and invitations to advertise the screening. The event included a display of portraits for the interviewees from Jabalia Refugee Camp.
- Nordic Creative Commons Film Festival: on 5 September 2013 the project team was invited to showcase at Media Evolution City in Malmo as part of the Nordic Creative Commons Film Festival activities. After the screening, the team received very positive feedback from visiting filmmakers from the Middle East and Sweden.
- Following Hope Spoken screenings, different media outlets in Denmark and Sweden interviewed Bashar and Osama.

Future Plans and Fundraising

- Plans are being made to expand the projects to include more Palestinian refugee camps in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The project team only conducted interviews in Jabalia Refugee Camp with the available resources and network. Travel was planned to Lebanon to visit Palestinian refugee camps, but the Lebanese authorities denied the permit twice. The plan is to establish a sustainable platform of volunteers and artists dedicated to partner with our project and involve more people from their own communities and networks.
- Current plans involve expanding the online platform to document different stories from our target communities.

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- The fundraising process has been started through an application to the Creative Commons grant for the Arab World. We were granted USD 8000 to expand our work and fund the production of the material from Creative Commons.

- In line with the Creative Commons goal of facilitating open sources for cultural, artistic, academic and other forms of creative productions, *Hope Spoken/Broken* will be an online, open-source, digital database. This database will provide a poetic repertoire or portfolio of information. The portfolio will include oral history and interview excerpts of refugees documented in text, audio, and video formats; footage of workshops during which poets turned oral histories and interviews into poetry; examples of final spoken-word and/or rap performances; as well as video and audio snippets of poetic phrases, hip-hop beats, and other artistic content. This can be sampled by other poets and rap artists who would like to contribute to *Hope Spoken/Broken* and thereby join the network of artists involved in the project. Although the focus regions and starting points for this project are the Gaza Strip and Washington, D.C., *Hope Spoken/Broken* will be open and accessible to an international group of poets and artists.

- During 2013 several applications will be sent for grants to take the project further. The team has extended its scope to include a documentary film featuring people's opinions integrated into hip hop bars.

- The outreach of the project has been extended to include prominent rappers and MCs across the MENA region. The team has been contacted by renowned hip hop bands such as *DAM* from Palestine, *Armada Bizzarta* from Tunisia, and *Revolution Records* from Egypt, wishing to take part in *Hope Spoken/Broken*. By March 2014, the release a mix tape featuring Rap Songs in more than 4 languages is planned.

- A recent visit to a Native American reservation in the US led to discussions about extending the project's scope to include other communities. *Hope Spoken/Broken* currently targets Palestinians in refugee camps but could easily be adapted to other marginalized groups living in the Middle East, Europe, or the United States.

Documentary Film

The team is currently putting together a script for a documentary featuring interviews from Jabalia Refugee Camp as well as reflections by hip hop artists in Sweden, Denmark and Palestine. The 45-minute documentary will connect hip hop productions with people's thoughts on hope and change living in refugee camps. Hip hop artists will narrate and/or relate to the stories in verse. The film provides an open

stage for various opinions from the camp to be voiced and addressed through hip hop. Moreover, the film connects rap artists from Palestine with their peers in partnering organisations. The aim is to produce a multilingual work of art based on beats developed in Gaza Studio. The documentary film will include interviews with participating artists who find their personal stories as well as their artwork relevant to, and within the scope of, the *Hope Spoken/Broken* film.

Team Comments

Throughout the work process in *Hope Spoken/Broken*, we learned several things:

- We should recruit more individuals with different skills to work with us, or gain these skills ourselves, to facilitate the work flow in order to meet the project's goal.
- More involvement of the target group: If we have the resources in the future, we would like to involve the local target audience more in the process of developing the project. Among the priorities is to set up a wide network of dedicated volunteers who would share their expertise in project management, proposal writing, and/or video production.
- We developed knowledge and experience in interviewing people, especially during the interviews. We have tried our best to make them spontaneous while at the same time informative. Our goal is to engage academics in order to periodically review the material collected and produced.
- As mentioned above, we are currently putting together a script for a documentary film. We will seek professional advice and assistance in all the work related to the production of the film.

Finally, we would like to thank our mentors and programme coordinators in the SIDC programme, who continue to support us in the message we strive to convey. It has been a very fruitful experience for both of us.

Screenshots from Hopespokenbroken.com:
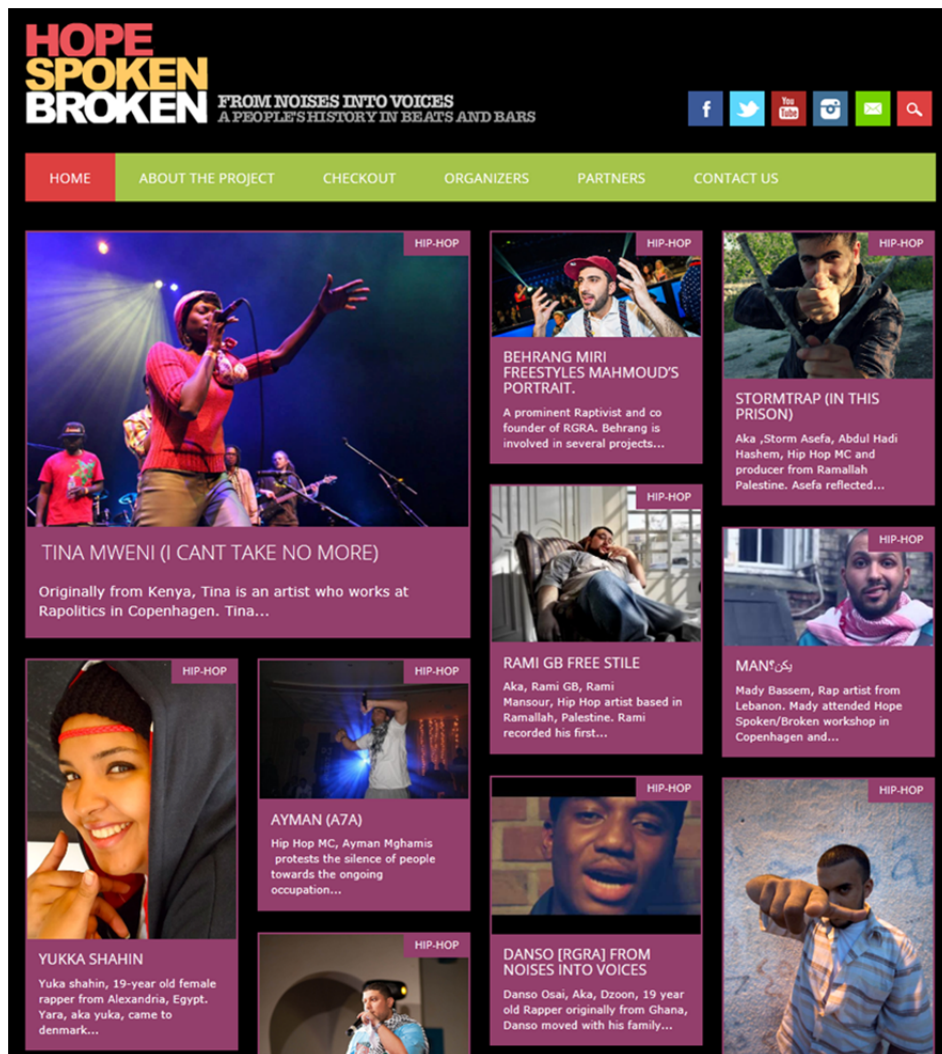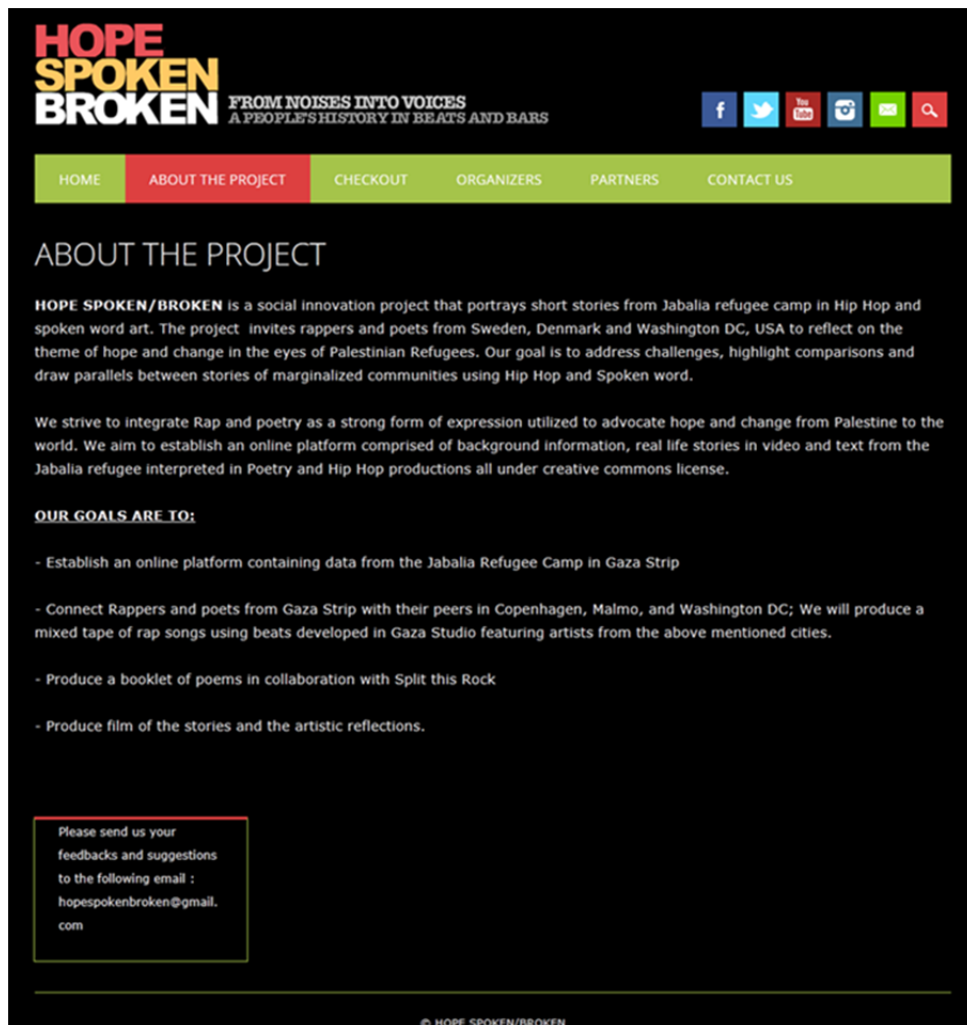
Osama Shomar is in his twenties, born and raised in The Jabalia Refugee Camp in Gaza. He has worked as a freelance interpreter for foreign journalists and delegations in Gaza since 2008. He is the co-author of the Gaza Youth Breaks Out (GYBO) manifesto. Published online in December of 2010, the manifesto expresses frustration with the ongoing Israeli siege, the indifference of the international community and the violations of human rights practised by the Hamas government in Gaza. In 2011 he participated in an academic conference on the Arab Spring at Lund University, Sweden, which led to his ongoing internship at The Center for Middle Eastern Studies, focussing on comparing the civil rights movements in the US and Palestine. Through his participation in the Social

Innovation in a Digital Context programme, he has been able to further explore his interest in the artistic interpretations of daily life, grievances and aspirations within socially, economically and politically marginalized communities.

Bashar Lubbad *is 24 years old and born and raised in Gaza. Influenced by the ongoing conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis, Bashar started writing because of the numerous unusual experiences he felt needed to be documented. An active blogger since 2006, his blog, "Opium" focuses on the political and social situation in Palestine. He was an active member in volunteer groups and NGOs that serve the local community in Gaza. He founded the local initiative* Nazra, *aiming at endorsing the concept of voluntary work outside the NGO network and serving different community groups. Three years into this work Bashar was granted the best volunteer award in Palestine. He also has a profound interest in filming and photography and has gained further experience in photojournalism through his work for* Zaman, *a Turkish newspaper based in Berlin, Germany. Following from his work in* Hope Spoken/Broken, *Bashar currently works as a freelance producer in Sweden.*

4
GAZA

Gazadigital.com
– a Digital Ship From Gaza

Jehan Alfarra

1. Introduction

Besides the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the internal political Palestinian divide (the Hamas and Fatah infight), the Gaza Strip is also suffering from a particular constraint that has isolated it physically from the rest of the world and affected all aspects of daily life there – be it economic, social, psychological, or political – and that is the Israeli siege that was imposed on the strip in 2007. Although the aspects of the siege are many, two of them stand out as the having the most impact: trade restrictions and border closures.

Trade Restrictions

Trade restrictions, and the consequent economic collapse in Gaza with the export restrictions, have caused a substantial rise in unemployment levels, and frustration, as well as created an unprecedented level of corruption within NGO's with a high amount of international donations, aid, and internationally funded job creation programmes, such as that run by the UN, that focus on providing a fish rather than a rod.

Border Closures

Border closures have not only affected the freedom of movement of the people of Gaza, have also led to its physical isolation from the rest of the world. This isolation has led to many wrong perceptions about Gaza. These misconceptions often include either of the following extremes:

a) a place full of terrorists that needs to be sanctioned
b) a very poor, constantly bombed place that needs aid
c) a flourishing place with a media lie about a humanitarian crisis

Jehan Alfarra with her mentor at the SIDC programme in Lund

As a lifelong resident of the Gaza Strip, my interest in the digital world grew profoundly as I came to realize that not only is digital expertise a powerful asset in advocacy and citizen journalism, but it also plays a vital role in human empowerment

and is at the forefront of developing new business models and innovative social and political solutions. I witnessed the evolution of a virtual community in the Gaza Strip where youth have found a way to vent their frustration, connect with the outside world, and look for creative web-based business solutions to the physical Israeli siege and export restrictions – all through the borderless zone we call the internet (everybody's space but nobody's territory).

The efforts of these active young men and women in Gaza are, nonetheless, individual, scattered, and random, leaving the great majority of the society, especially youth, frustrated, dependent, and absorbed by the political divide. This is where the "Digital Ship from Gaza" idea comes from. The project aspires to create an innovative digital solution to the two problems mentioned above – trade restriction and border closures – and to unify the efforts of Gaza's active youth, by creating a collective venue and a representing body aiming to achieve the following objectives:

- to clarify the aspects and effects of the Israeli siege by providing a factsheets and video illustration of interviews and documentation
- to break the stereotypes and misconceptions about Palestinians from Gaza by providing video profiles of inspiring figures and video stories of individuals from Gaza that show the forgotten face of a vibrant Gaza that is full of life, dreams and desire to be happy regardless of all obstacles
- to map out successful entrepreneurs in order to promote their basic human right to work, where they can export services online regardless of the physical blockade and export restrictions, and try to link them with organizations and individuals outside of Gaza that have an interest in employing them online
- to map out Gaza's existing network of social activists and bloggers to reveal the veiled face of a vibrant Gaza that has initiative, innovation, and drive
- to provide an insider look/guide to Gaza with photo galleries and directory, which aim to clarify what Gaza is really like and correct the many misconceptions about it that have resulted from mainstream media coverage

2. Results

The project involves two stages, one of which has already been implemented, while the second is in progress.

Stage 1: Gathering Content and Building the Website

The first stage is the backbone of this project, and was executed within the 6 month period of project implementation during the *Social Innovation in a Digital Context* programme. This stage included the following:

- building an initial database of entrepreneurs, professionals, and social media activists in Gaza
- building an initial database of potential customers (individuals/organizations interested in employing people from Gaza online)
- creating a package about the siege and what it really is (factsheets, photos, videos, articles, stories)
- building the website and incorporating the content, then setting up social media pages for it

Sections of the Website

The website, GazaDigital.com, contains five main sections besides *Home* and *About,* outlined below: *Siege Explained, Support Gaza Ark, Breaking Stereotypes, Employ someone from Gaza Online!,* and the larger subdomain *Explore Gaza.*

Siege Explained

In this section of the website, there are three main parts:

1. siege factsheets clarifying all the aspects of the siege: Land Blockade, Aerial Blockade, Naval Blockade
2. video illustrations of the immediate effects of the siege, through interviews and stories of individuals/actions, for example: "Fishing Under Siege", "Just Crossing", and "The Buffer Zone". Each one of these videos illustrates the hardships that Palestinians citizens in Gaza face as a result of the blockade. This section is to grow with more video stories and articles.

Fishing Under Siege   Just Crossing   Buffer Zone
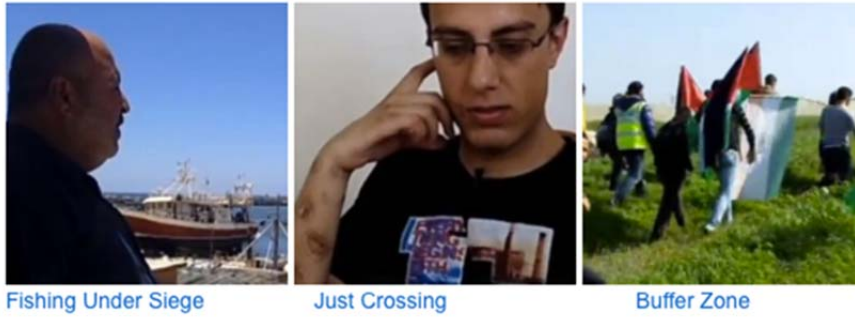
Support Gaza Ark

This section of the website links to an initiative similar to the idea of *A Digital Ship from Gaza*, except that it is not digital but physical. It is an initiative where Palestinian physical products are sold online, and Palestinians, along with foreigners in solidarity, are in the process of trying to sail a ship from Gaza carrying these goods to Europe in defiance of the naval blockade.

Gaza Digital is supporting this initiative by creating video profiles of Palestinian producers after having interviewed them; showing the troubles they are going through after the imposition of the siege, such as their inability to export any products, or even to sell locally to tourists as they did before the siege.

Breaking Stereotypes

In this section of the website, there are three main parts:

1. A TALEnt from Gaza: This section contains video stories of talented individuals in Gaza and how their practice of these hobbies and talents has been affected by the siege. These include video stories about surfers, musicians, rappers, rollerbladers and others. The aim of this section is to show the forgotten face of a vibrant Gaza that is full of life and desire for freedom and happiness.

2. Palestinians in Focus: This section showcases video profiles of Palestinian figures from all aspects of life. Three profiles have been created for the launch about individuals involved in astronomy, music, and solar energy. However, the section will continue to grow with more profile videos of inspiring individuals from Gaza.

Suleiman Baraka
ASTROPHYSICS

Mahmoud Shahin
SOLAR ENERGY

Ahmed Abu Amsha
MUSIC

3. Gaza Blogs: This section links the website visitors to all bloggers from Gaza, with both English and Arabic language blogs. The aim is to link people directly with

activists from Gaza and for them to be able to stay connected to their voices without any western or external mediation.

Employ Someone from Gaza, Online!

In this section of the website, the categories of professionals and entrepreneurs from Gaza are highlighted so that any parties interested in employing individuals from Gaza online can take a look at existing options. They are provided with an email address with which to contact Gaza Digital and request CVs within a certain category of Gaza Digital's database.

The methods used in creating the database of professionals are: an online form to be filled out, email lists and distribution, and also existing networks and hand-out forms.

The current available categories of professionals/graduates and their CVs are:

- Arabic to English/ English to Arabic professional translation
- programming (PHP, Javascript, and many other languages)
- web development
- animation
- graphics

For those interested in media coverage of Gaza, the available categories are:

- filming
- photography
- journalism

For journalists/activists wishing to come to the Gaza Strip, the available services are:

- interpreter
- fixer
- driver

Jehan Alfarra   Hussain Amoudy   Mohammed Majdalawi   Mohammed Abu Safia

Above: the film crew

Explore Gaza

This section is an entire subdomain and involves a photo gallery and directory aiming to paint a picture and provide a city guide of what Gaza is like.

Stage 2: Registering Gaza Digital and Employment

Following the publishing of the website and raising the support the project requires, legal registration of Gaza Digital is needed. This is in order to achieve the full potential of Gaza Digital and to start the actual export of services from Gaza. This stage is discussed in Future Prospects below.

Getting the Ball Rolling

The six months of implementation of Stage 1 of *A Digital Ship from Gaza* constituted the base and head start of something even bigger and more effective. While the database of entrepreneurs, social activists and professionals from Gaza, and another database of potential customers outside of Palestine (both individuals and organizations) are created and growing, the following two steps remain vital in order to carry out the project to its full capacity and to achieve all its potential and set objectives.

1. Legal Registration: *Gaza Digital* is to be registered in the UK in order to guarantee the rights of both parties, the employed and the employer, as well as to protect the credibility and sustainability of the project. Legal advice is currently being provided with the help of Oxford Brookes University in order to achieve this step and start the ball rolling.

2. Lab in Gaza: Due to the frequent electricity cuts in the Gaza Strip, it is important to make a contract with a computer lab in Gaza City where individuals employed through *Gaza Digital* can retain constant access to the internet and electricity, in case they need to deliver work during a power cut. The lab would be provided with a power generator to make sure that it always has electricity. Monthly payments will be made for the lab in order for them to be able to pay for the internet, the power generator fuel, and the service they are offering to individuals who use their computers.

Entrepreneurial Aspect

Although the project was based on volunteer work by both the founder and other participants, the primary head start of the second stage of the project will rely on a fund that will facilitate the registration of *Gaza Digital* and the lab contract in Gaza.

Subsequently, to keep the project running, the idea is that a small fixed fee would be taken from the payments made by the international clients. Additionally, subscription fees can be taken on future developments of the website, such as an e-magazine and an animated series about Gaza. It is also possible for interested website visitors to make donations directly on the website.

Screenshots from the GazaDigital.com
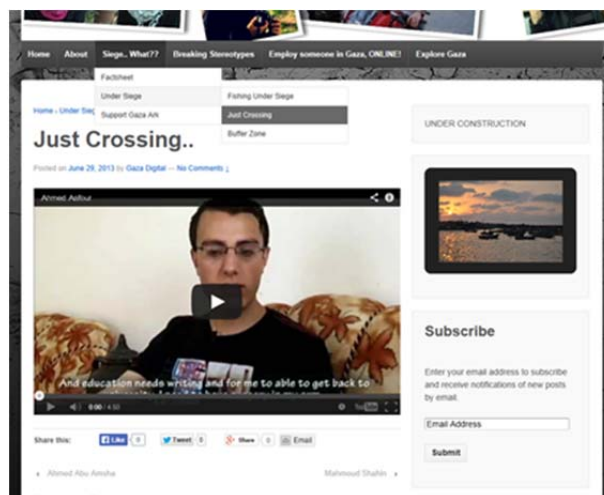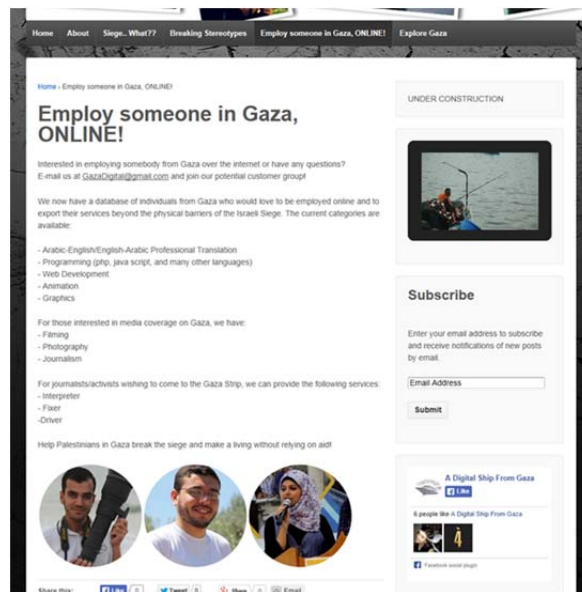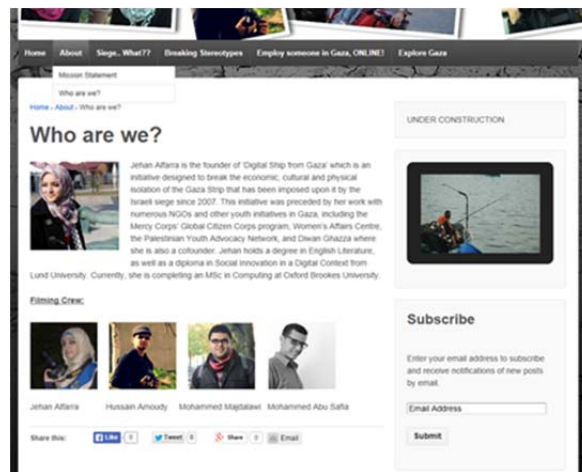
Jehan Alfarra is the founder of Digital Ship from Gaza, *an initiative designed to break the economic, cultural and physical isolation of the Gaza Strip imposed by the Israeli siege since 2007. This initiative was preceded by her work with numerous NGOs and other youth initiatives in Gaza, including the* Mercy Corps' Global Citizen Corps programme, Women's Affairs Centre, the Palestinian Youth Advocacy Network, *and* Diwan Ghazza *where she is also a cofounder. Jehan holds a degree in English literature, and is currently completing an MSc in Computing at Oxford Brookes University.*

5
IRAQ

Human Rights Without Words
– photographing the UN Declaration

Dina Najmuldeen

1. Introduction

Human Rights Without Words is a project aimed at promoting the Declaration on human rights in a creative way and without using words, but through photos. The reasoning behind this is the experience of finding many people more comfortable with seeing images than reading. In our current society there is often not enough time to read, whereas seeing photos is instant. This also makes the content of the Declaration accessible to the illiterate, raising awareness of their rights in a creative and effective way.

The project targets groups of women without previous knowledge about the Declaration of Human Rights. It focuses on photography tools, and social media networking tools, and how to use them to raise awareness.

2. Results

The project has resulted in the effective spread of knowledge around human rights and related issues, within a deserving target group. The women were also equipped with skills in computer use and photo editing that they have put to good use in their own employment and by holding workshops in turn to spread knowledge and skills further.

"A Picture is Worth More Than a Thousand Words"

An important tool in reaching these results was the collection of thirty original photographs, each pertaining to an article of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The photos can be found at:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/103266175@N06/sets/72157635891467346/

International Media Support, a Danish organisation working in Iraq, supports the project with funding in collaboration with IWPR – *Institute for War and Peace Reporting*.

The collection has been exhibited throughout the country. Selected venues are:

- The National Theatre in Baghdad, in collaboration with the UN, hosted a gallery exhibition with over 875 attendees on International Peace Day on 21 September 2013.
- The photo collection was exhibited at the *Iraqi Social Forum* on 27 September 2013 in an open space in Baghdad, where 146 different activities were held and nearly 3000 people attended.
- *United States of Peace* hosted the exhibition during their large-scale 2-day event 30 September 2013 – 1 October 2013 in Erbil (northern Iraq), in an event called the first Peace Tech Camp. Seventy-two NGOs and technology organisations were represented at the conference.
- The country's foremost photography agency, *Metrography*, hosted the gallery for 2 days in Sulimaniyah in northern Iraq, with representatives from 34 international and local NGOs in attendance.

At the exhibitions the women project participants were in attendance to speak about how they have benefitted from the project.

The project has resulted in many political and social consequences, including:

- Several of the participating women found jobs as a result of the skills and training they received through this project.
- One of the participating women is now working as the first female photographer to capture female events such as weddings.

Above: Training in photo editing

Below: Staging photos on the theme of human rights

More photos of the participants during training and photography work: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.511815322242776.1073741846.11033 6839057295&type=3

The four photos above show the exhibition at the Iraqi Social Forum in Baghdad. More photos:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.516199531804355.1073741849.110336839057295&type=3

Three photos above: the gallery at the National Theatre in Baghdad.

More photos:
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.512769248814050.1073741847.110336839057295&type=3

Dina Najmuldeen is a blogger and human rights defender active in civil society, and specializing in technology and social media. She has a Bachelor's Degree in French Language from Baghdad University from 2011. She has worked in the Women in Technology programme, training women in developing their skills in Microsoft Office and the use of technology in general, and with female empowerment through skills and job searching. She currently works at a protection centre for journalists and is a trainer with a network of bloggers called INSM – Iraqi Network for Social Media, about social media networks and digital security. This background has encouraged and influenced her project, where she is gaining good experience in working internationally for human rights through photos.

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6
IRAQ

Be Safe – Digital Security for Human Rights Defenders, Bloggers and Journalists

Hayder Hamzoz

1. Introduction

The project *Be Safe: Digital Security for Human Rights Defenders, Bloggers, and Journalists* focuses on one of the most important subjects for this group of people. The protection of their personal privacy and the information they generate is central, due to the sensitive nature of information in this type of work.

The focus of the project is to help the journalists, human rights defenders and bloggers learn how to use the digital tools needed for encrypting emails and chats, and how to protect their privacy on *Facebook* and other social media tools.

2. Results

In order to gauge the needs of the target group, research was conducted with 1200 participants via direct interview, and an additional 7152 participants via indirect interview (survey), in 7 provinces in central, northern and southern Iraq. In the survey they were asked about the context of their knowledge on computers, the internet, and social media tools. The research resulted in a detailed 50-page report, parts of which are summarised below. The study was organized by the *Iraqi Network for Social Media* (INSM) and funded by *International Media Support* (IMS).

Gathering Survey Data

7 Provinces
1200 direct survey
7154 Indirect survey
31 Questions
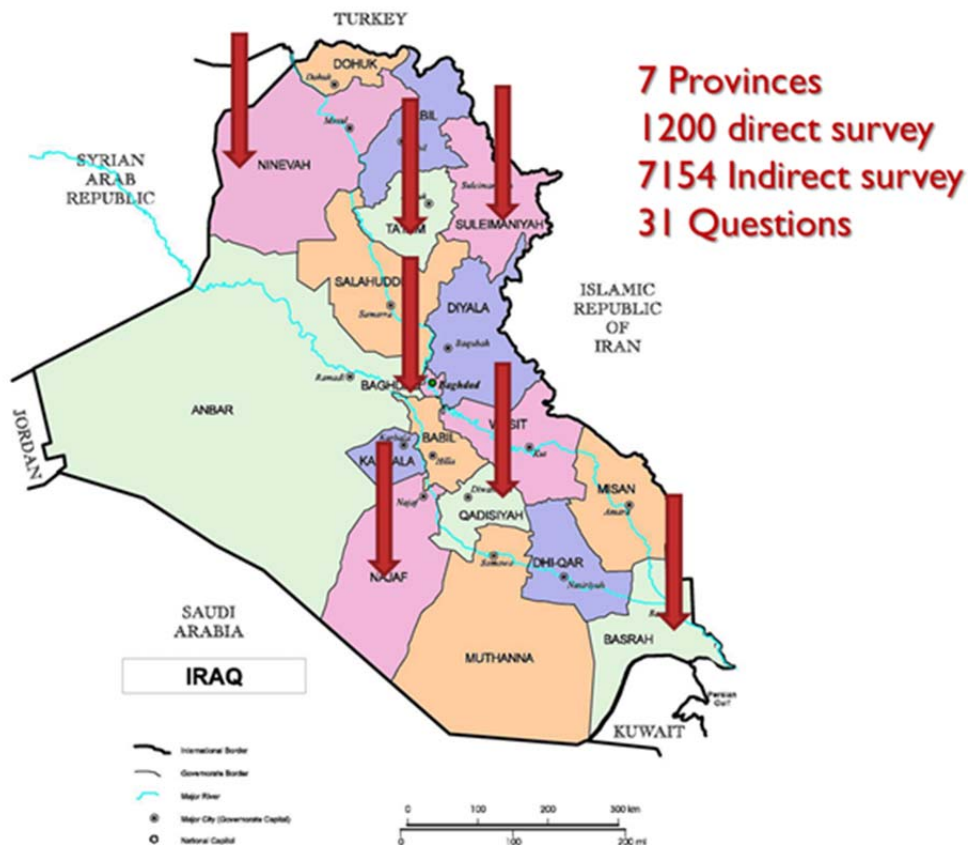
Selected Results of the Survey
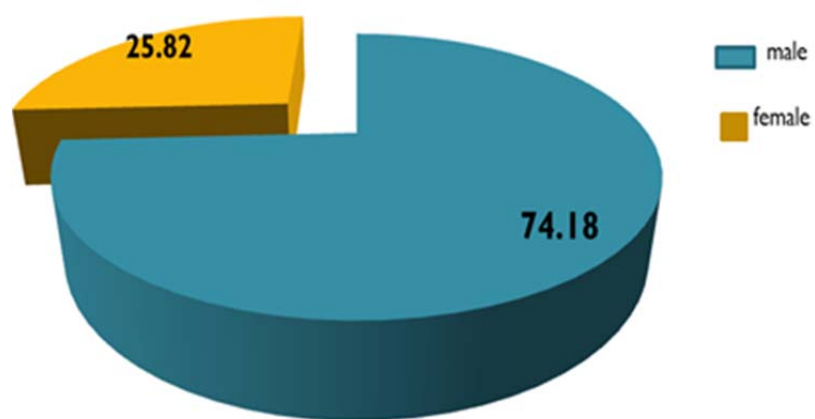
Gender distribution of responses
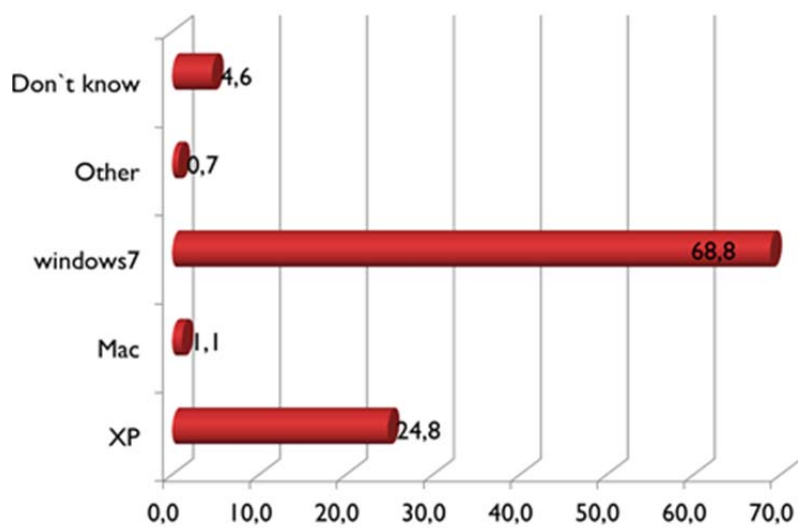
What is your operating system?
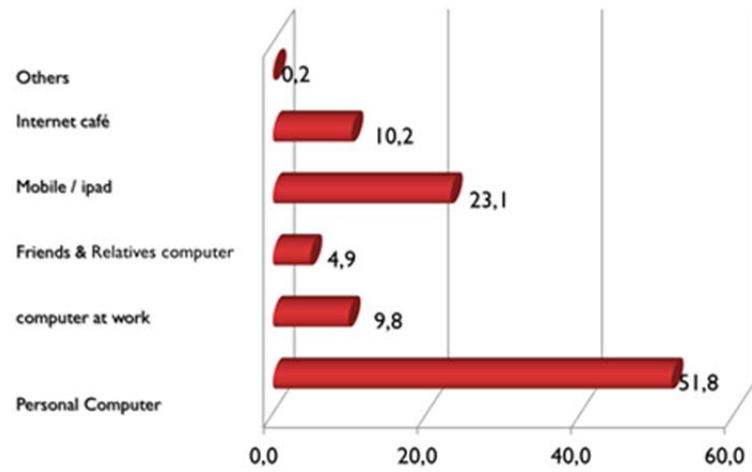
For what reason do you use a computer?
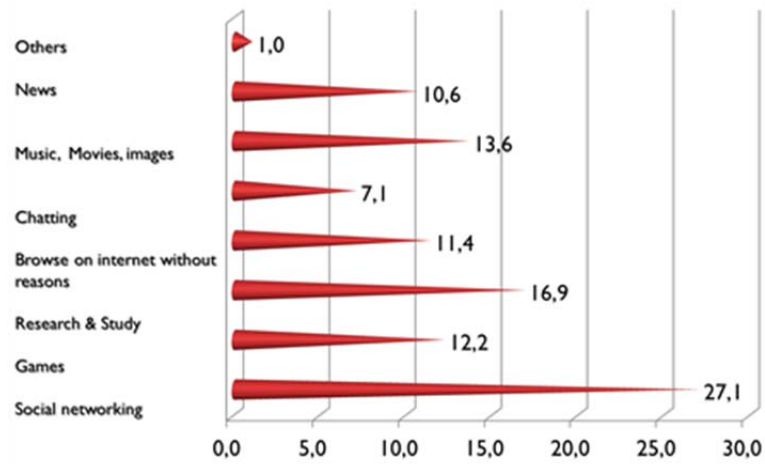
Where do you use a computer?
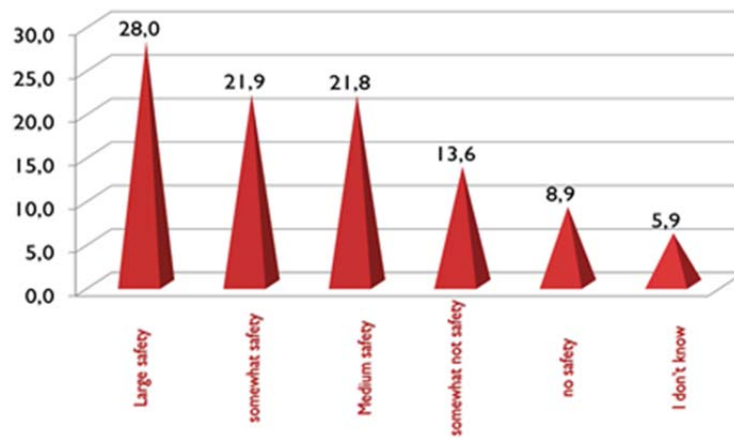
How safe do you feel using the internet?
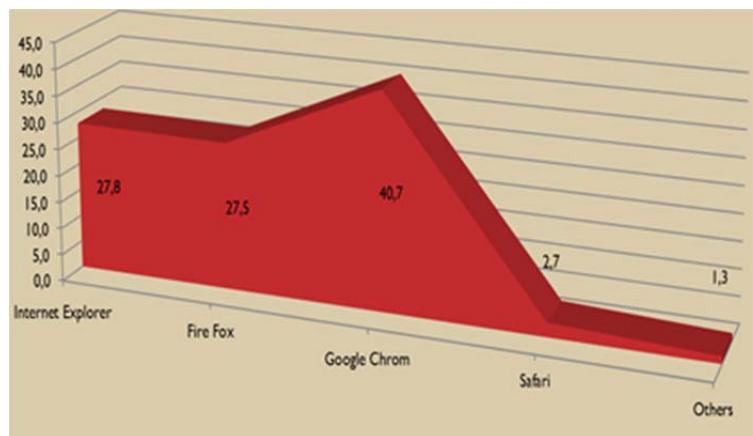
Which internet browser do you use?

Training

The training was then based on the needs of the target group, as gauged in the survey.

To begin with, two workshops for journalists and bloggers about Digital Security were conducted. The training was organized by the *Iraqi Network for Social Media* (INSM) in collaboration with the *Institute for War and Peace Reporting* (IWPR).

Workshops for journalists and bloggers about Digital Security

Peace Tech Camp

A larger event was also organized for 72 invited participants, where technicians and target group participants exchanged their experience. This event, funded by USIP, was called the *Peace Tech Camp*. This was arranged for the first time in the central province in Iraq, and a second *Peace Tech Camp* was arranged for the northern areas in February 2014, and for the South in March 2014, focusing on the areas shown below:
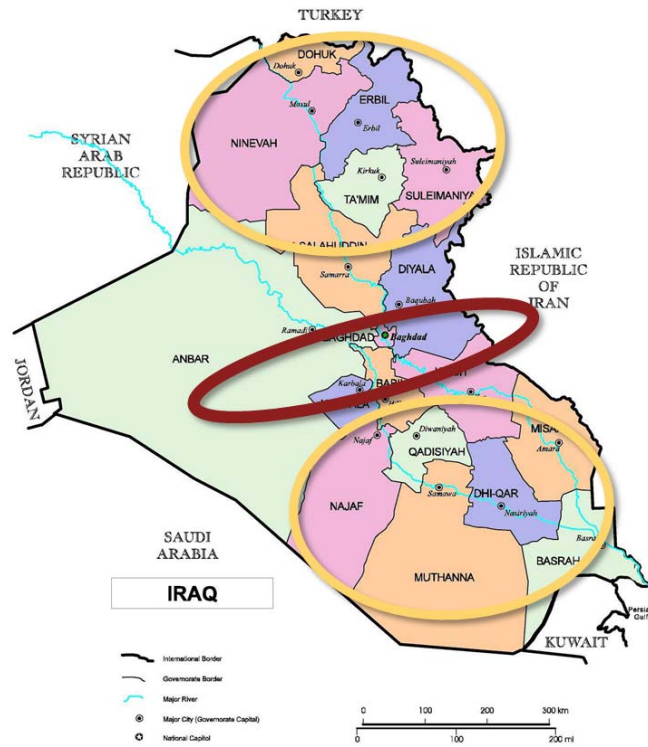
The international participants invited from *Facebook*, *Frontline SMS* and other major IT companies trained the target group on how secure their privacy on the internet when sharing their information.

Images from the first Peace Tech Camp, for central Iraq

Seminars were also conducted where politicians, members of parliament, lawyers and the target group could sit down together for dialogue on how to protect the privacy of people on the internet through legislation. Some relevant draft laws that are under discussion in the Iraqi government are the *Cyber Crimes Law*, the *Communications and Media Commission Law*, the *Iraqi Media Network Law*, the *Telecommunications and Informatics Law*, and the *Right of Access to Information Law*. The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) is helping to review these pieces of legislation by means of suggested policy papers pertaining to each law, under a programme called *Mobilizing for Media Reform.*

Seminars on legislation

The *Peace Tech Camp* brought together the international and local technicians and human rights defenders, bloggers and journalists to exchange their knowledge. All in all, this change project has created a significant network involving the people of Iraq and the government, as there are some good spaces where we can work on providing safe tools for all people.

Hayder Hamzoz is a Coordinator of the Iraqi Network for Social Media *and works as a trainer providing Iraqis with digital security resources, and social media tools and assistance so that they can utilize online communications and advocacy freely and securely in spite of increased online government repression in the form of censorship, cyber-attacks, and intense surveillance. He has studied Fine Arts and typographical design and is currently studying in a Master's programme in this same field, while working at Baghdad University Media College as a lecturer on digital tools for marketing. His background also includes training and working for local NGOs since 2004 on conflict resolution, non-*

violence, peace building, human rights concepts, team and personality building, project management, English language and computer training. He has committed himself to taking the knowledge from the projects back to local schools and society by organizing several projects and events, such as the five study events in intermediate schools in Baghdad on "the protection of children from harm and the effects of trauma". He is the supervisor and editor of several blogs and websites focusing on conflict resolution and peace building, such as www.hamzoz.com, www.iraqistreets.com, and www.insm-iq.com .You can reach him at info@insm-iq.com.

7
JORDAN

3adad.org
– Documenting Rights Violations

Eman

1. Introduction

The idea of *3adad* began with the author's participation in the campaign *I deserve a civil trial* (IDACT), which was founded by a group of activists to advocate against the military trials of activists and journalists sent to State Security Court, accused of so-called "*les mejeste*", encouraging the overthrow of the Jordanian regime. After a few months of working with IDACT, it was glaringly apparent that there was no proper documentation of the cases.

The campaign work also included following up on torture cases filed against different security officers. The problem with these cases was that citizens must file cases against Security officers before courts that are completely controlled by the Special Security Forces themselves. Thus most of the cases are rejected. A point was reached where

documentation of these violations became very urgent in order to support several campaigns and human rights activists.

3adad is an online platform documenting human rights violations in Jordan, based on gathered data. The project focuses on violations related to freedom of expression for the individual, the right of political participation, and the right of meeting and organization. The project is simply bringing attention to all the human rights violations happening in Jordan, represented in hard numbers.

Since the beginning of 2011, several investigation committees have been formed to investigate police attacks during protests, the arrests of hundreds of activists sent to military courts, the many arrests for peaceful expression of opinion, and the blocking of over 400 websites.

This project will provide an online database for researchers, organizations and activist groups working on these issues. The documentation of the violations online aims to put pressure on the Jordanian government, and to affect different international organizations working in Jordan.

The project began due to the urgent need to collect information in 2012, during the famous November uprising where almost 500 people were arrested, 115 of whom were sent to State Security Court. The work of gathering information was challenging, as it was the first time arrests had been made simply for being in the street, included the arrests not only of well-known activists but ordinary citizens. The arrests were also made in different cities. Despite the odds, the process of collecting the information and verifying the stories persisted.

2. Results

In conjunction with the establishment of the online platform *3adad.org*, a sub domain of the major website *idactjo.org* is being developed. This sub-domain focuses on documenting the cases being sent before State Security Court, as this is where most of the human rights violations are occurring.

Activist groups have been approached to work with the project, and volunteers are being sought. However, the complex nature of the political situation, and the widespread fear heightened by what people see in Syria, make it more challenging to recruit volunteers. When this project was first being planned, Jordan was witnessing the November Uprising; activists were working on organizing and documenting.

Since March 2013 there is a strong mood of resignation and a feeling that the work put in will not lead to the desired effects. Access to information and verifying it is another significant challenge when collecting information on one's own.

Documentation is nevertheless a crucial tool in following up the real implementation of reforms. The documentation process is especially important now that the United Nations High Commissioner for human rights' *Universal Periodic Review for Jordan* accepted most of the recommendations related to these violations. Yet the problem of violations remains a general one, and not connected to a particular timeline.

After finalizing the platform of IDACT, further plans are being made to go further to expand it and utilize more of the resources available, and to cooperate with activist groups in the work of documentation.

An excerpt from the website

Eman is 25 years old and holds a BA in Computer Science from University of Jordan from 2006. She is a founding member of Jordan Open Source Association *and has organized many activities related to an open web and the Creative Commons. In 2011 she joined the team of the Jordanian NGO* Community Media Network, *to work on developing their new media strategy, and later worked as Project Development Manager there. She is trained in community organizing and has been involved in many campaigns for human rights.*

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SYRIA

Empowering Independent Media Centres

Rima

1. Introduction

The main objective of this project is the empowerment of independent media activists in Syria to carry on their activities of reflecting and reporting on the continuous civil resistance activities, human rights violations, and other events.

The targeted media centres are run by media activists who are not receiving any support from any party. To continue their keep their work independent, these centres publish their news on *Facebook* pages and *Twitter* accounts, and cooperate with other media centres. The main news is frontline news, violence, aid delivery, emerging needs, demonstrations, civil mobilization, and other events.

The support is given through two phases. Phase I involves securing logistical assistance including communication equipment, through unconditional funding.

The aim of Phase II is to create a website platform through which the media activists can communicate with experts who can help them develop their material. This is done through technical support, and through on-job training in editing, internet security, professional documentation and human rights reporting.

The main objectives of the project are:

- to create a cyber space for independent media centres to publish and share news and reports, by way of a website with an interactive interface
- to focus on geographical areas that generally receive less media attention
- to facilitate experienced media experts in providing technical support to the media activists at the centres in Syria
- to update the website weekly

2. Results

The targeted media centres are involved in this project since April 2013. These centres publish mainly on their *Facebook* pages and, less often, on their *Twitter* accounts and are located in Damascus, the Southern Areas in Damascus, Deir Ezzor city, and in Menbej in Aleppo.

A couple of challenges surfaced during the initial contact with the media centres:

- After the first assessment and *Skype* meetings with the activists from the media centres, it was found that the activists are in need of logistical assistance prior to the technical assistance, to enable them to better report, which was not in the initial plan for this project.
- Communication with some of the centres was difficult due to lack of communication equipment, and the surrounding circumstances. Activists usually must visit larger media centres or military bases to use the internet. This comes with its particular costs of loss of independency, and security hazards.

The most needed equipment was specified as:

- internet satellites
- laptops

- cameras
- smartphones

Following this first assessment, the project was divided into two phases, Phase I being the provision of technical assistance including communication equipment, and Phase II the establishment of the news website.

Phase I

Securing Funding for Equipment (June to August 2013)

There are few donors who are devoted to supporting independent activists and media centres. As many large media centres are now adopted and supported, the general impression is that reporting from the main areas is sufficient. However, areas like Deir Ezzor are not a priority. Several major international donors were contacted, and eventually funding was secured for the following equipment:

- 4 internet satellites
- 13 laptops
- 8 cameras
- Unfortunately, funding could not be secured for smartphones.

Procurement and Delivery

As Syria is a traditional donors' country, the project had to comply with a long process for procurement that included vetting. It took seven weeks before final delivery of:

- 2 internet satellites
- 8 laptops, delivered to Deir Ezzor and Manbej
- 4 cameras

During the waiting time, all means of communication was lost with the news network in Damascus. The delivery to the media centre for the Southern Areas in Damascus has not at time of writing been finalized, as equipment is currently in Gaziantep and needs to go through Beirut to be smuggled to Damascus.

Phase II

Starting in September 2013, the website is outsourced for content from activists in the above mentioned media centres, as well as from an eyewitness group consisting of around 60 active citizen journalists, who are also part of coordination committees in the city of Damascus and rural Damascus.

The main objective of the website is to provide the activists with an organized, secure and visible outlet for their news and reports. The initial idea was that these activists were to receive technical support and on-job training on editing, internet security, and professional reporting on human rights abuses and war crimes.

At time of writing, the process for Phase II is focused on the securing of funds, which is now at a negotiation stage, as well as on building the website, and allocating media expert support in the following fields:

- translation
- web development
- reporting on news, and on the humanitarian situation
- video editing
- safety assessment and basic internet security

Securing Funding for Media Expert Support

As it was discovered that the recruitment of experts to volunteer is time consuming and, in short, unfeasible, contact was made with several donors to secure funding for the following media experts:

- 2 translators, Arabic-to-English and English-to-Arabic, for 3 months each
- a web developer for 1 month
- a video editor for 3 months
- a website manager for 3 months

A concept note on the project has been submitted to several donors. Once funding is secured, ads will be published in social media and other websites to recruit the team of trainers.

Website Development

The aim is to create a platform for media activists to communicate with the experts who will support them in developing their materials, and then to expand the platform into a news and report outlet in the form of a multi-language website.

Project Timeline for 2013

Activity	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fundraising for Phase I	▓	▓	▓					
Procurement and Delivery of Equipment				▓	▓			
Fundraising for Phase II						▓		
Recruitment of Experts/Trainers						▓		
Establishment of Website							▓	
Project Delivery								▓

Rima *is a Syrian activist who has studied Political Science at Damascus University. Her professional work experience is mostly within Syria and with cross-border local and international NGOs involved in development and protection programmes. Since the beginning of the Syrian revolution, she has been working on media focusing on the outreach; lately I have been involved in working on building the capacity of the newly formed local councils and other local organisation and groups on community stabilization and sustainable development within the local communities in towns and cities within Syria that are under opposition control.*

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SYRIA

Iamsyrian.com
– Social and Psychological Support for Families Inside Syria

Nadia

1. Introduction

The main goal of this project is the publishing, archiving and display of all possible procedures and solutions related to the adverse circumstances that the people inside Syria are facing every day. To achieve the goal of supporting displaced families, funds were received from individuals who wanted to help, without necessarily putting themselves at risk. An additional purpose of the project was to share information and experience with other volunteers and activists, which is possible through a website.

2. Results

The content of this website is collected mainly from the Syrian pages, groups and websites which have been adopted as a best practice during the conflict, in the following fields:

- psychological support
- first aid
- procedures in emergency cases
- alternative solutions
- raising awareness
- digital security
- job vacancies and scholarships

The information is displayed with slide shows, containing photos, a summary, and direct instructions that can be applied on the ground. In addition, related research and reporting is provided, aimed at Syrians who have the ability (safety, electricity and internet access) to read and benefit from it.
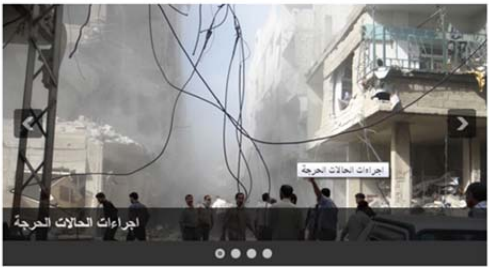
The website is currently accessible at *www.iam-syrian.com*. The work of collecting and publishing this information was chronicled in a *Facebook* group, which encouraged many programme participants to be active within the group. Coming to Sweden and participating in the programme has opened up the possibility of contact with NGO's and INGO's specialized in the field of crisis and war.

Excerpts from the Website

Nadia is *a 31-year-old Syrian with a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from Damascus University from 2005. She has worked in the fields of banking (IT department), HR training and development, and training in communication and leadership skills. She continued their studies with a Diploma degree from IPMA in Human Resource Management, and a PMP course, resulting in a career move to Project Manager in the banking sector and Senior Analyst. She has worked as a volunteer within* Syrian Women Observation*, publishing many articles related to society and human rights, and teaching and mentoring young children without the chance to complete their primary education. She spent 2012 working with a team to provide support to displaced families in Syria affected by the humanitarian crisis, through food and aid distribution to the families most in need, and by organizing psychosocial support activities conducted by professional and specialized therapists.*

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SYRIA

Forgotten Voices
– a media platform

Qais Fares

1. Introduction

As Syria is now at a turning point in its history, respect for human rights has become a must. One of the urgent factors needed to achieve such a target is to secure a suitable job with sufficient income for the Syrian citizen. By doing so Syrians can speak up as their minds are away from financial pressures.

The current situation has developed through Syria's struggles under intense international pressure and under a badly-administrated, secret-police style of governance for more than 50 years, which caused the country's best and brightest to leave. The West's isolation policy towards the Syrian regime has badly affected the Syrian people who suffer the most.

This project is an attempt to address the forgotten voices inside and outside the country through interaction, by talking about their challenges, needs and aspirations.

Powered by open source technologies using PHP, MySQL and WordPress, the *www.syria-portal.com* is a website that includes an online English language **media and communication platform**, along with a multi-purpose **web portal**.

The portal displays in a feed-like format, similar to social media driven websites. It takes into consideration that the social media websites are crowd-driven, letting the audience participate in portal editing and content publishing.

The project will be developed in several phases, with the website launch scheduled for the spring of 2014.

The target audience includes:

- Syrian general audience readers inside and outside Syria
- global general audience readers with an interest in Middle Eastern affairs
- decision makers at Syrian, regional and international levels
- Syrian analysts, commentators, and academics
- Syrian artists, photographers, and writers
- Syrian jobseekers
- foreign investors

Post-conflict, the project will emphasise the monitoring of media and human rights issues in Syria.

2. Results

As outlined above, the project is composed of two parts, a media platform with a webzine, and a web portal.

Context and Content of the Media Platform

Many hoped that the gloomy state of the media and the human rights situations in Syria to change for the better as a result of the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad in March 2011. However, the situation has further deteriorated. At this historic point in Syria's modern history, the country's official and semi-official media were

standing by the Syrian regime and producing a reality based solely on the reports of the state security forces.

Many human rights assaults practised in Syria were, however, documented by international and local human rights organisations. Under the pressure of the popular protests, Assad issued a new media law in August 2011, promising a wider margin of freedom. However, many journalists, bloggers and activists were killed, arrested or disappeared. Thirty-two journalists died between January and the beginning of October 2012, according to *The Press Emblem Campaign* (PEC), an NGO with special consultative UN status.

The focus of this project's platform will be to cover Syria's current affairs, seeking balance and professionalism. In the meantime, the reporters will try to access primary sources in spite of the major difficulties that face them gathering information, especially from inside the country. Special attention will be given to economic and business aspects, mainly regarding the eventual reconstruction of the country. In addition, the platform will concentrate on Syria's citizens' issues related to displacement, unemployment, poverty, health and education, both inside and outside the country.

The sections of the webzine will cover the following topics and will be updated regularly:

- Politics
- Economy and Business
- Culture and Society

The website will feature articles, opinion pieces, interviews, background and analysis. It will also contain photo essays and video and audio reports, in addition to cartoons and satirical columns. The website will have a rolling deadline.

During the first phase of this project, the platform will depend on Syrian translators and journalists both inside and outside the country and work with the help of local and international media without necessarily seeking original content. After receiving funding, the webzine will feature stories that are exclusive.

Context and Content of the Web Portal

Following Syria's complicated crisis, the poverty and unemployment rates in the country have risen. Many civilians are living below the poverty line. In besieged cities

such as Homs, people are now allowed to eat cats and dogs according to *fatwa* (an Islamic legal judgement).

The web portal brings together information from diverse sources in a uniform way, for several purposes. It will try to help lower the unemployment rate among Syrians, by spreading news about the job opportunities, auctions and bids within both public and private sectors.

The main goal is to allow the labour force to find suitable jobs by allowing jobseekers to search for a suitable job and/or post their CV online. It also aims at connecting local and foreign investors and organisations of all fields with the local market. The portal will regularly post bids and auctions in English and will also allow investors to advertise their services on the website.

The changing political and security conditions are leading to legislative changes as well. Therefore there will be a special section regarding laws and regulations, especially those relevant to the economic and business sectors.

The sections of the web portal will be flexible depending on the market:

- auctions and bids
- jobs
- machines
- other

Team

The team will include:

- 4 staff writers
- 2 native English-speaking language editors
- 2 translators
- 1 webmaster
- 3 or more Syrian photographers
- 2 Syrian caricaturists

The website will also rely on the contributions of Syrian writers (experts, journalists, decision-makers, politicians, etc.). All sections are flexible in regards to contributions.

Funding and Development of the Project

At time of writing, the project is in a conceptual stage, though it builds on an existing network of Syrian journalists, editors and civil society activists. From the start, it will seek to attract high-profile contributors. However, the content will depend on the situation on the ground, where the webzine will be careful not to put any contributor at risk.

Start-up and longer-term funding is being sought through a network of existing media contacts in Syria and abroad, specifically among former staff and contributors of *Syria Today* magazine. The first six months of launching the project will cost approximately USD 30,000. The project will be carried out in several phases, with an assessment of project status at the end of each phase. Phase 1 of the project is the launch of the website as soon as funding has made it possible.

### Expected results at the end of the Phase 1 are:
- the establishment of a bilingual website addressing Syrian current affairs
- diverse content by Syrian journalists, Syrian and international commentators and analysts
- 2-3 photo essays by Syrian photographers

Activities to be developed in later phases include:
- holding online courses/conferences with young journalists and photojournalists, and with professional journalists and photojournalists
- holding workshops and online courses raising awareness among the target audience
- lectures, festivals, exhibitions, TV programmemes, publications
- films

Excerpts from *www.syria-portal.com*:
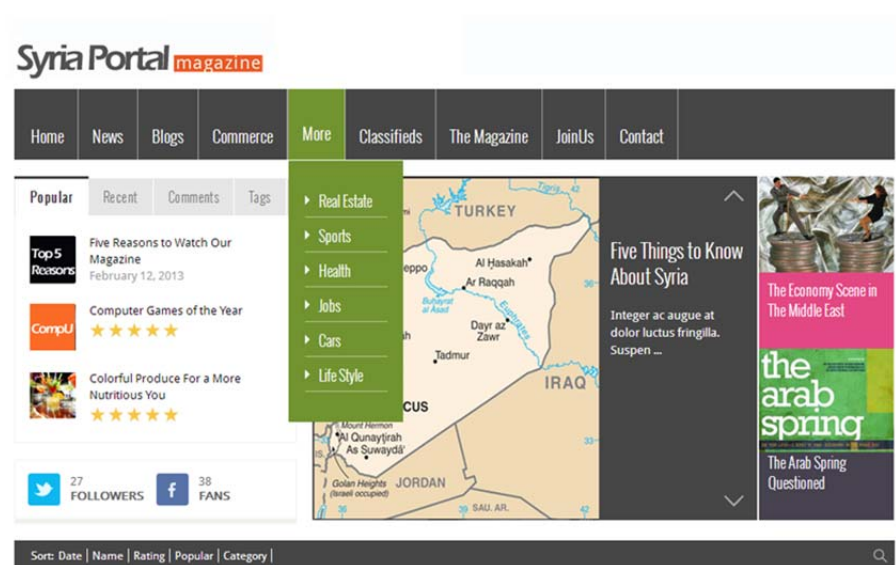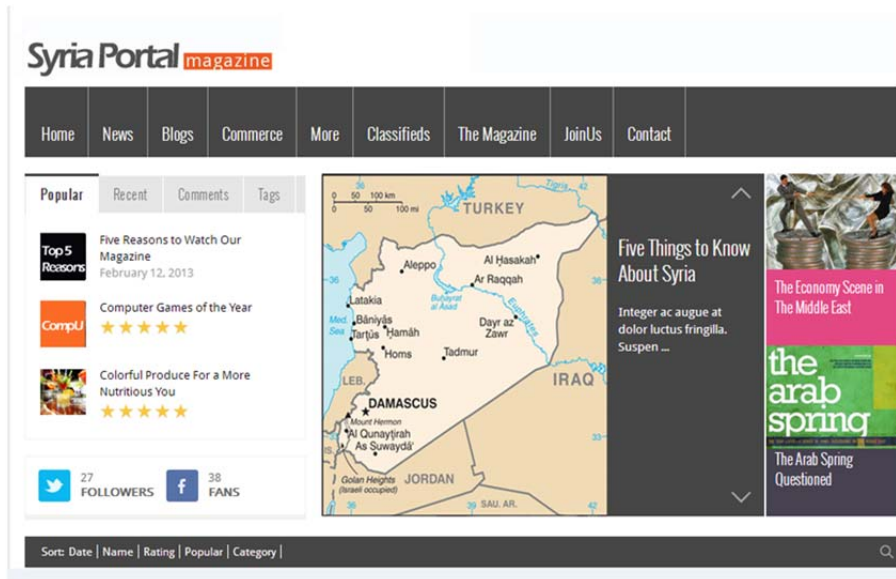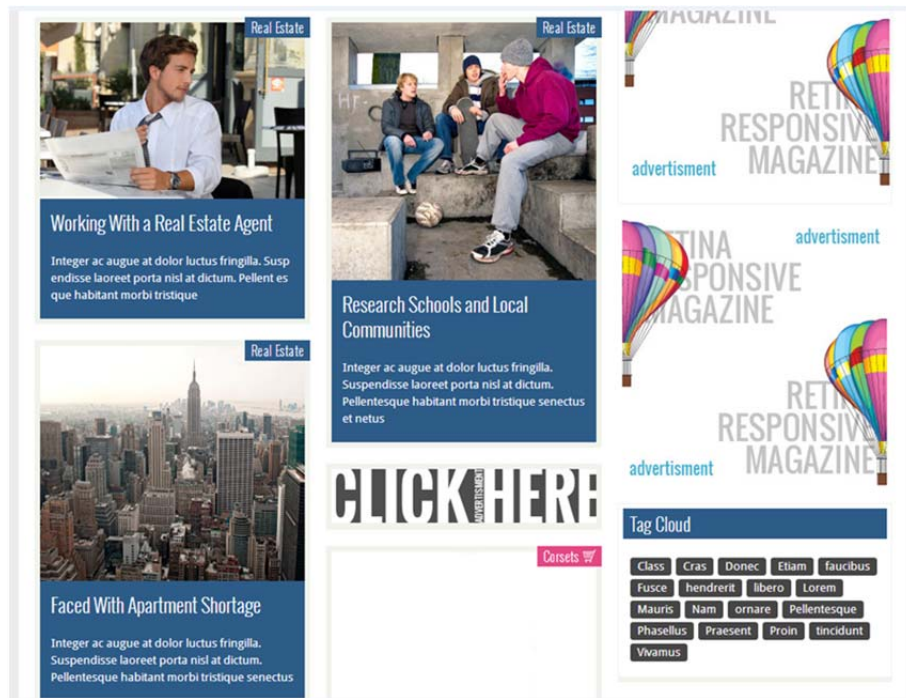
Qais Fares has worked at a general interest magazine as a staff writer and translator for the past six years, writing features and news analyses on the social, economic, political and cultural aspects of Syria. On February 4, 2011, he was arrested in Damascus along with three foreign colleagues while covering the very first protest against the Syrian government, an experience that did not deter him from continuing his job. Journalism improved his skills as a translator, editor and copywriter at international organizations in Syria since 2008. Between 2002 and 2008 he worked as a teacher of English in Syrian public schools and private institutes, in Damascus and the surrounding countryside. He holds a BA in English Language and Literature from Damascus University, and is currently pursuing his MA in Human Ecology at Lund University.

11 TUNISIA

www.moua.tn – Crowdsourcing Democracy and Citizen Participation

Aymen Elamri

1. Introduction

"We made it. But ..."

Mouat'n (www.moua.tn) is a social network coupled with a set of collaborative tools promoting digital citizenship, with the goal of enabling local and direct democracy, using new technologies and user-generated content. The following pages will explain the actual changing context in Tunisia, the philosophy of the project, and its inspirations, goals and challenges.

Just a few weeks before the fall of the regime of former president Ben Ali, the use of social networks increased gradually in Tunisia to become truly significant. Following the popular protest movement, the media and ICT experts pointed out the "revolutionary" role of the internet in Tunisia, and particularly that of social networks. The term "digital revolution" signifies an external point of view. From an

internal perspective, the internet may be seen as merely a catalyst, specifically for the protest movement born in Sidi Bouzid.

Ben Ali was using social networks to create his own propaganda, and the same tools were subsequently used in the contra-propaganda during the popular protest, but not after the fall of the regime. The use of social media sites such as *Facebook, Twitter and YouTube were used* for the benefit of the counter-revolution. In actuality, for the government and for the opposition, social media is the perfect tool for faking or amplifying the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of citizens. From this short analysis, and like Tunisian citizens observed, the new technology, particularly social media, is neutral, but its uses may vary. The idea of the project "moua.tn" (from arabic مواطن mouat'n: citizen) is a result of this observation.

Objectives

"Data must flow!"

What if we provide citizens with a social network coupled with a set of collaborative participatory tools, where the content is user-generated, focused on political and civil issues, the development of the country and its different departments; and designed in a manner that encourages people to talk, debate and vote without falling into the trap of propaganda? "Divide and conquer" is a perfect algorithm when it comes to solving big problems. Crowd-sourcing democracy seems to be easier this way, and it's the main objective of "mouat'n": Shutting the noise and pulling out the voice.

We are building a user-generated online platform to experiment with the crowd-sourcing of democracy and a democratic transition based on digital citizenship, participatory approaches, and improved interaction between citizens and e-data. This will aid in increasing the stock of knowledge of digital culture in society.

The philosophy of "mouat'n" is inspired by concepts of direct and local democracy: pure and decentralized, which is the total opposite of the current reality in Tunisia: a representative and centralized democracy.

In the long term, we plan to transform the data compiled into a significant knowledge base that can be used for new applications of democracy: mobile applications, statistics and analysis, prediction, data-mining, etc. User-generated content like ideas proposed/debated and then voted on by citizens, will be submitted to managers and people in charge of sectors of activities/regions, so that they are aware of the demands of the inhabitants of a given region and the expectation of employees in a given sector.

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"mouat'n" consists of two main parts: online and offline (Away From Keyboard, or AFK) and its improvement will be continuous as a function of the following disposition: Analysis of the current situation and context → Experimentation → Results Analysis → Improvements.

The beneficiaries are citizens, starting from the simple user seeking information ("amateur"-citizen) to the contributor in a community, all the way to digital activists and innovators ("researcher"-citizen).

In order to motivate citizens to participate, we implemented some aspects of "gamification", such as earning points when posting an idea that will be well voted by other citizens, or displaying and featuring most active citizens in the home page, etc. Besides this, we seek to raise awareness of e-democracy and the use of ICT in the democratic process, and to familiarize users with the collaborative tools and content production based on collective intelligence and crowd wisdom. An example of this is the software we built to make sentiment analysis of more than 60 000 filtered tweets from Tunisian citizens regarding the new constitution. This analysis also involved top approved and retweeted messages, top "twittosphere" influencers, top discussed constitution-related articles, etc.

2. Results

"Fatal system error 0xc0000001"

The general impression among citizens and activists is that the democratic process in Tunisia has been interrupted. The majority of Tunisia's newly elected representatives have chosen to preoccupy themselves with divisive and unproductive issues rather than fixing the real issues. Nothing has changed since the Jasmine Revolution in regards to the poverty and socioeconomic marginalization rampant throughout Tunisia.

According to national and international public opinion (*Amnesty International, Lawyers Without Borders, The Observation Network of Justice*, etc.), the process of fighting corruption, the establishment of transparency and the restoration of a democratic regime is experiencing a failure.

"Mouat'n" is closely linked to the rapidly varying context of the country. A short time ago Tunisians intended to build a new democracy, but are now fighting a new growing dictatorship.

This anticipated failure, and especially the fact that the Tunisian state may go bankrupt, requires new results and new adapted vision. This is why "mouat'n" will focus on strengthening the role of technology in civil resistance and the fight against corruption and dictatorship.

It will aim to provide a means of resistance and local autonomy to fight against any corrupted centralized authority and be a tool for expressing citizens' requests.

The local democracy, the citizen participation, the use of technology and the fight against censorship will provide us a new beginning under which new, sound structures can be built, namely, the restoration of the rule of the people, thus mitigating the "over-stated" state and bringing it down from its pedestal, to change the paternalistic mentality by the intelligence of the people.

We believe that "mouat'n" is part of this wave.

The Project Re-thought

"We believe in datanity."

Based on only open source software, the online platform is a based on an open social network gathering the functionalities of *Facebook* (profile, groups, timeline), *Twitter* (mentions, following updates, hashtags), blogs, forums and wikis.

The initial idea and the design of this project are inspired by an immersion in local democracy. Freedom begins with autonomy and the fact that nobody knows a region better than its own people. Every administrative division (department) has its dedicated virtual space (group). People from a given department can create an account and participate in proposing ideas, voting for others, debating subjects, writing content and other possible functional scenarios.

Besides the local democracy aspect, the online project will provide tools, data and user-generated content in the fields of: cyber privacy, censorship circumvention, open source and free software tools, event directory and many other services. The "away from keyboard" part of the project is coming as soon as our partner obtains funds for creating a centre oriented mainly for journalists, net activists but open for everyone, providing them with tools, techniques and materials to be well informed in terms of digital privacy, tracking and monitoring, digital rights, anonymity, etc.

Based on open source software, the online platform comprises several applications:

- an open social network gathering the functionalities of *Facebook* (profile, groups, timelines) and *Twitter* (mentions, following updates, hashtags).
- a blog
- groups / forums devoted to departments, and some themes (such as ecologists, media, solidarity, economy)
- "Fikra": a web application where citizens can suggest ideas and vote on or comment others' ideas. Ideas are in relation to development and innovation in departments and in business sectors.
- "Dostour": a tool to provide simple and effective citizen feedback. Immediately following the release of the final draft of the new Tunisian Constitution, and in parallel with the work of the Constituent Assembly during which deputies voted on the constitution article by article, "Dostour" provided citizens the possibility to vote in the same way as their representatives.
- "Ar9am": a web application that provides indicators of the development of post-revolution Tunisia, offering a wide range of economic, social and environmental indicators (over 900) based on data from the World Bank and over 30 agencies.
- a hidden wiki, that will be published when the amount of data in the platform becomes significant.

Future Prospects

The project will always remain communal and open for improvement through partnership, volunteering and donations. The data will be publicly accessible and under the creative commons license, so that everyone can use the content, modify it and use it in other crowd-sourced applications for democracy .

The actual task list will focus on finishing some details, and making the project more interactive with other popular social networks.

As for the risks, among the most probable ones are the lack of sufficient funds/donations, and the indifference and insensitivity of a part of target audience (people and government).

Link to online presentation: http://prezi.com/0wiukk9pewfu/notes/

The images below can also be found following these links:

logo 1: http://moua.tn/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/logoB.png

logo 2: http://moua.tn/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/logoB1.png

Moua.tn logo

Logo of "Fikra"
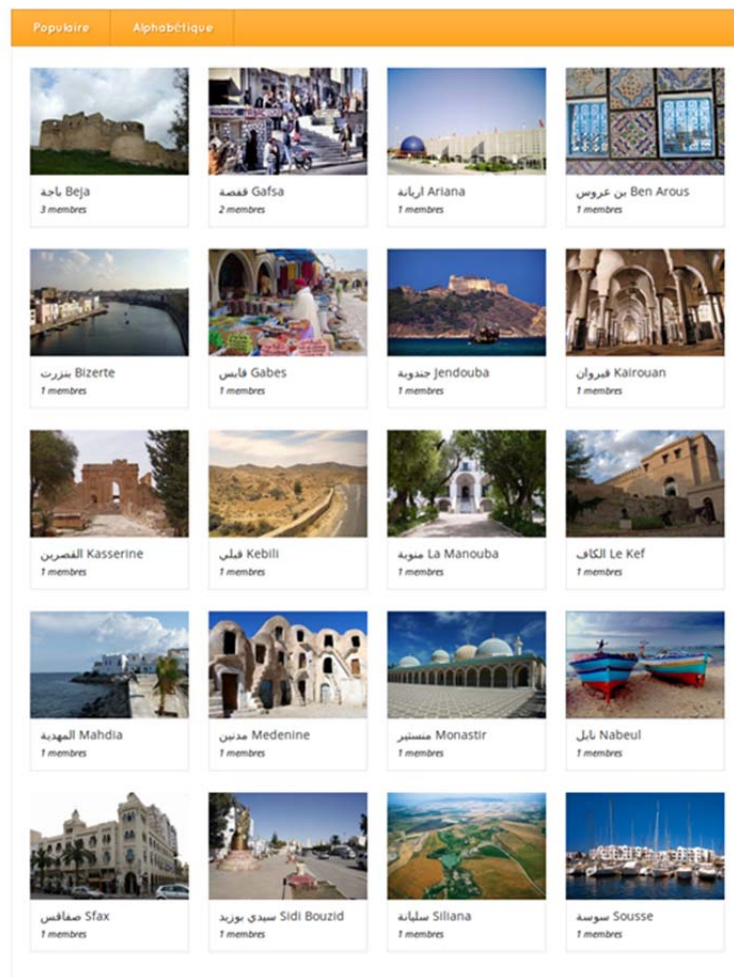(Crowdsourcing of ideas sub-project)

Moua.tn in Tagcloud

Online link to the roadmap above:
https://s3.amazonaws.com/easel.ly/all_easels/233971/mouatnRoadmap/image.jpg

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Screenshots from the Website

باجة Beja 3 membres	Gafsa قفصة 2 membres	Ariana اريانة 1 membres	Ben Arous بن عروس 1 membres
Bizerte بنزرت 1 membres	Gabes قابس 1 membres	Jendouba جندوبة 1 membres	Kairouan قيروان 1 membres
Kasserine القصرين 1 membres	Kebili قبلي 1 membres	La Manouba منوبة 1 membres	Le Kef الكاف 1 membres
Mahdia المهدية 1 membres	Medenine مدنين 1 membres	Monastir منستير 1 membres	Nabeul نابل 1 membres
Sfax صفاقس 1 membres	Sidi Bouzid سيدي بوزيد 1 membres	Siliana سليانة 1 membres	Sousse سوسة 1 membres

moua.tn   Admin   عندك فكرة ؟   Categories   Tags   آخر الأفكار   أفكار

Idées et discussions récentes:

0 votes | 3 discussions | 7 vues | I have an idea concerning some governance issues in my region
répondu 8 Oct dans la catégorie قفصة Gafsa par Gary Allen (210 points)
idea   region   gafsa

+2 votes | 1 réponse | 1 vue | Why not ... ?
répondu 8 Oct dans la catégorie قفصة Gafsa par Ruth Sims (220 points)
howto   introduction   gafsa

You have an idea ?

إذا كان عندك فكرة، أفتراح، تساؤل أو ملاحظة متعلقة بالمنطقة اللي تعيش فيها وإلا قطاع معين كيما النقل ولا التعليم ولا غيرو و تحب تشارك في التنمية المحلية أو الوطنية. "فكرة" هو المكان المثالي لتبادل ومناقشة والتصويت على الأفكار . عندك فكرة ؟

Categories:
الولايات • Departments   (2)
القطاعات • Sectors   (0)

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Aymen Elamri is a Linux/Web consultant and open source enthusiast, across his academic/professional path includes technology/engineering, theoretical and social aspects of information and communication technologies. He has been employed at several international organisations. He is co-founder of Pirate Party Tunisia *and the first* Hackerspace *in the Arab world and Africa. He is founder of "mouat'n" (moua.tn) whose main purpose is crowd-sourcing democracy. He is involved in communities and activities related to free and open source software, cyber privacy and hacktivism. You can find him on* Twitter*: @eon01.*

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information or questions on the academic scholarship programme Social Innovation in a Digital Context, please contact:

Kari Rönkkö, editor and programme responsible for SIDC,
Lund University Internet Institute: kari.ronkko@soclaw.lu.se

Måns Svensson, editor and member of the management team for SIDC,
Lund University Internet Institute: mans.svensson@soclaw.lu.se

Social Innovation in a Digital Context

This book summarizes the project work of the very first batch of participants of Lund University's international Social Innovation in a Digital Context programme, financed by the Swedish Institute. The programme targets human rights activists in a position from which they can initiate projects of change in their home countries in the area of social innovation. During the programme all participants initiate a change project using the knowledge and skills obtained during the programme and using digital technology. This book contains reports on projects aimed at creating sociopolitical improvement in Algeria, Gaza, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Tunisia.

A second programme targeted towards social and digital innovators from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia is underway during 2013-2014. The third programme with 18 participants starting in the autumn of 2014 comprises 60 ECTS.

The editors of this publication are Kari Rönkkö, Måns Svensson and Linda Palmqvist.