

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I write this introduction at a time marked by volatile extremes of optimism and uncertainty.

The spectacular and unexpected unfolding of events in the Arab world clearly signals a turning point. Although very few predicted such mercurial transformations, human rights defenders have long recognised the value of non-violent social movements in ousting dictators from power. Our hope is that they will also bring tangible improvements for human rights in the region.

The number of cases taken up by Alkarama in 2010 was high compared with previous years. It remains a stark indicator of the human rights situation in the Arab world, where the standards of international law are so frequently ignored.

In 2010 Alkarama enhanced its efforts in following up on cases it had previously submitted to the UN. Consequently, more resources have been allocated to maintaining regular contact with victims' families, their lawyers, the UN as well as government bodies.

Alkarama continues to work closely with the Human Rights Council, specifically the Universal Periodic Review as well as the Human Rights Council review process. Together with 19 other major NGOs, Alkarama adopted a statement on the Process of Strengthening the United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body System. This year saw an inspiring and useful cooperation with many human rights organizations and we look forward to strengthening this collaboration.

We remain concerned that the various UN human rights procedures cannot cope with the number of cases they receive. Indeed, despite their commitment and collaboration, it has become clear that they simply lack the resources to properly address all the cases before them. Our hope is that the UN takes significant steps in 2011 to adequately resource the OHCHR.

As chairman of the Council of the Alkarama Foundation, I want to express my sincere recognition to all the Alkarama staff, interns, volunteers and country field officers whose dedication, hard work and enthusiasm have made Alkarama a mature, professional and respected organisation which is dedicated to the effective protection of victims of human rights abuses in the Arab world.

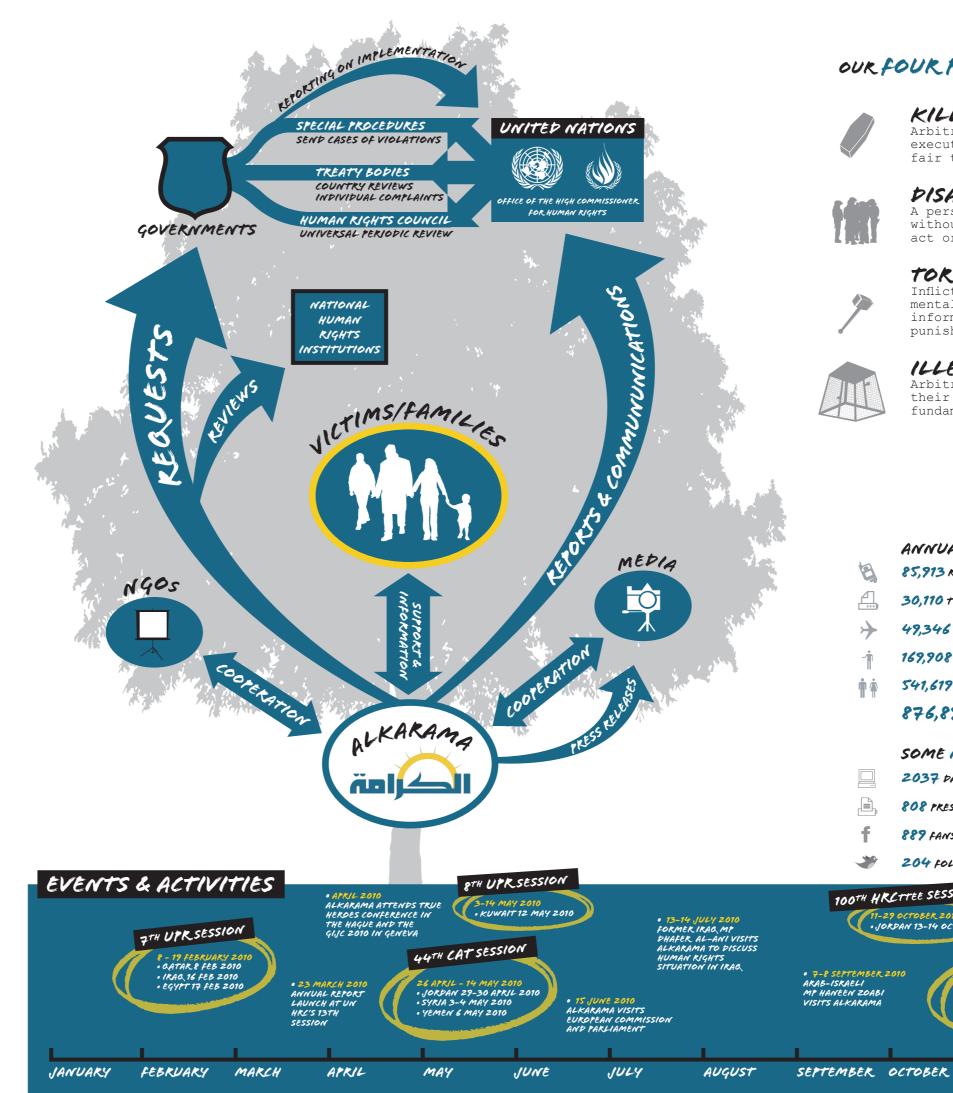
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OUR FOUR PRIORITIES





KILLINGS

Arbitrary, extrajudicial or summary execution of a person without a fair trial

DISAPPEARANCES

A person abducted or detained without the state acknowledging the act or informing relatives

TORTURE

Inflicting severe physical or mental pain or suffering to obtain information or a confession, or to punish or intimidate a person

ILLEGAL DETENTION Arbitrarily depriving a person of

their liberty in violation of their fundamental rights



1-12 NOVEMBER 2010 • LIBYA 9 NOV 2010

MAURITANIA 10 NOV 2010

NOVEMBER DECEMBER

· LEBANON 10 NOV 2010

• 7-8 SEPTEMBER 2010 ARAB-ISRAELI MP HANEEN ZOABI VISITS ALKARAMA

• 10 PECEMBER 2010 ALKARAMA AWARP GOES TO SYRIA LAWYER HAITHAM AL-MALEH

