



For Developing Media can Support NGOs Canada Fund Support Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists Programs

A grant agreement was signed last week at the Centre for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) between the Canada Fund and the Centre for a project entitled "Media for the support of Civil Society".

The Canada Fund, managed by the Canadian embassy, has supported hundreds of projects with non-governmental organizations since the late 1980s. This year the Fund will focus its support on Jordanian civil society organizations working to advance democratic principles, human rights, good governance and the rule of law.

Ambassador of Canada, Arif Lalani, who signed the JD 15,000 agreement, praised the role civil society plays in serving the country's development goals "A vibrant civil society is an important pillar of a healthy democracy. Canada will continue to support Jordanian efforts to advance democratic principles".

The President of the Centre for Defending Freedom of Journalists, Mr. Nidal Mansour, briefed Ambassador Lalani on the Centre's objectives and its various activities aimed at protecting journalists, defending free media and improving journalism proficiency. Mansour highlighted the important role the centre plays in protecting and supporting journalists' rights, in addition to carrying out some studies on media and freedom of media. He added that the centre has widened its target group to include media professionals, parliamentarians and civil society organizations.

The project "Media for the support of Civil Society", which will be implemented by CDFJ over 6 months, aims at building a constructive relationship among media channels and the Jordanian non-governmental sector. The project will issue newspaper supplements to support and publicize Jordanian civil society organizations and their developmental programs and activities. This monthly supplements will cover civil society organizations news, in addition to interviews and stories on problems and obstacles facing them in achieving their goals and in funding and implementing their programs. Particular attention will be given to civil society organizations working on developing democracy, human rights and basic freedoms.

Mr. Mansour pointed out that the project is anticipated to build new relationships between the media and civil society institutions. Presenting more realistic views on voluntary and civil society work will be a benefit, and will play a role in supporting and empowering this sector. He noted that CDFJ has started programs aiming at building media capacity for civil society organizations s by providing training for specialized cadre on communicating with the media and promoting their institutions' activities through the media.

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