

## NPCTJ VISITS KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

### Preparatory Committee Learns from Moroccan TJ Experience

On December 1-4, 2013, the [National Preparatory Committee for Transitional Justice \(NPCTJ\)](#) visited Morocco to learn about the significant role that Morocco has played in the field of transitional justice. The NPCTJ was invited to visit Morocco by the president of the [National Human Rights Council](#) in Morocco, Driss El Yazami.

The visit was part of an action plan developed by the NPCTJ, a group of judges, lawyers, former political prisoners, and Syrian human rights activists devoted to conducting research and building programs and future plans for transitional justice in Syria. The NPCTJ will study firsthand experiences in the field of transitional justice. Observing successful transitions, such as the one in Morocco, is a significant part of a plan to construct a suitable model for the Syrian case.

Over the course of three days experts and human rights activists gave the NPCTJ a detailed explanation of Morocco's experience in human rights and transitional justice. Morocco was plagued with human rights issues for decades before the establishment of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission in 2004.

The Moroccan experience, represented by the success of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission, is well known in the field of transitional justice. This initiative and the establishment of the commission was supported by the king of Morocco, which reflected a strong desire for the nation to achieve social reconciliation and transition toward democracy. Additionally, the successful transition in Morocco is known for the extended length of time that the commission was given to study the human rights violations that occurred (from 1956 to 1999), as well as the large number of violations that fell under its authority.

The tour included numerous lectures and detailed and specified information sessions in addition to various other activities in which the NPCTJ took part. Newly appointed head of the Committee for Transitional Justice in Syria and NPCTJ member Dr. Radwan Ziadeh took part in the trip and described it as "a crucial step in developing a comprehensive transitional justice and national reconciliation program tailored to find success in post-conflict Syria."

The National Human Rights Council in Morocco is an independent constitutional institution that was established as a part of the comprehensive and systematic course of the human rights case in Morocco. Its experience in the field of transitional justice and reconciliation has been highly successful and has become an example for transitional justice organizations throughout the globe.

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For more information about the National Preparatory Committee for Transitional Justice, please contact Hart Uhl, Program Director of the Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Tel: (202) 828-1228, Email: [hartuhl@scps.org](mailto:hartuhl@scps.org), or visit <http://www.scps.org>.

