

Meeting of Central and Northern Governorates of Tunisia

Tunis, 24- 25 February 2017



First Afternoon Session: February 24, 2017

The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Abdelwahab Ben Hafaiedh, President of the Applied Social Science Forum, who considered that the meeting on February 24-25 is one of a series of meetings that were held during the establishment phase of



CAFA. It was preceded by two other meetings; the first was held in October 2016, and the second in February 2017. He also presented the different parties that contributed to the successful establishment of the network: The speaker also noted that the main title of the meeting is “Developing mechanisms to prevent violent extremism,” and it has sub sections:

- Understanding and developing “observable knowledge”: this makes us understand the way an individual becomes an extremist and allows us to investigate the phenomenon within its real-life context.
- Developing prevention mechanisms and producing alternative discourse, alternative development and social trends.
- Follow-up: good management and data collection, which allows policy development in within this area.

Mr. Taoufik Bououn: (the Ministry of Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights).

The speaker noted that Tunisia is currently at the cutting edge of the mentality of silence when talking about recruitment of fighters to conflict zones and the return of these fighters and problems ensuing from their return. The speaker mentioned that civil society plays a vital role in promoting good governance and democracy based on the evolving model of governance in the new Tunisian constitution.

He also noted that the security approach could be a cause of violent extremism and the creation of extremism in some cases, recalling Amnesty International's report, which addressed many of the causes of violent extremism (exclusion, marginalization, psychological reasons, etc.).

He also talked about the relationship between the virtual space and recruitment of fighters, noting that the fight against violent extremism is not only about religious ideas, but we should address the recruitment process that occur on the cybernetic platforms and the networking medium. He concluded by saying that: the government platform for alternative speech announces its official partnership with CAFA network to be able to create mechanisms that are capable of addressing this phenomenon.

Mr. Taoufik Bouderbala – The President of the High Commission for Human Rights Defense and Fundamental Freedoms:

He noted that civil society should opt for dialogue as the prevailing approach among the different intervening parties to develop prevention mechanisms, by dealing with this phenomenon in order to combat violence in general and violent extremism in particular. He highlighted that Tunisia has always had a leading role; for instance, the emergence of an elected government without a coup. At the same time, the speaker stressed the importance of dealing with the question of violent extremism from the perspective of Human Rights and ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law while addressing this issue.

Ms. Naila Faki, Vice-Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee:

The speaker came up with a number of ideas on the development of preventive action, from the legal perspective, specifically the law on combating terrorism and preventing money laundering, i.e., Basic Law Number 26 of 2015 issued on August 7, 2015, which work in line with international standards and is inspired by the good practices in human rights, taking into account the Tunisian real context.

She also noted that the law adopts several approaches and represents an evolution in the approach adopted by the Tunisian legislator in dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism. The main approach is the "restricting approach" by tracking down and prosecuting perpetrators of terrorism, while ensuring fair trial.

She noticed that there is an evolution in dealing with terrorism crimes by Tunisian legislators. The law also adopted a preventive social approach based on diagnosis and

analysis of the phenomenon of terrorism, so that to understand the causes, contexts and factors that lead to it, and thus by preventing people from falling preys in nets of radicals and terrorist organizations.

In this light, the speaker said that the National Counter-Terrorism Committee plays the following roles:

- Strategic role: through the issuance recommendations to prevent and combat terrorism / and develop policy programs that aim at preventing the phenomenon and identify national priorities, by conducting a national study to better understand this phenomenon.
- Communicative role: The committee seeks to raise social awareness and understanding of the dangers of terrorism (awareness campaigns / educational campaigns, etc ...)
- Advisory role on draft laws related to terrorism
- Coordinating role between different inter-governmental, international and civil society organizations.

Mrs. Stacey Barrios - American Cultural Center in Tunisia:

After giving positive feedback on CAFA initiative, Mrs. Barrios noted that terrorism is not a Tunisian or regional problem; and violent extremism is not an Arab or regional problem, but they are humanitarian problems that involve all societies, which necessitates a shared responsibility to combat this phenomenon. .

The speaker also noted that a new struggle has emerged, which is a struggle against violent extremism involving civil society actors. All governments know that resisting violent extremism is not only a state responsibility, but it requires the involvement of all citizens. From this perspective, the speaker said that CAFA initiative reflects the awareness of the Tunisian civil society about the seriousness of this phenomenon and the urgency to deal with it in collaboration with the Tunisian government. She added that the ideas of this initiative could be useful in combating violent extremism in other societies as well.

Second afternoon session: chaired by Mrs. Samia Daoula - a judge with a mission to the Ministry of Women

The opening words of the session were dedicated to hearing live testimonies of a group of young people who witnessed the drift of their friends towards violent extremism. These testimonies are summarized as follows:

Testimony N° 1: Marouen Ben Rejeb - Mediterranean Association of Arts and Nature - Kelibia:

Engineer Marouen Ben Rejeb, from Kelibia, is a young man and active member of civil society. He gave a vivid and documented presentation of a rapper who embraced violent extremism.

Testimony N° 2: Representative of the Tunisian Association for Education on Communication - Zaghuan:

The speaker pointed to the importance of diversity in the media and society, and the diversity of social media and the impact of those means through vivid examples of recruiting young people and sending them to hotbeds of tension. From this standpoint emanates the concept of "education on communication" that the association has been developing for some time.

Mr. Mokhtar Ben Nasr - Institute for Comprehensive Security Studies:

This speech is part of the overall framework of preventive action. The speaker points out that the first step in this process is to understand the phenomenon. He mentioned that intervention includes several other elements:

- Causes of the spread of radicalism and extremism.
- Fighting extremism and its complex paths.
- Measures that should be taken in combating this phenomenon.

Additionally, Mr. Ben Nasser gave a linguistic, philosophical and political definition of "extremism." He added that it is a closed-minded way of thinking that is characterized by being unable to accept any belief that differs from one's beliefs. Radicalism is not linked to any religion or political orientation and is one of the widest doors leading to violence.

The speaker said that 95% of recorded cases of terrorism and organized crime result from extremism.

This approach is based on the following:

- The belief is eternally sincere and is valid for all times and places.
- Condemn anyone who violates this belief
- Imposition of this belief on others, even by force

In most cases, including in our country, extremism is considered an immune to intellectual and philosophical legitimization of violence. It is embodied in the intersection of a psychological path and an ideological logic, and it is also a cut off with the idea of republican contract, democracy, state, power and society.

He also mentioned the dimensions that should be considered for limiting the phenomenon of extremism. These are three parallel dimensions:

- 1- Preparing an alternative religious and cultural discourse.
2. Psychological, social and family follow-up for each person to strengthen family ties.
3. Create a sense of belonging to the homeland in them.

Responding to the questions, Mr. Ben Nasser dwelt on the external factors that have greatly exaggerated the phenomenon of violent extremism. He mentioned a sociological study on the general feelings of the peoples of the world and recorded the feelings of the Arab Muslim peoples that are dominated by the feeling of humiliation. The majority of Tunisian youth had dreams about their future, work, civilization, modernity and the Republic) Since independence these dreams have been coated with injuries (45 military coup in the Arab States and wars preceded or followed these coups) and then came the revolution with the paradox of claim for freedom and the spread of violence at the same time.

Mr. Bouraoui Ouni – Search for Common Ground Foundation:

He believes that the fight against extremism must be committed to a fundamental dimension of prevention. The target groups or actors in combating extremism must be subject to certain conditions, the most important of which are:

- Moral and spatial harmony
- Common understanding of phenomena and interests

He also addressed the issue of creating areas and environments composed of actors who share a common approach in the fight against terrorism, with a view to taking measures that bind all parties involved in these groups.

The most important areas of intervention with regard to the issue of prevention against violent extremism are:

- Issues related to youth dynamics in general, and in relation to the paradox of expectations and frustrations
- The civilizational margins in relation to the issue of incomplete citizenship or distorted citizenship
- Educational and family issue and breaking of ties
- The religious question in general related to a particular understanding of religion and religious practices, or what can be called "the dictatorship of understanding and interpretation."
- The area of political rivalry dynamics is the production of a certain form of extremism or intellectual hyperbole that opens the door flung to violence.
- The field of media, which is likely to slip into dilution or stupid understanding of sensitive issues such as extremism and terrorism.
- Other competitive dynamics in general (administration, trade unions, stadiums, workers, class struggle and regional oppression ...
- Prisons which are places for recruiting terrorist fighters can also be an environment that could help in combating extremism.

He also stressed the importance of involving all intervening parties, among which CAFA action with existing independent constitutional bodies.

Mr. Slaheddine AlJourchi – AlArabii Aljadid Magazine:

He identified extremism as a behavioral expression, which is in turn a translation of transformations at the intellectual and conceptual level. Thus, we are talking about extremism that begins intellectually and then becomes a behavior and approach in dealing with the society and the environment.

He also referred to "Qutbism" which is the starting point for the qualitative transformation within the movements of political Islam in the seventies and then was rooted with the dimensions of jurisprudence with al-Qaeda and then with "Daech." The

speaker analyzed this thought, to explain that it is based on five very important steps in the transition process.

Step1: try to convince an individual that the society in which they live has come out of the circle of Islam (not to apply Shariaa law and all that God has revealed).

Step 2: Estrangement from society in which you live without necessarily leaving it.

Step3: rebellion against the existing legislative system in the society. In other words, the separation between positive law and the Shariaa law, that is an individual tries to adhere to the Shari'a rules at the individual level and then at the level of the group to which they belong until reaching the stage of a society that adopts and adheres to Shari'a.

Step4: The belief that the group you belong to changes the course of your relationship with the community as a whole, and thus “organic estrangement” would happen, which exceeds “feeling estrangement” mentioned in step 2, and the replacement of the original community with an alternative emerging society, and the individual is the contributor to its establishment.

Step5: belief in the necessity of struggle or “Jihad”: It could be psychological Jihad, Jihadi movement, and violent struggle in order to contribute to the building of the state, which must shift towards political succession or “*khilāfa*”.

In the present period, these ideas have been expanded and elaborated, and we moved from movement that has regional dimension to ones with international dimensions such as Al-Qaeda and Daech. During this battle against violent extremism we must be aware that one element in the overall confrontation is the building of an alternative discourse that should not be reduced only to religion, but the latter is undeniably important in building this discourse. He maintained that It is worthy of mention that there is a problem with the religious culture that should be recognized and addressed.

The speaker discussed the role of civil society organizations, which are necessarily pluralistic through their positions, competencies and interests. This society should combine their efforts to solve central concerns and national issues. Consequently, civil society must have a strategic position in producing a national counter-terrorism strategy. Henceforth, CAFA network is an opportunity to provide the capacities and experiences of civil society in Tunisia to move in one direction, and play a leading role in precisely and profoundly confronting the phenomenon.

Mr. Mohamed Lassad Derbez - Tunisia Alternatives:

He started his speech by introducing “Tunisia Alternatives Center,” which is a center of studies consisting of a group of experts interested in the burning issues or sectors on which the state focuses. He also noted that the phenomenon of violent extremism is not limited to religion, but it also includes violent manifestations in our Tunisian society, including intellectual, sports, political and regional intolerance, which can often take a violent character.

At the level of preventive action, the speaker believes that we must intervene at many levels:

- At the community level: CAFA must intervene at the community level, and collaborate with the associations working on the community issues and combining these efforts can be effective, especially in monitoring the possibility of extremism among individuals at family levels.

- At the official level: All official structures must be brought back into action. The informational and intelligence role of the security apparatuses should be reactivated. There should be restructuring and reviewing of their tasks and responsibilities in order to be in full harmony with the country's democratic, irreversible path, and taking into consideration the principles of human rights and public and individual liberties. There is therefore a shared responsibility between these institutions and civil society organizations to assist in eliminating stereotypes of these institutions.

Mr. Toufik Ben Amer - University of Tunis:

He pointed to the need to review the education system from kindergartens to higher education, including educational institutions and the family itself. He also referred to the imbalances in the way of development, which lead the young person to deny themselves and their society.

He saw that CAFA should expand to include as many associations as possible on the local level, so that to spread geographically and encompass the whole territory and thus become a more effective audible body that will exercise the authority of civil society to influence decision-makers. Civil society will then be a body authorized to make recommendations on the national scene. CAFA should work towards this.

Mrs. Rabia Bouabda - Association of lovers of the Museum of Ouedref:

The speaker said that a community research approach must be taken to find a model that has proven to be combating and restricting the phenomenon of terrorism. She said that we should conduct studies to identify the villages and cities of Tunisia, which did not send any young person to fighting zones. Consequently, these communities have proved their ability to protect their youth from the phenomenon of recruitment of fighters, and that they have had sufficient awareness, and they should be taken as a model to be studied to create the strategy of intervention on the national and local levels. In other areas, CAFA should reflect on these studies. So instead of identifying the causes and processes that led to the drift of the individuals towards violent extremism, we must study the positive model and come up with a national and local action strategy.

Mr. Khaled Louhichi - Mediterranean Observatory for Youth:

He said that at the beginning, it is important to identify the terminology, especially when we observe that the use of the term extremism by some countries can be harmful to some parties. For example, in the political scene, there is always use of the term extremism for extreme Rightist' and extreme Leftist' political actors.

And thus the use of the term extremism instead of radicalism becomes out of context. One of the duties of CAFA then is to make changes to the terminology used by official bodies. Second, according to a study conducted by the Tunisian Forum on Economic and Social Rights, which included 1,000 cases of Tunisians who have joined fighting zones, the percentage of the unemployed and the proportion of individuals with a low level of education is limited. Henceforth, we should shy away from adopting the idea that says people who join fighting zones are socially and economically deprived.

Third, he mentioned that they pointed out during the different speeches to the internal factors that contribute to the aggravation of the phenomenon, but they denied the external factors contributing to that. The region has experienced unparalleled geopolitical tension that had very strong implications, including financial and military interventions, which created a very specific context; the phenomenon of terrorism in Tunisia is linked to this external circumstances.

Mr. Abderrazak Ayari- AlJahid Forum

The speaker said that he is not convinced that it is possible to move towards the treatment of the phenomenon of terrorism, for the simple reason that the first phase has not been resolved. This is the phase of understanding the phenomenon itself, and the proof is that all approaches explain the phenomenon differently.

He was not convinced that the idea produces violent behavior, but that violent behavior harks on the idea to justify action. Starting from the five stages of Mr. Qutb's book written in prison, the speaker believes that Qutb identified these five stages to justify the rhetoric of violence and confrontation with political power. Therefore, he contemplated that we had to understand that a young person who shifts from love of life to love of death does not interact with a sheikh in an official institution and therefore he searches for an idea that responds with his violent thought. Thus the problem is not religious, and therefore we should deepen our research on this issue to better understand it.

Mr. Abdelwahab Madi- Civic Pole of Mednine

He demanded that CAFA should review the production of the educational system that marginalizes the subjects of Civic and Islamic education and the history of the national



movement and reduces the homeland in one person and one president, and thus devoted the idea of separation with the principles of belonging and citizenship and moderate understanding of religion. The second point of his speech focused on what he called "media of fear".

The third and last point is related to the religious discourse that has been committed to the same content and form that has existed since decades. Therefore, he said that we observe that young people tend to adopt other sources that offer different materials and thus become subject to different religious ideas that can lead to radicalism and extremism.

Mr. Mokhtar Al-Hchaychi - Association of Veterans of the National Defense Institute:

The speaker noted that the role of civil society is to mobilize people to dry up sources of terrorism and resist recruitment of fighters to hot zones. The role of the defense and security apparatus remains armed confrontation with terrorists and extremists.

Mrs. Doha Al-Jourchi -ADO +:

The speaker wondered about the differences between CAFA and other networks. She thought that the network should pay much heed to academic research. It is also important to think about opening up discussion to groups outside existing social frameworks (such as women, young people), as well as to involve artists and intellectuals who have the skills to influence. The next stage must focus on fieldwork, which has a direct impact on the groups who fall outside the realm of associations and which can produce tangible results.

Mr. Houcine Karim Belgayed - Tunisian Association of Citizenship - Monastir:

He said that sociologically speaking the topic chosen by CAFA could not be considered a phenomenon. Thus, methodically speaking, extremism is not related to the subject, but to the method; which is a method of thinking and a method of growing up. Henceforth, there is a need to study the behavioral transformations, the transition from reaction to violence, and the assault on the other. And therefore, he suggested that there is need to work on meticulously diagnosing the subject, which will lead to its effective treatment.



Mr. Hssin Bouchiba - Dignity for the Political Prisoner Association- Sfax:

He thought that the phenomenon leading to violence is a very serious phenomenon; For him, violent extremism is a path and not a single ring. This path starts at an early age

from family to school to the street and culture and media and others and therefore there is no one answer to this question and not only the developmental or cultural or community path is the main reason for this. The important issue is the reaction of young Tunisians, who have long leisure time. CAFA should focus on their relations with the state.

Terrorism cannot arise in a society where law, social justice and good governance prevail. It is also necessary to pay attention to the religious aspect that fills the everyday life of the Tunisian citizen and work on the terminology used by the recruiting parties to refute the religious interpretation on which they are based. The network should also coordinate with regional and international organizations to benefit from a range of experiences to find an effective strategy to combat this phenomenon.

Mr. Mourad Al-Hajji - Youth and Skills Association - Bizerte:

He spoke from the perspective of the work of his association which dealt with the phenomenon within the framework of the program of prevention of violent extremism through discussion workshops that adopt different approaches (educational, seminary and socio-cultural as well as religious approaches). One of the most important outputs of these workshops is that this phenomenon is the result of a number of imbalances in the sectors mentioned and imbalances in all social fields.

Mr. Nasr Al-Qorbi - Youth Culture and Dialogue Association - Sahline:

His association conducted an experiment in Sahline. The latter received a positive response from the residents of the city and other associations in the region. It was a campaign to prevent violent extremism. The speaker said they based their work on three major axes. The campaign was concerned with the educational, security and religious aspects. This experiment should be generalized to other cities. From which the national counter-terrorism strategy could be strengthened.



The first morning session under the chairmanship of Mr. Mokhtar Ben Nasr, a former Brigadier-General in the Tunisian Armed Forces and Head of the Tunisian Center for Comprehensive Security

Mr. Khaled Louhichi - Mediterranean Forum for Youth & Childhood

At the international level, there is increased interest in supporting all governmental and civil society organizations' efforts to confront violent extremism, beginning with the adoption of the United Nations Plan against Terrorism, which was recently adopted at the United Nations General Assembly, and UN Security Council Resolution 2250, which encourages the participation of young men and women in the fight against terrorism and the establishment of peace and security. In light of which a wide-ranging program was launched in the Arab region. Even the Arab League after undergoing a period of recession and negativism, it succeeded in taking decisions to stimulate efforts in the region in this regard, and it is the same case for the African Union and the Islamic Organization.

Thus, all these paths provide for a more suitable environment for the work of CAFA network and the support of international institutions is more than expected. It should also be noted that there are many programs adopted by the European Union to support projects interested in the issue of resistance to violent extremism.

In addition to the national aspect there is an indication of a return to political participation, which provides a more suitable environment for the work of civil society especially on facilitating the conduct of fieldworks. Political participation gives young people and marginalized groups more opportunity to participate in decision-making. In addition, there is a need to motivate all groups, so that they participate in the upcoming municipal elections. This activity falls within the work of the network, i.e., combating extremism, via stimulating thought and behavior.

In the same context, and on the national level, Tunisians are witnessing lack of programs and mechanisms that monitor major spaces (malls). In the same context, he shed light on the idea of digital terrorism and the lack of strategy and mechanisms to counter digital terrorism.

Mr. Khalid Louhich also discussed the repercussions of the security situation in Libya on the Tunisian situation and the possibility of considering cooperation between Tunisian associations and civil society organizations in Libya.

Mr. Hamed Abderrahim - University of Sfax:

Mr. Hamed Abderrahim inquired about the role of the university in confronting digital terrorism and he stressed the importance of coordination with civil society in the early monitoring of the phenomenon through the exchanges between young people and the parties engaged in the recruitment process. He mentioned the experience of the National Center for Digital Research at the University of Sfax, which is currently working on extracting and analyzing correspondences to reach the beginning of the construction of the terrorist character and extremist ideology at the digital level.

Mr. Hamed Abderrahim also discussed the experience of the Higher Institute of Arts and Crafts in Gabes. He has coordinated with an audiovisual professor to produce films of various kinds on terrorism. Among the participating students, there were two female students who were wearing Niqab and participated in this work and then abandoned the Niqab at the end of this work. It is possible to use the university environment to attract

students and guide them to face the phenomenon and it is also possible to score very positive results at the university level.

Ms. Samia Zayani – « Tachaouar » Association - France:

Mrs. Samia Zayani said that the phenomenon of extremism has existed throughout history, but in different historical periods there were factors that encouraged the expansion of this phenomenon. One of the most important factors is the process of recruitment and mobilization of young people to go to hot zones. She also pointed towards possibilities of cooperation with civil society organizations in Europe that have experience in the fight against terrorism.

She also emphasized cybernetics, which is given great attention in the European countries, unlike in Tunisia. She also mentioned the existence of a project within the framework of the EU's Neighborhood Policy. Among the axes of this project, there is the security one and the date of the EU meeting in Tunisia will be on April 24- 25, 2017. She said CAFA could participate in this meeting.

Mr. Walid Ben Omrane - Center for Local Democracy (Tunisia):

He talked about the Center for dismantling radicalism in France. He considered that this centre failed to find solutions to the phenomenon and to deal with young people.

He referred to the weakness of the religious discourse and the absence of excitement in the speech of the imams, especially with young people at this age, such as the discourse that is promoted in social media and YouTube ... He added that, although there are some imams who have the ability to influence, their efforts remain limited to the local level and cannot be generalized. He said that this is due to lack of training that would compete with motivational discourse those appeals to some extremist parties. He proposed a strong and moderate methodological discourse that would outweigh the rhetoric produced by terrorist groups to convince and attract youth.

Mrs. Hayet Chaour - Childhood and Citizenship Association:

She pointed out to the role of local experiences in denouncing violence and standing against extremism, giving an example of the experience of the people of Ben Guerden and the solidarity with the security forces against terrorists.



In his speech, Mr. Alia Al-Alani, Faculty of Arts in Manouba, referred to the religious issue and the need to work more on the training of imams and on religious discourse. In his reply, Brigadier-Genral Mokhtar Ben Nassr pointed out that the issue of working to dismantle extremism is an issue that is implicated in theory; presenting experiments on some centers of social integration in France, Canada and

Belgium ... Mr. Khalid Louhichi also stressed the need to launch a critical reading of previous works on combating violent extremism, either local and global experiences, and building on the elements of success and avoid elements that caused the failure of some of these experiences.

The second morning session: chaired by Mr. Bouraoui Ouni - Search for Common Ground:

The session was initiated by Mr. Mohamed Moez Srayri (Tunisian Scouts), who presented the Tunisian Scout Foundation, its inception and its role in spreading the culture of tolerance and resistance to violent extremism and addressing the phenomenon of terrorism. He spoke about the educational approach of the Scout Organization through his interpretation of the integrated relationship between the family and the organization, and the life of the group, the holistic nature of Scout education, and the Tunisian scouts to spread the idea of tolerance and rejection of violent extremism.

He also pointed out to the educational approach of the Scout Organization in fighting extremism by working to immunize the child and youth and work on the personal development of young people by seeking to instill the spirit of responsibility in them and development of leadership skills and community participation without ignoring skills and innovation. They work on the development of national ties and Scout friendships; be it Arab and global....

Mr. Walid Ben Omrane - The Tunisian Center for Local Democracy:

He started from the definition of the local and central issue and the seventh article of the Constitution on the creation of immunity from violent extremism, and the failure of the central model, whether in the developmental or social sphere, especially with the spread of globalization. He also identified local identities' first role in rejecting extremism. He also talked about training new local elites, which may be, as he put it, a "model" in the local sphere, which plays an important role in rejecting extremism and participating in the development of the feeling of citizenship.

He also said that the civil society does not convey the localities, but rather the center, giving an example of the positive local initiatives that have had the impact of a snowball, which highlights the role of individual initiative in bringing about positive change. Finally, he stressed the importance of Article 7 of the constitution and training of new local elites and its role in creating associations working to solve problems at the local level and work on regional specificities.

Following the comments of Mr. Boraoui Ouni, the Chairman of the session, on the different speeches, the discussion was opened. The intervening speakers are listed as follows:



Mr. Mokhtar Ben Nasr pointed to the different spheres in which civil society operates and the necessity of awareness of all actors to work for the interest of the country, and that there are parties working towards achieving another vision and another model of society which is different from the group's vision. He also mentioned that political rivalries and organizations' affiliation to political parties have a role in the development of this work to satisfy narrow interests, noting that this diversity is justifying the fragmentation of communities and identities, which makes it necessary to avoid dealing with local issues so as not to be used to knock the organs of the state and widen the complexity of local problems.

Mr. Sofiene Fakhri- Cultural Development. Kalaa Kebiraa

He valued the role of development associations in supporting the efforts of the state, noting that the role of civil society is an auxiliary role to the efforts of the state and not a substitute for it. He also drew attention to the need to seek to eliminate corruption as one of the most important reasons for the spread of all forms of extremism, and demanding at the same time to find political willingness in dealing with the issue of corruption.

Mrs. Mbarka Siddiqui, Child-oriented Media Center (Gafsa)

She said that the Tunisian family suffers from lots of fragmentation, frivolous belonging and absence of the father. The absence of clear belonging and the family's fluctuation between national belonging and work on individualism, and achievement of individual successes may result in a rupture that makes the child and the young man easily susceptible to recruitment to hot zones and the drift towards violent extremism.

Mr. Mokhtar Al-Hashayshi pointed to the importance of military service and the decline in the popularity of joining the military establishment and its limitation to the poor and low-income social groups.

Mr. Riyad Al-Saafi, the National Observatory for Children, presented some statistics on child delinquency, threats to the child by the family and the failure of the state to reintegrate the children, and acknowledged that family education in many quarters is violence-based. Although he appreciated preventive action, he stressed the therapeutic side of the children who are being abused because of the high number of children who have been indoctrinated, recruited and attracted to violence.

Afternoon session: chaired by Mr. Chokri Fidha



The afternoon session was chaired by Mr. Chokri Fidha. The program was divided into two parts: one part was allotted to the discussion of the Ethics Charter and the second one to formulate work plans within 3 workshops:

- Workshop on research understanding
- Workshop on Prevention
- Workshop on Follow-up and monitoring



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