



Business & Human Rights Resource Centre appoints Rania Fazah as Middle East Researcher & Representative

June 2012



Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is pleased to announce the appointment of Rania Fazah as Middle East Researcher & Representative, based in Beirut, Lebanon. Rania will draw attention to the human rights impacts (positive & negative) of companies in the region; highlight under-reported cases and concerns raised by civil society; seek company responses to alleged abuses; undertake research missions; and build contacts with NGOs, companies, investors, journalists and government representatives.

Commenting recently on democracy movements in the region, Rania said: *“The Arab Spring is about business as well as government – both powerful institutions that in the past have not been accountable to our societies, with an absence of checks and balances that often leads to human rights abuses, and we are working to change that.”*

Rania is responsible for the Resource Centre’s coverage of Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. Other countries in the Middle East & North Africa are covered by Sa’eda Al-Kilani, Middle East Researcher and Representative based in Amman, Jordan, who started working with the Resource Centre in March 2012. Both were appointed following a recruitment process that drew over 180 candidates. Six were interviewed, all of whom were of a very high calibre.

The Resource Centre’s Middle East work is supported by grants from Open Society Foundations and from Network for Social Change, and by donations from individuals.

About Rania Fazah

Rania Fazah, a Lebanese national, is a human rights advocate with experience that covers a wide range of countries in the Middle East. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Lebanese human right organization ALEF (Act for Human Rights). Prior to joining the Resource Centre she was Regional Programme Officer for IKV Pax Christi, based first in Amman and then Beirut. She was responsible for developing and implementing projects and activities with partners in the region, advocacy activities, and media relations. Among the projects in which she has played a leading role are [Zerak](#), a regional youth project using social media. The site is a forum for sharing projects in areas such as freedom of expression, freedom of association, economic and social rights, and channelling funding to them.

Previously, Rania was Regional Monitoring & Documentation Officer with Save the Children’s regional office in Jordan. With Arab Resource Collective (funded by Save the Children Sweden), she was Regional Coordinator of the Child Rights Programme, covering Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen and Sudan. She has also worked for Bank Audi, University of Balamand and the *Beirut Times*.

Rania has a BA in Political Science & Public Administration and a BA in Communication Arts and Journalism, both from Lebanese University (Beirut). She is currently completing an MSc in Public Policy and Management from the University of London (external programme).

Rania is fluent in Arabic and English, with some French.

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) is an independent non-profit organization that encourages companies to respect human rights, by promoting transparency and accountability. Our website links to reports on the human rights impacts (positive & negative) of 5100 companies worldwide. It also provides guidance tools to assist companies, NGOs and others working in this field.

Our researchers are based in Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Senegal, South Africa, UK, Ukraine and USA. Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland, is Chair of the Centre's International Advisory Network. Our Academic Partners comprise 23 leading academic institutions.

For further details, see the ["About us"](#) section of our website. Sign up for free [Weekly Updates on business & human rights here](#).