

Habi Center for Environmental Rights



About us

Habi Center for Environmental Rights has begun its activity in seeking to enable citizens to their environmental rights in 2001.

Our Vision

- *To promote Egyptian citizens' just access to environmental resources and just distribution and to enhance their participation in making environmental policies and resource management in a way that guarantees sustainable development.*

Our Mission

Habi works to promote Egyptian citizens' environmental rights through setting forth alternative environmental policies, legal empowerment, resorting to judiciary and organizing campaigns by coordinating and networking with CSOs (civil society organizations).

Habi believes in

- 1- *Social justice.*
- 2- *Democracy.*
- 3- *Free access to information and circulating it.*
- 4- *Equality and non-discrimination.*
- 5- *The poor and marginalized right to participation in decision making.*
- 6- *The right to establish CSOs without any restrictions.*
- 7- *Good environmental resources management in a way that guarantees sustainable development.*

Strategies

- 1- *Setting forth alternative policies, participating in decisions making, activating international and environmental legislations and charters and what it is related of rights in International Human Rights Charters. .*
- 2- *Working upon supporting the center's role in defending, mobilizing and advocacy processes.*
- 3- *Enabling CSOs and citizens to activate the environmental rights and face the violations.*

The main programs

The center's programs are based on the following:

- *The concept of environmental justice for all.*
- *The international Human Rights Charters and Convention.*
- *Seeking to achieve sustainable development.*
- *Right to access information and participation in resources management.*

1- The Right to Water

Right to Water Program works in the context of international criteria of citizens' rights to water which have been stated by human rights charters and which are represented in Comment no. 15 of Article no. 12 in The International Covenant of Cultural, Social and Economic Rights, Article no. 24 in Child Rights Convention and Article no. 14 in CEDAW Convention. The Right to Water Program's activities are represented in the following:

- *Monitoring right to water violations through focus groups for activists and victims, and also issuing series of reports that monitor the violations that are experienced by citizens (the reports depend on newspapers and websites).*
- *Group of training workshops and discussion groups to discuss fresh water management policies and enable activists and NGOs representatives to face this right's violations.*

2- Right to Health (hazardous industries)

Enabling citizens to access environmental resources with good quality to enjoy right to health is the main goal of Right to Health Program. The program also seeks to combat hazardous industries such as petrochemicals, fertilizers, cement and others industries that deplete environmental resources which, in turn; affects sustainable development of these resources and threatens the coming generations' rights to enjoy right to access environmental resources. This program is based on the international criteria of citizens' rights to health that have been stated by The International Human Rights Charters such as Article no. 12 in The International Covenant of Cultural, Social and Economic Rights. The most important activities of Right to Health Program are as following:

- *Pressure campaigns against establishing a number of hazardous industries factories such as fertilizers, ammonia and cement.*
- *Legal missions represented in suing a number of lawsuits against these industries.*

3- Climate Change

Habi Center is working through a double campaign in this program which includes:

- *Raising awareness concerning climate change essence, its international and local dimensions, its impact on Egypt, the general international policies and local policies related to responsibilities and commitments distribution, in addition to introducing international conferences ' findings.*
- *Pressure on local governmental bodies to take the necessary procedures to prepare the environmental position and citizens in Egypt to adapt with climate change impacts especially when Delta is liable to sinking due to sea's high level, and also when Nile River level is liable to increase or decrease.*
- *Participating in international NGOs campaigns that seek to adopt policies in favor of peoples in the field of climate changes such as United Nations Campaign, 350 campaign and Andy Act.*

Habi's Most Important Works

- **Hazardous Industries**

- 1- Campaign against Asbestos manufacturing.
- 2- Campaign to conduct listening session before establishing Agrum Factory for manufacturing ammonia in Damietta.
- 3- Lawsuit against ammonia unit expansions in Talkha Fertilizers Factory.
- 4- Lawsuit against National Cement Company.
- 5- Complaint against Mopco Petrochemicals Factory in Damietta.
- 6- Submitting formal notice by process server against officials with the need to cease the establishment of power plant in Damietta and against their ignoring to conduct listening sessions stated in the law and violating citizens' right to participation and access information.
- 7- Submitting complaint for The Holding Company for Drinking Water and Sanitation to take the immediate and necessary procedures to deliver fresh drinking water to some vulnerable villages in Sohag.

- **Right to Water**

- 1- Group of campaigns against violations experienced by citizens in accessing fresh drinking water in a number of governances such as Luxor, Qina, Daqahlya, North Sinai, Qalubia and others.
- 2- Launching Right to Water website www.hcer.info.
- 3- Issuing series of annual and quarterly reports about how much right to water is being fulfilled.

- **Field Monitoring Trainings**

Habi conducts a group of field monitoring trainings to CSOs representatives and youth (lawyers – students – activists) about environmental rights activation.

- **World Environment Day**

Habi annually celebrates World Environment Day in June. During the celebration, Habi highlights an environmental issue and introduces his point of view to the competent bodies. The following are examples of issues tackled by the center in the past celebrations:

- Internal Nile River management and its relation to Nile Basin Countries.
- Drinking water management.
- Climate change.
- Hazardous industries.