Dear Reader,

This News Update includes information on (a) Commemorating The International Anti-Corruption Day (p.2); (b) Three new members join ACINET (p.3); (c) new anti-corruption measures in Yemen (p.5); and (d) a usual stop at Arab anti-corruption highlights (p.6).

Please send your comments and inquiries to the following fax number +961 1 981645, or email address info@arabacinet.org.
The International Anti Corruption Day

As every year since 2003, the United Nations celebrates the International Anti-Corruption Day on the 9th of December in accordance with the General Assembly Resolution number 4/58, issued on 31 October 2003.

Several States and non-governmental organizations joined the celebrations around the globe. This day emphasizes the growing global consensus on the importance of fighting corruption and is a clear and direct call to all concerned actors to join efforts in understanding the effect of corruption on the lives and welfare of people and to continue in working against this phenomenon that is complicated in its manifestations yet clear in its implications.

In this context, the Chair of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), H.E. Dr. Abed SHAKHANBEH sent letters to ACINET members stressing the importance of this occasion, calling for increasing anti-corruption efforts, especially with ACINET getting ready to launch its activities in 2009. He noted that this constitutes an opportunity to establish and reinforce the regional framework that ACINET seeks to establish in order to support national efforts aimed at implementing Arab and international anti-corruption conventions, instruments and best practices. In addition, several ACINET members took part in local activities that have been organized to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day.

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ACINET News Update

Issue 3, 30 December 2008

Three New Members Join the Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network

During December 2008, three new members joined Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET).

The Central Audit Agency (CAA) in Egypt, which is currently headed by Dr. Gawdat EL-MALT, joined ACINET. The letter of accession of the CAA was communicated to the Regional Support Unit on 16 December 2008 through the League of Arab States (LoAS). For more information about the CAA, please visit the following website: www.cao.gov.eg/arabic/MAIN.ASP.

The Central Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (CAPC) in Morocco, which is currently headed by Mr. Abdelsalam ABOUDRAR, joined ACINET. The letter of accession of the CAPC was communicated to the Regional Support Unit on 23 December 2008.

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With regards to CAPC, it is important to note that the Arabic name of the agency uses the term “rishwa” (bribery) to indicate
“Fasad” or corruption. This is in line with the local and popular usage of the term in Morocco. CAPC was established pursuant to decree number 2.05.1228 issued on 13 March 2007 by the Prime Minister. It is responsible for coordinating preventive anti-corruption policies, supervising it and monitoring its implementation, as well as for gathering and publishing information in this area.

The third new member to ACINET is the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) in Yemen, which is currently headed by Dr. Abdullah Alsanafi. The letter of accession of the COCA was communicated to the Regional Support Unit on 30 December 2008.

For more information about CAO in Yemen, please visit the following website: www.coca.gov.ye.

This brings up the total number of ACINET members to 19 governmental anti-corruption bodies from 11 Arab States.

وقد ارتفع بذلك عدد الجهات الحكومية المنضمة إلى الشبكة العربية لتعزيز النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد إلى 19 جهة من 11 دولة عربية.
New Anti-Corruption measures in Yemen

ACINET’s Regional Support Unit was informed by the Ministry of Justice in Yemen, which is also one of its founding members, of a series of newly adopted anti-corruption measures in the country.

1. Pursuant to the proposal of H.E. the Minister of Justice, the Higher Judicial Council reorganized the structure of financial prosecution offices and courts, as well as their functions and competencies. They are now required to jointly address cases related to corruption, public funds, religious estate and connected issues.

2. Pursuant to the request of the Supreme Authority to Combat Corruption (SNACC), and the proposition of H.E. the Minister of Justice, and after the approval of the Higher Judicial Council, the President of the Yemeni Republic issued a decision to delegate six public prosecutors to work with SNACC and they are currently performing their functions.

3. H.E. the Minister of Justice issued a number of decisions in the area of anti-corruption. The most important of which is a decision to establish the Anti-Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Unit, at the Ministry and under the direct supervision of H.E. the Minister; and appointed Judge Rasheed Monifi as

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<th>إجراءات جديدة لمكافحة الفساد في اليمن</th>
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<td>تبلغ الوحدة الإقليمية للشبكة العربية لتعزيز النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد من وزارة العدل في اليمن، وهي أحد الأعضاء المؤسسين للشبكة، مجموعة من الإجراءات الجديدة المتبعة لتعزيز وจำกالة الفساد في اليمن.</td>
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| 1. بناءً على مقترح عالمي وزير العدل، أصدر مجلس القضاء الأعلى قراراً قضائياً بإعادة تنظيم نيابات ومحاكم الأموال العامة، وتحديد مهامها وخصائصها بحيث تنظر في قضايا الفساد والمال العام وقضايا الأوبئة والقضايا المرتبطة بذلك وفقاً لปรากฏ
| 2. بناء على طلب الهيئة الوطنية العليا لمكافحة الفساد، وعرض عالمي وزير العدل، وبعد موافقة مجلس القضاء الأعلى، أصدر رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية قراراً بتعيين ست أعضاء من الهيئة العامة للعمل في الهيئة الوطنية العليا لمكافحة الفساد، وهم حالياً يمارسون مهامهم في الهيئة. |
| 3. أصدر عالمي وزير العدل مجموعة من القرارات في مجال مكافحة الفساد أهمها قرار قضائي بإنشاء وحدة لمكافحة غسل الأموال وتمويل الإرهاب في ديوان وزارة العدل تتبع مباشرة لوزير العدل وتختص بإشراف المباشر، وتعيين القاضي رشيد المنفي رئيساً |
its head. Another important decision was issued with a view to implement the 40 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) among others.

For more information on the activities of the Ministry of Justice, please visit its website:


Arab Anti-Corruption Highlights

• The Supreme National Authority to Combat Corruption (SNACC) endorses draft amendments to strengthen criminalization of corruption acts: SNACC endorsed draft amendments to the Yemeni criminal law in relation to corruption crimes. The draft includes amendments to 18 articles and the addition of six articles that cover fraud in procurement, customs and tax evasions. For more information, please visit the following website:
  www.snaccyemen.org.

• Lebanon amends legislation in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC): The Lebanese parliament adopted law number 32 on 16 October 2008 to expand the competencies of the Anti—money Laundering Investigative Commission in

• Lebanon adopts new anti-money laundering laws:

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Abraz al’axher al’arabia fi magal Mikafaqah al-fasad

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line with UNCAC provisions. Now, the commission is exclusively responsible for freezing assets and lifting bank secrecy.