

Summery of WILPF-seminar in Rome 2011 – Sunday pm

Association of Mediterranean Women

Former president of the Italian section Ada Donno is now the president of the Association of Mediterranean Women. It started as a network 30 years ago to have an exchange of experiences and culture between women in the states around the Mediterranean Sea. They have had a lot of different project e g language courses in Italian and Swahili, integration, trafficking, prostitution.

Lately it has more dealt with the economic crisis. Ada proposed that WILPF and the Association of Mediterranean Women should cooperate on women's situation in the Arabic spring.

Tunisian election

The new elected parliamentarian Imen Ben Muhamed told us about her party Ennahda. It is an Islamic political party that was founded 1981. In the first election after the riot they got 90 out of 217 seats (41%) where as 42 are for women. It was their proposal that the election lists should have man and women indiscriminately and that was accepted by all parties. The result was that new parliament consists of almost 50% women.

During the campaign Ennahda published a program for economic policy. The most important one is separation of juridical power. They want to strengthen regional development and foreign investments. For women they have three points:

- Equal rights including political participation
- Equal representation on the elections list. Religious belonging does not matter.
- Protection of what women have reached so far as active citizenship. It must be free to dress as you like.

They have also a program for young people and families. Tunisia have many well-educated young persons but they have no qualified jobs. The young must be active in developing the country.

There is a special secretariat for Tunisian immigrants in Italy. They have demanded that there should be Tunisian schools in Italy. Ennahda wants to strengthen the connections between Italy and Tunisia.

The new parliament will decide on the constitution; the rules of parliament and government. Then there will be a new election.

Ennahda are in favour of political democracy, Islam is their spirit and Arabic their language. They are close to the leading party in Turkey – AKP. They have relations with other modern Islamic parties – eg in Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar - within the Islamic movement.

Imen was asked if Ennahda has the aim to establish Scharialaws. Imen said that it is impossible because they are not in accordance with the Tunisian lifestyle. She was not sure if Islamic economic system should be the ruling system.

Association for Muslim Women in Italia

Some years ago the Association for Muslim Women in Italia was founded. The Palestinian woman Sagidah Fatima (born in Italia) told us that they are promoting human rights for Islamic women and for a positive integration in Italy. They are working together with Italian institutions. They discuss the relations between parents and children – the second and third generation.

Closure

To finish the seminar we saw the film “Go West” made by the son of Tatiana Kurtiqi (Albanian section). He lives in Bologne.