

## Hanaa Edwar is Awarded “Arab Woman of the Year 2013” By Takreem

Paris 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013

With pride and joy, Iraqi Al-Amal Association announces the award of “Arab Woman of the Year 2013” to its Secretary General, Hanaa Edwar by Takreem for her distinctive hard work, courage and successes in the field of civil society and human rights for equality, women's rights, and the empowerment of women to participate effectively in society and political life.

The award ceremony was held in Paris at the Arab World Institution 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013. This was the fourth set of awards by the initiative “Takreem”, which launched the awards in 2010, to highlight the Arab distinguish and leaders hip to nine Arab personalities, to celebrate their achievements in the fields of culture, education, science, environment, social progress, and economy.

In her speech at the award ceremony, Hanaa Edwar expressed her thanks, deep gratitude to Takreem, and stressed her sense of greater responsibility beyond the borders of her homeland. She also thanked her colleagues at Iraqi Al-Amal Association and many civil society organisations for the support and assistance she received during her work, who, together, planted the seeds of hope in the wounded Iraq.

"The award is a recognition of the great role played, and will be played, by these organisations in promoting a culture of human rights and women's rights, and the concepts of peace, tolerance and equality to achieve social justice in the context of civil and democratic state".

It is more pleasing that Takreem had selected two Iraqi women among its nine awards for this year. The rest of the awards were distributed amongst men from a number of Arab countries. The other Iraqi activist was Ms. Nadwa Qaragholi, who was selected for the “Humanitarian and Civic Services” category, for her work within "Living Light International" organisation, launching and implementing social, educational and medical projects for the children of Iraq. Her work included sending heart specialist teams to many provinces in Iraq, where lives of hundreds of children were saved.

On the second day, the winners of the awards joined a press conference attended by a number of Arab and international journalists. The conference stressed the importance of the award to highlight the successes of Arab leading personalities in their determination to achieve the dreams of many generations of freedom of thought, human rights, entrepreneurship, gender equality and motivation of young people, all in defiance of violence and terror.

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It is worth noting that the founder of “Takreem”, which is based in Beirut, is the Lebanese media and television producer, Ricardo Karam. The annual award ceremony moves between different cities. The selection process is divided into two phases, with the participation of members with extensive experience from the committees, each in his/her field, their respective fields who select the candidates in accordance with pre-set criteria. These committees include dignified people, celebrated in their fields particularly in the fields of cultural, academia, humanitarian, technical, consulting, etc.

The International Selection Council, composed of prominent figures, then meets to complete these coned screening process, and choose the winners for each of the nine Takreem categories. The 2013 members of the International Selection Council included dr. Hanan Shaarawi (Palestine), dr. Laila Sharaf (Jordan), dr. Noha Hujaylan (Saudi Arabia), Sheikha Paula Al-Sabah (Kuwait), dr. Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria), the novelist Marc Levy (France), and Egyptian businessman Mohamed Mansour.

Link: <http://www.takreem.net/index-ar.php>

21<sup>st</sup> November 2013