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# Freedom of Association

حرية التجمع والتنظيم



Under the patronage of  
the League of Arab States

Under the Patronage of His Excellency

**Mr. Amr Musa**

Secretary-General, League of Arab States

## **International Conference:**

***"Freedom of Association  
A Roadmap for the Future"***

Arrival: 09.02.2010

Departure: 12.02.2010/13.02.2010

**Cairo – Egypt**

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**Day 0**

**09/02/2010**

**Arrival of All Participants**

**Transportation for all participants from the airport to the hotel and back shall  
be provided**

**Please read the administrative and logistic letter for further details**

**(The nine national reports on the state of FOA in the Arab World will be  
distributed by email before the conference)**

**Dinner: A snack shall be available at the hotel in the evening**

**[Hotel](#)**

Shepherd Hotel

Cornishe El Nil - Garden City - Cairo - Egypt

Phones: (202) 2792 1000

Fax: (202) 2792 1010

Website: [www.shepherd-hotel.com](http://www.shepherd-hotel.com)



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**First Day 10.02.2010**

**VENUE: LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, CAIRO**

**8:00 Departure from hotel to LAS**

Participants shall all gather at the hotel lobby

**8:30 - 9:00 Registration**

**9:00 – 9:45 Welcoming Speeches**

*(Master of Ceremony: Mrs. Shaymaa Salem, Coordinator, Civil Society Department, Office of the Secretary General, League of Arab States (LAS))*

- **Dr. Ronald Meinardus**, Regional Director Middle East and Northern Africa, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF), Cairo – Egypt
- **Dr. Sassin Assaf**, Secretary General, the Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI), Beirut -Lebanon
- **Mr. Hafez Abu Saada**, General Secretary, Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR), Cairo - Egypt
- **Mr. Michael Ryan**, Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation, Cairo - Egypt
- **Ambassador Mahmoud Rashed**, Director, Civil Society Administration, League of Arab States (LAS), Cairo – Egypt
- **H.E. Mrs. Nancy Bakeer**, Arab Commissioner, Civil Society Commission, LAS, Cairo – Egypt

**9:45 – 10:15      Coffee break**

**10:15 – 11:45      First Session**

Moderated by **Dr. Sassin Assaf**

**15 min each:**

- Presentation of "The Project and its Results - 2007-2010" (by FNF's **Mrs. Ubab Murad**)
- Statement by **Mrs. Ebba Augustin**, independent project evaluator
- Presentation of the "*First Report on the State of FOA in the Arab World*", **Dr. Sassin Assaf**, Secretary General, the Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI), Lebanon
- 11:00 – 11:45: Celebration of the launch of the first publication by the Arab Council for Freedom of Association (ACFA)

**11:45 – 13:30      Second session:**

**Discussion of reports' findings, recommendations, followed by open Q&A**

*Session moderated by: H.E. Mr. Hisham Youssef*

**Panel comprising key project countries (11:45-12:45)**



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Panellists:

- **Dr. Sassin Assaf**, Secretary General, ACRLI, Lebanon
- **Dr. Hafez Abu Saeda**, Secretary General, EOHR, Egypt
- **Dr. Ali Dabbas**, Legislations' Commissioner, the National Center for Human Right (NCHR), Amman - Jordan
- **Dr. Azmi Shueibi**, AMAN's Commissioner for Fighting Corruption, Palestine

## **Panel representing project's outreach countries (12:45 – 13:30)**

Panellists:

- **Dr. Arous al-Zubair**, University Professor, Algeria
- **Mr. Mestour Abdul-Ali**, President, Citizenship Forum, Morocco
- **Mr. Muhammad al-Saleh Khuraji**, Secretary General, Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights; Board Member, Arab Institute for Human Rights, Tunis

**13:30 – 15:00 Lunch Reception at the League of Arab States**

**After 15:00 Free time in Cairo**

*Optional: Cultural tour – visit to the Pyramids (minimal fees by participants / registration required)*

**20:00 Transfer from hotel to a joint dinner at the "Nile City"**

Participants are kindly requested to gather at the hotel lobby no later than 20:00!



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**Second Day, 11.02.2010**

**VENUE: SHEPHEARD HOTEL, CAIRO**

**9:00 – 11:45      Third Session**

**Initiatives on FoA: Opportunities, challenges and a roadmap for the future from an international perspective**

*Session moderated by **Mr. Ralf Erbel**, Resident Representative in Jordan and for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty*

**Keynote speaker: Mr. Sebastien Lorion**, Focal point - Thematic programmes, Directorate A - Europe, Southern Mediterranean, Middle-East and Neighbourhood Policy, EuropeAid Co-operation Office, European Commission

**7 minutes presentations by:**

- **Mr. Moataz El Fegiery**, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) project, Cairo – Egypt
- **Mrs. Dina Dandachli**, Middle East and North Africa Projects, Club De Madrid (CdM)
- **Mrs. Stéphanie David**, Middle East and North Africa Desk Director, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- **Mrs. Mervat Rishmawi**, Legal Adviser, International Law and Organizations Program, Amnesty International (AI)
- **Ms. Dima Jweihan**, Legal Consultant for the Middle East and North Africa, The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), Amman – Jordan
- **Heba Morayef**, Egypt and Libya - Human Rights Watch (HRW), Cairo – Egypt

**10:30 – 11:00      Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 11:45      Continuation of panel discussion and Q&A**

*Participating organizations will submit a three page paper on their experiences  
Challenges, recommendations for future projects*



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## **11:45 – 13:00      Fourth Session**

### **Obstacles facing Freedom of Association in non-project countries in the Arab World (Bahrein, Yemen, Iraq, Mauritania, Sudan), Legislation and practice**

*(Session moderated by: Ambassador Mahmoud Rashed, Director, Civil Society Administration, League of Arab States (LAS), Cairo – Egypt)*

- **Mrs. Meena Kadhimi**, Bahrain Women Association for Human Development Bahrain
- **Mr. Othman Hassan**, Human Security Initiative Org. MAMAN, Sudan
- **Mr. Muhammad Mikhlafi**, Director, the Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, Yemen
- **Mr. Muhamad Salem Wild Sayed Ahmad**, External Relations Officer, Mauritanian Intellectual Club for Democracy and Development, Mauritania
- **Mrs. Ala' al-Jibouri**, Iraqi Peoples' Cultural Forum, Iraq

*Representatives of these countries will submit a three page paper summarizing legislation related to political parties, trade/labour unions and NGO's*

## **13:00 – 15:00      Lunch Break, Hotel**

## **15:00 – 17:00      Fifth Session**

### **The National Coalitions for Freedom of Association Initiative– Achievements and Challenges**

*Session moderated by: **Mr. Hafez Abu Saada**, General Secretary, Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR)*

#### **Panellists:**

- **Mrs. Ubab Murad**, Project Manager, FNF-EU co-financed project on Freedom of Association in the Arab World: **"General Overview"**
- **Dr. Ali Dabbas**, Legislations Commissioner, National Centre for Human Rights – NCHR: **"Towards a National Coalition for FOA in Jordan"**
- **Dr. Hayyan Haidar**, Lebanon, **"Towards a National Coalition for FOA in Lebanon"**

## **19:00      Transfer from hotel for a joint dinner at the "Nile Maxime"**

Participants are kindly requested to gather at the hotel lobby no later than 19:00!



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**Third Day: 12.02.2010**

**VENUE: SHEPHEARD HOTEL, CAIRO**

**9:00 – 10:30**      **Sixth Session**

**Quo Vadis? A Plan of Action for the Arab Council for Freedom of Association**  
(Session moderated by: Dr. Azmi Shuaibi)

**Panellists:**

- **Mrs. Fifi Kallab**, head of local NGO Byblos Ecologia, Beirut – Lebanon
- **Mrs. Sawsan Zakzak**, Syrian Women's League, Damascus – Syria
- **Mrs. Nadia Ait Zai**, Centre d'Information et de Documentation sur les Droits de l'Enfant et de la Femme, Algeria
- **Dr. Iyad Barghouti**, President, Ramallah Centre for Human Rights, Ramallah - Palestine

**10:30 – 11:00**      **Coffee break**

**11:00 – 12:30**      **Working groups: strategies and approaches**  
**6 working groups:**

1. Strengthening dialogue between governments and CSOs on FOA  
Facilitator: H.E. Ali Khashan, Ramallah - Palestine
2. Promoting the codes of conduct nationally and regionally  
Facilitator: Mr. Danny Haddad, Lebanese Transparency Association, Beirut – Lebanon
3. Strengthening local, regional and international cooperation  
Facilitator: Dr. Azmi al-Shuaibi, Ramallah, Palestine
4. Drafting a cooperation proposal between the ACFA and LAS  
Facilitator: Mr. Farouq al-Amad, Civil Society Commission, Amman - Jordan
5. Drafting a lobbying and advocacy plan for ACFA  
Facilitator: Mrs. Mervat Rishmawi
6. Strategies to strengthen FOA in countries under transition  
Facilitator: Mrs. Amal Yazaji, Syrian Women's League, Damascus – Syria

**12:30 – 13:30**      **Presentation of results by facilitators of each working group**

**13:30 – 14:00**      **Concluding Remarks**

- **Mr. Ralf Erbel**, Resident Representative in Jordan and for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty
- **Mrs. Ubab Murad**, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF), Project Manager, FNF-EU co-financed project on Freedom of Association in the Arab World

**14:00**      **Concluding Lunch at the hotel**

**Departure of participants as of 15:00**



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## Partners

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 <p>The Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity</p>	<p><u>Lebanon – Beirut Office (Headquarter)</u> Tel : +961 1 385040/1/2 Fax : +961 1 385042 P.O Box 116-2431 Beirut – Lebanon <a href="http://www.arabruloflaw.org">www.arabruloflaw.org</a></p>
 <p>Egyptian Organization for Human Rights</p>	<p>Tel.: +2023636811 – 3620467 Fax : 2023621613 8/10 Mathaf El-Manial ST, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Manyal El-Roda, Cairo, Egypt <a href="http://www.eohr.org">www.eohr.org</a></p>
 <p>the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity – AMAN</p>	<p>Tel: 00970 2 2989506 Fax: 00970 2 2974948 <a href="http://www.aman-palestine.org">www.aman-palestine.org</a></p>
 <p>The National Centre for Human Rights</p>	<p>Tel: +962 6 5931256- 5932257 Fax: +962 6 5930072 P.O Box 5503 Amman 11183 Jordan <a href="http://www.nchr.org.jo">www.nchr.org.jo</a></p>