



With the Support
of the EU

Freedom of Association

حرية التجمع



Under the patronage of the
League of Arab States

Under the patronage of His Excellency
Mr. Taher Masri
Arab Commissioner, Civil Society Commission
League of Arab States

Regional Meeting

**Towards an Arab Coalition for Freedom of Association
&
Integrity of CSOs**
October 24th -25th

(Arrival on Oct. 23rd Departure on Oct. 25th or 26th)

Accommodation and meeting venue:
Printania Palace Hotel
Broumana – Lebanon

Day 0

23/10/2009

Arrival of All Participants

**Transportation for all participants shall be provided
Please read the administrative and logistic letter for further details**

Dinner at the hotel

Printania Palace Hotel
Broumana
Beirut – Lebanon
Tel: +961 (4) 862 000
Fax: +961 (4) 862 000
Email: printania@printania.com



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First Day

24/10/2009

9:00 – 9:30am: Welcoming Speeches

- **H.E. Mr. Taher Masri**, Commissioner, Civil Society Commission, League of Arab States
- **Representative of the European Commission's Delegation** in Lebanon **(to be confirmed)**
- **Mr. Ralf Erbel**, Resident Representative in Jordan and for Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF), Jordan
- **Dr. Sassan Assaf**, Secretary General, the Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI), Lebanon

9:30 – 10:00am: Coffee Break

10:00 – 11:30 am: First Session

Session moderated by: **Dr. Azmi al-Shuaibi**, AMAN's Commissioner for Fighting Corruption, Palestine

Discussion around the basic document of the Regional Coalition

- **Mrs. Ubab Murad**, FNF-EU Project Manager:
Summary of the regional EU co-financed project on freedom of association (10 minutes)
- Summary of legislative developments in the Arab World: The experiences of Jordan and Egypt:
 - 1) Dr. Ali al-Dabbas**, Legislations' Commissioner, National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), Jordan (10 minutes)
 - 2) Mr. Hafez Abu Saada**, Chairman, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR), Egypt (10 minutes)

General discussion on the importance of an Arab Coalition and its aims (45 min)

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break



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11:45 – 1:00: Second Session

Reading into the suggested draft by-laws of the coalition

*Session moderated by: **Dr. Sassin Assaf***

Panellists

- **Dr. Muhammad al-Bzour**, Islamic Action Front, Jordan
- **Talal Shokor**, Former Workers Officer at Al Tagamoa Party, Egypt

1:00 – 2:30 Lunch break

2:30 – 3:30 Third Session

Relations with the League of Arab States and similar national, regional, and international initiatives

*Session Moderated by: **Ms. Meena Kadhimi**, Board member and head of media and information section, Bahrain Women Association, Bahrain*

Panellists

- **Dr. Arous Al-Zubair**, University Professor, Algeria
- **Rajab Ma'touk**, Deputy to the Secretary General, International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, Syria

3:30 – 3:45 Coffee Break

4:00 – 6:00 Fourth Session

Discussion of stakeholders' preferences in regards to the

- location of the Coalition's Secretariat / legal location
- official name of the Coalition

Other topics:

- Identification of founding members
- Selection of official representative in official transactions
- Discussion of a plan of action

*Session Moderated by: **Mr. Farouq Al-Amad**, General Coordinator, Arab Civil Society Commission, The League of Arab States.*

Panellists

- **Dr. Mestour Abdelali**, Citizens' Forum, Morocco
- **Essam Shiha**, Member of the High Committee of Al Wafd Party, Egypt

8:00 pm Departure to joint Dinner

Munir Restaurant, Broumana (Participants gather at the hotel lobby @ 8:00 p.m)



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Second Day
25/10/2009

9:00 – 10:30 Fifth Session

Session moderated by **Mr. Hafez Abu Sa'da**, President of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, Egypt

Organizational Structure of the Coalition, its General Assembly and its branches

Panellists

- **Muhammad Mikhlaifi**, Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights (YOHR), Yemen
- **Dr. Hayyan Haydar**, National Unity Forum, Lebanon
- **Discussions**

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 1:30 Sixth Session

Project Evaluation

Session moderated by: **Dr. Sassin Assaf**

Mrs. Ebba Augustin, Political and Social Scientist, Contracted Consultant by FNF to evaluate FoA project and its follow-up

Interventions by:

- **Mr. Ralf Erbel**
- **Mrs. Ubab Murad**

1:30 – 3:00 Lunch Break

3:00 – 3:30 Seventh Session

Formation of a steering committee to prepare for the project's concluding conference in February, 2010, to be held in Cairo

3:30 – 5:00

Meeting of steering committee (a selected number of participants by participants)

- Distribution of tasks for the preparation of the Feb 2010 Cairo Conference
- Setting of date and venue for the convening of the committee

4:00 p.m.

Participants not on the steering committee:

Departure to ABC Mall in Ashrafieh by bus (participants to gather at the hotel's lobby)



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7:15 p.m.: participants to gather at ABC's first floor

7:30 p.m.: bus departure to Sultan Ibrahim Restaurant, Ashrafieh, Beirut

8:00pm Moderated working dinner

Presenting results of the committee meeting

11:00 p.m. departure back to hotel

26/10/2009

- Departure of all participants
Transportation to the airport provided.



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Partners

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