



June 26-28, 2014

Washington, D.C.

Theme:

***After Arab Spring, Middle East Christians Between
Local Violence and International Indifference***

Policy Day: Thursday June 26

Capitol Visitors Center, HVC 201 (*)

Agenda

➤ 9:00 – Opening remarks – President, Coptic Solidarity – Mr. Adel Guindy

➤ **9:15 – Session 1 – Taking Stock: Current Situation and Policy**

Recommendations – Chair: **Dr. Walid Phares** *Co-Sec. General, Transatlantic Legislative Group.*

- **Fr. Henri Boulad**, sj, *Past President CARITAS North-Africa, Middle East*
 - **Hon. Lord David Alton** – *UK House of Lord*
 - **Ambassador Alberto Fernandez**, *Director, Center for Strategic Counter Terrorism Communication, US Department of State*
 - **Ms. Nina Shea**, *Director, Center for Religious Freedom -Hudson*
 - Q&A
- 10:45 – Short Statements by U.S. Legislators:
- Congressman **Frank Wolf** (R-VA)
 - Congressman **Joseph R. Pitts** (R-PA)
 - Senator **Ted Cruz** (R-TX)

 - Congressman **Brad Sherman** (D-CA)

 - Congressman **Robert Aderholt** (R-AL)
 - Congressman **Gus Bilirakis** (R-FL)

 - Congressman **Louie Gohmert** (R-TX)

- 11:45 – **Leadership Awards presentation:**
 - **Hon. Lord David Alton** – *UK House of Lords*
 - Congressman **Chris Smith** (*R-NJ*)
 - **Ms. Nina Shea**, *Director, Center for Religious Freedom -Hudson Institute*
- 12:00 – **Lunch break** (sandwiches served in the room)
- 13:00 – Short Statements by U.S. Legislators
 - Congressman **Dana Rohrabacher** (*R-CA*)
 - Congressman **Trent Franks** (*R-AZ*)

 - Congressman **Steve Stockman** (*R-TX*)
 - Congressman **Paul Cook** (*R-CA*) – *Regret due to time conflict*

 - Congressman **Sean Duffy** (*R-WI*) –*Regret due to time conflict*

 - Hon. **Bob Dechert** – *Member of the Canadian House of Commons*

Special session

- **Dr. Robert P. George**, Chairman, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
- **Mr. Steven Feldstein**, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (DRL)*
- 14:40 – **Session 2 – As Goes Egypt, So Goes the Middle East – Chair: Mr. Alex Shalaby, Member, Coptic Solidarity Exec. Committee**
 - Mr. **Eric Trager**, *Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy*
 - Dr. **Herb London**, *President, London Center for Policy Research*
 - Q&A
- 15:50 – Panel –**Western Indifference to Plight of Religious Minorities** – Chair: **Raymond Ibrahim**, *Author, columnist*
 - Mr. **Michael Coren**, *Columnist, author, Radio and TV host, Canada.*
 - **Mr Raymond Arroyo**, *Anchor, The World Over, EWTN*
 - **Mr. Erick Stakelbeck**, *National Security Analyst, CBN*
 - **Mr. Ryan Mauro**, *National Security Analyst*

– Q&A

17:00 – E N D

Conference: Friday June 27

Key Bridge Marriott Hotel (1401 Lee Highway Arlington, VA 22209)

Agenda

- 9:00 – Session-1- **Voices of Middle East Christian Minorities** – Chair: **Magdi Khalil**, *Writer and analyst; Coptic Solidarity Board Member*
 - **MECHRIC- Affiliated Organizations** (*)
 - **Mr. Joe Baini**, *VP, World Maronite Union*
 - **Dr. Joseph Kassab**, *President, ICAE*
 - **Mr. Loay Mikhael**, *Iraq Assyrian Council*
 - **Mr. John Hajjar**, *Lebanese Melkites*
 - **Mr. Tom Harb**, *MECHRIC*
 - **Dr. Essam Eskander**, *Philosophy professor and political writer*
 - **Ms. Marina Shalabi**, *researcher at WINEP*
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Panel- **Strategies – Internal & International Roles** – Chair **Ann Buwalda**, *Exec Director Jubilee USA*

General (ret.) Robert Scales, *military analyst, news commentator, and author; former commandant of the U.S. Army War College.*

- **Mr. David Schenker**, *Director, Arab Political Program, The Washington Institute for Near East Policies*
- **Dr. Graeme Bannerman**, *President, Bannerman & Associates, former Middle East Policy Staff, Department of State*
- Q&A
- **Prince Gharios of Ghassan Al-Numaan**
- 12:30 Lunch break
- 13:30 **Keynote Speaker: Kathleen Troia (“KT”) McFarland**, *Fox News National Security Analyst, a former Pentagon Spokesperson (1981-84)*
- 14:30 Session: **The Role of NGOs** – Chair **Lindsay Vessey**, *Advocacy Director, CS*
 - **Ms. Katherine Gorka**, *President, Council on Global Security*
 - **Mr. Peter Bhatti**, *Chairman, Intl. Christian Voice (and brother of the slain Pakistani minister)*

- **Mr. Doug Bandow**, *Senior Fellow, Cato Institute*
- **Mr. Mark Ohanian**, *Director of Programs, IOCC*
- **Ms. Sarah Fitch-Roderick**, *Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights.*
- >> **Leadership Award to the name of the late Very Rev. Keith Roderick**
- Q&A

17:00 E N D

(*) *Participating members of MECHRIC:*

- *The World Maronite Union*
- *Syriac National Council of Syria*
- *European Syrian Union*
- *Melkite Catholics*
- *Assyrian American National Federation*
- *Iraqi Christians Advocacy and Empowerment Institute (ICAE)*

Special Dinner

Invited Speakers:

- **Mr. Raymond Stock**, *Author, translator of Naguib Mahfouz novels*
- **Mr. Iyad Jamal Aldin**, *Iraqi intellectual, politician and religious cleric*
- **Mr. Ali Al-Ahmed**, *Director, The Institute of Gulf Affairs*
- **Lord David Alton** – *UK House of Lords*
- **Dr. Walid Phares** *Co-Sec. General, Transatlantic Legislative Group.*