Coptic Solidarity 7th Annual Conference Agenda

Theme: The Future of Egypt’s Religious Minorities: Status of Copts After 2 Revolutions

Day 1 - Policy Day at Reserve Officer Association– June 9, 2016

11:00 AM Welcome – Alex Shalaby- President, Coptic Solidarity

11:10 AM –International Law Panel
Egypt’s Constitution: Can Minorities Achieve Equality as Egyptian Citizens?
Moderator:
Mr. Mark Shalaby – Coptic Solidarity Board Member

Panelists:
Nina Shea- Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute
Ms. Zainab Al-Suwaij- Co-founder & Executive Director, American Islamic Congress
George Sadek- Senior Legal Research Analyst, Law Library of Congress (Invited)

1PM - What is the Future of Egypt’s Minorities? Steps to a Brighter Future
Moderator:
Mr. Dwight Bashir - Co-Director for Policy and Research, US Commission on International Religious Freedom

Panelists:
Ms. Fatima Naoot- Author and Poet
Dr. Sarah Yerkes- Visiting Fellow, Brookings Institute
Fr. Michael Sorial- President, St. Cyril of Alexandria Orthodox Christian Society
Lecturer in Missiology and Church History

2:30PM – Coffee Break

2:45PM Government Panel – Intersection of National Security and Protection of Human Rights
Moderator:
Lindsay Vessey – Director of Development & Advocacy, Coptic Solidarity

Panelists:
Dr. Daniel I. Mark -Commissioner, US Commission on International Religious Freedom
Knox Thames-Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia, US Department of State
Dr. Walid Phares- Co-Secretary General, Transatlantic Parliamentary Group on Counter Terrorism; Provost and Director for International Studies at BAUI University
Rep. Frank Wolf- Distinguished Senior Fellow, 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative

4:00PM – 5:30PM Members of Congress Sharing Remarks

4:15PM – 5:30PM Middle East Christian Committee - The road to recognizing Mideast minorities rights at the UN
Moderator:
Dr. Walid Phares- Co-Secretary General, Transatlantic Parliamentary Group on Counter Terrorism; Provost and Director for International Studies at BAUI University

Panelists:
Mr. Tom Harb- General Secretary MECHRIC and President of American Maronite Union
Mr. Khalid Haidar- Yazidi Voice of Right
Mr. John Hajjar- Executive Member, Melkite Committee
Mr. William Youmaran- President, Assyrian American National Federation
Mr. David William Lazar- Chairman, American Mesopotamian Organization (AMO)

5:30PM – 6:30PM – Cocktails and Silent Auction at Reserve Officer Club Lobby

6:30PM – Banquet Dinner with Key Note Speaker Mr. Naguib Sawiris

Day 2 at Omni Shoreham Hotel - June 10, 2016

8:00AM – 9:00AM – Complimentary Breakfast

9:00 AM – Launch of our new initiative – Maspero Remembrance Day
Presenter:
Dr. Kamal Ibrahim – Coptic Solidarity Board Member

10:00 AM Dr. Lofty Basta presentation on his latest publication

10:30 –Practical Ways to Combat Discrimination
Moderator:
Raymond Ibrahim-author, Public speaker and Middle East and Islam expert

Panelists:
Dr. Eric Trager, Esther K. Wagner Fellow, Washington Institute
Dr. Tom Farr, President, Religious Freedom Institute
Dr. William Weessa, Member Editorial Board of European TV Euronews

Lunch - Provided by Coptic Solidarity
1PM Panel – How the Situation of Copts impacts religious minorities in the entire region

Moderator:
Dr. George Gurguis – Coptic Solidarity Board Member

Panelists:
Dr. Robert Destro- Professor, School of Law, Catholic University
Kirsten Evans- Executive Director, In Defense of Christians
Mr. Doug Bandow- Senior Fellow, Cato Institute

2:30PM – Intersection of Development & Equality

Moderator:
Dr. Graeme Bannerman- Founder, Bannerman Associates: Senior Advisor, United States Institute of Peace; Expert Contributor, Middle East Institute

Panelists:
Ms. Nermien Riad- Founder and President, Coptic Orphans
Ms. Jennifer Cate– Executive Director, Hands Along the Nile

3:45PM – Closing remarks

Mr. Alex Shalaby- President, Coptic Solidarity

Day 3 at Omni Shoreham Hotel - June 11, 2016

On June 11, we will be hosting our annual General Assembly meeting for all Coptic Solidarity members. This meeting will be hosted in the Presidential Boardroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel and will start at 9:00AM. If you plan to attend this meeting, please RSVP so that we can make sufficient arrangements. RSVP to coptadvocacy@copticsolidarity.org