



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