Coptic Solidarity 8th Annual Conference Program

June 15-17, 2017

June 15 - Policy Day - Capitol Hill Visitor Center (Room 201)

9:00AM - 9:20AM Registration
9:20AM - Welcome and introductory remarks - Dr. George Gurguis, MD

9:30AM – 10:45AM Panel: Nexus of terrorism and human rights
- Moderator & Panelist: Mr. Raymond Ibrahim - Author, Public Speaker, and Middle East and Islam Specialist
- Panelist: Dr. Daniel Pipes - President, Middle East Forum
- Panelist: Professor Ryan Mauro - Security Analyst, The Clarion Project
Q & A

10:45AM – 11:30AM – Keynote Speaker - Mr. Jàn Figel’ – European Commission Special Envoy for Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief Outside the EU (by video)

11:30 AM– 12:15 PM – US Senators and Representatives share remarks
- Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
- Rep. Dave Trott (R- MI)
- Rep. French Hill (R-AK)
- Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
- Senator James Lankford (R-OK)
- Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)

12:15PM – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00PM – 2:00 PM Panel - Middle East Religious minorities: hostages of terrorists and regimes
- Moderator: Dr. George Gurguis, MD – President, Coptic Solidarity
- Panelist: Special Envoy Knox Thames - Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, State Department
- Panelist: Commissioner Sandra Jolley - Commissioner for US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
- Panelist: Mr. Dwight Bashir - Director of Research and Policy, US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
2:00PM – 3:00PM Panel: Combatting the Indigenous Culture of Violence and Impunity
- Moderator & Panelist: Ambassador Alberto Fernandez - Vice President, MEMRI
- Panelist: Dr. Sarah Yerkes – Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Panelist: Ms. Nina Shea - JD - Director of Center for Religious Freedom, Hudson Institute

3:00PM – 3:45 PM US Senators and Representatives give remarks
- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)
- Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL)
- Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)

3:45PM - 4:45 PM Panel: Recommendations for US. Government to improve human rights in Egypt
- Moderator & Panelist: Mr. Michael Wahid Hanna, JD - Senior Fellow, Century Foundation
- Panelist: Dr. Robert P. George - McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University; Former Chair of USCIRF
- Panelist: Dr. Eric Trager - Senior Fellow, The Washington Institute

4:45PM – 5:00PM The Copts and Egypt at a Historical Critical Juncture - Special Guest Speaker Dr. Bahy eldin Hassan - General Director, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Master of Ceremonies
- Mrs. Ghada Malek, Rights Activist Canada
- Michael Rizk, Coptic Solidarity Member

June 16th – Day 2 -Marriott Key Bridge Hotel (Georgetown Ballroom)

9:00AM – 10:15 AM Panel: Religious Freedom and the Islamization of the Public Space
- Moderator & Panelist: Mr. Frank Gaffney - Founder & President, Center for Security Policy
- Panelist – Dr. William Weessa - Journalist, member of EuroNews NBC Editorial Board
- Panelist – Dr. Wael Aleji MD, MBPsS

10:15AM – 11:30AM Panel - Future of Civil Society in Egypt
- Moderator & Panelist: Mr. Scott Mastic - Director Middle East & North Africa, International Republican Institute
- Panelist: Mr. Stephen McInerney, Executive Director, POMED
- Panelist: Ms. Elly Page, JD - Legal Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa at the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

Q & A

10:30 AM – 10:40 AM **Update from Middle East Christian Committee (MECHRIC)**
Speaker: Mr. Tom Harb, Secretary General, MECHRIC
Speaker: Medlum Merogi - Canadian Representative, Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council

11:40AM – 12:00 PM Coptic Solidarity Activity Review – **Mrs. Lindsay Griffin**, Director of Development & Advocacy, Coptic Solidarity

**Lunch Break** Noon – 1:00 PM

1:00PM – 2:15PM PM Panel - **Copts’ Struggle for Equal Civil Rights in Absence of Political Representation** (Panel conducted in Arabic and English languages)
-Moderator: Mr. Adel Guindy - Coptic Solidarity Founding President
- Panelist: Dr. Essam Eskander - Professor of philosophy (retired); writer.
- Panelist: Mr. Ebram Maqar - Editor, Good Newspaper, Canada

Q & A

2:15PM – 2:45PM Keynote Speaker - **Mr. Bahey eldin Hassan** - General Director, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM Panel: **At the Roots of Islamist Terrorism** (Panel conducted in Arabic language)
- Moderator & Panelist: Mr. Magdi Khalil - Author, Journalist, Public Speaker, and Middle East and Islam Specialist
- Panelist: Sheikh Eyad Gamal El Deen - prominent Shiite cleric
- Panelist: Mr. Saied Shoeib - Journalist and terrorism expert

**Master of Ceremonies**
- Mrs. Ghada Malek, Rights Activist Canada
- Michael Rizk, Coptic Solidarity Member

**June 16th – Day 2 - Marriott Key Bridge Hotel**
5PM – 6PM – Reception & Silent Auction – Egyptian and Coptic Heritage (Potomac Ballroom Foyer)
6PM – 9 PM - Dinner
- Keynote Speaker: **Ambassador John Bolton** (Potomac Ballroom)
- Coptic Solidarity Leadership Award for 2017 – Accepted by **Ambassador Alberto Fernandez** on behalf of **Mr. Yigal Carmon** - Founding President, MEMRI
June 17th – Day 3 - Marriott Key Bridge Hotel (CS Members only)