



## **Coptic Solidarity 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Program**

**June 15-17, 2017**

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### **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)

Q & A

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

Q & A

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

Q & A

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

*Master of Ceremonies*

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

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## **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**

Q & A

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

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**June 17th – Day 3 - Marriott Key Bridge Hotel (CS Members only)**