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 – END

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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


➢ 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
- >> Leadership Award to the name of the late Very Rev. Keith Roderick
- Q&A

17:00 END

(*) 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)

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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.