Coptic Solidarity Annual Conference 2011

AGENDA

Friday July 8  (Place: The Capitol Visitors Center CVC, Congressional Auditorium)

COPTIC SOLIDARITY POLICY EDUCATION DAY

Key issues:
- Democracy prospects in Egypt; respect of human and minority rights
- Persecution before and after the Arab Spring
- Muslim Brotherhood, Salafists and the Copts
- Need for a special envoy on religious freedom of N.E. religious minorities
- Aid to Egypt

9:30  INTRODUCTION  Adel Guindy
Remarks: Magdi Khalil

09:45  SESSION - I: The Geopolitics of the Copts in Egypt” (A Round Table)
Chair: Dr Walid Phares
- Dr Michael Ledeen, Senior Fellow, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies
- Frank Gaffney, Director Center for Security Policy, Former deputy undersecretary of defense for intelligence
- Professor Essam Abdulla, President, Egyptian Democratic Solidarity:
- Prof. Walid Phares: “Strategic Recommendations”
Congressional address to be expected

12:00  Break

13:00  SESSION - II : Legal, Constitutional and Policy Issues
Chair: Dr Piero Tozzi
- Congressman Christopher Smith
- Tina Ramirez, Director Intl. Affairs, The Becket Fund for Religious Liberties:
- Dr Joseph Grieboski, Chairman, The Institute on Religion & Public Policy:
- Dr Piero Tozzi, Director, Intl. Religious liberties, Alliance Defense Fund: “Islamic Sharia and International Law”

15:00  Break
SESSION - III: The US, the West and Coptic Rights
Chair: Dr Raymond Ibrahim
- Professor Barry Rubin, Director & editor of MERIA:
- Allison Hollabaugh, Senior Staffer of Congressman Chris Smith
- Elizabeth, Hoffman Legislative Assistant of Congressman John Carter: “Drafting HR 440 on a special envoy on religious freedom of N.E. religious Minorities”
- Dr Raymond Ibrahim, Deputy Director MEF: “Western Media and Persecution of Christians”
- Justin Mayer, ICC:

17:00 End

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Saturday July 9 (Place: Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel)

COPTS AFTER JANUARY 25: WHAT NEXT?

Key issues:
- Effective Activism, alliances, media, means
- Coptic Youth; in the Revolt, in Diaspora

SESSION - IV: Building Coptic Coalitions
Chair: Magdi Khalil
- Steven Emerson, Executive director of The Investigative Project on Terrorism:
- Sheikh Sami Khouri, President, World Maronite Union:
- Dr Lotfy Basta, ex Chairman of Cardiology Dpt, USF Florida: “Should We Form Coalitions, and with Whom?”
- Dr. William Weessa, Media Expert: “The position of Egypt’s Media Towards the Copts, After Jan. 25”
- Halim Meawad, CS Secretary: “Coptic Activism Between the Needs and the Means”

SESSION V: The COPTS and Middle East Revolts
Chair: Prof. Walid Phares
- Eblan Farris, Spokesperson, World Council for the Cedars Revolution
- Amir Abbas Fakhravar, Confederation of Iranian Students
- Hmimiche AitMouloud, representative of the Kabyle Provisionary Government
- Farid Ghadri, Syria Reform Party
- Sherkoh Abbas, Syrian Kurdish Council
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- Representative of the Sudan Democracy Coalition

12:00 Break

13:00 SESSION - V: Towards New Coptic community organization
Chair: Caroline Doss
- Steve Messeh, CS Director Grassroots: “Coptic Grassroots movement”
- Mark Morgan, President Coptic Lawyers of America (CLA):
- Marina Eskander, Coptic Activist from Cairo: “Coptic Youth in Egypt before and after Revolution”
- Christina Guirguis (?):
- Caroline Doss, VP CS: “Contacts with U.S. bodies”

15:00 Break
15:15 SESSION - VI: Conference Conclusions: Chair: Adel Guindy

15:45 CS GENERAL ASSY. (Members)
- Adel Guindy: Member’s Report
- Maher Rizkalla, Member EC, CS: “Activism in Canada, results and plans”
- Helmy Guirguis, Member EC, CS: “Activism in EU, results and plans”
- Members’ discussions: Objectives for next year.
- Conclusions

17:30 End