



CONSTITUTIONALISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN TUNISIA: THE ISLAMIST-LED DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION POST ARAB SPRING

A Conference Sponsored by:
The Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, International Council for Middle East Studies (ICMES) &
The Maghreb Center

The Johns Hopkins University
The School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
The Kenney Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW
20036, Washington, DC
March 5th, 2013
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

9:00-9:30 AM: **Breakfast and Registration**

9:30-10:30 AM: **Welcome and introduction:**

Dr. Nejb Ayachi, President, The Maghreb Center, Washington DC

Opening remarks:

Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Executive Director, The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, Washington DC

Mr. Issam Saliba, Secretary, International Council for Middle Eastern Studies, Washington DC

10:30-12:30 PM: **Session 1: The Post revolution political and constitutional transitions**

Moderator: Dr. William Zartman, Professor Emeritus, The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, Washington DC

Overview of the transitional process in Tunisia since the revolution

Ms. Alexis Arieff, Analyst, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, Washington DC

The role of the Ennahda Islamist party and of the Salafi movement in the transition

Dr. Alaya Allani, Professor of History, Manouba University, Tunis

The constitutional drafting process and the challenges to a democratic transition in Tunisia

Dr. Ghazi Gherairi, Law Professor, University of Tunis, Tunis; Secretary General, The International Academy for Constitutional Law (AIDC), Tunis

The economic demands of the Tunisian revolution

Dr. Ahmed El Hamri, Development Economist, Academia; Consultant, The World Bank, Washington DC

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

12:30-1:45 PM: **Lunch**

01:45-3:45 PM: **Session 2: The future of women rights, minority rights and freedom of expression in Tunisia**

Moderator: **Dr. Nejjib Ayachi**, President, The Maghreb Center, Washington DC

Human rights, democratic transition, and the new constitution

Mr. Eric Goldstein, Human Rights Watch, Washington DC

Freedom of the press in the new Tunisia under the Islamist-dominated government

Ms. Naziha Réjiba, Journalist; Human rights activist; 2009 Recipient of the International Press Freedom Award of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Tunis

Islamists and women's rights: the need for vigilance

Dr. Douja Mamelouk, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

3:45pm – 4:00 PM: **Concluding remarks**

Islamist in power and democratic transition: Can Tunisia be considered an example for other Arab Spring countries?

Dr. Nejjib Ayachi, President, The Maghreb Center, Washington DC