



Legal Empowerment:

**A platform for
resilience, innovation
and growth**

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About WANA

The West Asia – North Africa Forum is a regional think tank that facilitates dialogue and builds networks, with a view to forging practical and evidence-based solutions for key development challenges in economic, environmental and social spheres. WANA operates through four pillars: A multi-stakeholder dialogue platform; targeted research towards the development of a regional knowledge base; problem mapping and response strategizing, and the development of inter-regional knowledge networks. Through these processes, WANA plays a unique and strategic role by stimulating inter-disciplinary dialogue and promoting ‘home-grown’ solutions to regional challenges. Rather than a single event, WANA is a process that provides opportunities for partnership, advocacy, capacity building and policy development. The broader goal is to identify and assist in the implementation of an incremental approach towards building a human dignity-focused regional architecture based on cooperative governance, social responsibility and a supranational policy infrastructure that can meet the needs of today and the aspirations of future generations.

About the Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation was established in 1962 as a non-profit philanthropic organization, active both in Japan and abroad. Since the beginning, its efforts to bolster the domestic development of the island nation of Japan have focused largely on the maritime and shipping fields. In addition, as the years have gone by, it has expanded its activities to include such fields as education, social welfare and public health, both within Japan and in more than one hundred countries to date.

The foundation’s fundamental aim is the realization of a peaceful and prosperous global society, in which none need struggle to secure their basic human rights. As it works toward this goal, it is essential on the one hand to respect the different value systems embraced by the world’s many cultures, but on the other to transcend the political, religious, racial and national boundaries that divide the world.

Its methodology, similarly, is founded on a continual effort to grasp the world’s evolving trends and social conditions, and to ascertain the global community’s most urgent needs. Not all problems are created equal. The foundation’s prime concern, therefore, is to grasp the essence of the problems faced by humankind. Then, in order to respond to them flexibly, it selects those that fit its priorities, addressing them in a thorough and detailed manner.

The foundation works to not be blindly influenced by precedent, but rather proactively seeks out alternative solutions to the world’s problems, enacting them expediently.

The Nippon Foundation feels a strong sense of responsibility and mission as it works together with the people of the world in developing its activities. For the sake of humankind and the world in general, it is bringing together the world’s wisdom, and using it to transform society.

Why Legal Empowerment?

The people of the West-Asia North-Africa (WANA) region currently face an unprecedented set of interconnected challenges. These include the transition movements in Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Syria; protracted intra-regional conflict; and near unprecedented refugee flows. In the absence of regional frameworks for responding to shared challenges, these events have aggravated chronic development problems, including water deficits and weak natural energy sources. Recent deterioration in economic growth, investment and employment rates, as well as mounting pressure on public resources such as water, electricity and waste management, have further compounded difficulties. The consequences for social cohesion, equitable resource sharing and human dignity are becoming more apparent. As a result, the people of WANA sit at a complex crossroads of an emerging set of resource and institutional deficits, an unprecedented refugee crisis and fledgling transition processes.

A common thread in each of the abovementioned challenges is that the legal systems of many countries in WANA do not afford equal opportunity and legal protection to large segments of the population, most of whom are poor, minorities, women and other disadvantaged groups. In some situations, laws and institutions impose barriers and biases against the marginalized. In others, low rights awareness, lack of affordable legal services, and inefficient or opaque institutions, mean that justice is inaccessible. Such exclusion from the rule of law is deleterious in and of itself, and also has proven, negative implications for economic growth, livelihoods, social equity and stability.

Between 2005-2008, The High Level Commission on Legal Empowerment for the Poor focused global attention on these facts. What followed was a shift away from 'top down' approaches that aim to strengthen state justice apparatus, and towards strategies that enable the poor and marginalized to use the law to advance their rights and interests, and exercise increased control over their lives. Such efforts have included migrant workers using the powers of association to achieve income security, NGOs assisting poor people to access the courts, and educating parents about birth registration in order to facilitate access to education and health services. Legal empowerment is hence an inter-sectoral strategy that reaches beyond the law to address the causes of poverty, injustice and exclusion. The rationale is that where a population is empowered, entrepreneurialism is encouraged, growth patterns are equitable and inclusive, and cycles of exploitation and rights violations are interrupted, providing the marginalized with both the opportunities and the knowledge they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

While legal empowerment — both as a programmatic approach and a policy tool — has been expanded in many regions, in WANA states the debate has largely lost momentum. It may be that legal empowerment as a foundational element of development and poverty reduction was not convincing for policy-makers, or it may have been overshadowed by more immediate problems such as the Arab Spring, the conflict in Syria and the impacts of global recession. Against this backdrop, the concept of legal empowerment should be examined as a timely and realistic platform for addressing the specific challenges confronting the WANA region. These include fostering equitable economic growth, facilitating responsive political reform, alleviating poverty and promoting conflict resilience. How a legal empowerment agenda might contribute to such goals, and an understanding of the political, institutional and social dynamics required to enable such reforms, is the subject of the 2014 WANA Forum.

A note of thanks from the Executive Director

WANA 2014 would not have been possible without the hard work and generous contributions of our stakeholder community. Our first and principal thanks go to the Nippon Foundation for their five years of financial support. Nippon had the resolve and foresight to take a fledgling idea, and allow it to grow into a thriving knowledge bank and community of practice. All WANA's future achievements ultimately have the Nippon Foundation to credit.

We must also extend our thanks to the Open Society Foundations, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), whose support allowed us to greatly expand civil society participation. Alison Ryan and Martin Clutterbuck (NRC), and Carolyn Graydon (UNDP), deserve our special thanks for spending countless hours on the logistics of facilitating the participation of our colleagues from Palestine. WANA is also indebted to the International Legal Foundation for providing pro-bono training in strategic litigation and legal aid models to 40 of our civil society participants. I would like to extend great thanks to my team at WANA, most of whom are new, but leapt into their roles with enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment. Each of you extended yourself beyond what could have been reasonably expected; each of you should feel ownership over whatever positive outcomes accrue. Mia Benjamin deserves special mention for her exceptional research on the linkages between legal empowerment and the Islamic legal tradition. I also express my gratitude to our honorary director, Dr Ahmad Mango for his level-headedness, strategic advice, inexhaustible support.

Our most special thanks goes to HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal. WANA is what it is because of Prince Hassan's vision, belief in the imperative of human dignity and his commitment to a world fit for future generations. I offer my personal and most sincere thanks for his guidance, confidence and for allowing me to lend his moral compass throughout this process. He is an inspiration to everyone working at the Majlis El Hassan.

Final thanks must extend to all our guests for investing their time, energies and resources to participate in this year's Forum. We look forward to working with you to transform the ideas generated into tangible action for the benefit of the WANA population.

As we set about envisioning this year's Forum, we tried to return to WANA's founding principles: Providing an opportunity for unlikely partners to come together in a 'hats off at the door' setting to frankly discuss our most pressing development problems, unbarred by politics or organizational mandates; an event that was truly interdisciplinary and representative. This year we are welcoming participants from 17 WANA countries – an unprecedented accomplishment. We are also benefiting from a more diverse group of stakeholders including from academia, think tanks, government, civil society, media and youth groups. Women make up more than 50% of our speakers and account for 42% of participants. WANA is also delivering a 2-day training for 40 civil society practitioners in mediation, paralegalism, legal aid, advocacy and strategic litigation. I have no doubt that this training, and the discussions that follow will be productive, thought-provoking, and that our efforts will translate into enhanced access to justice for the people of WANA.

I thank you again for your support and commitment to a more just and inclusive world.

Dr. Erica Harper
Executive Director
West Asia – North Africa Forum

Agenda

DAY 1

9.30-10.15	Welcome address Ms. Alia Al Dalli (Manager UNDP Regional Centre of Cairo, Egypt)	5 min
	Welcome address Dr. Erica Harper (Executive Director WANA Forum, Jordan)	5 min
	Welcome address Mr. Yohei Sasakawa (Chairman Nippon Foundation, Japan and Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar)	5 min

Keynote Address
HRH EI Prince Hassan bin Talal

10.15-11.00 Coffee break

Session 1
The many faces of the disempowered:
Examining the specific challenges of vulnerable and legally marginalized groups
 Chair: Ms. Hauwa Ibrahim (Harvard University, USA)

11.00-12.30	Regional experiences in promoting women's access to justice Ms. Sarah Barakat (Program Officer Oxfam, Lebanon)	15 min
	Promoting the knowledge and rights of migrant workers Ms. Linda Al Kalash (Director of Tamkeen Fields for Aid, Jordan)	15 min
	Promoting children's access to justice Ms. Maha Homsy (Early Childhood Development and Protection Specialist UNICEF, Jordan)	15 min
	Breakout sessions Group 1: Women's access to justice Facilitated by Magda Elsanousi (Chief of Women's Empowerment Section United National Support Mission, Libya) Group 2: Migrant workers Facilitated by Mr. Ibrahim Abu-Shammalah (Deputy Programme Manager / Programme advisor United Nations Development Programme, Palestine) Group 3: Children Facilitated by Ms. Maha Homsy (Early Childhood Development and Protection Specialist UNICEF, Jordan)	45 min

12.30-13.30 Lunch

Session 2

Legal empowerment and justice outcomes: a crisis of access

Chair: Dr. Faustina Pereira (Director, Human Rights and Legal Aid Services BRAC)

13.30-15.00	Legal aid in Jordan: creating a sustainable response Ms. Hadeel Abdel Aziz (Executive Director Justice Centre for Legal Aid, Jordan)	15 min
	Heightening the impact of strategic litigation Mr. Tariq Abdel-al Ali Al-Sayyed (Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Egypt)	15 min
	Paralegal models for legal empowerment Mr. Daniel Sesay (Program Officer Namati, Sierra Leone)	15 min
	The integration of legal clinics in legal education Dr. Nada Abdel-Kadhem (University of Baghdad, Iraq)	15 min
	Breakout sessions Group 1: Legal aid Facilitated by H.E. Dr. Salaheddin Al-Bashir (Chairman Justice Centre for Legal Aid, Jordan) Group 2: Paralegalism and law clinics Facilitated by Dr Zaid Eyadat (University of Jordan, Jordan) Group 3: Strategic litigation Facilitated by Mr. Dawoud Al-Masri (Access to Justice Analyst, United Nations Development Programme, Palestine)	30 min

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

Session 3

From awareness-raising to confidence building

Chair: Mr. Vivek Maru (Chief Executive Officer Namati, USA)

15.30-16.30	Promoting confidence in judicial processes Mr. Ibrahim Abu-Shammalah (Deputy Programme Manager/Programme advisor United Nations Development Programme, Palestine)	15 min
	Piloting of new methodologies for enhancing confidence: integrating CBT into awareness raising sessions Dr. Lina Darras (Legal Aid Psychosocial Support Officer Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development, Jordan) and Ms. Enas Dirgham (Project Manager Family Guidance and Awareness Centre, Jordan)	15 min
	Working with customary justice systems to promote access to justice Ms. Mona Abed Al Aziz (Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine)	15 min
	The supply side of confidence building: examining entry points for judicial institutional reform Judge Somoud Damiri (Chief Prosecutor of Personal Status, The Upper Council of Sharia Courts, Palestine)	15 min

16.30-17.00	Day 1 Wrap Up Vivek Maru (Chief Executive Officer Namati, USA)	30 mins
19.30	Gala Dinner	
Keynote address Inclusion of justice in the post-2015 development goals Dr. Faustina Pereira (Director, Human Rights and Legal Aid Services BRAC)		

DAY 2

Session 4 **International lessons on legal empowerment for the region** Chair: Dr. Erica Harper (Executive Director WANA, Jordan)

9.30-11.00	What is legal empowerment? An introduction Prof. Stephen Golub (University of California, USA)	15 min
	What does legal empowerment look like? Stories and evidence from around the world Mr. Vivek Maru (Namati, USA)	15 min
	Examining the correlations between legal empowerment and Islamic jurisprudence Ms. Hauwa Ibrahim (University of Harvard, USA)	15 min
	Legal empowerment: the Taiwan perspective Dr. Mignonette Man-jung Chan (Out-of-the-Box Consultancy, Taiwan)	15 min
	Discussion	30 min

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

Session 5 **Legal empowerment as a vehicle for promoting sustainable transition and conflict resilience** Chair: Dr. Hany El Banna (General Director, Islamic Relief, Jordan)

11.30-13.00	Practical approaches to accessing justice during transition: the role of legal aid in refugee contexts and beyond Ms. Samar Muhareb (Director Arab Renaissance For Democracy And Development, Jordan) with Ms. Louise Julin (Arab Renaissance For Democracy And Development, Jordan)	15 min
	The role of legal empowerment in transitional justice Mr. Lars Waldorf (University of York, UK)	15 min

	Gender equality in transitional governments: a regional perspective Magda Elsanousi (Chief of Women's Empowerment Section United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Libya)	15 min
	Discussion	45 min

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Session 6
Legal empowerment as a platform for growth, innovation and resilience
Chair: Lotta Teale (Global Legal Empowerment, Open Society Justice Initiative, UK)

14.00-15.30	The informal economy Mr. Hasan Barghouthi (Executive Director Democracy and Workers' Rights Center, Palestine)	15 min
	Accountability and equitable access to essential services Mr. Masood UI Mulk (CEO Sarhad Rural Support Programme, Pakistan)	15 min
	Programming for legal identity recognition for legal empowerment Mr. Khalid Hussain (Chief Executive, Council of Minorities, Bangladesh)	15 min
	Breakout sessions Group 1: Informality Facilitated by Mr. Hasan Barghouti (Founder Democracy and Workers' Rights Center, Palestine) Group 2: Accountability Facilitated by Ms. Samar Muhareb (Director Arab Renaissance For Democracy And Development, Jordan) Group 3: Identity Facilitated by Mr. Ibrahim Abu-Shammalah (Deputy Programme Manager/Programme advisor United Nations Development Programme, Palestine)	45 min

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

Closing Session
Building a stronger commitment to legal empowerment in the WANA region

16.00-17.00	Closing statements by: 1. Dr Zaid Eyadat (University of Jordan, Jordan) 2. Prof. Stephen Golub (University of California, USA) 3. Dr. Erica Harper (Executive Director WANA, Jordan) 4. HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal	
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اليوم الاول

10:15-9:30	كلمة الترحيب السيدة عليا الدالي (مديرة المركز الاقليمي لبرنامج الامم المتحدة الانماني في القاهرة، مصر)	5 دقائق
	كلمة الترحيب الدكتورة إريكا هاربر (المديرة التنفيذية لمنندى غرب اسيا و شمال أفريقيا، الاردن)	5 دقائق
	كلمة الترحيب (السيد يوهي ساساكاوا (رئيس مؤسسة نيبون، اليابان و المبعوث الخاص لدى الحكومة اليابانية من اجل المصالحة الوطنية في مينامار)	5 دقائق

الكلمة الرئيسية

صاحب السمو الملكي الامير الحسن بن طلال حفظه الله

11:00-10:15 استراحة قهوة

الجلسة الاولى

الوجوه المتعددة لضعف التمكين

فحص التحديات المحددة للمجموعات الضعيفة و المهمشة قانونيا
يرأس الجلسة: هاوا ابراهيم (جامعة هارفارد الولايات المتحدة)

12:30-11:00	الخبرات الاقليمية في تعزيز وصول المرأة للعدالة السيدة سارة بركات (مديرة برامج اوكسفام ، لبنان)	15 دقيقة
	تعزيز المعرفة وحقوق العمالة المهاجرة السيدة ليندا الكلش (الراصد الدائم للمشاورات، الأردن)	15 دقيقة
	تعزيز وصول الأطفال للعدالة السيدة مها حمصي (المختصة في التطور و الحماية خلال الطفولة المبكرة، يونيسف الأردن)	15 دقيقة
	جلسات جانبية المجموعة الأولى: وصول النساء للعدالة تيسر الجلسة من قبل ماجدة السنوسي (رئيسة قسم تمكين النساء في بعثة الأمم المتحدة للدعم ، ليبيا) المجموعة الثانية: العمالة الوافدة	45 دقيقة

تيسر الجلسة من قبل السيد ابراهيم أبو شمالة (نائب مدير البرنامج مستشار برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، فلسطين)	المجموعة الثالثة: الأطفال
تيسر الجلسة من قبل السيدة مها حمصي (المختصة في التطور و الحماية خلال الطفولة المبكرة، يونيسف الأردن)	

12.30-13.30 الغداء

الجلسة الثانية	
مخرجات التمكين القانوني و العدالة: أزمة الوصول	
يرأس الجلسة: الدكتور فاوستينا بيريرا (المدير، حقوق الانسان و خدمات المساعدة القانونية BRAC)	
13.30-15.00	15 دقيقة المساعدة القانونية في الأردن: استحداث استجابة مستدامة السيدة هديل عبد العزيز (المدير التنفيذي لمركز عدالة للمساعدة القانونية، الأردن)
	15 دقيقة تسليط الضوء على أثر التقاضي الاستراتيجي السيد طارق العلي السيد (المبادرة المصرية للحقوق الشخصية، مصر)
	15 دقيقة النماذج المتوازية للتمكين القانوني السيد دانيال سيساي (موظف برنامج ناماتي، سيراليون)
	15 دقيقة ادخال العيادات القانونية الى التعليم القانوني الدكتورة ندى عبد الكاظم (جامعة بغداد، العراق)
	15 دقيقة جلسات جانبية المجموعة الأولى: المساعدة القانونية تيسر من قبل معالي الدكتور صلاح الدين البشير (رئيس مركز عدالة للمساعدة القانونية، الأردن) – سيتم التأكيد لاحقا
	15 دقيقة المجموعة الثانية: الاختصاص في تعليم القانون و العيادات القانونية تيسر الجلسة من قبل الدكتور زيد عيادات (الجامعة الأردنية، الأردن) المجموعة الثالثة: التقاضي الاستراتيجي تيسر الجلسة من قبل السيد داوود المصري (محلل الوصول الى العدالة، برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، فلسطين)

15.00-15.30 استراحة قهوة

الجلسة الثالثة	
من رفع الوعي الى بناء الثقة	
يرأس الجلسة: السيد فيفيك مارو (رئيس القسم التنفيذي في ناماتي، الولايات الأمريكية المتحدة)	
15.30-16.30	15 دقيقة تعزيز الثقة بالعمليات القضائية السيد ابراهيم أبو شمالة (نائب رئيس البرنامج مستشار البرنامج في برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، فلسطين)
	15 دقيقة ريادة المنهجيات الجديدة لتعزيز الثقة: ادخال CBT الى جلسات رفع الوعي الدكتورة لينا دراس (موظفة الدعم النفسي في المساعدة القانونية، النهضة العربية للديمقراطية و التنمية، الأردن) و

	السيدة ايناس ضرغام (مديرة مشروع في مركز الارشاد و الوعي الأسري، الأردن)	
	العمل مع أنظمة العدالة العرفية لتعزيز الوصول الى العدالة السيدة منى عبد العزيز (المجلس النرويجي للاجئين، فلسطين)	15 دقيقة
	جانب التزويد لبناء الثقة: تفحص نقاط الدخول للإصلاح القضائي المؤسسي القاضي صمود ضميري (المدعي العام في الأحوال الشخصية، المجلس الأعلى للمحاكم الشرعية، فلسطين)	15 دقيقة
16.30-17.00	اليوم الأول: المراجعة فيفيك مارو (الرئيس التنفيذي في ناماتي، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية)	30 دقيقة
19.30		حفل عشاء

الكلمة الرئيسية
اشمال العدالة في أهداف التنمية لما بعد 2015
الدكتور فاستينا بيريرا (مدير خدمات حقوق الانسان و المساعدة القانونية BRAC)

اليوم الثاني

الجلسة الرابعة
الدروس الدولية حول التمكين القانوني في الاقليم
ترأس الجلسة: الدكتورة اريكا هاربر (الرئيس التنفيذي لمنندى غرب آسيا و شمال افريقيا)

	ما هو التمكين القانوني؟ مقدمة السيد ستيفن غلوب (جامعة كاليفورنيا، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية)	15 دقيقة
	كيف يبدو شكل التمكين القانوني؟ قصص وبراهين من حول العالم السيد فيفك مارو (الرئيس التنفيذي في ناماتي، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية)	15 دقيقة
9.30-11.00	دراسة وتفحص للعلاقة المترابطة بين التمكين القانوني و الفقه الاسلامي السيدة هاوا ابراهيم (جامعة هاربرد، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية)	15 دقيقة
	التمكين القانوني: وجهة النظر التايوانية الدكتور ميغنون مان تشنغ، (استشارة مبتكرة غير نمطية)، تايوان	15 دقيقة
	نقاش	30 دقيقة

11.00-11.30 استراحة قهوة

الجلسة الخامسة
التمكين القانوني كآلية لتعزيز الانتقال المستدام و مرونة الصراع
الرئيس الدكتور هاني البنا (المدير العام، هيئة الاغاثة الاسلامية، الأردن)

11.30-13.00	النهج العملية للوصول الى العدالة خلال الانتقال: دور المساعدة القانونية في سياق اللاجئين و خارجها	15 دقيقة
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	السيدة سمر محارب (مديرة النهضة العربية للديمقراطية و التنمية، الأردن) مع السيدة لويز جولين (النهضة العربية للديمقراطية و التنمية، الأردن)	
	دور التمكين القانوني في العدالة الانتقالية السيد لارس والدورف (جامعة يورك، المملكة المتحدة)	15 دقيقة
	المساواة في النوع الاجتماعي في الحكومات الانتقالية: منظور اقليمي ماجدة السنوسي (رئيسة قسم تمكين النساء، بعثة الأمم المتحدة للدعم، ليبيا)	15 دقيقة
	موضوع رابع محتمل تفاصيل المتحدث الرابع المحتمل	15 دقيقة
	نقاش	45 دقيقة

13.00-14.00 الغداء

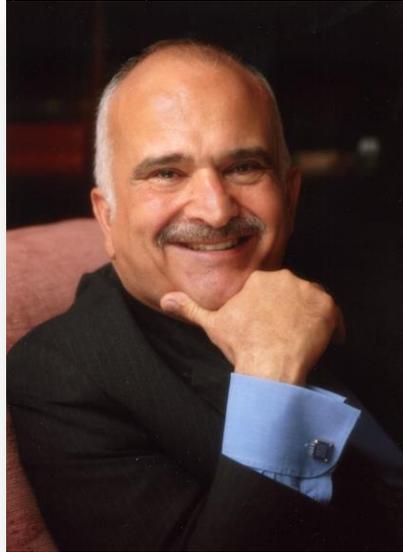
<p>الجلسة السادسة التمكين القانوني كمنبر للنمو و التجديد و المرونة الرئيس: لوتا تايل (مدير مشروع في التمكين القانوني العالمي، المجتمع المفتوح، مبادرة العدالة، المملكة المتحدة)</p>		
14.00-15.30	الاقتصاد غير الرسمي السيد حسن البرغوثي (المدير التنفيذي لمركز الديمقراطية و حقوق العمال، فلسطين)	15 دقيقة
	المساءلة و الوصول المتساوي للخدمات الأساسية السيد مسعود الملك (الرئيس التنفيذي لسرهد برنامج الدعم الريفي، باكستان)	15 دقيقة
	برمجة ادراك الهوية القانونية للتمكين القانوني السيد خالد حسين (الرئيس التنفيذي، مجلس الأقليات، بنغلادش)	15 دقيقة
	جلسات جانبية المجموعة الأولى: غير الرسمية تيسر من قبل السيد حسن برغوثي (مؤسس، مركز الديمقراطية و حقوق العمال، فلسطين) المجموعة الثانية: المساءلة تيسر من قبل السيدة سمر محارب (مدير النهضة العربية للديمقراطية و التنمية، الأردن) المجموعة الثالثة: الهوية تيسر من قبل السيد ابراهيم أبو شمالة (نائب رئيس البرنامج \ مستشار البرنامج في برنامج الأمم المتحدة الانمائي، فلسطين)	45 دقيقة

15.30-16.00 استراحة قهوة

الجلسة الختامية

بناء التزام أقوى للتمكين القانوني في اقليم غرب آسيا و شمال افريقيا

	الكلمات الختامية من قبل:	
16.00-17.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. الدكتور زيد عيادات (الجامعة الأردنية، الأردن)2. السيد ستيفن جلوب (جامعة كاليفورنيا، الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية)3. الدكتورة اريكا هاربر (الرئيس التنفيذي لمنتدى غرب آسيا و شمال افريقيا، الأردن)4. صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير الحسن بن طلال حفظه الله	



HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal

A pluralist, believing in consensus and respect for the other, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal believes in societies in which all peoples can live, work and function in freedom and with dignity. This goal has been the moving force behind his interest and involvement in humanitarian and interfaith issues, with particular stress on the human dimension of conflicts.

His Royal Highness has initiated, founded and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees. He co-chaired the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) 1983, and is currently Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, the Royal Scientific Society and

President and Patron of the Arab Thought Forum. HRH is the Chairman of the West Asia – North Africa (WANA) which was established in 2009. HRH is a Trustee of the UK-based Coexistence Trust and is President of the Foundation for Inter-religious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue and President Emeritus of the World Conference of *Religions for Peace*. His Royal Highness is a Board Member of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), served as a Commissioner on Legal Empowerment for the Poor and is a Patron of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. From 2013 to 2014, His Royal Highness was the Chairman of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB).

Prince El Hassan is the author of nine books.



Yohei Sasakawa

Mr. Sasakawa is Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, one of Asia's largest private foundations, and a renowned philanthropist. In this position, he has initiated projects and worked on a global scale in such areas as social development, peace building, public health, education at all levels, poverty alleviation, agricultural development and the empowerment of those with disabilities.

His work is underpinned by a conviction that many of the world's most intractable problems can be best addressed by empowering the people who are most affected by them. For this reason, he spends nearly a third of each year in the field, visiting these people and learning directly from them what can be done to enable them to overcome hardship.

From a young age, he has been deeply moved by the hardship faced around the world by people affected by leprosy, leading him to devote his life to eliminating the disease and the social injustice it engenders. This work has led him to positions as the World Health Organization's Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and Japan's Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of People Affected by Leprosy.

Most recently, his decades of effort on behalf of the people of Myanmar have led the Japanese Foreign Ministry to appoint him as Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar.

Speaker biographies



Alia Al-Dalli

Manager of UN Development Programme's Regional Centre in Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Alia Al-Dalli has long-term experience with the international NGO sector as well as government and intergovernmental agencies. Before joining UNDP in 2002 as Coordinator of the SURF/Beirut, Ms. Al-Dalli worked for the European private sector as a Business Development Manager where she was responsible for putting together consortia of firms and experts and prepared project proposals for funding from major donors in the natural resources sector for implementation in developing countries in MENA, Africa, Eastern Europe and central Asia. She was Governance & Human Development Coordinator of the Iraq Trust Fund at UNDP (2005-2008) and was responsible for the production of the Iraq Living Conditions Survey (2004), Iraq Unmet Basic Needs Index (2007) was lead in the development of the Local Area Development Project (2007), and the first international conference on water in Iraq (2005) among others. She was UNDP Deputy Resident Representative/ UNDP Morocco (2008-2012). Ms. Al-Dalli, holds an MSc in Agricultural Economics from Wye College, University of London and a BSc in Psychology from the University of Brunel, United Kingdom. Ms Al-Dalli was selected as Woman of the Year alongside seven other women in 2012, in Rabat, Morocco. She was also awarded the honorary citizenship of the town of Chefchaouen, Morocco in 2012.

Daniel Sesay

Programme Officer at Namati, Sierra Leone

Daniel served as a lead paralegal for Timap for Justice in Sierra Leone. He consults on community-based paralegal programmes, case management and strategic oversight.

Daniel has spoken at a number of conferences on the topic of customary law and community-based paralegalism.



Enas Dourgham

Programme Manager at Family Guidance and Awareness Center, Jordan

Enas has over ten years of experience as a counselor, program director, head trainer, and talent manager, working with various international organisations on public health related issues in Jordan. Previously, Enas was responsible for the preparation and implementation of programs, courses, and workshops, specializing in family, childhood and youth and adolescent issues.



Erica Harper

Executive Director of the West-Asia North-Africa Forum, Jordan

Dr. Erica Harper holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Economics), Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Doctor of Philosophy (International Law). She has worked for various international and nongovernment organisations, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Switzerland, the Philippines and Timor Leste), Community and Family Services International (the Philippines), the UN Development Programme (Switzerland) and the International Development Law Organization (Indonesia and Geneva). Before joining the Majlis el Hassan, she occupied the position of Senior Rule of Law Advisor for the International Development Law Organization in Geneva (2007-2012) where she ran a portfolio of legal empowerment projects spanning 13 countries including in the areas of customary justice, community land titling, and child protection. During this period she was also seconded to UNHCR as Chair of the Global Protection Cluster Taskforce on Natural Disasters. Dr Harper is the author of four books on international legal issues, including protection in natural disaster situations, housing, land and property rights, and customary justice systems. She has also authored numerous journal articles and a series of edited volumes on rule of law programming in post-conflict and post-disaster environments. Her areas of specialization are post-conflict rule of law strengthening, customary justice systems, legal empowerment and Islamic legal systems. Dr Harper's working languages are English and French; she also has a basic knowledge of Arabic.

Faustina Pereira

Director Human Rights & Legal Aid Services at BRAC, Bangladesh

Dr. Faustina Pereira joined BRAC in September 2007 as the Director of the Human Rights and Legal Aid Services programme. She is a lawyer, a human rights activist and an author. She obtained her doctorate in International Human Rights Law from the University of Notre Dame, USA, and completed her post-doctorate at the National University of Ireland, Galway, as a Bank of Ireland Fellow. In 2006 she was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



Speech: Inclusion of Justice in the Post 2015 Development Goals

With its emphasis on social justice and equity, addressing the legal empowerment of the poor could be central in tackling the structural causes of poverty and exclusion. As the process to formulate the post 2015 MDG development agenda is now in full swing, it is a good time to reflect on the challenges to the legal empowerment of the poor as critical to the rule of law in development. Indeed, in the recent Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, Member States recognized "that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing" and "that this interrelationship should be considered in the post-2015 international development agenda".



Hadeel Abdel Aziz

Executive Director at Justice Center for Legal Aid, Jordan

Hadeel Abdel Aziz is a founding member and the Executive Director of the Jordanian NGO Justice Center for Legal Aid (JCLA). Hadeel has two BA degrees in Management and Law; she is also a certified judicial administrator. Hadeel has over 16 years of practical experience mainly focused in judicial reform, court automation and access to justice projects. Over the last four years her organization has been specifically dedicated towards supporting access to justice through establishing a national network of legal aid clinics and advocating for a state-funded legal aid system in Jordan.

Hasan Barghouthi

Executive Director of Democracy and Workers' Rights Center, Palestine

Hasan Barghouthi is a Palestinian trade unionist, well-known for his many years of struggles in the field of social and workers' rights. In 1979, he established the Hotel Workers' Trade Union in Jerusalem, and in 1993, he was one of the founders of the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center, a Palestinian non-governmental organization dedicated to defending workers' rights and promoting social justice and equity. His contribution was instrumental in the establishment of the regional federation of the IFWEA in the Arab countries in 2004, of which he was elected general secretary. Mr. Barghouthi has an MA in political science and is currently writing his PhD thesis on the social impact of the relationship between political parties and trade unions.



Hauwa Ibrahim

Harvard University, United States

Hauwa Ibrahim is a Nigerian human rights lawyer who won the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize in 2005. Hauwa has been a Visiting Professor at Saint Louis University School of Law and Stonehill College, a World Fellow at Yale University, a Radcliffe fellow, and a fellow at both the Human Rights Programmeme and the Islamic Legal Studies Programmeme at Harvard University. While a Radcliffe fellow, Ibrahim adopted an interdisciplinary approach to delve into the theoretical foundations of Sharia law and examined how they have influenced legal practice, which has, in turn, affected the human rights of women in West Africa. Her research led to the book Practicing Shariah Law: Seven Strategies for Achieving Justice in Shariah Courts (2013).



Ibrahim Abu-Shammalah

Deputy Programme Manager/Programme advisor of the UN Development Programme Rule of Law & Access to Justice Programme, Palestine

Mr. Abu-Shammalah holds an LL.M. in International Comparative Constitutional Law ICCL and has over two decades of extensive experience in rule of law, legal reform and good governance with Palestinian, international and UN agencies. Ibrahim has taught constitutional law and political systems at Palestinian Universities. Additionally, he has worked as an Attorney at Law across Palestine.

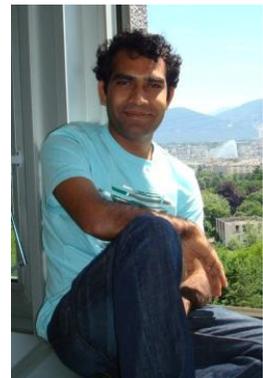
Presentation: Promoting confidence in judicial processes

Justice services should be managed in an effective, transparent and impartial fashion so that citizens feel its impact. The judiciary should be part of a system of mutual checks and balances designed to prevent the abuse of power. To this end, the Judiciary must keep its independence as an institution, and judges must also be able to exercise their professional responsibilities without being subjected to improper influence. The effective functioning of the court system in terms of quality, fairness and reasonability is an integral part of a judicial system that is based on the rule of law. On the other hand, and in order to achieve optimal access to justice, confidence must be entrusted among the public in the ability of the judiciary to carry out its functions in an independent and impartial way. Neither the judiciary as an institution nor the judges as individuals can perform their duties efficiently in the case that erosion of confidence persists. Given the limited access to justice in our region is largely attributed to lack of confidence in the judicial proceedings, new strategies should be envisaged to ensure restoration of the linkages between supply and demand sides of the rule of law equation by improving the citizen's perception about the judicial system.

Khalid Hussain

Chief Executive, Council of Minorities

Mr. Hussain was born in Bangladesh and grew up in Geneva Camp in the country's capital city, Dhaka. Since his youth, he has been an advocate for the rights of the camp-dwelling Urdu-speaking community of Bangladesh and other minority communities. He is Founder & Chief Executive of the Council of Minorities and President of the Association of Urdu Speaking Bangladeshi.



Presentation: Citizens without benefits

Bangladesh's current population is estimated to be around 160 million, of which 10 percent are ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Urdu-speaking 'Biharis', a linguistic minority group, is one of the marginalized communities in Bangladesh living without the benefits of citizenship rights. In a 2008 decision, the High Court of Bangladesh recognized Urdu-speaking Biharis as Bangladeshi citizens. However, even with this recognition, camp-dwelling Biharis remain unable to realize the core content of their citizenship rights due to discrimination, including refusal by the government to process applications for identity documents and related services based on identity and/or 'camp' address. The Council of Minorities (CoM) and Namati are jointly implementing a community-based paralegal program in the Urdu-speaking camp communities. The paralegals educate and mobilize camp residents to apply for needed documents and then assist clients throughout their cases, negotiating when necessary to try to overcome discrimination. In addition, the paralegals carefully track each case to build empirical information on current government practice. This data is critical to the push for better implementation of the law and large-scale change for the community throughout Bangladesh.

Lars Waldorf

University of York, UK

Lars Waldorf is a senior lecturer in international human rights law at the Centre for Applied Human Rights and York Law School. Previously, he practiced as a civil rights and poverty lawyer in the US for nine years. After an interlude as a journalist reporting on genocide trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, he ran Human Rights Watch's field office in Rwanda in 2002 and 2003. In the past few years, he has worked as a consultant for the International Center for Transitional Justice, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Front Line Defenders, the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation, and the Austrian Development Agency.



Presentation: the role of legal empowerment in transitional justice

Transitional justice has been critiqued for ignoring gross socio-economic violations (like corruption) and for privileging state-centric mechanisms (like trials and truth commissions). Rather than trying to refashion transitional justice, it may be more productive to link it with other initiatives. This presentation will sketch how legal empowerment might supplement transitional justice



Lina Sadi Al Darras

Psycho-Social Support Office at ARDD-Legal Aid, Jordan

Lina Sadi Al Darras has a PhD in Psychological Counseling and Behavior Modification. For many years she worked as a psychological counselor and behavior modification consultant in Saudi Arabia. She has also worked as Assistant Professor at the King Saud University's Psychology Department and was a training consultant for Special Needs Centers.

Linda Al-Kalash

Director of Tamkeen Fields for Aid, Jordan

Tamkeen is working with migrant workers in Jordan through advocacy, legal aid and strategic litigation. Tamkeen provides assistance for victims of human trafficking and plays a role to empower this group, and build the capacity of legal practitioners through training sessions. In June 2010, Linda was one of nine individuals named a 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report Hero by the US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. In December 2011, Tamkeen was selected as one of five recipients of the French Republic Human Rights Prize for her role in protecting the rights of female migrant workers. Linda studied at the University of Cairo.





Magda El-Sanousi

Chief of Women's Empowerment Section at the United National Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Libya.

Ms. Elsanousi leads on developing strategies to enhance the role of women in the transitional period in Libya focusing mainly on the drafting of the Constitution and National Dialogue. Prior to joining UNSMIL, she was Oxfam GB Country Director in Lebanon until June 2013, and was awarded the "Arab Woman of the Year" by Takreem in 2012. Ms. Elsanousi is a graduate of Ahfad University for Women in Sudan. With a scholarship from the World Bank, she completed a MA in Gender and Development from the IDS at Sussex University in the UK and another MA in Rural Development, also from Sussex University in the UK.

Maha Homs

Chief Protection Specialist at UNICEF, Jordan

Ms. Maha Homs has worked for UNICEF for almost 25 years. Her experience concentrates on policy planning and programming in the areas of early childhood development (ECD) and protection. Throughout this time she has rendered support to the development of policy and planning documents for ECD; design and implementation of nationwide parenting programmes; and evidence-based advocacy for the adoption of ECD strategic policy options. Ms. Homs has a vast experience in building child protection system and has been instrumental in the development of the juvenile law and in devising and implementing a nationwide campaign to reduce violence in schools. She is leading the UNICEF child protection response to the Syrian crisis. Ms. Homs obtained her MA in Child Rights from Fribourg University, Switzerland and is the author of several articles on this subject.



Masood UI Mulk

Chief Executive Officer of the Sarhad Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

Masood UI Mulk is the Chief Executive Officer of Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), a Civil Society Organization working in the turbulent western border regions of Pakistan. SRSP has distinguished itself by the scale and quality of its development and humanitarian programme during his decade-long custodianship of the organization. Masood also managed the operations of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Chitral for thirteen years. He is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow and has been a distinguished speaker at Cambridge University, UN forums and international conferences. He has Masters in Business Administration and Rural Development.

Presentation: Accountability and equitable access to essential services

In traditional hierarchical societies, civil society organisations face challenges in promoting access to services for marginalized and vulnerable groups. Masood discusses this challenge and how rights and justice become part of this work in SRSP, an organization implementing multi-sectoral community driven programme reaching over twenty-five thousand community organizations in turbulent western border regions of Pakistan.

Mignonne Man-jung Chan

CEO of Out-of-the-Box Consultancy, Taiwan

Dr. Mignonne Man-jung Chan has extensive experience in academia, government, and business. She is the founder and CEO of Out-of-the-Box Consultancy, and sits on many boards, including Independent Non-Executive Director of Standard Chartered Bank (Taiwan), Executive Board Member of Association of Emerging Market Studies, Board Member of Prospect Foundation, Association of Strategic Environmental Resources, and Sino-U.S. Economic & Cultural Association. Dr. Chan currently also serves as Advisor to the Chinese Taipei APEC Study Center, Associate Professor of the International Doctorate on Asian Studies (IDAS), International Master Program on International Studies (IMPIS), and MBA program at the National Chengchi University. She also coaches negotiation at the Institute of Diplomacy & International Affairs, and National Academy of Civil Service.



Dr. Chan previously served as Senior Adviser to President Ma at the National Security Council of ROC 2008-2010, Director (Research) at the International Secretariat of Asia-Pacific Cooperation Council (APEC) 1996~1999, Director General of International Secretariat of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) 1999~2001, and Executive Director of Chinese Taipei APEC Study Center 2011~2012; Expert on APEC Individual Action Plans, and Chief of Staff at the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). Dr. Chan obtained her PhD in Political Economy from Boston University, US.



Mona Abed Al Aziz

Legal Advisor for the Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine

Mona Abed Al-Aziz has been working as a Legal Advisor for the Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Program for the Norwegian Refugee Council, in Gaza Strip, Palestine, since 2009. This involves providing legal advice and representation on housing, land and property (HLP) issues for NRC's beneficiaries especially the legal empowerment of women including refugees and internally displaced persons and other people affected by displacement. She also works as a trainer for legal practitioners, local communities and local and international NGOs on legal issues specifically related to housing, land and property issues. Previously, she worked as a Lawyer at the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights in the Legal Unit and worked as an activist and lawyer at the

Palestinian International Campaign to End Gaza Siege 2007-2008.

Nada Hussein Abdalkazem

Baghdad University, Iraq

Dr. Nada Hussein Abdalkazem teaches at the College of Law at Baghdad University. Dr. Hussein has PhD in private/civil law.



Presentation: The integration of legal clinics in legal education

The integration of clinical legal education into legal education is the most practical means of assisting law students to acquire the legal skills and general principles of practice, such as drafting and brief development. With such skills, students are also able to assist vulnerable and indigent groups to better understand their rights and litigate before the courts.



Samar Muhareb

Director of Arab Renaissance in Democracy and Development (ARDD) Legal Aid, Jordan.

Ms. Muhareb is the Director of ARDD-Legal Aid, the first Arab rights-based social justice organization promoting development in Jordan and across the Middle East and North Africa region. Their aim is to empower refugees and immigrants. Since conflict began in neighboring Syria, the group has stepped up their efforts to meet the demands of the humanitarian crisis. Before this, Muhareb was the founder and director of Legal Aid in Jordan, providing services for those in need since 2008. She was awarded the Takreem Arab Achievement Award for being a Young Entrepreneur in 2011. She's a women's rights advocate, and is pursuing her MA in Human Rights and Human Development; she

has a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Jordan.

Sarah Barakat

Programme Manager for the Gender Equality Hub, Oxfam Great Britain, Lebanon

Sarah Barakat joined Oxfam's Gender Equality Hub in 2011 where she manages social and legal protection as well as political participation programmes in the MENA region.

Prior to working with Oxfam, Sarah was part of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Arab World Regional Office, where she was in charge of sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes in 14 countries of the Arab region.



Presentation: Women's Access to Justice – Change is happening!

In Lebanon, Jordan, and North Iraq, limited legal knowledge and awareness, unaffordable legal services, customary laws and social norms, and gender bias in institutions all constitute barriers in women's quest for justice. Since 2011, Oxfam's Women's Access to Justice Project has been addressing these challenges and, despite numerous obstacles, has been able to achieve considerable success.



Somoud Damiri

Chief Prosecutor of Personal Status, The Upper Council of Sharia Courts, Palestine

Born in the city of Tulkarem, Judge Somoud Damiri graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Najah National University and has an MA in Contemporary Islamic Studies from the University of Jerusalem. Previously, she was legal adviser to the Palestinian Interior Ministry and the Palestinian Ministry of Justice. Judge Somoud Damiri received an award for integrity and transparency of the public sector in Palestine in 2010, and has represented Palestine in several conferences and workshops internationally relating to personal status and the mediation in family disputes.

Presentation: The empowerment of women within the legitimate Palestinian judiciary

Stephen Golub

Adjunct Professor, Berkeley Law School and Central European University Public Policy Department, United States

Prof. Stephen Golub is an international development scholar and consultant with more than 25 years of experience in 40 countries, including Jordan, Palestine and Yemen and the WANA region. He has consulted and conducted research for numerous leading multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations, policy institutes, universities and nongovernmental organizations, such as the UK Department for International Development, the World Bank and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Prof. Golub teaches courses on International Development and Legal Empowerment at Berkeley Law School and the Central



European University in Budapest.

Presentation: What is legal empowerment? An introduction

In this presentation, Prof. Golub will describe what legal empowerment is by offering a definition and then summarizing various approaches to the field. Such approaches include but are by no means limited to: legal aid for the poor, working through administrative agencies to establish land tenure for the disadvantaged, increasing the status and power of women, developing paralegals to provide various kinds of assistance, public interest law, improving traditional justice systems and strengthening health and education service delivery. The presentation will also clarify the concept by addressing what legal empowerment is not, such as law and institutional reform efforts that may be worthwhile but that do not specifically aim to benefit the poor and disadvantaged. The talk also will clarify the state of the field today and its potential to integrate law and development in innovative ways that benefit societies as a whole, as well as their disadvantaged populations.



Tariq Ali Abdel Aal

Lawyer before the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Cassation; Administrator for the Organization of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Egypt

Tariq Ali Abdel Aal joined the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) in 2001. EIPR works to strengthen and protect basic rights and freedoms in Egypt, through research, advocacy, and litigation in the fields of civil liberties, economic and social justice, democracy and political rights, and criminal justice. Previously, he worked for the Legal Aid Society of Human Rights, the Egyptian Institution for the Advancement of Childhood, and Arab Center for the Independence of the Judiciary. Tariq is the author of several books and papers and regularly presents at conferences and training courses.

Presentation: Heightening the impact of strategic litigation

Tariq will talk about strategic litigation as a means of legal empowerment by examining the importance of strategic litigation, as a filter or change agent for the struggle against the arbitrariness of authoritarian or major institutions. He will look specifically at how to choose the subject, its importance, how to prepare the case and will explain the business model currently used at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights.



Vivek Maru

Chief Executive Officer of Namati, USA

Vivek Maru is CEO of Namati, which is building a movement of grassroots legal advocates around the world. He previously served as senior counsel in the Justice Reform Group of the World Bank and, before that, co-founded the Sierra Leonean organization Timap for Justice. He invites all colleagues to join the global legal empowerment network at www.namati.org.

Presentation: What does legal empowerment look like? Stories and evidence from around the world

Vivek will illustrate what we mean by legal empowerment through concrete examples, from Nubians in Kenya claiming their citizenship rights, to communities in Mozambique working to ensure effective delivery of healthcare services, to fisherpeople and farmers in India seeking greater enforcement of environmental law. He will support these examples with broader findings on the field as a whole, drawn from a review of evidence on legal empowerment that published this year by Namati.

Zaid Eyadat

University of Jordan, Jordan

Dr. Zaid Eyadat is a Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Jordan and Dean of the School of International Studies and Political Science at the University of Jordan, with over ten years of experience in researching the democratization of the Middle East within the framework of game theory. His expertise lies in Middle East politics, with his current research focusing on human rights, conflict management and resolution, and Islamic thought. He has contributed extensively to the analysis and advancement of Middle East politics within a comparative and international framework. Some of his recent works include "Minorities in the Arab World: Faults and Faults Lines"; "Islamic Feminism: Roots, Development, and Policies"; and "The Calculus of Consensus: an Alternative Path to Arab Democracy". Currently, he is finalizing a project on Islamic theorizing on politics and the state, the theory of ethics in Islam, as well as developing an explanatory model for the Arab



revolutions.

Delegate biographies

Abdel Nasser Djabi

University of Algiers, Algeria

Prof. Djabi is Professor of Political Sociology at the University of Algiers.

Abdul Samad Kamawi

Senior Rule of Law Adviser at US Institute of Peace (USIP), Afghanistan

Abdul Samad Kamawi is a Senior Rule of Law Adviser at USIP in Afghanistan. He has spearheaded efforts to assist the government of Afghanistan in the drafting of laws on state justice sector relations with non-state dispute resolution mechanisms; he also oversaw USIP's work on traditional justice and assisted in the development of a constitutional law centre at Kabul University. He has a BA in Sharia and Law from Al-Azhar University.

Ahmad Amara

PhD candidate, New York University, US

Ahmad Amara is a Palestinian human rights lawyer and PhD candidate in history and Hebrew and Judaic studies at New York University. Before pursuing his PhD, Amara served for three years as a clinical instructor and global advocacy fellow with Harvard Law School's Human Rights Programme. His work at Harvard focused on social, cultural, and economic rights in the Middle East and on the Law of Occupation.

Ahmad Mango

Advisor to HRH Prince Hassan Bin Talal since 1970.

Dr. Mango has been Advisor to HRH Prince Hassan Bin Talal since 1970. Previously, he was a member of the Higher Planning Committee, Ministry of Planning (1975-1995). He was a Member of the Board of Directors of The Central Bank of Jordan (1989-1992), and Member of The Board of Directors of The Amman Stock Exchange (1983-1989). He is currently a Member of the Board of Directors of a number of Jordanian companies, including Societe

Generale De Banque Jordanie. He holds a PhD in Economics from The University of St. Andrews, Scotland and a BSc (Economics) from The London School of Economics and Political Science.

Aline Karam

Legal Field Officer for the Norwegian Refugee Council, Lebanon

Ms. Karum works as a legal field officer at the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Project, with a focus on the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon at the Norwegian Refugee Council's Tyre office in Lebanon.

H.E. Amira Al-Fadil

Minister of Social Welfare and Security, Sudan

H.E. Ms Amira Al-Fadil is Minister of Social Welfare and Security in Sudan. In this capacity, she has regularly called for recognition that social responsibility is one of the key principles deeply rooted in Islamic faith and cultural heritage. She has also overseen initiatives developed by the Ministry to address the effects of economic measures geared toward helping poor families in a sustainable and equitable way.

Ana Uzelac

Policy & Advocacy Manager at CARE International, Palestine

Ana Uzelac is an experienced research, policy and advocacy professional with broad thematic and geographic expertise. She has conducted advocacy in humanitarian emergencies, as well as on topics of post-conflict recovery, peace building and transitional justice. Her geographic expertise spans the Middle East, East Africa, former Soviet Union and the Balkans. She holds a degree in Political Science from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Asma Moh'd Abu-Lehia

Legal Clinic Coordinator at the Aisha Association for Women and Child Protection, Palestine

Asma holds a BA in Law from Al Azhar University, Gaza and has extensive experience in legal empowerment, gender justice and women's rights issues. She has worked for more than 8 years with several Palestinian CSOs including national human rights organizations such as: PCHR and Al-Mizan. Asma currently works for the Aisha Association for Women and Child Protection as a coordinator of the legal clinic. Additionally, she is an advocate and a member of Palestinian Bar Association PBA, practicing law at civil and Sharia jurisdictions.

Asma Khader

President of Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan & Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, Jordan

Asma Khader is a lawyer and human rights activist. She is former Minister of Culture & Government Spokesperson for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and former President of the Jordanian Women's Union. She is a member of the Arab Lawyer's Union, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists, and the Advisory Committee of the Women's Division of Human Rights Watch. She recently served on the UN International Commission of Inquiry investigating human rights violations in Libya.

Azza Suleiman

Director of the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance, Egypt

Azza Suleiman has been the director of the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA) since its founding in 1995 and is a prominent campaigner in the field of human rights in general, and women's rights in particular.

Bahia Zirken

MENA Representative of Avocats Sans Frontiers, Tunisia

Bahia, is based in Morocco as the MENA Representative of Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF), a Belgian NGO, geared towards enhancing access to justice for the most vulnerable groups. Before joining ASF, Bahia worked as a human rights lawyer in Brussels.

Bassam Karajeh

Legal Unit Director Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, Palestine

Bassam N. Karajeh, an advocate and Human Rights activist from Ramallah, has been a lawyer since 1998. He holds a MA in Human Rights, and directs the Legal Unit at Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center (JLAC) since 2011. Mr. Karajeh started working at JLAC in 1999 and collaborates with different social and human rights organizations in Ramallah.

Boules Habashy

Funding Supervisor at the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, Egypt

Boules Habashy obtained a BSc degree from Cairo University in 2007. Boules also obtained the John C. Maxwell Leadership diploma from Equip International and the ToT Diploma at the Regional IT institute. Prior to becoming a funding supervisor, Boules was Head of the Projects and Agreements office, responsible for projects including housing, economic empowerment and development, environment, and children at risk. Boules is engaged in several volunteer activities supporting medical and other humanitarian convoys.

Brigette Chelebian

Justice Without Frontiers, Lebanon

Ms. Chelebian is a Lebanese attorney at law and Director and Founder of Justice Without Frontiers organisation, based in Lebanon. She conducted and managed several programmes related to women and children's access to justice, and coordinated several projects related to the International Criminal

Justice. She is appointed as a legal expert and consultant by UNFPA, UNDP, ABA, GFA consulting group, and other civil organizations and commercial companies. She is a member of the steering committee of the coalition for the International Criminal Court, and a member in the family committee and children and juveniles committee at the Beirut Bar Association.

Carla Boukheir

Head of Amman Office of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Jordan

Carla Boukheir is the Head of the Middle East and North Africa Office at Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. She has 10 years of multi-disciplinary professional experience working with local and international organizations in development, humanitarian and human rights fields.

Dawoud Al-Masri

Access to Justice Analyst with the UN Development Programme, Palestine

Dawoud Al-masri has worked with international humanitarian and development organizations, including the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross, for over a decade. He has extensive professional experience on issues related to the rule of law, human rights, humanitarian aid, project management and civil society empowerment. He is currently working as Access to Justice Analyst with the UNDP, contributing to the implementation of a multi-year programme on supporting rule of law and access to justice for the Palestinian people in Gaza. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine, and a Masters' of Science in Environment from the University of New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

Deema Bibi

Chief Executive Officer of INJAZ, Jordan

Deema Bibi is the CEO of INJAZ, a leading Jordanian youth organization and a member of Junior Achievement Worldwide. Deema sits on the board of various groups including The Development and Employment Fund and is the Vice-Chair of the

Arab Foundations Forum. She has also received many awards, most recently winning the International Alliance for Women World of Difference Award in 2012.

Duku Ezbon Draga

Executive Director Kajo Keji Human Rights Community Awareness Program

Duku Ezbon Draga is the Executive Director of Kajo-Keji Human Rights Community Awareness Program (KHRCAP a community-based organization established in 2009 to respond to the needs of vulnerable and marginalized South-Sudanese communities.

Elna Søndergaard

Senior Legal Advisor at DIGNITY-Danish Institute against Torture

Eva Abu Halaweh

Executive Director of Mizan, Jordan

Eva Abu Halaweh is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Mizan Law Group for Human Rights in Jordan. She is also an eminent human rights activist and was a winner of the International Women of Courage Award in 2011. Prior to the establishment of Mizan, Eva ran a private practice and worked as a legal advisor at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She holds a Master's degree in Diplomacy and BA Law degree.

Fidaa Haddad

Programme Manager for International Union for Conservation of Nature, Jordan

Ms. Fidaa Haddan is a Programme Manager for the Dryland, Livelihoods and Gender Programme at the International Union for Conservation of Nature in Jordan.

Gary Vachicouras

Director of Studies and International Relations at the Royal Institute for Inter-faith Studies, Jordan

Gary Vachicouras is committed to a culture of learning, education, and innovative research and

dialogue between governments, the private sector and civil society in order to promote human security and a culture of peace. He was educated at New York University, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Brookline, MA), Université de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and the University of Athens where he earned his Doctor of Theology. He has represented the Orthodox Diocese of Switzerland (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople) at many ecumenical and interreligious consultations between Orthodoxy and Islam as well as with Judaism organized by the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Chambésy-Geneva). His previous positions have included: chargé de cours and coordinator for academic and administrative affairs at the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Orthodox Theology at the Orthodox Centre; Executive Director of the Foundation for Interreligious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue (Geneva); and Scientific Secretary and Administrative Manager at the Foundation Hardt for the Study of Classical Antiquity (Vandoeuvres - Geneva); and Academic Affairs Associate at the Rectorate of the University of Geneva. He is currently Director of Studies and International Relations at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (Amman).

Ghadanfar Kamanji

Lawyer with ILF-West Bank, Palestine

Ghadanfar Kamanji previously worked as a legal consultant to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and assisted the Law Faculty at Birzeit University in publishing legal books. Kamanji graduated with a BA in law from the Arab American University in Jenin and has taken additional course work on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Ghassan Al Qishawi

Palestinian Bar Association, Palestine

Ghassan has considerable experience in legal empowerment and the promotion of access to justice for vulnerable groups. He holds a BA in Law from Al Azhar University, Gaza and has been practicing law at Palestinian civil courts since 2006.

He is currently a member of the Palestinian Bar Association where he works as a legal aid lawyer at the legal clinic. Ghassan has also previously worked for several NGOs in Palestine in the field of legal protection and human rights such as GCMHP and Al Dameer.

Hala Ahed Deeb

Legal Consultant at Jordanian Women's Union, Jordan

Ms. Hala Ahed Deeb works as a legal consultant at the Jordanian Women's union, a local non-governmental organisation dedicated to the abolition of gender discrimination and the promotion of human rights. She provides legal advice to women. She is a member of various committees including The Regional Coalition to Amend Personal Status Law (Family Law); The Expert Committee Drafting Election Law; The Committee Drafting the National Strategy for Elderly; and The Women Committee of Jordanian Bar Association.

Hany El-Banna

Executive Director of Islamic Relief, Jordan

Dr. Hany El-Banna has founded several charities including The Humanitarian Forum, Islamic Relief and the Muslim Charities Forum. He is also a board member of the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty. He originally trained in medicine, both in Egypt and the UK. He has been awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and the Ibn Khaldun Award for Excellence in Promoting Understanding between Global Cultures and Faiths.

Hasan Al Momani

Director of the Regional Centre on Conflict Prevention at the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, Jordan

Hasan Al Momani specializes in conflict resolution, particularly international negotiations. He has held various senior academic positions at the Faculty of International Studies at the University of Jordan, including Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Coordinator of the Conflict Management Programme and Chairman of the Department for

International Studies. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Keele University (UK).

Hesham Alghannam

**Head of the Geostrategic Risk Division
Muadinoon Co, Saudi Arabia**

Eng. Hesham Alghannam is the Head of the Geostrategic Risk Division at Muadinoon Co in Riyadh and Senior Research Associate at the Falak Institute for Middle East Policy. He is also a Fulbright scholar and the cofounder of Alghannam Group.

Ibrahim Barghouthi

Executive Director of Musawa, Palestine

Ibrahim is a Palestinian lawyer who has been practicing since 1982. He is currently the Executive Director of the Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession, Musawa in Ramallah. He is also a member of the Legislation Advisory Committee, Ministry of Justice, the Anti-Corruption Arab Network, and the Technical Committee for preparing the Palestinian Report of Anti-Corruption. Ibrahim is also the founder and spokesperson of the Board of Directors of the Arab Lawyers Committee. He has previously defended Palestinian detainees of the first Intifada. Academically, he has worked on the Code of Ethics for lawyers and published a study about the Dissolve of the PA and its effect on the judiciary.

Issam Younis

**Director of Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights,
Palestine**

Issam Younis is the Director of the Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Gaza's Al-Azhar University and is also the Vice Commissioner General of the Palestinian Human Rights National Institution - the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (PICHR). In 2008, he was awarded the Weimar Human Rights Award.

Khalid Alwafi

**Director of the Lawyers for Human Rights
Association, Libya**

Mr. Khalid Alwafi is a lawyer from Misrata, Libya, and the Director of the Lawyers for Human Rights Association. He is also a founding member of the Human Rights Association for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. During the Revolution, Mr. Alwafi began working with families of missing and displaced persons and advising victims of international crimes about legal recourse through the Libyan court system. Mr. Alwafi is a counselor for the Fidh in Libya, member of the Syndicate of Lawyers (Misrata Branch) and the Arabian Organization of Young Lawyers. His areas of legal expertise include international human rights law, international criminal law, and the law of international arbitration.

Lana Zananiri

Project Officer at ARDD-Legal Aid, Jordan

Lotta Teale

**Project Manager for Global Legal Empowerment
with the Open Society Justice Initiative, UK**

Ms. Teale manages a series of pilot legal empowerment projects, leads a team providing technical advice on designing and implementing high quality community-based justice services, and works to integrate legal empowerment into broader development agendas and bring together a global network of practitioners. Particular areas of specialization include Ukraine, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Egypt, gender, Roma, and the scale-up of services nationwide. Prior to coming to the Open Society Foundations, Teale worked in Sierra Leone as gender-based violence legal programme manager with the International Rescue Committee, as a consultant with the International Centre for Transitional Justice focusing on access to justice for women, and as special assistant to the registrar at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Teale is qualified as a barrister in England specializing in family law.

Louise Julin

Project Officer at ARDD-Legal Aid, Jordan

Louise graduated from the University of Exeter with a BA (Hons) Politics and Arabic. She spent one year studying at the University of Damascus in Syria. She is currently working as a Project Officer at ARDD-Legal Aid, managing the Syrian Lawyer's Initiative, a capacity-building programme for Syrian refugee lawyers in Jordan.

Maher Bushra

Executive Director at Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development, Egypt

Maher Bushra is the Executive Director and founder of the Better Life Association for Comprehensive Development, which works to improve the quality of life for the poor in upper Egypt through the right to organize and local development programmes based on rights and providing services to improve education, health, and housing of the poor. The Association works with groups such as small farmers, peasants without land, the fishermen, quarry workers, children and women. The Association has received several international awards including: the French Republic Award for Human Rights in 2011, World Habitat Award 2010, as well as the Dubai International Award. Maher also has been awarded the Social Entrepreneurship Award and he is an International Ashoka Organization Fellow.

Mahmoud Al-Sabki

Serious Work Association to Promote and Protect Human Rights, Egypt

Mirvat Haddad

Project Officer for Oxfam's Women's Access to Justice in MENA Region, Lebanon

Mirvat Haddad is the Project Officer for the Women's Access to Justice in MENA region, working with Oxfam Great Britain's Gender Hub in Beirut, Lebanon since November 2013. Mirvat is a specialist of the Cultural and Heritage Project Management for Sustainable Development in the MENA region. She is interested in raising

knowledge and experiences in gender programme management for sustainable development in the MENA region. She previously worked with the British Council's Syria office as the Regional Coordinator for The Creativity Regional Projects in MENA with special interest in cross regional projects with MED and the UK. Mirvat has experience in several fields such as: management consultation and trainings design, cultural project management in MENA region. Mirvat finished a Master Course in "World Heritage at Work" Turin, Italy.

Mohamed Naji Alaho

Director of HOOD, Yemen

Mohamed Naji Alaho is a lawyer and the Director of HOOD Human Rights Organization in Yemen.

Mohammad Nazzal

Head of the Wall and Settlement Portfolio at Palestinian Authority, Palestine

Muhammad Idreest Hayat

Project Coordinator Sarhad Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

Muhammad is the Project Coordinator for the Legal Empowerment Project at SRSP in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Munther Dajani

Al-Quds University, Jerusalem

Prof. Dr. Munther Dajani is Dean at Al Quds Bard Honors College and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem and Director of the Issam Sartawi Centre for the Advancement of Peace and Democracy. He is co-founder of the *Wasatiyya* (Moderation) movement that is committed to finding alternatives to extremism on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Nabila Hamza

President of Foundation for the Future, Jordan

Mrs. Nabila Hamza is the President of the Foundation for the Future (FFF), an independent, international non-profit organization. She is

dedicated to the organization's goals of supporting civil society initiatives in their efforts to promote democracy and human rights in the West Asia-North Africa region. Prior to her work at FFF, she served as the Executive Director of the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research and held various prominent positions in the public sector in Tunisia and worked as a consultant for UNDP, UNFPA, the European Commission, and ESCWA.

Nadia Tariq Shah

Programme Manager Sarhad Rural Support Programme, Pakistan

Nadia is the Programme Manager of Social Sectors, Gender and Legal Empowerment at SRSP in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Nicole Taylor

Programme Director at the International Legal Foundation, United States

Ms. Taylor has worked for the ILF for over two years, first as Deputy Programme Director and now as Programme director. She is an experienced criminal defence lawyer, who joined the ILF after practicing criminal defence law in the Philadelphia area for over eight years, as an associate attorney at the law firm of El-Shabazz + Harris, LLC and as a staff attorney at the Public Defender Association of Philadelphia. She also spent a summer interning with the Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons in Cape Town, South Africa where she researched prison reform post-apartheid. Nicole is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and Spelman College.

Nour Emam

Jordan Bar Association, Jordan

Nour Emam is an associate at the Arab Law Firm in Amman. She has been elected as a member of the Jordan Bar Association council for two terms 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 and she is the only woman at the council. She chairs the Jordan Bar Association's freedom and human rights committee, and the professional union freedom and human rights committee. She is a prominent human rights researcher and advocate.

Outeiba Merhebi

Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering, Lebanon

Ms. Outeiba Merhebi is an attorney at law. She is practicing civil and family law and advises women who are suffering from domestic violence to their rights and represents them before court. She is a general coordinator of a women's rights program at the Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering. The programme aims to promote women's rights and legal rights through training and awareness meetings with Lebanese society. She has a MA in Human Rights and International Law from the University of Minnesota Law School. In 2009 she was selected by the Institute of International Education (IIE) for a one-year professional development programme in the United States. She has participated in many international programs related to human rights, rule of law, governance and women, peace and security.

Pamela Kovacs

Legal Specialist at the International Development Law Organization, Italy

Pamela is the Access to Justice Specialist at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). She provides management and specialist input into numerous IDLO research projects, including those relating to access to justice for children, and freedom of religion or belief. Prior to joining IDLO, Pam led various projects aimed at the promotion of access to justice and poverty law reform in her home country of Canada. Pamela holds a MA in International Law and Human Rights from the United Nations mandated University for Peace, a Bachelor of Laws, and a Bachelor of Commerce. Pam has written on issues relating to access to justice, transitional justice, children and youth representation, and the operation of pro bono law clinics.

Rabha Fathy

Head of the Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers, Egypt

Rabha Fathy is Head of the Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers.

Raffoul Rofa

**Executive Director of Society of St.Yves,
Palestine**

Raffoul Rofa is the Executive Director of the Society of Saint Ives of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, a Catholic human rights centre for legal resources and development. He was admitted to the Israeli Bar in 2003 and a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 2007. Raffoul also holds a MA in Law from the University of London.

Raji Sourani

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Palestine

Raji is a 2013 Laureate of the Right Livelihood Award for his unwavering dedication for human rights in Palestine, and recipient of many other honors including the Robert F Kennedy Memorial for Human Rights and the France Republic Human Rights Award. Raji is a prominent figure of the Palestinian civil society and the Arab regional human rights community in his capacity as the President of the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR), and internationally as a member of the executive committee of the International Association for Democratic Lawyers and the International Commission for Jurists.

Rinad Musleh

**Legal Advisor at the Norwegian Refugee
Council, Palestine**

Rinad Musleh is a Legal Advisor within the ICLA Programme at the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Roshdi Zaid

**Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Justice,
Palestinian Authority, Palestine**

Sadaf Dar

**Programme Officer at the Rural Support
Programmes Network, Pakistan**

Ms. Sadaf Dar is a Pakistani national and a women's rights activist. She currently holds the position of Gender and Development Office at Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), Islamabad, Pakistan. RSPN is a network of 11 Rural Support

programmes (RSPs) working on rural development with core philosophy of Social mobilization. At RSPN, Sadaf looks after the gender and development section and closely works with social mobilisation, social sectors and other special projects to ensure gender mainstreaming in their programmes and projects. Sadaf also closely links with the other 11 RSPs to give them technical support in gender trainings, ToTs and gender reviews. She also coordinates RSP's Gender Resource Group (GRG). She is also member of Gender and Energy Network (GEN).

Saeed Abdullah

**Lawyer and Coordinator at the Palestinian
Commission for Refugees, Palestine**

Saeed works as a lawyer and coordinator for the Palestinian Commission for Refugees that supports the legal empowerment of vulnerable groups of refugees. He also works for the Association of Sacher as an educator and legal adviser on the Personal Status Law Branch inheritance project. Saeed has previously observed local elections and is a regular volunteer on human rights projects such as the Independent Commission for Human Rights. He has been practicing law since 2006.

Salah Jaber

**Project Office, Justice Center for Legal Aid,
Jordan**

H.E. Salaheddin al-Bashir

**Senior Partner at International Business Legal
Associates & Chairman of the Board of Justice
Centre for Legal Aid, Jordan**

Educated at McGill University, H.E. Al-Bashir has served as a Senator in the Jordanian parliament, as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice, Minister of State for Government Performance, and Minister of Industry and Trade.

Salama Omar Bsaiso

**Vice Chairman of the Palestinian Bar
Association, Palestine**

Aside from being the vice-Chairman of the Palestinian Bar Association, Mr. Bsaiso is also the Assistant Secretary General of The Arab Lawyers Union, General Secretary of Awn Network Access to Justice, board member of The High Judicial Institute, board member of Commissioners of The Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), and a member of the Arab Society for Intellectual property.

Samar Al-Shahwan

Senior Legal Consultant with ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Jordan

Ms. Al Shahwan is currently a senior legal consultant with ABA Rule of Law Initiative, working on programmes to increase public legal awareness of rights and responsibilities and to enhance gender equality and women's rights in Jordan. She has over 20 years of experience working as the director of training and projects at the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) and in various capacities with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD). Her areas of expertise include women's economic and political empowerment, and community engagement. She is a graduate of the University of Jordan and McGill University.

Sameer Abu Latif

Legal Officer at the Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine

Sameer Abu Latif works as a Legal Officer at the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Project for NRC.

Samira Zaitoon

Legal Network for Arab Women, Jordan

Shawan Jabarin

General Director of Al Haq, Palestine

Shawan Jabarin is the General Director of Al Haq, an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation. He is also an Advisory Committee Member for the Middle East and North Africa Division at Human Rights Watch, Vice-

President of the International Federation for Human Rights and Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists.

Shereen Dbouk

Project Manager at the Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine

Shereen Dbouk works as a Project Manager at the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Project for NRC.

Simona Marinescu

Director of UN Development Programme Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development, Istanbul

Before taking on her current role, Dr. Marinescu served as the UNDP Iraq Senior Economist and Programme Director for the multi-agency Private Sector Development Programme. Prior to her employment with UNDP, she was USAID Economic Governance Sector Lead for Social Safety Net and Pension Reforms in Iraq and served as World Bank Social Protection Expert in the Human Development Unit for the Middle-East North Africa Region. Dr. Marinescu also served as Minister Secretary of State for Labour and Social Protection in Romania. In December 2000, she was elected Senator and President of the Labour and Social Affairs Committee serving for a full term in the Romanian Senate (2000-2004) and authoring a series of important legislations including the new Labour Code, the Minimum Guaranteed Income, the Law for Combating Domestic Violence as well as the Law for Social Integration of Disadvantaged Youth.

Sozan Muhareb

Programme Manager at ARDD-Legal, Jordan

Sozan Muhareb is the co-founder of ARDD-Legal Aid and works as the Programme Manager for the Legal Aid Unit. She is also the Liaison Officer for UNHCR partnership.

Suhad Sukkary

Project Officer at Justice Center for Legal Aid, Jordan

Suliman Ibrahim

University of Benghazi, Libya

Suliman Ibrahim is an Assistant Professor at Benghazi University Law Faculty, and the Director of the Benghazi University Centre for Law and Society Studies. He holds an LLB (Hons), LLM (Benghazi University), and PhD in Law (Lancaster University). He previously worked as an Assistant Professor of private law at Bahrain University Law Faculty, and the Managing Editor of its Legal Studies Journal.

Tariq Ramadan Hasanein

Community Development Centre, Egypt

Tatsuya Tanami

Nippon Foundation, Japan

Tatsuya Tanami has worked for Japanese not-for-profit organizations since 1973, in the area of academic and intellectual exchange. He worked for the International House of Japan as Programme Director until 1999, when he moved to The Nippon Foundation, one of the largest grant-making organizations in Asia. Today, Mr. Tanami directs international Programmes in such areas as public health, human resources development, and cultural and intellectual exchange.

Wafa Naim

Coordinator of Gender Justice Council, Palestine

Wafa Naim has worked for over 12 years with International and National Organizations, including the UNRWA and the Union of Health Work Committees, Life Center. He has professional experience on issues related to rule of law, human rights, Democracy and Workers Rights Center, Women Justice, projects Coordinate and support the civil community rights. He currently working as Coordinator of the Gender Justice Council, Palestine, working to support the human rights of vulnerable groups in Gaza Strip areas in cooperation with grassroots organizations and universities to reach community justice. He has a Bachelor of Laws, Al Fateh University, Libya, and

Professional Practicing License of advocacy, Palestine.

Walid Salem

Director of Panorama, Palestine

Dr. Walid Salem was born in East Jerusalem in 1957. He is a Member in the Palestinian National Council of the PLO, teaching democracy and human rights at Al Quds University. He is a writer of thirty books and training manuals, and tens of research papers on democracy, civil society, citizenship, refugees, and Jerusalem. He is also a consultant, evaluator, and trainer for several public and private bodies. He trained more than thirty thousand Palestinians on these issues since 1990, and, since 1993, he is the Director of The Centre for Democracy and Community Development, East Jerusalem. He is the Coordinator of Middle East Citizen Assembly as regional network of experts and activists on citizenship issues that include participants from 19 countries from the region since 2004. He has lectured at several international conferences and seminars about democracy, Jerusalem, refugees, and development in Palestine.

Yaser Almananma

Legal Officer at the Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine

Yaser Almananma works as a Legal Officer at the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Project for NRC.

Yoshiaki Sasaki

Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Yoshiaki Sasaki has worked with The Sasakawa Peace Foundation and its partner organizations for over 13 years. Before joining this group, he was a professor at Takushoku University for 21 years. His fields are Middle East politics and Islam. Recently, he has been focusing on the political and Islamic movements in Turkey, the Arab countries, Central Asia and South East Asia. He has published books about Islam and the Middle East, writes articles daily on his blog, is published monthly in magazines

and provides lectures for business people. He is fluent in Arabic.

Yuji Takagi

President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Yuji Takagi has been President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) since 2011. Established in 1986, SPF is Japan's leading non-profit organization focused on global issues, dedicated to the promotion of peace, understanding and cooperation. Previously, Yuji Takagi worked in senior positions at Mitsui & Co., Ltd. for 35 years including 14 years in United States and 4 years in

the Middle East. He worked across a range of key corporate businesses, serving as Associate Director for Mitsui & Co., Ltd. Tokyo, Chairman and Managing Director of Mitsui Middle East based in Dubai, General Manager of Corporate Communications and Investor Relations at Mitsui's headquarters in Tokyo, Chief Representative of Mitsui's Washington D.C. office and General Manager of the Energy Division at Mitsui USA. Yuji Takagi graduated from Hitotsubashi University and Harvard Business School PMD.