



Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Briefing

Witness Biographies

Human Rights and Freedom of Expression in Morocco

Panel I



Samia Errazzouki is a co-founder of Khmissa, an NGO that advocates for women's rights, press freedom, freedom of expression, individual liberties, and the release of political prisoners in Morocco. She previously worked as a Morocco-based journalist, reporting for the Associated Press, and later with Reuters. Ms. Errazzouki also worked as a research associate with the University of Cambridge, researching the media landscape in Morocco. Her analysis and commentary have appeared in various platforms including the Washington Post, BBC, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, and France24, among others. Currently, she is co-editor with Jadaliyya and a PhD candidate in history at the University of California, Davis. She holds a BA in Global Affairs from George Mason University and an MA in Arab Studies from Georgetown University.



Aboubakr Jamaï is the Dean of The School of Business and International Relations at the American College of The Mediterranean (ACM) where he teaches Media & Conflict, Contemporary Politics of The Middle East and International Business. From 1997 to 2007, Jamaï was the publisher and editor the leading Moroccan newsweekly, *Le Journal hebdomadaire*. From 2010 to 2013, he was the co-editor of the Moroccan news website *lakome.com*. His articles were published in *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *El Pais*, *Le Monde*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*. He won the Committee to Protect Journalists' International Press Freedom Award in 2003. He was a Yale World Fellow in 2004 at Yale University. He was a Nieman Fellow in 2007 at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism and a Mason Fellow in 2008 at Harvard University. Mr. Jamaï's work in favor of democracy in the Middle East was recognized by the Washington based "Project on Middle East Democracy" which awarded him his "Leaders for Democracy" prize in 2016.



Sherif Mansour is the Middle East and North Africa Program Coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists. Before joining CPJ, he worked with Freedom House, in Washington, D.C., where he managed advocacy training for activists from the Middle East and North Africa. In 2010, Mansour co-founded the Egyptian Association for Change, a Washington-based nonprofit group that mobilizes Egyptians in the U.S. to support democracy and human rights in Egypt. He has monitored the Egyptian elections for the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies and has worked as a freelance journalist. In 2004, he was honored by the Al-Kalema Center for Human Rights for his work in defending freedom of expression in Egypt. Mansour has authored several articles and conducted research studies on civil society and the role of the new media and civil society in achieving democracy. He was named one of the top 99 young foreign policy professionals in 2013 by the Diplomatic Courier.



Intissar Fakir is a senior fellow and director of MEI's North Africa and Sahel program. She is an expert on North Africa, the Sahel, and key regional thematic issues including governance, social change, migration, and security. She has written extensively on North Africa's evolving politics including Islamist electoral politics in post-2011 Morocco and Tunisia, the Western Sahara issue, foreign policy priorities in Morocco and the broader region, and the impact of COVID-19 on regional political stability. Her research has also included political transitions, mobilization trends, energy, and social change in Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, and Tunisia. Prior to joining MEI, Ms. Fakir was a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace where she was also the editor-in-chief of the bilanguage (English and Arabic) Middle East platform Sada. She has also implemented programs at various NGOs in support of political, economic and social reform in the North Africa and the Middle East. She has consulted and advised governments and corporate entities in the US and Europe on Maghreb developments.

Moderator



Alexis Arieff is a Specialist in African Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, where she supports Members of Congress and their staff with independent, nonpartisan policy analysis regarding North, West, and Central Africa. In her twelve years at CRS, Ms. Arieff has authored reports on U.S. policy responses to political change and contestation in the Maghreb, security challenges in the Sahel, and conflict and humanitarian crises in Africa's Great Lakes region, among other topics. Ms. Arieff has been detailed to policy offices at the State Department (in 2015) and Defense Department (in 2010) and served as an international election observer in Tunisia (2011, 2014, and 2019) and Guinea (2010). She was a Fulbright scholar in Conakry, Guinea, in 2008-09. Before joining CRS, Ms. Arieff worked as a researcher on Africa for the Committee to Protect Journalists for three years and completed shorter stints as a research fellow in the International Crisis Group's West Africa field office in Dakar, Senegal, and as a contributing writer for Freedom House. She has an MA in international relations from Yale University and a BA from Brown University.