

You are cordially invited to attend:

*Transitions to Democracy in the Middle East and North Africa:
Lessons from Other Regions*

American University
McDowell Formal Lounge, McDowell Hall

Friday March 9, 2007
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Organized by:



Council for a Community of Democracies (CCD)
American University Center for Democracy and Election Management (CDEM)
International Centre for Democratic Transition (Budapest)
for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID)

This conference will serve the purpose of preparing the agenda for a major three day conference in September 2007. As such, it is intended to lay the framework, asking such questions as, “What are the barriers to Democracy in the Middle East?” and what can be learned from transitions in Europe and Africa. The September conference will address and go into greater depth on the topics covered at American University.

Richard C. Rowson
President, CCD

Robert A. Pastor
Director, Center for Democracy and
Election Management

TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA:
LESSONS FROM OTHER REGIONS

FRIDAY MARCH 9, 2007, 9:00-5:00

AGENDA

- 8:30 Coffee
- 9:00-9:15 **Setting the Scene**
- **Mark Palmer**, *CCD Vice Chair and Vice President, Freedom House*
 - **Robert R. LaGamma**, *Executive Director, CCD*
- 9:15-10:30 **Panel 1: Continuity and Change – A Balance Sheet for the Arab World :**
Chair: Radwan Masmoudi, *Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy*
- **Dr. Ziad Hafez**, *UNDP Arab Human Development Report*
 - **Dalia Mugahid**, *Executive Director, Muslim Studies, the Gallup Organization, Theocracy vs. Secular Democracy?*
 - **Dr. Fares Braizat**, *Institute for Strategic Studies, Jordan.*
- 10:30-10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45-12:30 **Panel 2: Democratic Transitions in Eastern Europe and Africa**
Chair: Amb. Istvan Gyarmati, *Director, International Centre for Democratic Transition, (Budapest)*
- Principal obstacles, challenges and how were they overcome?
 - Which institutions played the most important role?
 - The experience of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic
 - **Amb. Herman Cohen, Prof. Peter Lewis**: *Transitions in South Africa, Mali and Mozambique*
- 12:30-1:45 Lunch
- 1:45-2:45 **Panel 3: Religion, culture, and democracy**
Chair: Dr. Robert Pastor, *Vice President, American University*
- **Father Patrick Ryan S.J.**, *Vice President, Fordham University*: “Secularism, Secularity and the Varying Experiences of Christians and Muslims.”
 - **Prof. Azizah Al-Hibri**, “The Islamic Worldview on Gender and Family.”
 - **Prof. Emad Shahin**
- 2:45-3:15 **Panel 4: External Factors:**
Chair: Abdulwahab, Alkebsi, *National Endowment for Democracy*
- How can democratic governments, international institutions, and lessons from other regions help with democratic transitions in the Middle East/North Africa?
 - **Susan Douglass**, *Special Consultant, United Nations, Issues of Education*
- 3:15-3:30 Coffee break
- 3:30-5:00 **Panel 5: Identifying Issues for Exploration for the September 2007 Three Day Conference**
Chair: Richard C. Rowson, *President, Council for a Community of Democracies*
- What relevant lessons can be learned by the Arab world from the experiences of Central and Eastern Europe and Africa to assist with the transition to democracy?
 - What are the essential elements to be explored in the agenda of the September conference that will help to overcome the barriers to democratic transition in the region?