



**SEMI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
JULY 13-14, 2009**

**Funding Human Rights in Repressive Environments: The Arab Region As
A Case Study**

Monday, July 13, 2009, 2:00 – 3:30pm

Facilitator:

Suzanne Siskel, Director of Philanthropy, The Ford Foundation

Panelists and Session Organizers:

Fouad Hamdan, Executive Director, Arab Human Rights Fund; Regan E. Ralph, Executive Director, Fund for Global Human Rights

Additional Session Organizer:

Cynthia Ryan, Principal, Schooner Foundation

Sponsor:

The Schooner Foundation

This session explored the human rights situation in the Arab region, elaborating on the strategies of local groups and activists facing immense pressure from authorities. Panelists provided examples of how activists are fighting back with peaceful means and explore the funding challenges and opportunities in the region. Despite diverse activism in the region, there is remarkably little support for human rights. Why is this region so consistently overlooked? What kind of support is available? How does funding reach activists in repressive environments? The session evaluated the difference funding can make through examples from different contexts, including Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.