

FUNDER LEARNING VISIT TO THE ARAB REGION TUNIS 8-10 MAY 2012

OBJECTIVES

- To examine effective entry points and lessons for grantmakers in supporting social justice movements and human rights work in the Middle East, North Africa, and other regions.
- To deepen funders' understanding of the human rights issues related to political transitions and social unrest.
- To gain insights from local human rights advocates and activists, and work to integrate these insights into participants' grantmaking and philanthropy.
- To understand the status and role of indigenous philanthropy in the Middle East, identify opportunities for collaboration, and promote the human rights field.
- To meet, exchange ideas and experiences, and identify collaborative opportunities with peer grantmakers from around the world.

SPONSORS



the fund for global human rights
securing dignity and freedom for people worldwide



الصندوق العربي لحقوق الانسان
ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS FUND
FONDS ARABE POUR LES DROITS HUMAINS 

AGENDA

*Please note: This agenda is subject to change and will be updated frequently.
Events will be held in English, with translation from French and Arabic
provided where necessary.*

MONDAY, 7 MAY

6:00 pm	Informal get-to-know-you dinner with Learning Visit participants (at participants' expense)
---------	--

TUESDAY, 8 MAY

Until 8:15	Breakfast at hotel
8:15 am	Assemble in hotel lobby and walk to venue
9:00-10:00 am	Welcome · Introductions & Expectations · Agenda Review Jo Andrews , Director, Ariadne–The Human Rights Funders Network Michael Hirschhorn , Executive Director, International Human Rights Funders Group Regan Ralph , Executive Director, Fund For Global Human Rights
10:00 am-12:00 pm	From Tunis to Manama: The Dynamics at Play in the Arab Uprisings What are the roots of rebellion in the countries currently facing transition and/or unrest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)? What are the causal and resultant, internal and external, historical and present-day factors at play in social movement-building and democratic transition in the MENA contexts? Fateh Azzam , Regional Representative, Middle East Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Co-Founder and Chairperson, Arab Human Rights Fund Session Facilitator: Regan Ralph , Executive Director, Fund For Global Human Rights
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch

TUESDAY, 8 MAY continued

1:00-2:30 pm	<p>The Story of Revolt and Movement-Building in MENA</p> <p>Through personal testimonies and visual media, human rights defenders from the region will share their experiences of building a movement for change.</p> <p><i>Confirmed speakers include:</i></p> <p>Soha Abdelaty, Deputy Director, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights</p> <p>Rami Jarrah, Co-Director, Activists News Association (Syria) CANCELLED</p> <p>Elham Saudi, Director, Lawyers for Justice in Libya</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Shalini Nataraj, Vice-President for Programs, Global Fund for Women</p>
2:30-3:00 pm	Break
3:00-4:30 pm	<p>Transitions in MENA and Abroad: What Do They Teach Us?</p> <p>With the dynamics at play in the region, what are the priorities, opportunities and challenges for human rights? What lessons from transitional contexts elsewhere inform the important considerations and caveats that grantmakers should bear in mind as they explore opportunities to work in the region? What are viable entry points and funding areas for grantmakers?</p> <p>Abdelbasset Ben Hassen, President, Arab Institute for Human Rights</p> <p>Mark Freeman, Founding Director, Institute for Integrated Transitions</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Hanan Rabbani, Senior Program Officer, Women's Rights and Gender Development, Open Society Foundations-Arab Regional Office</p>
4:30-5:00 pm	Review and Reflection
5:30-7:00 pm	<p>Tracing the Path of Protest</p> <p>An on-the-ground tour of important sites related to Tunisia's revolution</p>
Evening	Dinner on own

WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY

Until 8:15 am	Breakfast at hotel
8:30 am-10:00 am <i>Sessions will take place at the hotel</i>	Human Rights and Civil Society Pre-, Peri- and Post-Transition Participants will examine the present and changing role of civil society and the dynamics of external engagement in the Arab region. Elie Abouaoun , Executive Director, Arab Human Rights Fund Yousry Moustafa Hussein , Advisor, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) Session Facilitator: Sevdalina Rukanova , Senior Officer, European Foundation Centre
10:00-10:30 am	Break
10:30 am-12:00 pm	The Culture of Giving in the Middle East What are the traditions associated with philanthropy in the MENA region? What does the current and shifting landscape of philanthropy look like? What is the scope for a human rights approach to giving? Barbara Ibrahim , Director, The Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, American University of Cairo Atallah Kuttub , Co-founder, SAANED Philanthropic Advisory Group (Amman) CANCELLED Elie Abouaoun , Executive Director, Arab Human Rights Fund Session Facilitator: Michael Hirschhorn , Executive Director, International Human Rights Funders Group; President, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch at the hotel
1:00 pm	Assemble in hotel lobby

WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY continued

1:00-5:00 pm	Travel to and visits with local and regional human rights groups Participants have their choice to visit one of several organizations. These organizations focus on promoting human rights domestically or regionally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association for Families and Children (AMAL) • Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) • Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) • Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD) • Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) • Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders (EMHRF) • Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDS) • Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH)
6:00 pm	Networking Reception With participants, guest speakers and local civil society representatives

THURSDAY, 10 MAY

Until 8 am	Breakfast at hotel
8:00	Assemble in hotel lobby and walk to venue
8:30-9:00 am	Debriefing: Review and reflection of the day before
9:00-10:15 am	A View from the Outside: European Perspectives on Middle East Transitions The Representative of the European Union in Tunisia will share his thoughts on the events in the region of the past 18 months and the immediate period ahead. Adrianus Koetsenruijter , Head of Delegation, European Union Session Facilitator: Fulco Van Deventer , Policy Advisor, Cordaid
10:15-10:30 am	Break

THURSDAY, 10 MAY continued

10:30 am-12:00 pm	<p>Political Islam</p> <p>Islam in Middle Eastern politics is an important, influential and inevitable factor in the region's path toward democratic governance. Questions about secularism and religion in politics, Islam's compatibility with women's rights and individual freedom, and foreign engagement reveal the complexity of the role of Islam in a transitioning Middle East. Participants will engage with a prominent, formerly exiled, politician-scholar who has been described as the voice of moderate political Islam.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sheikh Rachid Ghannouchi, Leader, Ennahda Political Party of Tunisia</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Jo Andrews, Director, Ariadne–The Human Rights Funders Network</p>
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm	<p>U.S. Government Funding in MENA: Its Legacy and Future</p> <p>In response to the removal of autocratic regimes and political uprisings, what is the current direction of U.S. government funding? Are the approaches to engagement adapting or static? How will the history of foreign funding inform its future commitments, if at all?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Richard Johannsen, Tunis Regional Office Director, Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), U.S. Department of State</p> <p>Session Facilitator: Steve Riskin, Special Assistant to the President for Grants, U.S. Institute of Peace</p>
2:15-4:00 pm	<p>Strategic Funding in Transitional Situations in MENA: Working Sessions</p> <p>Participants will learn from and exchange with each other at a practical level about existing and potential funding strategies and possible collaborative opportunities.</p>
4:00-4:30 pm	Debriefing, Evaluation
Evening	Dinner on own or depart