

SOCIAL MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CAN SMART DISSIDENTS CREATE CHANGE?

THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY TRAINING INSTITUTE LAUNCHES THE “SMART DISSIDENTS” PROJECT AT THE FORMER PRISON ‘LE MURATE’ IN FLORENCE

Throughout the world human rights and democracy activists have been using digital technology to promote freedom of expression and stir up revolutions. These 'smart dissidents', as they are being called, are at the center of new forms of human rights activism worldwide. But what is a 'smart dissident'? To what extent can digital activism promote human rights and induce a revolution? Can technology be used to protect human rights?

On 18-19 June 2012 the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Center for Justice and Human Rights is organizing the International Course: “Social Media and Human Rights: Can Smart Dissidents Create Change?”. The Course – 100 places available – is addressed to journalists, communication professionals, bloggers, activists, teachers, professors, civil society representatives, university & post-graduate students, and human-right defenders in general. They will gather from all over the world to the former military prison ‘Le Murate’ in Florence, to debate and to work freely, networking with international journalists and experts from various European universities and media institutions.

This is the first step of the SMART DISSIDENT project, an initiative promoted by the RFK Center together with the City of Florence and the US Embassy in Italy, aiming at providing digital dissidents with a physical space (Le Murate) and an intellectual opportunity to stand up for freedom of expression and for the defence of human rights. At the end of the Course a blogger will be awarded with the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

During the Course, two roundtables and two workshops will be held by international experts on Social Media and lecturers from the New York University, the SOAS University of London and the European University Institute. Media professionals will also be present from the City University of London (Master in Journalism), il Sole 24 Ore, Inter Press Service, La Nazione and SKY TG 24.

The RFK Center will take the occasion to launch an “app” for Android/Apple to involve students and communities in the Human Rights defence and education.

Through the Training Institute in Florence, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights extends its human rights education and advocacy programs across Europe, raising awareness and igniting change. A number of cutting-edge training courses are organised for scholars, practitioners (journalists, doctors, lawyers), policymakers and decision makers, managers and cadres of the no-profit sector, professors and students coming from all over the world.

The premises of the RFK Center offer the ideal convening space to exchange practices, experiences and ideas among worldwide human right activists. They are also equipped to provide temporary refuge for those who are home deprived because of their struggle in the name of humanity.

PRESS OFFICE

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#RFKInstitute

Dedicated hashtag for the event

For more information refer to Eleonora Corsini corsini@rfkcenter.org

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MONDAY 18TH JUNE

1.00 PM Registration opens (and continues)

1.30 PM **INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE**

Matteo Renzi, *Mayor of Florence*

David Thorne, *US Ambassador to Italy*

Louis Bickford, *Head of Operations, RFK Center*

2.00-4.00 PM **ROUNDTABLE**

MEDIA AND REVOLUTION

(Full Audience 100 People) The debate focuses on the role of media in enforcing justice and human rights during revolutions or in post conflict societies. The conference will use historical and contemporary comparisons to discuss how new social media are creating a changed relationship between media and revolution.

INTRODUCTION AND STUDY

Catherine Jenkis, *Chair of Law and Conflict Department, SOAS University and Lecturer on Justice, Reconciliation and Reconstruction in Post Conflict Societies*

SPEAKERS

Rana Husseini, *Middle East Journalist and RFK HR Defender*

Ayman Abdel Nour, *Editor in Chief of All4Syria blog*

Daudi Were, *Program Director Ushahidi*

CHAIR

Vaughan Smith, *Chief Frontline Journalism Club*

4.00-4.15 PM Coffee Break

4.15-6.00 PM

WORKSHOPS

(Audience 50 people) These two workshops run at the same time in different rooms with smaller groups. The same workshop will be presented on Tuesday, so that everyone may participate in both.

WORKSHOP 1

HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGIES

SPEAKERS

Anahai Ayala Iacucci, *Social Media Expert*

Kerim Bouzouita, *Tunisian Blogger and Lecturer*

Bernardo Parrella, *Editor Global Voices Online*

CHAIR

Luca De Biase, *Journalist Expert in Social Media, Il Sole 24 Ore*

WORKSHOP 2

OPEN JOURNALISM, WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

SPEAKERS

Raidh Guerfali Naawad, *co-Administrator and HR Activist*

Lis Howell, *Director of MA in Journalism - City University of London*

Carlo Sorrentino, *University of Florence*

CHAIR

Pier Luigi Parcu, *Director of the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom - European University Institute - EUI*

TUESDAY 19TH JUNE

9.30-11.30 AM

ROUNDTABLE CHANGING LANDSCAPE IN ARAB MEDIA

(Full audience, 100 people) The debate focuses on the change of Media Ownership in contemporary Middle East society. Particular attention will be given to both the new role of youth and women and to the changes in the Arab Media audience.

INTRODUCTION

Dina Matar, *Chair of Center of Media and film Studies, SOAS University; co-Editor of "The Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication"*

SPEAKERS

Rym Ali, *Director and Founder of the Jordan Media Institute**

Zahera Harb, *Journalist Middle East Expert, Senior Lecturer at City University of London*

Dalia Ziada, *Egyptian Blogger and Rights activist*

CHAIR

Renato Coen, *International Journalist Sky Tg 24*

11.30AM -NOON Coffee Break



FOLLOW UP ACTIONS: RFK Center is developing an "app" for Android/Apple to involve students and communities in the Human Rights, defence and education.

NOON-1.30 PM WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1 HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGIES

SPEAKERS

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Kerim Bouzouita, *Tunisian Blogger and Lecturer*

Bernardo Parrella, *Editor Global Voices Online*

CHAIR

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WORKSHOP 2 OPEN JOURNALISM: WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

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Raidh Guerfali Naawad, *co-Administrator and HR Activist*

Lis Howell, *Director of MA in Journalism - City University of London*

Carlo Sorrentino, *University of Florence*

CHAIR

Pier Luigi Parcu, *Director of the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom - European University Institute - EUI*

2.30- 3.30 PM

CONCLUSIONS

Conference Wrap Up and Summary, OPEN SESSION

3.30-4.30 PM

JOURNALISM AWARD

Awards 4 categories, OPEN SESSION

RFK EUROPE JOURNALISM AWARD 2012 SOCIAL MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards honor those who report on issues that reflect Robert F. Kennedy's beliefs on human rights, social justice, and the power of individual action in the United States and around the world. Entries include insights into the causes, conditions and remedies of injustice and critical analysis of relevant public policies, programs, attitudes, and private endeavors.

Established in December of 1968 by a group of reporters covering Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign, the awards program has far exceeded the expectations of its founders. Led by a committee of six independent journalists, the Awards are judged by more than fifty journalists each year. It has become the largest program of its kind and one of few in which the winners are determined solely by their peers.

The European Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards were established in 2010 to honor students and professionals who report on Human Rights issues on a European perspective. RFK Europe established the RFK High School and University Journalism Award to recognize the achievements of youth who investigate human rights issues and advocate for change. This year along with the Training Institute Smart Dissident Project and in partnership with the City of Florence, RFK Center will launch the RFK Journalism Award on International Photography and International Social Media.

CATEGORIES IN 2012

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA
INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
ITALIAN HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH 3.30-4.30 PM

JOURNALISM AWARD

Awards 4 categories, OPEN SESSION

SPEAKER BIOS

Rym ALI* Princess Rym, known as Rym Brahimi as a journalist and correspondent for various media outlets, founded the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) in Amman, a non-profit body whose aim is to establish an Arab Center of Excellence for Journalism Education with a Masters' programme. Prior to her marriage with Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, Princess Rym worked extensively for international broadcasters, including CNN, as a producer in 1998 and then as a Baghdad correspondent from 2001 until 2004. Before joining the BBC, she worked for Dubai TV, Bloomberg TV, Radio Monte Carlo Moyen-Orient and United Press International. Princess Rym has also served as a commissioner of the Royal Film Commission in Jordan. In 2011, Princess Rym Ali received the Alumni Award from the Columbia University School of Journalism and she was the recipient of the "Best International Journalist" prize at the 32nd Ischia International Journalism Awards Ceremony. Princess Rym Ali was also recently awarded the French Knight of the Legion of Honour by French Ambassador to Jordan.

Ayman ABDEL NOUR is a leading reformist and the editor-in-chief of the All4Syria Bulletin (www.all4syria.info) - the leading independent media news in Syria with over 50000 daily readers. He also serves as a consultant to various multinational organizations (UN - EU) dealing with civil society & Economic Development in Syria. Nour served four years as a member of the council of the governorate of Damascus and also serves as a member of most economic and media development committees and bodies. He has testified in front of the European Parliament and received numerous awards. Nour has been providing consulting services on Middle East Public Policy to a variety of Intl organizations. He has been quoted in some of the most important international media including the Washington Post -the Los Angeles Times -the New York Times-CNN.com-MSNBC.com-USA Today-Christian Science Monitor-Time. com-Reuters-Financial times-Bloomberg and BBC News. He has lectured widely at prestigious universities (Columbia University's Middle East Institute at the School of International and Public Affairs in New York - Tufts UniversityCabot Intercultural Center - Paris Institute of Political Studies (SciencesPo) - Yale University - University of California Los Angeles International Institute (Center for Middle East Development).

Anahai AYALA IACUCCI is Media Innovation Advisor for Internews for the Africa Region, Health and Humanitarian Media, covering Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and the Republic of South Sudan. Anahi Ayala Iacucci holds a Master degree from Colombia University, a BA in International Affairs from the University of Bologna and a Post-Degree in Human Rights from the University of Padova. Anahi has consulted in the past 3 years for several organizations on the use of the ICT4D, new technologies and crisis mapping: she advised UN OCHA Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit in Iraq, the NGO Alliance Guinea,

Freedom House in Egypt, the World Bank in Zambia, Ushahidi in China, Oxfam in Cambodia and the World Development Bank in South Africa. Anahi is currently Crowdsourcing and Information Specialists for the World Bank and SMS and Mobile Technology Specialists for the Popular Engagement Policy Lab. Anahi is also the Co-Founder of the Standby Task Force, an Online Volunteer Community for Live Mapping, collaborating recently with UNOCHA, WHO, UNHCR and Amnesty International. Anahi co-authored several articles on Crisis Mapping and Disaster response, Crowdsourcing applied to Health issues and the role of Social Networks in today's Media world.

Louis BICKFORD is Secretary General for the European operations of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. He also serves as Director of Operations for the RFK Center/USA and Director of the New York Office. Dr. Bickford previously served as Director of the Policymakers and Civil Society unit at the International Center for Transitional Justice, where he was a founding staff member and a member of the senior management team. At the ICTJ, he ran the center's global network of NGOs and individuals involved in transitional justice, oversaw fellowship programs in Cape Town, Santiago, Rabat, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Barcelona, and developed a global network of human rights documentation groups, many of which used social media for reporting on human rights abuse. As an independent consultant, Dr. Bickford helped develop strategy for the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including data collection and communications programs; worked on issues of Stalinist legacies in Russia for the Center for Strategic and International Studies; and advised on confronting past atrocity in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Expert Working Group. Dr. Bickford is an adjunct professor at Columbia University, the New School for Social Research, and New York University, and has taught seminars on Human Rights at the University of Chile Law School, the University of Hiroshima, and the University of Liberia, among others.

Renato COEN was born in Rome on 27th November 1973. He has a degree in political science. He worked for ANSA and radio and local newspapers and entered SKY TG24 in 2003. In 2004 he covered the US presidential elections from Washington. From 2005 to 2011 he worked as correspondent from Jerusalem. In 2006 he covered the second Israel Lebanese conflict and in 2009 he followed the 'Operation Cast Lead' in Gaza, covering since then all the recent main events in Israel and in the Palestinian territories. In January 2011 he went to Tunisia to cover the revolution that took to the escape of President Ben Ali. One month after he covered from Cairo the developments of the Egyptian revolution, from the early demonstrations to the resignation of Mubarak. In March and April 2011 he followed the humanitarian crisis of refugees fleeing from Libya from the border with Tunisia. Since October 2011, he's working as head of foreign news desk in SKY TG24.

Luca DE BIASE is an Italian journalist and the innovation editor at Il Sole 24 Ore / Nova24 (which he founded in 2005). Di Biase's articles have appeared in ItaliaOggi, Mondo Economico, Fortune Italia, Espansione, Panorama, The Industry Standard, Problemi dell'Informazione, Corriere della Sera, l'Espresso and La Stampa. He is the author of *Cambiare Pagina* (Rizzoli 2011) and *Economia della Felicità* (Feltrinelli 2007). He is chairman at Ahref Foundation (a research center concerned with the quality of information in social media), founder of Walue.it (an editorial consultancy for digital media projects), editor of *Austro* and *Aquilone* (a quarterly review dedicated to the new media), and co-founder and chairman of Reporters Online (a company specialized in the production of journalistic content for the new media). As a social media expert, De Biase has spoken at the OECD, StsForum Kyoto, TEDxComo, and at the Mit-Media Lab. He is the Scientific Director at Digital Accademia and a visiting professor at IULM in Milan and Science Po in Paris. De Biase has been at the center of project development for a number of websites, including Panorama Online, Reporters Online, *Austro* and *Aquilone*, *Fantanews*, *Happening* and others.

Riadh GUERFALI known also by the pseudonym Astrubal, is a Tunisian lawyer and human rights activist. He is best known for being co-Administrator of Nawaat.org, which itself became a platform for organizing protesters during the Tunisian revolution. As a Tunisian blogger, he has been active on Internet since 1992. He has co-founded many sites. Guerfali promotes citizen journalism on the Internet. In 2011 Guerfali won a Netcitizen prize for promoting freedom of expression on the Internet. This prize was sponsored by Google and Reporters without Borders. Riadh Guerfali has a Ph.D in public law and has worked as a photographer, amateur film-maker and multi-platform software developer. He is committed to a free and open Internet and has taken a stand against censorship for nearly twenty years. As a lawyer at the Tunis Bar, he taught constitutional law and laws governing new IT in France for around 15 years.

Zahera HARB is a Lebanese journalist and senior lecturer in International Journalism at City University London. Her recent publications include a monograph titled: *Channels of Resistance: Liberation propaganda, Hezbollah and the Media*, I.B. Tauris 2011. She has also published a paper on 'Arab revolutions and the social media effect' in *Journal of Media and Culture*. Zahera has around 11 years experience as a journalist in Lebanon working for Lebanese and international media organisations. She started as a news reporter and distinguished herself in particular in the coverage of war operations in the battle field in South Lebanon. She has delivered training through Thomson Foundation to Journalists from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, and UAE and recently to Tunisian journalists through the Journalism Foundation and to Iraqi journalists through City University Journalism department.

Lis HOWELL is Director of Broadcasting and Head of the MA courses in Broadcast and Television Journalism at City University where she is also Deputy Head of the Journalism Department. She has taught for ten years, starting as Visiting Lecturer. In 1986, she became the Head of News at Border TV and covered the Lockerbie disaster in 1989, winning an Royal Television Society Award. She became Managing Editor of Sky News in 1990 and was the first Director of Programmes at GMTV in 1991, before starting the UK Living Channel for Flextech TV in 1993. Living is now a successful major channel on BSkyB. She became Senior Vice President of Flextech in 1997. In 2000 she became and alumni of Harvard Business School. She is currently a Judge for the Royal Television Society, a member of BAFTA and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, She has consulted on a government level committee on the future of Local Television in the UK and is conducting research into the numbers of women experts on News and Current Affairs programmes in the UK. The figures are published monthly in Broadcast Magazine UK.

Rana HUSSEINI is a Jordanian woman journalist writing for The Jordan Times. Husseini focused on social issues with a special emphasis on violence against women. Husseini has earned nine international awards for reporting on these crimes including: the 1995 MEDNEWS prize award for best article "Murder in the name of honour," the Human Right's Watch Award in 2000 for being part of the National Jordanian Committee to Eliminate so-called Crimes of Honour, the Ida B. Wells award in 2003 for Bravery in Journalism, Marie Claire Magazine Top Ten Woman of the World Award for bringing attention to honor crimes against women in Jordan in 2004 and Al Hussein Decoration for Distinguished Contribution, Second Order, bestowed by His Majesty King Abdullah II for activism in the human rights field and defending women causes in Jordan in 2007. Husseini has conducted several consultancies and advocacy for women's rights in the Middle East and Jordan with local NGOs and international organizations. More recently, Husseini conducted several training workshops at the Jordanian Media Institute and the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) for journalists and journalism university students on gender, human rights and violence against women reporting.

Catherine JENKIS is director of Center for Law and conflict at the School of Oriental and African Studies – SOAS – in London. Dr. Jenkis is senior lecturer in Human Rights For The Developing World, Justice reconciliation and reconstruction in post conflict society. Dr. Jenkis extensive research and publication are focused on post-apartheid South Africa and on Rwanda, but she constantly run comparatively study on Law and Society in Africa looking particularly at ways in which societies emerging from conflict and repression attempt to address and recover from difficult legacies of past human rights abuses and on the role of legal and quasi-legal institutions, national and international, in this endeavour.

Dina MATAR is director of the Centre for Film and Media Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies. She lectures on Middle East media, politics and culture, with a special focus on the Arab World and political communication. Before turning to academia, she was as a foreign correspondent and editor covering the Middle East, Europe and Africa working with various news agencies in diverse locations. Matar's research covers cultural politics, the state, political communication and Islamist politics in the Middle East. She has published on Arab women and the media, cultural politics, memory and identity, the Arab state and media, Hizbullah's communications and the state of media research in the Arab world. She is the author of an oral history of the Palestinians (2010) and has co-edited a book on conflict and narration in Palestine and Lebanon, which is due out in 2012. Matar is currently working on a project researching Hizbullah's communication strategies and on new approaches towards theorizing the Arab uprisings. She is a member of a number of international organizations, including the International Association of Media and Communication Research and the Middle East Studies Association. She is also co-founder and co-editor of "The Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication", published by Brill.

Pier Luigi PARCU is Communications and Media Area Director of the Florence School of Regulation from September 2009. He also chairs a consultancy firm specialized in antitrust and regulatory issues. From 2000 to 2003, he has been CEO of the IndependentSystem Operator running the Italian electricity grid. In the 1990s he was Director of Investigation at the Italian Competition Authority. Previously, he served as Chief Economist at the Italian Security and Exchange Commission and as Economist at the International Monetary Fund. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research in the area of industrial organization and law and economics focuses on the interaction between regulation and antitrust in shaping firms' behaviour in network industries.

Bernardo PARRELLA is an Italian freelance journalist, translator, activist on media and digital cultures, living in the US for the past 20 years. Involved in several International media projects, since 2008 he is author and editor for Global Voices Online, and manager of its upcoming e-publishing venture. He is also coordinator of Global Voices Online in Italian, co-founder of association/outlet Voci Globali, and columnist for LaStampa.it. His most recent book translations in Italian include Micah Sifry's "WikiLeaks and the Age of Transparency" and Geert Lovink's "Networks without a cause". <http://globalvoicesonline.org/author/bernardo-parrella/>.

Matteo RENZI assumed the office of the Mayor of Florence, Italy, in June 2009. He previously served the President of the Province of Florence for five years. Renzi's goal is to restore the city of Florence as a nexus of culture and innovation. Some major projects have included transforming Piazza Duomo, one of Florence's most famous squares, into a pedestrian-only space suited for walking; direct participation of citizens in local government through 100 assemblies in 100 different locations throughout the city; new urban planning regulations that put a moratorium on all new construction; rejuvenation of the city's cultural life with late evening museum opening hours and regular all-night cultural happenings in the main piazzas. Renzi extensively uses Facebook and e-news to communicate with the city. He has a degree in jurisprudence, and worked in a marketing firm after graduation and becoming a locally elected leader at the same time. He has published several books, which include a collection of 240 e-news in "A viso aperto". Renzi's latest book is "Stil Novo- the beautiful between Dante and Twitter-" (Rizzoli, 2012).

Vaughan SMITH is a news pioneer who founded the Frontline Club in London in 2003 as an institution to champion independent journalism and promote better understanding of international news and its coverage. During the 1990s Vaughan worked as an award winning independent cameraman and video news journalist covering wars and conflict in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Kosovo and elsewhere. Vaughan worked as a freelance cameraman for many of the world's leading television stations and became an advocator of greater support for freelancers operating in war zones and he won, either individually or as part of a team, 28 news awards. Many of them for "The Valley", a film which Vaughan produced about the Kosovo War. Vaughan was the joint winner of a Guardian Media Innovation Award and in 2008 a Rory Peck Award finalist for his independent blog from Afghanistan. Vaughan himself filmed the only uncontrolled footage of the Gulf War in 1991, after he bluffed his way into an active-duty unit while disguised as a British Army officer. The risks that Frontline journalists took were great and nine members or former members were killed while working in the field. The Frontline Club is dedicated to their memory. Vaughan, himself, was shot twice but escaped both times with light injuries.

Carlo SORRENTINO is professor of Sociology of cultural processes and Epistemology of communication. He earned a PhD in Political Sociology and he is part of the teachers for the PhD in Telematics and Society at the University of Florence. Sorrentino Directs the Master of Communication of the Cultural Heritage of the University of Florence. And he is in the editorial board of the journal Problems of information. He has worked mainly on the sociology of communication, carrying out studies and research on journalism, political communication and institutional communication. He is currently working on research programs on the transformation of the public sphere on the changes in journalistic professionalism and the information content produced by technological innovations, the social representation of some important social phenomena: immigration, education, voluntary.

David THORNE was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to Italy in 2009. Ambassador Thorne has a lifelong personal connection to Italy. Ambassador Thorne is co-founder of Adviser Investments, one of the nation's most highly regarded firms specializing in Vanguard and Fidelity mutual funds and exchange-traded funds. He has been an investor and entrepreneur in a wide variety of business ventures, including marketing consulting, real estate, publishing, and financial services. He recently sold his publishing business to Martha Stewart Omnimedia. Ambassador Thorne is a former President and current Board member of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and led the design oversight team for its new building in Boston. He graduated from Yale University in 1966 with a BA in American History and received a Masters degree in Journalism from Columbia University in 1971. Ambassador Thorne served in the U.S. Navy from 1966-1970 and is author of *The New Soldier* (Macmillan 1971).

Daudi WERE is a Kenyan technology strategist, entrepreneur, social activist based in Nairobi, Kenya. He is regularly recognised as one of the most influential African voices online on technology and how it relates to accountability and transparency; the growth of social and citizen media and the way it is changing the world we live for the better; trends in technology; good information as the most powerful resource for development. As Project Director at Ushahidi, Daudi manages key partnerships and custom Ushahidi deployments for organisations ranging from large multinational organisations to grassroots NGOs. Daudi blogs at Mentalacrobatics, is a TED Africa fellow, a semi-retired rugby player and supports AFC Leopards and Liverpool FC.

Dalia ZIADA, Egyptian rights activist, blogger, laureate of Anna Lindh Euro- Mediterranean Journalist Award, Tufts University Presidential Award, honored by Newsweek as one of 150 most influential women in the world, selected by Daily Beast as one of world's 17 bravest bloggers, and labelled by Time magazine as rights champion. Ziada dedicates her life to promoting women rights, freedom of expression, and nonviolent action in her homeland, Egypt, and the whole Middle East. In 2010, she co-authored "New Narrative for Muslim Women in the Middle East" a guidebook for policy makers in the Middle East and US on how to efficiently push for women rights in the most anti-women region in the world. Surprisingly, this book predicted the 2011 revolution. On September 11th, 2009, Ziada founded Fearless Fighters for Faith Freedom (5Fs) campaign for promoting religious freedom and tolerance. In November 2008, Ziada held the first Cairo Human Rights Film Festival. Ziada gave speeches on Women and Human Rights at: US Congress, US Senate House, Harvard University, CATO Institute in Washington DC, Al-Akhawyn University in Morocco, American University in Cairo, and several local, regional, and international NGOs.



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