

## Fareed's Global Panel on the Middle East

### Saad Eddin Ibrahim

Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim has been living in exile from Egypt for the past two years, teaching at Harvard University. He is one of Egypt's leading human rights activists and the founder of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies.



Ibrahim was convicted in May 2001 for preparing slanderous reports about Egypt and receiving unauthorized funds from overseas. The ruling sparked a storm of condemnation from the West and became a cause célèbre for both domestic and foreign human rights groups that threw the spotlight on the poor political reform record of the Mubarak government and led to his acquittal on all charges in 2003.

Again on Aug. 2, 2008, an Egyptian court sentenced him to two years of prison for 'defaming Egypt,' but last Monday, an Egyptian appeals court overturned the conviction and two-year jail sentence against him.



### Juan Cole

Juan Cole is an author, a professor at the University of Michigan, a frequent commentator on the Middle East and a widely read blogger. He also serves as president and treasurer of the Global Americana Institute.

Since 2002, Cole has been an active commentator in the media and in 2004, he testified to the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations at hearings to help them better understand the situation in Iraq.

He is a convert to the Bahá'í Faith and works to translate the seminal works of American democracy into various Middle Eastern languages including Arabic (Modern Standard as well as Lebanese and Egyptian dialects), Persian, and Urdu.

In 2006 he was nominated to teach at Yale University and was approved by both Yale's sociology and history departments. However, a "highly unusual" and controversial decision by the senior appointments committee overruled the departments, and Cole was not appointed. Some believe it was because of the award winning, but controversial blog he started a few months after 9/11, others believe it is because certain faculty believed him to be too liberal and anti-Semitic.

His new book is called *Engaging the Muslim World*.

## Hanan Ashrawi

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi is a Palestinian legislator, activist, and scholar who currently serves on the Advisory Board of several international and local organizations including the World Bank Middle East and North Africa (MENA), United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the International Human Rights Council.

She is founder and head of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy.

Dr. Ashrawi also founded the National Coalition for Accountability and Integrity and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights and served as the first commissioner general of the latter.

She was an important leader during the First Intifada, served as the official spokesperson for the Palestinian Delegation to the Middle East peace process, and has been elected numerous times to the Palestinian Legislative Council.



## Benny Morris

Benny Morris is a Professor of History in the Middle East Studies department of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Be'er Sheva, Israel. He is a key member of a group of Israeli historians known as the "New Historians," so called because they are rewriting the history of Israel since its creation in 1948.

Morris's work has been praised and criticized by historians for his views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He regards himself as a Zionist but some on the far right accuse him of being too liberal, others accuse him of being too pro-Israeli.

He is the author of several books including his latest, *One State, Two States: Resolving the Israel/Palestine Conflict*. In it he contends that there is no two-state solution to the Middle East crisis, and that the one-state solution is not viable because of Arab unwillingness to accept a Jewish national presence in the Middle East, suggesting instead the possibility of something like a "three-state solution" in the form of a Palestinian confederation with Jordan.

## **Maziar Bahari**

Maziar Bahari is an Iranian documentary filmmaker who has produced documentaries for channel 4 and BBC on topics like the Ayatollah Sistani and human rights conditions in Iraq. He has directed seven films and has written and produced several other projects.

Bahari also serves as Newsweek's Iranian correspondent.



## **Anwar Ibrahim**

Anwar Ibrahim is the leader of the People's Justice Party and he heads the Malaysian opposition.

He previously served as the nation's finance minister during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, as well as deputy Prime Minister between 1993 and 1998. Ibrahim was associated with economic liberalism and free market economics during his tenure as finance minister.

He was imprisoned between 1999 and 2004 on charges of corruption and sodomy, but the sodomy charges were later overturned and he was released early for

good behavior. Ibrahim and members of the international community claim that the criminal charges were false and politically motivated. He returned to politics in 2008.

## **Rami Khouri**

Rami Khouri currently serves as a research associate with Syracuse University and he is a member of the Leadership Council of the Harvard Divinity School.

He is an American-born Palestinian journalist who worked for an English language newspaper in Beirut during the 1970s, and served as the editor of the *Jordan Times* between 1974 and 1982.

He is author of 11 books, the most recent being *The Monuments of Jordan*.

