

VOICES FROM THE SOUTH

E-Newsletter - May 2016

THE
KARIBU
FOUNDATION

Founded in 1985, the Karibu Foundation is an independent foundation that supports voices from the Global South that provide alternatives to the dominant paradigms of power, distribution, and development.

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Envisioning a New Syria

Declaration of the conference on the future of the Syrian Constitution

In late April 2016, the “Conference on the Principles of a Future Syrian Constitution” was held outside of Vienna, organized by the International Peace Initiative for Syria (IPIS). Twenty-eight Syrian participants (leaders of ethnic minority groups, experts in Law, Islamic Sheiks, representatives of women’s organizations, and renowned politicians from the opposition) met to discuss the question of Syria’s future after years of violence and civil war. In their final declaration on the vision for a future Syrian constitution, they mapped out 8 substantial points that represent a new “social contract” for the Syrian people. According to the office of the UN-negotiator for Syria, the declaration represents a valuable compliment to the ongoing peace process on Syria that is taking place in Geneva.

Burg Schlaining, April 29th, 2016

By invitation of the “International Peace Initiative for Syria, Syrian personalities – politicians, jurists and activists of the civil society – reflecting diverse political streams from different Syrian regions and constituents came together to deliberate on a set of constitutional principles. The conference aimed to be a contribution to the endeavor of drafting the constitution for a future Syria in an effort to achieve a consensus between the different sectors of the Syrian society.

The participants of the conference agreed on the following recommendations, which reflect their points of view:

1. Syria is a democratic non-sectarian State, built on the principles of full and equal citizenship as well as on political pluralism and decentralization, thus distributing power between the center and other localities within the unity of the Syrian territory.

2. The Syrian State commits to maintain itself completely neutral towards all religions and ethnicities. Further-

more, the State respects all faiths and does not discriminate citizens, women and men, for reasons of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, confession, faith, wealth or status.

3. To establish a separation of legislative, executive and judicial power and to guarantee the independence of the judiciary system.

4. All citizens, women and men, have the right to assume and hold public office and posts, based on standards of qualification.

5. The Syrian people are ethnically, religiously and culturally diverse, thus living in harmony and working for common interest.

6. The constitution guarantees equal national rights for all ethnical components reflecting the spectrum of the Syrian people according to international conventions and agreements.

7. The freedom of the Syrian people should be safeguarded in accordance with the International Laws of Human Rights and the International Covenant



The International Peace Initiative for Syria (IPIS) is a movement of peace activists, intellectuals and members of the international civil society aimed at establishing contacts with those Syrian political forces that are willing to engage in a political dialogue under conditions which eventually could lead to a cease-fire and a political transition acceptable to all people who truly want peace in Syria and in the region.

For more information, visit:
PeaceInSyria.org



Photos by: Martin Lejeune

on Civil and Political Rights as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; in addition to all other respective international treaties.

8. The constitution guarantees women's rights to full and equal citizenship.

The State commits itself to enable women to participate in the public political, economic and social life. Furthermore, the State commits to promoting women to decision-making positions. Women will be represented in all appointed and elected bodies by a ratio from at least 30% until equity. The State also guarantees women the right to convey their citizenship to their husbands and children, in addition to safeguarding the rights of children according to international conventions.

Signed by:

Abdelkader EL KETTANI (Islamic Thinker & Writer) Ahmad AL-ROMOH (Islamic Writer)

Ahmed TOMA ALKHEDER (Temporary Government)

Ali RAHMOUN (Maan Movement)

Amir ZAIDAN (Syrian National Association) Khaled ISSA (PYD)

Aref DALILA (NCC)

Ayham TAHAN (Intellectual)

Bassam ISHAK (Syriac National Council)

Fadwa KEILANI (Media Expert)

Faiq HWAJEH (Expert in Constitutional Law) Fouad EILIA (Damascus Declaration)

Hawas SADOON (Kurdish Reformation Movement) Ismail YASIN (Islamic Expert)

Karam DAWLI (Assyrian Democratic Organisation)

Majdoleen HASSAN (Consulting Council of de Mistura-Commission) Mesgin JOSEF (Board of Syrian Yazidi Council)

Nobhar MOUSTAFA (Star Congress) Riad DRAR (Islamic Researcher)

Rona EID (Lawyer and Human Rights Activist)

Salim KHEIRBEK (Politician and Human rights activists) Senam MOHAMMAD (Rojava)

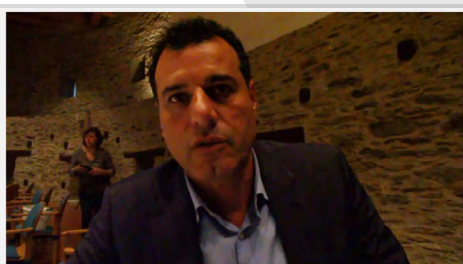
Sheruan HASSAN (Syrian Democratic Council) Talal HAEK (Labor Communist Party) ■

For detailed documentation from the consultation, visit:

<http://www.peaceinsyria.org/conference2.html>

The Initiative for a Political Solution in Syria can be contacted at:

info@peaceinsyria.org



Sheruan Hassan @ Conference on the Future Constitution of Syria 01

For **video interviews** (in Arabic, English or German), **livestream archives**, and **more pictures** with the participants, visit:

- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lejeunemartin/>
- <http://livestream.com/accounts/19171113/Conference-OnTheFutureConstitutionofSyria>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/lejeunemartin>

