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Abdulwahab Alkebsi joined the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) in 2007 as regional director for Middle East and Africa programs. In this position, he oversees a 30-member staff in Washington, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Nigeria, and manages nearly 40 programs in over 20 countries. Prior to joining CIPE, Alkebsi served as the director of the National Endowment for Democracy’s (NED) Middle East and North Africa division, where he oversaw a portfolio that included Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, North Africa, the Levant, the Gulf, and Yemen. Before joining the NED, Alkebsi was the executive director at the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID), a non-profit, Washington-based think tank dedicated to studying Islamic and democratic political thought and merging them into a modern Islamic, democratic discourse. He has been interviewed or quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Washington Times, U.S. News & World Report, United Press International, PBS, CNN, CNBC, BBC, Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiyya, Al-Hurra, MBC, Abu Dhabi TV, ANA, Nile TV, and many other sources.
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Mongi Boughzala (PhD, University of Minnesota) is currently Professor of economics at the University of Tunis El-Manar (www.utm.rnu.tn). His main professional interests are in monetery economics, macroeconomic policy and in labour economics. He has published in several journals, including the International Labour Review, Saving and Development Quarterly Review and the Annales d’Economie et de Gestion published by the University of Tunis El-Manar, of which he is an editor. He has contributed to a number of volumes, for instance to Competitiveness in the MENA Countries, edited by Subidey Togan and Hanaa Kheir El Din, in the ERF Research Report Series (2003), to La mondialisation, Origines, développement et effets, edited by James D. Thwaites, Les presses de l’Université Laval, Canada, to Monetary Policy and Central Banking in the Middle East and North Africa, edited by David Cobham and Ghassan Dibeh, Routledge, 2009, and more recently he edited with David Cobham a volume on Inflation Targeting in MENA Countries: An Unfinished Journey, Palgrave, 2011. He is a research fellow of the Economic Research Forum (www.erf.org.eg) and an active and board member of the FEMISE (www.femise.org). He is also deeply interested and involved in the ongoing historic democratic transition in Tunisia.

Laryssa Chomiak is the Director of the Centre d’Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis. She received her Ph.D. in political science in August of 2011, which was based on 18 months of qualitative research in Tunisia and 6 months of comparative field work in Ukraine. She was born and raised in Germany, educated in the United States and has spent a year in Morocco as a Fulbright scholar. Before her doctoral studies she worked at USAID’s Bureau of Global Health in Washington, DC. Currently, she is working on her upcoming book on the politics of dissent under Ben Ali’s Tunisia and portions of her work have appeared as journal articles in Middle East Law and Governance, The Journal of North African Studies, and Middle East Report.

Larry Diamond is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, where he also directs the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, and professor by courtesy of political science and sociology. He is the founding co-editor of the Journal of Democracy and also serves as Senior Consultant (and previously was co director) at the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy. His latest books are The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies Throughout the World (Times Books, 2008), and Squandered Victory: The American Occupation and the Bungled Effort to Bring Democracy to Iraq (2005).
Rihab Elhaj began work on human development programs in Libya and the Middle East in 2006 after her nomination by the United Nations as the U.N. Youth Delegate to Libya for the Millennium Development Goals, carrying out a four year volunteer appointment for advocacy of the MDG’s in Libya with a focus on Gender Equality, Environmental Sustainability and Global Partnership. Extending her work toward human development with a focus on horizontal leadership development, In 2009, Ms. Elhaj co-founded Inara, a coaching service company with a mission to harvest the latent potential in people to exact positive and significant change. On February 19, 2011, Ms. Elhaj co-founded The New Libya Foundation (NLF), a non-profit organization that aims to promote democratic foundations through the empowerment of civil society by providing training, coaching, resources, and coalition building to newly emerging civil society initiatives and research for policy recommendations. During the revolution, NLF launched humanitarian aid projects including critical medical and food to Misurata and a psycho-social service community center for refugees in Tataouine, Tunisia, primarily serving women and children. Ms. Elhaj is trained as a professional coach through Accomplishment Coaching, and accredited by the International Coaching Federation (ICF.) She received a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Political Science from Marymount University in Washington D.C.

Amaney Jamal is Associate Professor of Politics at Princeton University, and she currently directs the Workshop on Arab Political Development. Jamal's current research focuses on democratization and the politics of civic engagement in the Arab World. She extends her research to the study of Muslim and Arab Americans, examining the pathways that structure their patterns of civic engagement in the US. Jamal has written four books. Her first book, Barriers to Democracy, which won the Best Book Award in Comparative Democratization at the American Political Science Association (2008), explores the role of civic associations in promoting democratic effects in the Arab World. Her second book, an edited volume with Nadine Naber (University of Michigan), looks at the patterns and influences of Arab American racialization processes. She is revising a third book on patterns of citizenship in the Arab world, tentatively entitled Of Empires and Citizens: Authoritarian Durability in the Arab World (under contract with Princeton University Press). Jamal is also a co-author on the book, Citizenship and Crisis: Arab Detroit after 9-11. Finally, Jamal is working on a new single-authored book project entitled Living Poverty: The Urban and Rural Poor in Comparative Development. Jamal is a principal investigator of the "Arab Barometer Project," winner of the Best Dataset in the field of Comparative Politics: Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award (2010); co-PI of the "Detroit Arab American Study," a sister survey to the Detroit Area Study; and Senior Advisor on the Pew Research Center Projects focusing on Islam in America (2006) and Global Islam, (2010-2012). In 2005, Jamal was named a Carnegie Scholar.

Lina Khatib is the manager and co-founder of the Program on Arab Reform and Democracy at Stanford University’s Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law. She is an expert on Middle East politics and media and is one of the core authors of the 2012 Arab Human Development Report, published by the UNDP. Her forthcoming book Image Politics in the Middle East: The Role of the Visual in Political Struggle (IB Tauris, 2012) examines the visual dimension of power struggles between states, political leaders, political parties, and citizens in Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iran, and Lebanon. At Stanford, she leads research projects on political and economic reform, as well as on political activism and democratic change in the Arab world and on democratic transition and development. She is also a consultant and frequent commentator on the Middle East in the media.
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Hedi Larbi is the Director of the Middle East Department at the World Bank. From 1993 until 2007, he held the following positions at the World Bank: Infrastructure Economist, Lead Sector Specialist, and Sector Manager of Transport and Urban unit in MNA. In December 2007, Mr. Larbi was appointed Country Director covering Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Iran. Throughout his career in the Bank he combined operational and strategic advice and leadership to countries (development strategies, operational investment programs, development and implementation of investment projects in various sectors) and to Bank senior management (country partnership and business development strategies in many Africa and MNA countries, and to staff (led and managed large sector and country teams to deliver Bank country programs). Mr. Larbi’s assignments within the Bank focused on two regions (Africa, Middle East and North Africa), and provided extensive technical and strategic cross support to other regions including Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Europe and Central Asia (ECA). Prior to the World Bank, Mr. Larbi worked in private consulting firms in France and in Tunisia where he founded his own consulting firm in the 1980s.

Mona Makram Ebeid has had a long and distinguished career as a Parliamentarian, teacher, and international consultant. She currently teaches Political Science and Sociology at the American University of Cairo. Dr. Makram-Ebeid is a member of countless organizations that focus on education and civil society, human rights and women’s issues. She is a founding member of the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights and is the recipient of many awards including the Chevalier de la Legion D'Honneur from France.

Valentine M. Moghadam joined Northeastern University, Boston, in January 2012 as Professor of Sociology and Director of the International Affairs Program. Born in Tehran, Iran, Dr. Moghadam received her higher education in Canada and the U.S. In addition to her academic career, she has been a senior researcher at UNU/WIDER in Helsinki, Finland, and a section chief at UNESCO in Paris. Dr. Moghadam’s areas of research are globalization, transnational feminist networks, civil society and citizenship, and gender in the Middle East and North Africa. Among her many publications are Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East (1993, 2003, third edition expected in 2013), Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks (2005), and Globalization and Social Movements: Islamism, Feminism, and the Global Justice Movement (2009, second edition expected in 2012).
Ibrahim Saif is a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center. An economist specializing in the political economy of the Middle East, his research focuses on economies in transition, international trade with an emphasis on Jordan and the Middle East, institutional governance, and labor-market economics. In addition to his work at Carnegie, Saif serves as a consultant to various international organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Labor Organization. He is also a fellow with the Economic Research Forum and a member of the Global Development Network. Prior to joining Carnegie, Saif was the director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan and, until recently, served as the Secretary General of the Economic and Social Council in Jordan. His recent projects have focused on the political economy of the Arab Spring. In addition, Saif has taught at both the University of London and Yale University, where he led courses on the economies of the Middle East. He has an M.Sc. and Ph.D., in economics from the University of London.

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Loubna Skalli-Hanna teaches in the International Development Program of the School of International Service at the American University, Washington D.C. Her teaching and research examine issues at the intersection of gender, youth, communication and the politics of development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). She published several journal articles and book chapters in these areas, co-authored two books and is completing a third one for Columbia University Press on youth activism and media in MENA. When she joined AU in 2003, she designed and taught graduate courses on Youth/Children in International Development and has been acting as the director of the MA concentration in these areas. Dr Skalli Hanna received her MA in cultural anthropology from Essex University (England) and her Ph.D in Communication from the Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining AU, Skalli Hanna taught at Ibn Tofail University in Morocco, the Institute of Leadership and Communication Studies and the Cross-Cultural Center of Learning (Rabat) where she coordinated the “Gender and Development” seminar. She was a Fulbright Scholar (1996-2000) and a member of the UNESCO Chair on "Women and their Rights" in Morocco.

Sean L. Yom is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Temple University. He is finishing his first book on authoritarian state-building in this region, tracing how social conflict and international interventions shaped pathways of post-colonial stability. His current work includes new projects on transnational hierarchy, methods of comparative-historical analysis, and patterns of shared sovereignty in the Persian Gulf. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 2009, and thereafter served as a CDDRL Hewlett Fellow at Stanford.
Katie Zoglin has significant expertise in strengthening legal institutions in emerging democracies and has worked in the areas of judicial reform, international human rights, women’s rights, civil society empowerment, and criminal justice. She recently served as Freedom House’s Senior Program Manager for the Middle East and North Africa, where she managed democracy promotion, human rights, women’s rights and other programs. She has travelled to Tunisia several times since the Jasmine Revolution, including as an elections observer with the Carter Center. She previously oversaw judicial reform and clinical legal education programs in Morocco and Algeria for the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative, including a project focused on Morocco’s Moudawana (family code). Ms. Zoglin has run projects promoting the rule of law and women’s rights in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Ms. Zoglin has taught international human rights at Stanford Law School and was a Fulbright Scholar. She has been an author and speaker on topics such as democracy promotion in the Middle East and North Africa, war crimes tribunals, women’s rights, transitional justice, and human rights abuses under military regimes. Ms. Zoglin has over 18 years of experience as a prosecutor and civil litigator for local government in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has worked with and advised government officials on law enforcement, elections, criminal justice, and labor matters. Ms. Zoglin served as Deputy County Counsel in Santa Clara County’s Office of the County Counsel, where her work earned her two Litigation Program awards. Ms. Zoglin is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the World Affairs Council of Northern California.