

Minorities in the Middle East: Issues of Tolerance and Challenges of Citizenship

International Colloquium

April 7 & 8, 2016

PROGRAM:

Thursday, April 7, 2016

3:00 p.m.: Welcome/Registration

3:30 p.m.: Opening Session

- Welcome Speech: Father Jean Akiki, **Vice President for Research**, and President of the Higher Center for Research
- Opening Lecture: Mr. Najib Sawiris (Egypt), OTMT Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Founder of the Free Egyptians Party: *The Experience of Minorities in the Middle East and the Current Situation of Egypt's Copts*

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

First Roundtable: *Ethnic and Religious Minorities in the Middle East: Doctrinal, Educational and Legal Approaches*

Moderator: Father Antoine Ahmar, Dean of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

- H.E. Sheikh Dr. Malik Al Chaar, Mufti of Tripoli and North Lebanon (Lebanon): *The Rights of Minorities in the Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence)*
- H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Najjar (Lebanon): *Minorities and the Problem of Restoring their Legal Identity*
- H.E. Bishop Dr. Elie Haddad, Archbishop of Sidon and Deir El Qamar (Lebanon): *The Teachings of the Catholic Church and its Stance on Minorities*

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: Reception

Friday, April 8, 2016

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Second Roundtable: *Minorities in Light of the Geopolitical Changes in the Middle East*

Moderator: Mr. Ghayath Yazbeck, Head of News and Political Programs at MTV, Lebanon

- H.E. Prof. Farid El Khazen (Lebanon): *The Minorities: From the East Issue to the Middle East Issue*
- Prof. Sami Aoun (Canada): *Cultural Diasporic Minorities in Canada: Theological-Political Challenges and Globalised Citizenship Solutions*
- Dr. Fadi Al Ahmar (Lebanon): *Geopolitical Challenges alongside Changes in the Maps of the Middle East and the Rise of Sectarian and Ethnical Micro-States*

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Third Roundtable: *Religious Minorities in the Middle East: From Arab Nationalism to Sectarian Conflicts*

Moderator: Senior Anchor/Journalist Najat Charafeddine

- Mr. Samir Aita (Syria): *A Sectarian Conflict in Syria without Sectarian Communities*
- Prof. Joseph Yaacoub (France): *The Arab Nationalist Thought in the Eyes of Minorities - Case Study: Syriac Communities*
- Dr. Rita Faraj (Lebanon – Dubai): *Sectarian Strife in the Arab World and the Dilemma of Religious Minorities*

Coffee Break

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Fourth Roundtable: *The Situation of Religious and Ethnical Minorities in Iraq and Iran.*

Moderator: Dr. Georges Yarack, Professor of Philosophy, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

- Dr. Saad Salloum (Iraq): *The State and Pluralism in Contemporary Iraq: From the Nation-State Model to the State Components Model 1921-2014*
- Mr. Khider Domaly (Iraq): *The Reality of the Yazidis in Iraq after 2003 and until the ISIS Invasion in 2014: A Futuristic Vision*
- Dr. Victor El Kik (Lebanon): *The Christian Minority in Iran and Effective Participation in Public Life*

Recommendations