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KAS Events During Spring 2011

The Arab uprising is an event of truly historical significance. After decades in which scholars emphasized Arab exceptionalism, where the concept was sustained by the region's lack of participation in any wave of democratisation, the recent events in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world demonstrated that the Arab people share universal values such as freedom, justice, and democracy. Whatever the outcome of the current transition period, the cataclysms in the Arab world dispelled the prejudice that, due to their "mentality", Arab societies are incapable of upholding and defending political participation and human rights. KAS Amman highly welcomes the Arab Spring and deeply respects the people who made it happen, at the same time mourning for those who were ready to sacrifice their lives for the freedom and dignity of the Arab peoples.

Inspired by the Arab uprising, we tried our best to double our efforts to work together with our partners in Jordan, Lebanon and, recently, also Iraq. Our activities in Spring 2011 focussed on Cooperation and Political Dialogue as well as on the Rule of Law.

Cooperation and Political Dialogue

Visit of Leading Journalists from Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories to Germany - April



(from right to left) Marjan Parvand, Suleiman Muhammad Qous, Rania El-Malky, Dr. Martin Beck, May Ahmad Mustafa Al-Bakri, Shahira El Rafei, Lina Ejeilat, Aida Tawil and Jens Jaspers at the 'NDR'

In early April, six leading journalists from Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Territories joined Dr. Martin Beck, Resident Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Amman) and Viktoria Kleber, participant of the Journalist Academy of the Foundation in visiting the media cities of Berlin and Hamburg, Germany. The targets of the trip were to introduce the Arab journalists to the German media environment, to engage with German journalists on a professional level and to enable them to discuss a variety of issues with leading representatives of German politics. The Arab journalists not only came from different countries, but also from different journalistic areas. From Egypt, there were Rania El-Malky, publisher of the English-speaking daily newspaper Daily News Egypt and Shahira El-Rafei, editor in chief of the largest Egyptian daily newspaper Al-Ahram. The Palestinian Territories were represented by May Ahmad Mustafa Al-Bakri, a TV host at the Palestine Broadcasting Cooperation

(PBC), and Souleiman Muhammad Qous, a leading journalist from the daily newspaper Al-Quds. Finally, Aida Tawil, editor in chief of the website www.womenjo and Lina Ejeilat, blogger, reporter for Reuters and lecturer for digital media at the Jordan Media Institute came from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Expert meeting at the "German Bundestag" with Dr. Martin Beck

On May 11th, Dr. Martin Beck participated in a high-ranking expert meeting on "Religious Freedom as a focal point of German human rights policies" in the German national parliament (Bundestag), jointly organized by MP Ute Granold and KAS headquarter in Berlin. Together with Professor Dr. Heiner Bielefeldt (UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief) and Professor Dr. Udo Di Fabio (Judge at the Federal Constitutional Court), Dr. Beck served as an expert and gave a lecture on "Chances and Challenges of German Foreign Policy to Promote Religious Freedom in the Middle East". Martin Beck's presentation and the following discussion is covered by a report published in the series "Im Plenum Kompakt" (in German), which is also available online at www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_23204-544-1-30.pdf?110623182239.

International Conference on Cross-Cultural Education - June, with Adyan Foundation



Dr. Martin Beck during his lecture. From left to right: Dr. Martin Beck, Dr. Farag Elkamel, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous and Dr. Fadi Daou.

The KAS Amman Office contributed to an academic conference on cross-cultural education organized and designed by the Adyan Foundation in cooperation with Notre Dame University, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. The two-day conference took place on June 2 and 3, joining 50 speakers from academic institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations, and 24 Arab and European countries. The aim of the conference was to bring together experts from a large range of fields in order to promote fruitful discussions about the merits and challenges of cross cultural education. Pluralism and multicultural interactivity have grown faster than the ability of people to manage diversity and perform cognitive mobility. Misunderstanding and misconception stem from a lack of knowledge of others, their cultures, religions and viewpoints. Islamophobia in the West, prejudices and stereotypes among Arab populations regarding the West and Christians, and misrepresentation of religious issues in the media and in some educational materials constitute symptoms of this deeper problem of ignorance. The

various panels covered a range of topics including practicalities of cross-cultural education, religious diversity in an educational context, the importance of civil society, and the management of diversity in both the classroom and the global level.

Linking Civil Society and Academia: The Relevance of Women and Gender Studies - June, with Women Empowerment Organization.



From left to right: Dr. Sanaa Al-Omari, Kate Robertson, Dr. Martin Beck, Dr. Nadje Al-Ali, and Susan Aref.

For the second of a series of roundtable conferences focusing on gender studies in Iraq, over 20 academics and civil society activists from the Middle East, mainly Iraq, the United Kingdom and Turkey gathered to discuss the link between civil society and academia and its impact on gender studies in Iraq. Throughout the two-day workshop, participants heard presentations about topics such as the status of gender studies in Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq, research on gender-based violence in Kurdistan and Turkey, and Iraqi civil society organizations that focus on women's and gender issues. The discussions that ensued during the conference culminated in a session that produced three research plans on which Iraqi academics and civil society activists will collaborate. The success of this roundtable and its predecessor has led to the decision to hold a third conference which will take place in the winter of 2011.

Rule of Law and Good Governance

The Uprising in the Arab World - What Happened, What's Next? - May, with the Institute of Financial Economics, American University of Beirut



Professor Marcus Marktanner delivering his speech during the roundtable discussion.

In the light of the current uprising in the Arab world, described as the most dramatic political mass movement since the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, KAS Amman organized a workshop on May 6 in collaboration with the Institute of Financial Economics at the American University of Beirut which looked at the causes and possible outcomes of the Arab Spring. While the recent catalysts in Egypt and Tunisia along with other ongoing uprisings

are opening the door for region-wide political and economic reforms, uncertainties as to their outcome and design still persist. It remains to be seen whether the uprising in the Arab world will lead to profound political reforms or whether old mechanisms of cooptation and repression will resume its primacy. Across the region, there is a profound need for real reform. The economic factors that caused the uprisings, such as high unemployment, rising living costs, increasing food prices and poverty cannot only be solved through a change of power, but require a revised economic agenda. Socio-economic change can only be achieved through a long-term process while political reforms will fail if no consensus about the reform goals is found. While the protests against the old governments gathered different opposition groups, there is a lack of consensus between them on how to structure the new governments. Further clientelism and paternalism have to be overcome and a democratic spirit has to be developed in order to integrate all social groups in the political process.

The Arab Uprising: Domestic Consequences and International Reactions- May, with Lebanese Center for Policy Studies



Michael Young of the Daily Star contributes his thoughts to the discussion.

On May 19th, KAS Amman in conjunction with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies held a closed roundtable discussion that brought academics and experts together to discuss "The Arab Uprisings: Domestic Consequences and International Reactions." Dr. Martin Beck, Resident Representative of KAS, opened the roundtable conference with a keynote lecture that addressed the question: What could and should the European Union do in light of the Arab uprisings? Following the address, participants analyzed Europe's legacy in the Middle East and discussed the future of Euro-Mediterranean relations in light of the Arab Spring. During the afternoon roundtable session, panelists began with a discussion of the causes of the Arab uprisings. Participants indicated economic, political, social, psychological, and technological factors as catalysts of the uprisings. Discussants also debated the potential trajectories of the Arab regimes. However, the panelists were quick to note that it is very difficult to make predictions for the future of the Arab transitioning regimes. Finally, the discussion turned to the role of the international community in the Arab uprisings. Within this thread of discourse, participants highlighted both the importance of Syria and the need for accountability of external powers in the region. In this lively discussion, panelists used their expertise and on-the-ground experience to enhance the depth of understanding of all participants. Due to the diverse background of the participants, the roundtable provided all present with new insights particularly in terms of how to deal with the future of the Arab uprising in a fruitful way.

The Arab Uprising and its Economic and Political Implications on Lebanon - June, with LCPS

In the light of the regional and domestic instability surrounding and affecting Lebanon directly and indirectly, KAS Amman in cooperation with the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies (LCPS) arranged two workshops on the 24th of June in Beirut, Lebanon, to discuss with key local and international experts, intellectuals, politicians and economists both the political and economic



From left to right: Mr. Michael Young from the Daily Star; Mr. Eric Mottu, Resident Representative of International Monetary Fund; and Dr. Talal Atrissi, Professor of Sociology at the Lebanese University.

implications of the Arab uprising on Lebanon. Due to the diverse background of the participants, the two roundtables have successfully addressed a number of issues affecting Lebanon during this transition period.

KAS Has A Face



Today is: Josefine Sanchez
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Josefine about Josefine: I have been working with KAS Amman for 9 years now as the IT Administrator. As a child, I often dreamed of traveling to distant lands. I have been blessed and fortunate in that I am currently living and working in Amman Jordan. In my spare time, I love researching about the latest technology in the market and I am often preoccupied with the Federation of Filipino Organizations in pursuing civic/sports/cultural activities that benefit 19 sub-organizations. I have a son whom I adore completely and has made my life blissful. Being an Asian, I love cooking, cultural exploration, photography & graphic design.

Recent Lectures

On Wednesday, June 8, Dr. Martin Beck gave a lecture entitled "The Political Culture of Germany" to the students of the German-Jordanian University (GJU). GJU students spend their fourth year in Germany. During their final year, students embark on a study program for one semester at one of the GJU's partner universities. For the second semester, the students intern for at least 20 weeks at an appropriate German company. Dr. Beck's lecture aimed to give the students a comprehensive introduction to the political culture of Germany.

Recent Publications

- **Jordan and Climate Change: Effects, Perceptions and Adjustment**

Dr. Martin Beck and Léa Collet wrote an article on "Jordan and Climate Change: Effects, Perceptions and Adjustment Measures in Jordan." (available in English: <http://www.kas.de/jordanien/en/publications/22643/> on KAS website.)

- **"Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation / Amman Office – A Working Model"**

Nidaa al-Shraideh wrote an article on our work at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Amman with a special emphasis on teamwork, published at <http://scoopat.net/%D8%A3%D9%87%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84> in Arabic.

<http://scoopat.net/%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%89-%D8%A3%D9%87%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84> in Arabic.

Recent Interviews

- Dr. Martin Beck gave an interview to "Development and Cooperation", which is the leading German academic journal on development issues, on the political situation in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. (available in English: <http://www.inwent.org/ez/articles/194626/index.en.shtml>.)
- On June 2nd, Dr. Martin Beck gave an interview with Youmna Naufal at Al-Mustaqbal News TV (Lebanon) on the work of KAS Amman in Lebanon. Short excerpt of the live recording available at: <http://vimeo.com/24809780>.
- Dr. Martin Beck was interviewed by "The Daily Star" on the occasion of an international conference on cross-cultural education organized by Adyan Foundation and supported by KAS Amman. (available in English: <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jun-04/NGOs-laud-benefits-of-cross-cultural-education.ashx#axzz10Oo15bXi>).

Upcoming Events

- **Energy Security in the Middle East and the Gulf Region- Geopolitics, Security Challenges and Sustainable Supplies, Jordan** - July 6 and 7, 2011, with the Arab Institute for Security Studies, Energy Center - Higher Council for Science and Technology & EDAMA.
- **Integration of Human Rights Concepts in the Educational Curricula, Jordan** - July 9 - 12, 2011, with Jordanian Center for Civic Education Studies.
- **Book Launching: "Decentralization and Local Development: Building Effective Local Communities in Jordan"**, Jordan - July 14, 2011, with Visions Center.
- **Empowering Local Government in Jordan: Enhancing Political and Developmental Relations between Municipalities and Local Communities, Jordan** - July 19, 2011, with Visions Center.
- **In the Aftermath of the Changes: Problems and Future of Euro-Mediterranean Relations Conference, Jordan** - July 24 - 26, 2011, with Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies and the European Abraham Center.
- **Reforming the Parliament By Law, Jordan** - September 15 and 16, 2011, with Al Quds Center for Political Studies.

Upcoming Publications

- **Jordan's New Draft Competition Law: Achievement Made, Improvement Required** - with Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization.
- **Decentralization and Local Development in Jordan** - with Visions Center.