

Christians in the Middle East: Contemporary Human Rights Issues



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Thursday, October 21, 2010

7 – 9 p.m. | The Mattone Family Atrium – 4th Floor

PANELIST BIOS

Caroline Labib Doss '99

Caroline Labib Doss is the owner of Doss & Associates, a law firm located in Jersey City, New Jersey. Her practice focuses on immigration law, specifically, claims by Coptic Christians for asylum in the United States. She is also the Vice President of Coptic Solidarity. She has helped organize rallies to raise awareness of human rights abuses against Copts in Egypt and has appeared in the media to discuss discrimination against Copts by the United States embassy in Egypt. She received her B.A. from Rutgers University in 1996 and her J.D. from St. John's in 1999.

Very Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian, Ph.D.

Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian is Primate of the Armenian Church of Great Britain. Born in Baghdad, Iraq, he holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering (EE) from the University of Baghdad (1985), the Master of Divinity degree from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (1989), and the Master of Philosophy and Ph.D. degrees in Biblical Studies from Fordham University (1998). He is the Chairman of the section on "Bible in the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Traditions" in the Society of Biblical Literature and the Series Editor of *Bible in the Christian Orthodox Tradition* (Peter Lang Inc.). He is a member of the Council of Oriental Orthodox Churches in the UK as well as the Orthodox-Anglican and Orthodox-Catholic dialogues in the UK. He has several publications, including three books, in Arabic, Armenian and English, in the fields of New Testament, Apocrypha and Early Christian literature.

Michael J.L. La Civita

Michael La Civita joined Catholic Near East Welfare Association (www.cnewa.org) in May 1989. Currently, he serves as the agency's Vice President for Communications, but he spent most of his career at CNEWA as the Executive Editor of *ONE* magazine (www.onemagazinehome.org), which the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada consistently cites as one of its best periodicals. Mr. La Civita is a

frequent visitor to the Middle East and has authored or edited hundreds of articles on Christians in the Middle East, their works, cares and sociopolitical concerns. He also serves as a consultant for many publications featuring the region. A knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Mr. La Civita initiated, planned and developed CNEWA's immersion tours to the Middle East for members of the Catholic press, working closely with the Jordan Tourism Board, the Catholic Press Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' communications campaign.

Rev. Frank Marangos, D. Min, Ed.D.

Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos is the Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City, an institution and national cathedral of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Preceding this he served as the Executive Director of Communications for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He was the Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education from 1997 to 2006 and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religious Education at Holy Cross from 1999 to 2007. He is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at St. John's University. Father Marangos holds doctorates in Adult Education (Ed.D.) from Nova Southeastern University, Miami, FL; and Christian Education (D.Min.) from SMU, Dallas, TX. He is certified as a Distance Learning Leader from the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA).

Mark L. Movsesian, J.D.

Mark L. Movsesian is the Director of the Center for Law and Religion and the Frederick A. Whitney Professor of Contract Law at St. John's School of Law. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Harvard College (1985) and *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School (1988), where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review* and a recipient of the Sears Prize, awarded to the two highest-ranking students in the

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Panel:

Caroline Labib Doss '99
Doss & Associates, PC

Very Rev. Vahan Hovhannessian, Ph.D.
Diocese of the Armenian Church of Great Britain

Michael J.L. La Civita
Catholic Near East Welfare Association

Rev. Frank Marangos, D. Min., Ed.D.
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Piero Tozzi, J.D.
Alliance Defense Fund

Moderator:

Mark L. Movsesian, J.D.
**Frederick A. Whitney Professor and
Director, Center for Law and Religion**

Reception to Follow

PANELIST BIOS continued

second-year class. He clerked for Justice David H. Souter of the Supreme Court of the United States and served as an attorney-advisor in the Office of Legal Counsel at the United States Department of Justice. He has delivered papers at numerous workshops in the United States and Europe and his articles have appeared in the *Harvard Law Review*, the *American Journal of International Law*, the *Harvard International Law Journal*, the *Virginia Journal of International Law*, and many others.

Piero Tozzi, J.D.

Piero Tozzi is a Senior Legal Counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), where he focuses on international human rights law. He earned his J.D. from Fordham University

School of Law (1996), where he served as Associate Editor of the *Fordham Law Review*, and his B.A. from Columbia University (1988). Before joining ADF, he served as the Executive Vice President and General Counsel for the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM), where he lobbied the United Nations on social policy issues and established C-FAM's public interest law arm, the International Organizations Law Group. He has litigated numerous religious liberty cases and has won asylum for victims of religious persecution in foreign countries. He has written several law review articles and has lectured extensively around the world on issues of international human rights law, constitutional law, rights of conscience, and religious freedom.