



Nieman Foundation
for Journalism at Harvard

C O N F E R E N C E

**Reporting Global
Conflict:**

**Uncovering the Link
Between Religion
and Human Rights**

*A conference
presented by the
Nieman Foundation
for Journalism at
Harvard and the
Harvard Divinity
School*

May 9-10, 2008

Knight Center
Walter Lippmann House
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Welcome

Journalists often find themselves at the crossroads where religion and human rights meet, if not collide. Whether they work as foreign correspondents, national commentators, essayists, religion reporters, or human rights watchdogs, it is their job to report in depth; to explain, sort out and shed light on stories of conflict and human rights abuse; to examine what made the disturbing news possible – as well as what made it human – and ultimately, how humanity can try to make sense of it.

This is never an easy task. Many journalists covering conflict are painfully aware of the complexities involved. Yet they rarely have the time to study those issues in detail; and they rarely think of them within a framework that analyzes where ideas about religion and ideas about human rights meet – or clash.

An increasing number of scholars and religious leaders, however, are doing just that. As events such as the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, and the resulting U.S. “war on terror” shake up belief systems, national identities and international politics around the world, the exploration of the “vexed relationship” (Louis Henkin) between religion and human rights has emerged as an important concept among academics and religious scholars attempting to comprehend and explain what they argue lays at the root of some of the major conflicts of our time.

They acknowledge the tension between what some consider to be human rights abuses and others consider an expression of their religious freedom. And they recognize the friction between those who perceive some societies and governing structures as too religious while others consider them too secular.

They cite clashes between those who advocate universal human rights – for example, that no human being should be allowed to physically harm another, no matter what the circumstances – and those who argue that no human right can be universal given the vast cultural, social and historic differences among people; and, in another strain of thought, given extraordinary circumstances, the “need” to torture one human in order to save thousands of others.

To analyze these complex issues, we have organized this conference with two major goals in mind:

- 1) To educate journalists on the basics of the human rights framework and legislation and how they relate to and are interpreted within the Abrahamic religions.
- 2) To engage scholars, leaders, advocates and journalists in a frank, constructive discussion of the roles religion, human rights legislation and the media each play in securing, protecting or violating human rights.

We are particularly indebted to Patricia Cooper and Anne Carter, whose leadership and generous support allow us to present this conference. We are also grateful to David Little, one of the leading thinkers in this field, whose insights have been invaluable to organizing this event. Finally, we would like to thank our co-sponsor, the Harvard Divinity School, for assistance and support in planning this event; and especially Dean William Graham for his generous offer to host our dinner Friday evening.

Bob Giles, Curator

Stefanie Friedhoff,
Conference Program Director

Friday | May 9, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast
- 8:30-8:45 a.m. Welcome
Bob Giles, Curator, Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard
Patricia Cooper, Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
- 8:45-11:30 a.m. **RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEORY AND POLITICS I: SEMINAR**
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- 8:45-9:45 a.m. **The Fundamentals: Defining Religion and Human Rights**
-
- Daniel Rothenberg, Managing Director of International Projects, International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University College of Law
The human rights paradigm and its treaties
- David Little: Professor of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity, and International Conflict, Harvard Divinity School; Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
Religion and freedom of belief as a human right
- Abdullahi An-Na'im, Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law
Beyond the U.S. perspective: Reflections from a Muslim advocate of human rights
- 9:45-10:00 a.m. Coffee break

Friday | May 9, 2008 *continued*

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Religion and Rights – A Tangled History

Reza Aslan, Research Fellow, Center on Public Diplomacy,
University of Southern California and author, “No god but God;
The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam”

Human rights and Islam

Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations,
Center for Faith in Practice, Hartford Seminary

Human rights and Judaism

Harvey Cox, Professor of Divinity, Harvard Kennedy School

Human rights and Christianity

Moderator: Richard Parker, Lecturer in Public Policy,
Harvard University

11:30-11:45 p.m.

Break

11:45-1:15 p.m.

RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN PEOPLE’S LIVES: PANEL I

On the Ground: What Role Does Religion Play in Securing, Protecting or Violating Human Rights?

Anissa Hélie, Karl Loewenstein Fellow in Political Science
and Jurisprudence, Amherst College

Bodily rights and sexual rights in Muslim contexts:

All equal before God and the media?

Yehezkel Landau, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Relations,
Center for Faith in Practice, Hartford Seminary

*Life as a laboratory: What the Israel-Palestine context taught
me about human rights, individual and collective*

Daniel Rothenberg, Managing Director of International Projects,
International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University
College of Law
*The Iraq history project: Reflections on two and a half years
of collecting testimonies of political violence in Iraq*

Tina Monshipour Foster, Executive Director,
International Justice Network
*The impact of the United States’ “global war on terror”
on human rights in the Islamic world*

Moderator: Eliza Griswold, Freelance Journalist

1:15-2:15 p.m.

Lunch

2:15-4:30 p.m.

**RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN GLOBAL CONFLICT:
A CASE STUDY**

2:15–3:45 p.m.

**Strange Bedfellows: The Case of Sudan or
How Liberal Activists and the Religious Right
Ended up as Allies**

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, Professor of Anthropology,
Rhode Island College
*Shari’a in Sudan, Islamism, post-Islamism, and the future
of the Sudanese state – an introduction*

Mahgoub El-Tigani Mahmoud, Professor of Sociology,
Tennessee State University
Socio-religious interaction, repression, and authority reactions

Paul Marshall, Senior Fellow, Center for Religious Freedom,
Hudson Institute
Coalition building for Sudan: Domestic forces in the U.S.

Friday | May 9, 2008 *continued*

Ken Isaacs, Vice President for Programs and Government Relations, Samaritan's Purse

Sudan: Natural allies – the religious right and human rights advocates

Richard Lobban, Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Rhode Island College; Executive Director, Sudan Studies Association

Beyond ideologies, left or right: Assessing Sudan's policies on the ground, no matter who proposed them

3:45-4:00 p.m.

Coffee break

4:00-4:30 p.m.

Covering Genocide in the Age of the 24-Hour News Cycle: Getting the Sudan Story Right

Jeb Sharp, correspondent, PRI's "The World," discusses media coverage of Sudan with the panelists

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Break



EVENING PROGRAM

*Hosted by Harvard Divinity School Dean William Graham
and Barbara Graham*

- 6:00 p.m. Reception
- 6:30-7:45 p.m. Blessings and dinner
- 7:45-8:00 p.m. Welcome
William Graham

8:00-9:30 p.m. **RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN PEOPLE'S LIVES: PANEL II**

A Tale of Two Survivors: Narrating Religious Conflict and Working Toward Solutions

Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye Founders and
Co-Executive Directors, Interfaith Mediation Centre, Nigeria

Moderator: David Little

With an afterword by Eliza Griswold on what it took to
sell this story to The Atlantic

Saturday | May 10, 2008

8:00 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:30-10:00 a.m.

RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN NATIONAL CONFLICT: PANEL

Global Tensions, Local Reactions: Building Community Networks to Prevent or Respond to Hate Crimes

Diana Eck, Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies, Harvard University, and Director of the Pluralism Project

The dilemmas and dimensions of the local: American microhistories of conflict, crisis and cooperation

Reda Shata, Imam, Al-Aman Mosque, New Jersey

The impact of the “war on terror” on Muslims

Richard Cizik, Vice President for Governmental Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals

An evangelical response to religious conflict, torture, and the “war on terror”

Moderator: Julia Lieblich, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Loyola University

10:00-10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15-12:00 p.m.

RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN JOURNALISM: PANEL

The Elephant in the Newsroom: The Role of Religion – and Human Rights – in Global Crisis Reporting

Aboubakr Jamaï, Mason Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School, 2007 Nieman Fellow

Covering politics, religion and human rights in Morocco – a view from inside

Andrea Elliott, Projects Reporter, The New York Times

Another foreign country: Islam in America

Andrew Meldrum, Africa correspondent and author,

2008 Nieman Fellow

How churches helped journalists expose human rights abuses in Zimbabwe

Eliza Griswold, Freelance Journalist, 2007 Nieman Fellow,

Selling out: How to take a complex, nuanced reality and boil it into a story

Roger Cohen, Editor at Large, The International Herald Tribune

A closer ear: How people tell stories and dispel myths

Moderator: Charles Sennott, Executive Editor, Vice President and Co-founder, Global News Enterprises

12:00–1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00-2:30 p.m.

**RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEORY AND POLITICS II:
PANEL**

A Paradigm Revisited: 60 Years After the Declaration of Human Rights – How Would We (Re)write it Now?

Abdullahi An-Na'im, Professor of Law, Emory University School of Law

The possibilities and limitations of the human rights paradigm or why, as a Muslim, I need a secular state to be a Muslim

Karen Tse, CEO and founder of International Bridges to Justice

From declaration to implementation: Are we missing the point?

Paul Marshall, Senior Fellow, Center for Religious Freedom, Hudson Institute

Do we need another law or work on enforcing what we have?

Saturday | May 10, 2008 *continued*

Jeremy Gunn, Director, Program on Freedom of Religion
and Belief, ACLU

Righting wrongs or re-writing rights?

Moderator: Peter James Spielmann, Editor, Associated Press

2:30 p.m.

Closing remarks

Stefanie Friedhoff, Conference Program Director,
Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard



The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard administers the oldest midcareer fellowship program for journalists in the world. Since the program was established in 1938, more than 1,200 journalists of accomplishment from 88 countries have received Nieman Fellowships and have visited the university for a year of study and exploration. The Nieman Foundation also publishes the quarterly magazine Nieman Reports, the nation's oldest magazine devoted to a critical examination of the practice of journalism. Additionally, the foundation is home to the Nieman Program on Narrative Journalism and the Nieman Watchdog Journalism Project, which encourages reporters and editors to monitor and hold accountable those who exert power in all aspects of public life.

Harvard Divinity School is one of the world's foremost institutions for scholarship and education in religious and ministry studies. With a commitment to producing leaders who understand today's religiously pluralistic world, HDS attracts students from a variety of religious perspectives and academic interests. Each year, between 400 and 500 students – from Christian, Jewish, Unitarian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and other backgrounds – pursue their particular investigations of religion together, sharing a common intellectual undertaking and growing richer by exploring their differences. They benefit in particular from an approach to religious studies that combines theory and practice, historical studies and contemporary studies, and academic resources in all of the world's major religious traditions.

Graduates of Harvard Divinity School enter careers across the professional spectrum, from ministry to academia, from business to medicine, with public service as a central focus. As events continue to emphasize the essential role of religion in contemporary life, the need for rigorous scholarship, learned ministry, and enlightened leadership is now more vital than ever. Harvard Divinity School prepares leaders who fully appreciate the religious dimensions of daily experience, enabling them to improve lives by understanding the worlds of thought, spirit, and action.

Biographies

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University. An internationally recognized scholar of Islam and human rights, and human rights in cross-cultural perspectives, An-Na'im teaches courses in international law, human rights, and Islamic law. His research interests also include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, and Islam and politics. He is the author of "Islam and the Secular State: Negotiating the Future of Shari'a," "African Constitutionalism and the Role of Islam," and "Toward an Islamic Reformation: Civil liberties, human rights and international law." His edited books include "Islamic Family Law in a Changing World: A Global Resource Book," "Cultural Transformation and Human Rights in Africa," "Human Rights under African Constitutions," "Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspectives: Quest for Consensus."

Imam Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa and **Pastor James Movele Wuye** are the founders and co-executive directors of the Interfaith Mediation Centre and the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum in Kaduna, Nigeria. They are co-recipients of the 2000 Tanenbaum Peacemaker Award.

Their work together grew out of the violence that has escalated between Muslim and Christian communities in Nigeria during the past 15 years. In the early 1990s, Pastor Wuye and Imam Ashafa led opposing militia groups in Kaduna, resulting in great personal cost: Wuye lost an arm in 1992, while Ashafa lost his teacher and two of his cousins the

same year. However, both men were transformed by readings from the Bible and Qur'an. They staged a public debate in 1995, which developed into an ongoing dialogue through the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum. In 1999, they published a book, "The Pastor and the Imam: Responding to Conflict," a guide for peaceful management of conflict and reconciliation. A film of the same name has been made.

One of the most significant achievements of their center has been the Kaduna Peace Declaration, which set the stage for building and sustaining peaceful co-existence of their two communities. It was signed in August 2002 by 20 senior religious leaders. To date, Pastor Wuye and Imam Ashafa have successfully facilitated dozens of conflict resolution activities and interventions in conflict, both within Nigeria and around the world.

Reza Aslan, an internationally acclaimed writer and religion scholar, is a fellow at the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy and a Middle East analyst for CBS News. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities, and the Pacific Council on International Policy. He serves on the board of directors for both the Ploughshares Fund and PEN USA. Aslan's first book, "No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam," was short-listed for the Guardian (UK) First Book Award, and nominated for a PEN USA award for research non-fiction. Aslan's "How to Win a Cosmic War" along

with an edited anthology, “Words Without Borders: Contemporary Literature from the Muslim World,” will be published in 2009. Aslan is co-founder and creative director of BoomGen Studios and the editorial executive of Mecca.com, an online community for Muslim youth. Born in Iran, he now lives in California and is assistant professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside.

The **Reverend Richard Cizik** is vice president for Governmental Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals. His primary responsibilities include setting NAE’s policy direction on issues before Congress, the White House, and Supreme Court, as well as serving as a national spokesman on issues of concern to evangelicals. He is the author of over 100 published articles and editorials, and author and editor of “The High Cost of Indifference.” He also has been a contributor to “On Christian Freedom,” the “Dictionary of Christianity in America,” and the landmark document “For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Engagement.” Cizik maintains an active preaching and speaking schedule.

Roger Cohen is editor at large for The International Herald Tribune and has written an Op-Ed column for the paper since May 2007. Cohen previously served as foreign editor for The New York Times and also worked as the paper’s bureau chief in Berlin, Balkan bureau chief based in Zagreb, and European economic correspondent based in Paris. He began his time at the paper as a media reporter. Prior to joining

the Times, Cohen was a foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, reporting from Rome and Rio de Janeiro. Earlier, he wrote for Reuters. Cohen wrote “Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo,” and co-wrote a biography of General Norman Schwarzkopf, “In the Eye of the Storm.” Another book, “Soldiers and Slaves: American POWs Trapped by the Nazis’ Final Gamble,” was published in 2005. He has won numerous national and international journalism prizes for his work.

Patricia Cooper has over 30 years of experience as a public policy analyst, strategic planner, entrepreneur, and civic leader. She served for eight years as a senior executive appointed by two prime ministers of Canada to provide advice on the effects of legislation on women and children. Cooper was a founding member of the Women’s Legal Education and Action fund to achieve equality for women through education and litigation under a new Canadian constitution. She also is a member of the board of Pathfinder International, providing reproductive health services and HIV/Aids programs in over 30 countries, and the Arghand Trust, a farmer’s cooperative in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Cooper was a fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University and now serves on the Leadership Council for the Harvard Divinity School. She is principal of Capital Sisters International, a newly formed micro-finance NGO.

Biographies *continued*

Harvey Cox, Jr. is a leading theologian and Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard University, where he has been teaching since 1965. He was a co-founder of the Boston chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was led nationally by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Cox also served as a member of the Working Committee of the Department of Church and Society of the World Council of Churches and as a consultant to the Roman Catholic Bishops of Latin America. His book “The Secular City,” published in 1965, became an international bestseller and his “Feast of Fools” was nominated for the National Book Prize. Among his other books are: “Many Mansions: A Christian’s Encounters with Other Faiths,” the section on Christianity in “Our Religions,” a collection of articles by scholar-practitioners of the seven major world faiths, and “Fire From Heaven,” which traces the world-wide growth of Pentecostalism. His latest book is “When Jesus Came to Harvard: Making Moral Choices Today” and his current research project examines the history of Christian interpretations of Islam.

Diana Eck is professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University and director of the Pluralism Project, which studies America’s changing religious landscape. As a scholar of India, she has published “Banaras, City of Light,” “Darsan: Seeing the Divine Image in India” and “Encountering God: A Spiritual Journey from Bozeman to Banaras.”

With the Pluralism Project, she has turned her attention to the United States, producing the CD-ROM, *On Common Ground: World Religions in America*, and publishing “A New Religious America: How a ‘Christian’ Country Has Become the World’s Most Religiously Diverse Nation.” In 1998, she received the National Humanities Medal from President Clinton.

Andrea Elliott is a projects reporter for The New York Times. She won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for her series “An Imam in America,” which chronicled the life of an immigrant Muslim leader in Brooklyn. Her other projects have included a series on Muslims in the military, an examination of the bereaved children of Sept. 11 and an investigation for The New York Times Magazine on the lives of Moroccan suicide bombers. Before joining the Times, she was a reporter at The Miami Herald and worked in documentary film. Among other honors, she has received awards from the Overseas Press Club, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Society of Professional Journalists. Her work was featured in “Best Newspaper Writing of 2007.”

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, is a professor of anthropology at Rhode Island College where she teaches courses in Islamic and African and Afro-American Studies. Her research areas include: Sudan; Islamic law and society; women’s social and legal status in Muslim societies; race and racism; ethics and anthropological research; and human

rights and cultural relativism. She is a founder and twice past president of the Sudan Studies Association. Fluehr-Lobban is currently conducting research in Sudan on the status of Shari'a after the peace agreement ending 22 years of civil war under a two year grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace. She is the author or editor of 11 books, including, "Islamic Societies in Practice" and "Islamic Law and Society in the Sudan." Her most recent works include "Race and Identity in the Nile Valley," "Race and Racism, an Introduction," and "Female Well-Being, Toward a Global Theory of Social Change."

Tina Monshipour Foster is a New York-based international human rights attorney and the founder and executive director of the International Justice Network (IJN), a not-for-profit organization which provides direct legal assistance to victims of human rights abuses. IJN also supports a global network of legal professionals, non-governmental organizations and community-based advocates working to protect human rights and promote the rule of law. Foster has worked extensively with victim populations throughout the Islamic world who have been affected by the U.S.-led "global war on terror." She is lead counsel in IJN's lawsuits against the U.S. government on behalf of detainees imprisoned without charge at U.S. military prisons overseas, and is the first attorney to challenge the U.S. government's prolonged arbitrary detention without charge of Arab and Muslim men at Bagram Airbase

in Afghanistan. Foster also worked as an attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights and counsel for the center's Guantanamo Global Justice Initiative.

Stefanie Friedhoff is special projects manager at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard and program director of this conference. She also works as a freelance journalist and science writer for U.S. and European media. Her articles have appeared in Time, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), Folio/Neue Zuercher Zeitung and Facts (Switzerland), among others. Friedhoff started a career as a freelance correspondent based in Cambridge, Mass., in 1998. Previously, she worked for BZ, Berlin's largest daily newspaper, where she was news editor and editor of the Sunday magazine. She was a 2001 Nieman Fellow and organized a number of educational workshops and conferences for the Nieman Foundation before joining the staff in 2006.

Bob Giles became the curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard in 2000 after working for nearly 40 years in newspapers. Previously, he had been editor and publisher of The Detroit News. He also served as executive editor and editor of the Democrat & Chronicle and the Times-Union in Rochester, N.Y. Prior to joining the Nieman Foundation as curator, Giles was a senior vice president of The Freedom Forum, where he served as editor in chief of The Freedom Forum's Media

Biographies *continued*

Studies Journal. As managing editor of the Akron Beacon Journal in 1970, he directed coverage of the campus shootings at Kent State, for which the newspaper won the Pulitzer Prize. Also under his editorship, The Detroit News won a Pulitzer in 1994 for the paper's disclosures of a scandal in the Michigan House Fiscal Agency. Giles won the Scripps-Howard Foundation's Distinguished Journalism Citation in 1978. He also is an eight-time Pulitzer Prize juror and is the author of "Newsroom Management: A Guide to Theory and Practice." Giles was a Nieman Fellow in 1966.

William A. Graham is Professor of Divinity and Dean of the Harvard Divinity School and Professor of Middle Eastern Studies in Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. He also has served as director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and chaired the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the Committee on the Study of Religion, the Committee on Middle Eastern Studies, and the Harvard College Core Curriculum Subcommittee on Foreign Cultures. He is a former chair of the Council on Graduate Studies in Religion (U.S. and Canada). His scholarly work has focused on early Islamic religious history and textual traditions and problems in the history of world religion. Additionally, he is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has held John Simon Guggenheim and Alexander von Humboldt Fellowships.

Eliza Griswold is currently a fellow at the New America Foundation. Her poetry and reportage has appeared in The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine and Harper's, among others. She writes about religion, conflict and human rights. She is the author of a collection of poems, "Wideawake Field" and a forthcoming book of non-fiction, "The Tenth Parallel, the encounter between Christianity and Islam in Africa and Asia." She was a 2007 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

T. Jeremy Gunn is director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Freedom of Religion and Belief program. He also is a senior fellow for religion and human rights at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University's School of Law. Gunn is a member of the Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion and Belief in the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. After working as an attorney, he held several positions in the U.S. government, including at the U.S. Department of State (Office of International Religious Freedom). He was a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace in 1998-99. Gunn has taught classes at universities in France, Germany, Canada and Spain. He also has written a number of books and articles on religion and is currently preparing a book on religion and U.S. foreign policy.

Anissa Hélie is currently a Karl Loewenstein Fellow in Political Science and Jurisprudence, and visiting assistant professor

at Amherst College. She has worked with a wide range of human rights organizations and women's groups in various countries. She has been involved with the Women Living Under Muslim Laws network since its inception in 1984 and served as the executive director of the WLUML's International Coordination Office from 2000-2005. She has also been closely involved with the International Initiative for Justice in Gujarat and was a board member of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice at the International Criminal Court. She currently serves on the boards of Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, and on the Editorial Advisory Board for Reproductive Health Matters. Born and raised in Algeria, Hélie is a frequent speaker on issues related to women's status and rights in Muslim contexts.

Ken Isaacs currently serves as the vice president of programs and government relations for Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization with activities in over 130 countries worldwide. As director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance within the U.S. Agency for International Development, he directed the organization as the lead agency for U.S. government relief responses to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2005 Pakistan earthquake. He also oversaw U.S. humanitarian relief efforts in both Darfur and southern Sudan, as well as the Niger and Ethiopia emergency responses. Isaacs has over 22 years experience working in the relief and development com-

munity and has served in dozens of countries. He has testified before U.S. House and Senate committees, including the House International Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations.

Aboubakr Jamaï is a Moroccan journalist currently completing a midcareer master's program in public administration at the Harvard Kennedy School as a Mason Fellow. He was publisher of Morocco's leading weekly, *Le Journal Hebdomadaire*, a newspaper that has exposed government corruption, corporate impropriety, and other taboo political subjects. He co-founded *Le Journal* in 1997 and later, its Arab language sister publication, *Assahifa*, in 1998. Aboubakr Jamaï won the Committee to Protect Journalists' International Press Freedom Award in 2003. In January 2008, he won the Newhouse School of communication at Syracuse University's "Tully Center Free Speech Award." Jamaï was selected by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader for 2005. He was a Yale World Fellow in 2004 at Yale University and a 2007 Nieman Fellow at Harvard.

Yehezkel Landau is faculty associate in Interfaith Relations at the Center for Faith in Practice at Hartford Seminary. A dual Israeli-American citizen, his work has been in interfaith education and Jewish-Arab peacemaking. He directed the *Oz veShalom-Netivot Shalom* religious peace movement in Israel during the 1980s. From 1991 to 2003, he was co-founder and co-director of the

Biographies *continued*

Open House Center for Jewish-Arab Coexistence in Ramle, Israel. He co-edited “Voices from Jerusalem: Jews and Christians Reflect on the Holy Land” and authored a research report entitled “Healing the Holy Land: Interreligious Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine.” At Hartford Seminary, Landau coordinates an interfaith training program for Jews, Christians, and Muslims called “Building Abrahamic Partnerships.”

Julia Lieblich is an assistant professor of journalism at Loyola University in Chicago, where she teaches human rights reporting. Lieblich is a former religion writer for the Chicago Tribune and the Associated Press. Her work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Time, Life, Ms., and other publications. She is the author of “Sisters: Lives of Devotion and Defiance” and is completing a new book, “Finding Meaning After Terror.” She was an Ochberg Fellow at the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. She also earned a master’s degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School.

David Little is Professor of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity, and International Conflict at Harvard Divinity School. He is also an associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Previously, he was senior scholar in Religion, Ethics and Human Rights at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. From 1996-1998, he was a member of the Advisory Committee to the

State Department on Religious Freedom Abroad. Little is co-author with Scott W. Hibbard of the USIP publication, “Islamic Activism and U.S. Foreign Policy.” Little also authored two of the volumes in the USIP series on religion, nationalism, and intolerance, “Ukraine: Legacy of Intolerance,” and “Sri Lanka: The Invention of Enmity.” He has edited two recently published volumes, “Religion and Nationalism in Iraq: A Comparative Perspective,” with Donald K. Swearer, and “Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution.”

Richard Lobban, Jr. is a professor of anthropology and African Studies at Rhode Island College, where he has taught since 1972. He was the director of African and Afro-American Studies for almost 13 years. Lobban has been engaged in African studies since 1964 when he first went to Africa. From there, he has covered important trials, several wars, and African ethnography and cultural history. Additionally, he has also contributed to the scientific and comparative study of slavery in the state, nation and world and applies this closely to work on human rights and political asylum today. He has taught in a variety of settings and has lectured in and on Africa and the Middle East. Currently he is the co-director of the URI Study Abroad program in Cape Verde. He also serves as the executive director and first president of the Sudan Studies Association that was first founded and incorporated in Rhode Island in 1981.

Lobban is teaching a course, Introduction to African Cultures and History, at the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

Mahgoub El-Tigani Mahmoud is a sociology professor at Tennessee State University, as well as director of the university's Office for International Relations and Programs. A former adviser of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the democratic government of Sudan, he also worked at the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies in Banjul, Gambia. Mahmoud is a founder and has been repeatedly elected president of the Sudan Human Rights Organization Cairo Office (SHRO-Cairo) and is editor in chief of the bilingual Sudanese Human Rights Quarterly. His published works include chapters in many volumes on human rights, Africa, and the Sudan. He writes in both English and Arabic. His most recent publications include "State and Religion in Sudan" in English and the Arabic translations of William Adam's "Nubia – Corridor to Africa" and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban's "Islamic Law and Society in The Sudan."

Paul Marshall is senior fellow at the Center for Religious Freedom at the Hudson Institute. His global survey "Religious Freedom in the World" has just been published and his book on religion and the media, "Blind Spot: Why Journalists Don't Get the News Because They Don't Get Religion," will be published in November. He is the author and editor of 25 other books on religion and politics, including "Radical

Islam's Rules: the Worldwide Spread of Extreme Shari'a Law," "The Rise of Hindu Extremism," "Islam at the Crossroads," "God and the Constitution" and "The Talibanization of Nigeria," among others. He is the author of several hundred articles, and his writings have been translated into Russian, German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Albanian, Japanese, Malay, Korean, Arabic, Farsi, and Chinese. He is currently heading a research project on the effects of blasphemy and apostasy laws in the Muslim world.

Andrew Meldrum has lived and worked as a journalist in southern Africa for 27 years. In 1980 he went to Zimbabwe to report on that country's transition from minority-ruled Rhodesia to majority rule. He began writing for The Guardian newspaper in 1983 with reports on the Zimbabwean army's massacres of civilians in the Matabeleland region. Since 2000, Meldrum has concentrated on covering Zimbabwe's current crisis, especially human rights abuses and the breakdown of the rule of law. In 2002 Meldrum was arrested by the Mugabe regime, jailed for two days and then put on trial for allegedly publishing a falsehood. He was acquitted. In May, 2003, government agents abducted Meldrum and forcibly put him on a plane out of the country. His book "Where We Have Hope," describes his experiences in Zimbabwe. Meldrum currently is a 2008 Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.

Biographies *continued*

Richard Parker is lecturer in public policy and a senior fellow at the Shorenstein Center at Harvard Kennedy School. He has worked as an economist for the United Nations Development Programme, as co-founder of Mother Jones Magazine, and as head of his own consulting firm, serving congressional clients, including Senators Kennedy, Glenn, Cranston, and McGovern, among others. Parker has held Marshall, Rockefeller, Danforth, Goldsmith, and Bank of America Fellowships. His books include: "The Myth of the Middle Class," a study of U.S. income distribution, "Mixed Signals: The Future of Global Television News," and the biography, "John Kenneth Galbraith: His Life, His Politics, His Economics." Parker's articles have appeared in numerous academic anthologies and journals and in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, New Republic, The Nation, Harper's, Le Monde, The Atlantic, and International Economy.

Daniel Rothenberg is managing director of international projects at the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University College of Law. Previously, he was a senior fellow at the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School, an assistant professor in anthropology at the University of Michigan, a visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School and a fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows. He works on transitional justice issues, particularly truth commissions, amnesty laws, tribunals and reparations. He also

manages human rights and rule of law projects in various parts of the world. He has conducted research on labor migration, moral panics, genocide and social responses to institutionalized violence. He is the author of "With These Hands" and the forthcoming, "I Pray Never Again to See What I Saw in My Beloved Sierra Leone: Popular Version of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report."

Charles Sennott is executive editor, vice president and co-founder of Global News Enterprises, the first U.S.-based Web site dedicated solely to international news. An award-winning foreign correspondent and author, Sennott is responsible for building a team of 70 foreign correspondents and heading up a series of multimedia reports for the Global News Web site, which will launch in 2009. A long-time foreign correspondent for The Boston Globe, Sennott served as the paper's Middle East bureau chief based in Jerusalem and as Europe bureau chief based in London. He was among the first reporters on the ground in Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 and covered the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and its aftermath. As a staff writer for the paper's Special Projects team, he recently completed a year-long multimedia project on veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sennott is the author of three books and was a 2006 Nieman Fellow.

Jeb Sharp is a reporter for Public Radio International's The World program. She covers foreign policy and human rights issues. During the past year she has reported

from Chad, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her 2003 series on the history of Iraq won the Lowell Thomas Award from the Overseas Press Club. Her 2007 series *Rwanda: Trying to Move On* recently won a Sigma Delta Chi Award for feature reporting from the Society of Professional Journalists. She was a 2006 Nieman Fellow.

Sheikh Reda Shata is an active leader of the Muslim community in the United States. He is currently imam of Al-Aman Mosque in Middletown, NJ, and previously served as imam, preacher and teacher of Islamic studies in New York, Germany, Saudi Arabia and in his home country of Egypt. His formal training as an imam at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, combined with his hands-on experience as a community leader in the United States and Europe, has put him at the forefront of issues that concern Muslim minorities in the West. He is renowned for his moderate interpretation of Islamic Shari'a (jurisprudence) and he gives weekly lectures on a range of classical and modern Islamic themes.

Peter James Spielmann is an editor and supervisor on the North America desk of the Associated Press. In addition, he periodically covers human rights stories and the international impasse over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Spielmann was the AP news editor and correspondent for the South Pacific, based in Sydney, Australia, from 1993-1999. He also worked as an AP correspondent at the United Nations for five years. He contributed

chapters to the book "A Global Agenda: Issues before the United Nations." In 2002, he was selected as a Pew Gatekeeper Fellow for studies in South Africa, and a Dart Fellow in Journalism and Trauma. In 2008, he was selected to be a Fulbright Senior Specialist in journalism. He is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Human Rights and has taught at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Karen Tse is founder and CEO of International Bridges to Justice and a leader in the global criminal defense movement. Tse first developed her interest in the cross section of criminal law and human rights as a Thomas J. Watson Fellow in 1986 after observing Southeast Asian refugees detained in a local prison without trial. She moved to Cambodia in 1994 to train the country's first core group of public defenders and subsequently served as a U.N. Judicial Mentor. Under the auspices of U.N., she trained judges and prosecutors and established the first arraignment court in Cambodia. She founded International Bridges to Justice in 2000 to promote systemic global change in the administration of criminal justice. She has since negotiated and implemented groundbreaking measures in judicial reform with the Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian governments. Under her leadership, IBJ has expanded its programming to Rwanda, Burundi and Zimbabwe, and is now working to create a Global Defender Support Program that will bring IBJ assistance to public defenders worldwide.

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