

The 3rd Annual Istanbul Network for Liberty Conference
Biographies of Speakers and the Chairman

Dr. Mohammad Ahrar Ramizpoor, Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organization: Dr. Ramizpoor was born on 1970 in an intellectual Afghan family. He followed his primary and secondary education in Kabul. Later, he joined Kabul university Sharia faculty, Jurisprudence and Law school. He obtained his BA degree on 1990 from them and after his graduation he was appointed as a lecturer there. (1991-2007) On 2005 he received a Chevening fellowship on Governance and sharia through British Council in Kabul to Birmingham University UK as he followed another post graduate fellowship on 2010 on International Human Rights Law in Nottingham University UK. Mr. Ramizpoor currently works voluntarily as the general coordinator of Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization (AELSO). He is also a Human Rights officer at the United Nation Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). In addition he is teaching at the law faculty of a private university in Kabul by the name of Kardan University.

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Acar, Rector, Aksaray University, Turkey: Dr. Acar graduated from Middle East Technical University, Department of Economics (1986). He worked for State Institute of Statistics (1986-87) and Isbank Economic Research Division (1987-93) before he decided to pursue academic career. He received his masters (1996) and Ph.D. (2000) degrees from Purdue University, Department of Economics (USA). He has been serving as the Rector of Aksaray University since May 2011. His areas of interest include agricultural policy analysis, regional economic integration, general equilibrium analysis, Turkey-EU relations, globalization, free market economy and economic freedoms. He has published several articles in the refereed national and international journals on agriculture, policy analysis, globalization, economic debates, and Turkish-EU integration and has published a number of books. Among his publications are Market, Government and Regulation, Dictionary of Social Sciences (with Ö. Demir), European Economy and Turkey .He has translated several books such as the Invisible Heart and the Choice of Russel Roberts. He regularly writes in Liberal Thought, national dailies.

Dr. Raza Ullah, Alternate Solutions Institute, Pakistan: Mr. Ullah is Assistant Professor in the Department of Management Sciences, Islamia College University, Peshawar in Pakistan. He obtained his PhD in public Administration from University of Peshawar. His doctoral research was about Hernando De Soto's property rights works especially focusing on its gender dimension. He did Master in Business Administration and BSc from University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Besides, he has taught at Allama Iqbal University, City University, BRAINS Post Graduate College, Abasyn University Pakistan etc. He is also associated with Staff Training Institute, civil secretariat Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as trainer. He is teaching Total Quality Management, Strategic Management, Comparative Management, Knowledge Management, and International Trade and also supervising many students' research. He has organized and presented at local, national and international conferences and workshops. He is Director Programs and Institutional Relations in Pakistan's first free market think tank 'Alternate Solutions Institute' and also associated as executive member to the Quality and Productivity Society of Pakistan and American Institute of Pakistan Studies. He has interest in democracy, free market, Islam, politics, and globalization.

Thomas Cumhuriür, Senior Advisor, Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation, Sweden: He was born in Ankara, but he lives in Sweden since 1966. Before working in Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation, he worked in different fields as journalist, press secretary, writer. He is still Senior Advisor of Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasan Yucel Basdemir, Hitit University Divinity Faculty, Turkey: He was born in 1974. He graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Theology in 1996. After teaching for two years in Ankara and Kırıkkale, Mr. Basdemir began working as a research assistant in Gazi University Faculty of Theology in 1998. He obtained his master degree and Phd from Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences. He still teaches at Hitit University the Department of Philosophy and Religion Sciences.

Dženan Smajić, Center for Advance Studies, Bosnia: Mr. Smajić was born on 1989 in Bosnia. For one year of Arabic language course he went to Al-Azhar University in Egypt (2008-2009). He graduated from University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Philosophy (2009-2012). Mr. Smajić was awarded with Silver medal for one of the best students on University of Sarajevo. He is now Master degree student in University of Sarajevo. Besides, he is a freelance translator and also, he works in Center of Advance Studies and NGO Multi, member of European Students for Liberty Network(ESFL) (2013-present). His interests are history of liberty movements, free-market economy, Islamic economy in medieval period and modern movements in Islamic economy, State and community (generally) and in Islam.

Prof. Dr. Bilal Sambur, Yildirim Beyazit University, Turkey: He received his PhD at the Department of Theology, at the University of Birmingham, UK. He served as a lecturer in Islamic Studies in Birmingham. He interned at the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty in Michigan, US. His areas of expertise are religious philosophy, Christian theology, modern Islamic thought, spirituality in world religions, interfaith relations, politics and religions. He is the director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Liberty of ALT where he leads the study of an annual report of Religious Freedom apart from other researches.

Dr. Hidayet Tuksal, Mardin Artuklu University Faculty of Theology, Founding Member of Capital City Women's Platform: She is writer and theologian. She graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Theology. She obtained her Phd with the thesis on "Influences of Patriarchal Tradition on Anti-woman Narration". Also, she is founding member of Capital City Women's Platform.

Amira El Kady, Journalist, Nile News, Cairo: She was born in 1981 in Egypt. She graduated from Cairo University. She received her master degree from Cairo University Faculty of Mass Communication. She is still PhD student in Cairo University. Ms. Kady works as a journalist in Nile News since 2007.

Souad Adnane, Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies, Morocco: Souad Adnane, is a women's rights activist in Morocco. She served as a project coordinator for five years in different local and international NGOs. She is currently in charge of coordinating and monitoring a community development program aiming at improving life conditions of vulnerable populations in the MENA region. She is also the Foreign Relations Coordinator of the Arab Center for Scientific Research & Humane Studies.

Wan Saiful Wan Jan, Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs, Malaysia: Wan Saiful, Founding Chief Executive of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (www.IDEAS.org.my), boarded at Sekolah Alam Shah, Kuala Lumpur, and then Tonbridge School, England. He holds a BA (Hons) in Management (Northumbria, UK) and an MSc in Research Methodologies (Middlesex, UK). Wan Saiful lived in the United Kingdom between August 1993 and October 2009. There he worked for several organisations, including the think tank Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit, the British Conservative Party's Research Department, and Social Enterprise London. He was vice chair of Luton Conservative Association (2007–2009) and Head of Policy for the Conservative Muslim Forum (2007-2009). In May 2007, he contested in the English local elections as a Conservative Party candidate.

Volkan Ertit, Aksaray Uni, Phd Student in Rodbaud University: He graduated from Middle East Technical University the Department of Philosophy. He obtained his master degree from Catholic Leuven University with the thesis on European Secularization History. He is still PhD student in Rodbaud University and research assistant in Aksaray University. He has interests on secularization, laisizm, liberalism etc.

Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad , Minaret of Freedom Institute: Ph.D Born on in 1948 at sea to Palestinian refugee parents, Dr. Ahmad was raised in the USA, graduated cum laude from Harvard and obtained a Ph. D. in astronomy and astrophysics from the University of Arizona. An internationally sought after lecturer on Islam, he teaches Islam at the Wesley Theological Seminary and has taught courses related to Islam and liberty at various universities. He is author of Signs in the Heaven and co-author of Islam and the Discovery of Freedom. His essay "An Islamic Perspective on the Wealth of Nations" appears in the International Library of Critical Writings on Economics. He is also an Islamic chaplain at American University, Imam of Masjid Dar-adh-Dhikr, President of the Islamic-American Zakat Foundation, and arbitrator for the Coordinating Council of Muslim Organizations Washington area). He was the Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Senate in last November's elections.

Dr. Nouh El Harmouzi, Ibn Toufail University, Morocco, Minbaralhurriya.org: He is Editor of the Arabic-language news and analysis site MinbarAlHurriyya.org (<http://minbaralhurriyya.org/>) of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation/Cato Institute (USA) and university professor at Ibn Toufail University in Kenitra, Morocco. He is also Director of the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies, the newly created Arab think tank based in Morocco. He served as a university professor for five years at Paul Cézanne University in France, teaching Economic Development Theories and Economic Philosophy & Thought. His main research focus is on institutional dynamics, ideological beliefs, and their relationship with the process of development. He published many articles and research papers in various periodicals and wrote "Underdevelopment in the Arab-Muslim world: what is the role of non-formal institutions?" [Le sous-développement dans le monde arabo-musulman: Quel est le rôle des institutions informelles?]

Benedikt Koehler, UK

Edo Omerčević, Center for Advancement for Free Enterprise, Bosnia: Edo Omerčević has gone through more than a decade of training in economics and finance. He started his tertiary education at the International Islamic University Malaysia where he obtained his Bachelor in Economics (Hons) as well as his Master of Economics degree. He is currently a Ph.D. in Economics candidate at the

International University of Sarajevo. His interest and specialization is in the field of money and banking, with special reference to complementary and alternative currencies and monetary systems. Mr Omerčević is presently a lecturer at the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina and he is a co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Free Enterprise (Centar za poslovnu afirmaciju) that is promoting free market ideas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dr. Peter Mentzel, Liberty Fund

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Uysal, Marmara University, Middle Eastern Studies Center, Coordinator of Arab Turkish Congress of Social Sciences: Dr. Ahmet Uysal is a Turkish scholar interested in studying Arab Affairs and Turkish-Arap relations. He follows the developments in the Arab world and work to improve Arab-Turkish relations on academic and social levels. Along with his native Turkish, he speaks English, Arabic and some French. He writes and comments on Turkish and Arab affairs in national and international media. Dr. Uysal lived in Egypt just before the Revolution and analyzed Turkey's image in the country where he began to work on the idea of bringing Arab and Turkish scholars together. Currently he is coordinating and directing several academic projects about the Arab world through conferences and seminars and academic research.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Murat Aktas, Mus Alpaslan University, Turkey:

Mr. Aktas graduated from Istanbul University the Department of Public Administration. He received his PhD degree from Paris 7 Denis Diderot University in 2011. His areas of interests include European Union, globalization, Middle East, Islamofobia. He still teaches at Mus Alparslan University.

Zineb Benella, American Moroccan Legal Empowerment Network, Arab Scientific Research and Humane Studies Center, Morocco

Zineb is American Moroccan Legal Empowerment Network Moroccan Correspondent, she is a honor graduate in international relations – Alakhawayn University in Morocco & Georgetown University in the US, she holds a Masters of Laws(LLM) in international Law from university of Kent Law school in the UK/Brussels School of international studies. Zineb is a legal consultant, she Co-founded a not for profit Consulting Group in 2011 to empower youth and civil society in Morocco. She was a regional researcher in the MENA region “middle east and north Africa”, working on independent research and projects on democratic transition. She is now a research fellow at the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies in Rabat, Morocco and pursuing her Phd in Law. She is also active in international Development and in the Global North Team Of Generation Development United Kingdom. She is among winners of The “Dream Deferred” Essay Contest on Civil Rights in the Middle East organized by the American Islamic Congress.

Prof. Dr. Bekir Berat Özipek: He teaches politics at Istanbul Commerce University. He has made researches on conservatism, political theory and political economy at Atlas Economic Research Foundation, and at Institute of Economic Affairs, UK. Among his special interests are human rights, history of political thought, contemporary Turkish political history. He regularly lectures at ALT's seminars and contributes to its educational programs. He is personally advisor to and member of several human rights organizations. He is the author of analytical articles on academic freedom, religious freedom.

Ali Salman, Policy Research Institute of Market Economy, Pakistan: He is a development consultant, policy entrepreneur and economic analyst based in Islamabad. He is Director of the recently established Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) and he has worked as a consultant and trainer for major international development organizations, public sector organizations and non-profits. He has held a Gulbright scholarship, Royal Netherlands Fellowship and Charles Wallace Fellowship and has master degrees in Economics, Public Policy and Business Administration.

Dr. Hicham El Moussaoui, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Morocco

Dalibor Rohac, Cato Institute: He is a policy analyst with the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity. His work focuses on international political economy and development. Before joining Cato, he was an economist at the London-based Legatum Institute, where he worked on topics ranging from the Eurozone crisis to economic transitions in the Arab world. Rohac's articles have been published in the *Financial Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Wall Street Journal Europe*, *Los Angeles Times*, *American Interest*, *Policy Review*, *Weekly Standard*, *National Review Online*, and other outlets. He has also authored a number of scholarly articles published in professional journals, including *Kyklos*, *Constitutional Political Economy*, *Economic Affairs*, and *European Journal for the History of Economic Thought*. Rohac holds an M.Phil. from Oxford University, an M.A. from George Mason University and an undergraduate degree from Charles University in Prague. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Economy at King's College London.

Dr. Akrem M. Aswed, University of Duhok, Kurdistan