



**PROJECT**  
*on* **Middle East**  
**Democracy**



*The Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) and  
the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) present:*

## **RELIGION AND STATE: A MIDDLE EAST, U.S. AND EU ‘TRIALOGUE’**

The relationship between religion and state has developed through different pathways in the U.S., the European Union, and the Middle East. The societies in these areas have reached a diverse range of social accommodations and frameworks regarding the role of religion as a source of law and policy, the visibility of religious observance, and the protection of religious minority rights, including freedom of belief and worship.

What is the range of relationships between religion and state in the contemporary Middle East? Are religiously motivated citizens able to effectively advocate and lobby for policies they prefer? Are religious political parties and movements accepted as part of the political arena? Are minorities allowed to participate equally in the political process so that they can protect their civil, political and religious rights? Can international actors like the U.S. and the EU have a positive, legitimate, and effective impact in these areas, and if so, how? What lessons can be drawn from the historical experiences on these issues in the U.S., the EU and the Middle East?

Please join the Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) for this “trialogue” between American, European and Middle Eastern experts.

### **Please join us for a panel discussion with:**

**Geneive Abdo**, Fellow, The Century Foundation; author, *No God but God: Egypt and the Triumph of Islam*

**Ibrahim Houdaiby**, Board member, Ikhwanweb.com, Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt

**Bob Edgar**, President, Common Cause; former General Secretary, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

**Dietmar Nietan**, Foreign Policy Advisor to Martin Schulz (MEP), Chairman of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group in the European Parliament

Moderated by **Andrew Albertson**, Executive Director, Project on Middle East Democracy

**Monday, October 6, 2008**

**12:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Reid Ballroom**

Helen Dwight Reid Educational Foundation  
1319 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036  
Please RSVP by contacting: [rsvp@pomed.org](mailto:rsvp@pomed.org)

*Lunch will be served.*