



Moroccan British Society at  
“Sacred”

Discover what we share



## Royal message for the “Sacred” exhibition





Praise be to God

Peace and blessings be upon His  
Prophets and Messengers

I am delighted that the United Kingdom is hosting an exhibition of the Sacred Books of the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. I readily supported the idea and gave it my blessing. In this respect, I should like to commend the Moroccan British Society's initiative and to express my appreciation to the British Library for endorsing the idea as both relevant and useful. Cultural, artistic, spiritual events, such as this one, are indeed very much needed today.

This exhibition is a clear example of what we can do to foster interaction and constructive dialogue. There has never been a greater need for the three revealed religions to join efforts and build on culture, art and the spiritual legacy we have in common to promote a spirit of tolerance, mutual understanding and coexistence.

Throughout their history, the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Kingdom have provided telling examples of mutual esteem and good cooperation. By drawing inspiration from that past, we will certainly contribute to shaping a better world, where peace and understanding prevail.

**Mohammed VI**  
**King of Morocco**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mohammed VI', written in a cursive style.

The Royal Palace, Casablanca  
30 October, 2006.





جلالة ملك المغرب

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على أنبيائه المرسلين

إنه لمن دواعي اعتزازنا أن يُقام بالمملكة المتحدة معرضاً للنصوص المقدسة، المعتمدة عند أهل الكتاب، من أتباع اليهودية والمسيحية والإسلام. فقد باحزنا بدعم الفكرة وساندنا لها بمباركتنا، تنويهاً بمبادرة الجمعية المغربية البريكمانية، وتقديراً للدراسة التي أخرجتها المكتبة البريكمانية، والتي أقرت وجاهة الفكرة ونجاها، كتلها أثرية ثقافية وفنية وروحية، ما أحوجنا إلى مثلها في هذا الوقت.

إن بعد المعرض، الذي يرعاه اللقاء والحوار على كلمة سواء، يأتي في وقت تدعو الحاجة فيه، أكثر من ذي قبل، إلى العمل المشترك للذبات الثلاث، من أجل نشر روح التسامح والتعارف والتساكن المدعوم بالثقافة والفن والتراث الروحي المشترك.

إن تاريخ العلاقات بين المملكة المغربية والمملكة المتحدة، يقدم أمثلة بليغة على الاحترام المتبادل، وعلى حسن التعاون، الذي إذا جعلنا منه نبراساً لعمالنا، فإنه سيمكّننا من الإسهام الأثمن في صنع عالم أفضل يسود فيه السلم والتفاهم.

وحرر بالقصر الملكي بالدار البيضاء، في يوم 7 شوال 1427 هـ الموافق 28 أكتوبر 2006 م.

محمد السادس  
ملك المغرب





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## Foreword



Aiming to foster inter-religious dialogue in these times of prevalent political and religious tensions internationally, the MBS approached the British Library with the idea of an exhibition that would acquaint the general public with the shared values of the three Religions of The Book.

This undertaking was guided by the mutual respect between our Respective Monarchs and by the centuries' old dialogue between our Nations. It was further inspired by the religious status of Her Majesty The Queen of England as Head of the Anglican Church and of His Majesty The King of Morocco as Commander of the Faithful.

“Sacred” is a shared vision, a reminder and proof that coexistence amongst religious communities and faiths is natural and what unites People of the Book is far greater than what would divide them.

The Royal Patronage of “Sacred” seeks to foster unity, mutual respect and understanding. The Moroccan British Society, in contributing to this event, seeks to underline the Moroccan example, where interfaith respect is the norm. Islam in Morocco has always opposed extremism and enabled people to live in peace, harmony and good intelligence with all faiths and religious communities.

*Lalla Joumala*

H.H. Princess Lalla Joumala  
President of the Moroccan British Society

# Moroccan Sacred Manuscripts at

“Sacred”

Discover what we share

British Library

27<sup>th</sup> April - 23<sup>th</sup> September 2007





## Press Release

His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh are the Royal Patrons of The British Library's Exhibition called "Sacred: Discover what we Share" on manuscripts of the Sacred Books of the three monotheistic religions, which will take place from April 26th to September 23rd, 2007.

The exhibition will be inaugurated on 26 April by H. R. H. Prince Moulay Rachid and H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Moroccan British Society (MBS), chaired by H. H. Princess Lalla Joumala, has actively helped in the preparation of "Sacred".

In addition to sponsoring the Feasibility Study and co-sponsoring the exhibition, the MBS has arranged for the loan to The British Library of a number of Moroccan manuscripts of great patrimonial value. It is also organizing conferences, workshops and round tables, as well as concerts of sacred and Sufi music (Samaa), presented by Moroccan musicians and orchestras.

Through its participation, the MBS aims to underscore Morocco's uniqueness that is owed to the institution of Amir Al Mumineen (Commander of the Faithful) embodied by His Majesty the King, descendant of the Prophet Sidna Mohammed (peace be upon Him).

This institution and its attributes have fostered interfaith respect and coexistence in Morocco, embodying the universal human values inspired from the Koranic verse:

آمن الرسول بما أنزل إليه من ربه والمؤمنون كل آمن بالله وملائكته وكتبه  
ورسله لا نفرق بين أحد من رسله .... (سورة البقرة، الآية 285)

*The Messenger believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believeth in Allah, His angels, His Books, and His Messengers. «We make no distinction (they say) between one and another of His Messengers.»*  
(The Cow 2:285)

At a time when the world is in quest of multifaith understanding and peace, the exhibition organized by the British Library, with the support of the MBS, aims to help bridge the gap of mutual ignorance and misunderstanding and to foster harmonious relations between civilizations.

Within this framework, the MBS is organizing visits by Moroccan students, pupils, distinguished oulemas (religious scholars), imams and murshidats (women in charge of religious instruction) to London, to visit this exhibition and to meet academics, members of the Muslim, and other religious communities within the United Kingdom.

# Moroccan Manuscripts at “Sacred”

Loans from Morocco, independently chosen by the curators of the exhibition

## Royal Library, Rabat

1. Manuscript no. 4: carpet page frontispiece
2. Manuscript no. 286: Kufic script in gold
3. Manuscript no. 616: «ALLAH» systematically gold-illuminated

## Bibliothèque Générale des Archives, Rabat

4. Manuscript no. 3582: in the handwriting of the 14th-century Marinid Sultan Abu Inan Faris



1



2



3



4



## MBS Day at “Sacred”

British Library,  
London, 2 May 2007

- 16:45** Arrival
- 17:00** Opening
- 17:05** Address by H. H. Princess Lalla Joumala, President of the MBS
- 17:15** “Muslims and Democracy”  
Keynote Speaker: H. Exc., Pr. Ahmed TOUFIQ  
Moroccan Minister of Haboos & Islamic Affairs
- 17:45** Discussion
- 18:00** Guided tour of “Sacred”
- 18:30** Reception



## MBS Events at “Sacred”

### Lectures:

#### 2 May:

“Moslems and Democracy”

H.E. Pr. Ahmed TOUFIQ

Moroccan Minister of Habbous & Islamic Affairs

#### 3 May:

Meeting of Moroccan Oulemas (religious leaders) with representatives of the three Religions of the Book at the Three-Faith Forum, London

Round Table on the theme of “Inter-religious Dialogue”

Press interview

Pr. Abdellatif KRIEM

Round table on the theme of “Shakespeare’s Faith”

#### 12 August:

Pr. Ahmed KOSTAS

“Sufism in Morocco”

Pr. Nadia ERZINI

“The Spiritual and the Esthetic in the Sacred Texts”

#### Sacred Music Concerts on the Piazza:

Françoise ATLAN & Briouel (TBC)

Temsamani Band, 7 august 2007

Aissaoua Band 15 September 2007

#### Calligraphy Workshops at the British Library:

23 - 30 July 2007

07 -15 August 2007

The Moroccan British Society was glad to sponsor Faisability Study for "Sacred"  
and to be co-sponsor of the exhibition, with the generous support of



Moroccan British Society  
Fostering Intercultural Dialogue





## Mission

The Moroccan British Society (MBS) was founded on 23 February 2003. It is presided by H.H. Princess Lalla Joumala and has set itself the task of improving public awareness in both countries of each other's civilization, institutions, and cultures.

# Statutes: excerpts

## Purpose and composition

### Article 1:

By virtue of the Dahir no. 1.58.376 of 3 Jumada I, 1378 (15 November 1958) regulating the law of associations, and by the present statutes, an association bearing the name "Moroccan British Society" is established.

### Article 2:

The main purpose of the Association is to provide means of all kinds likely to allow the Moroccan and the British peoples to acquire a better mutual understanding of their civilizations, cultures, and political, academic, scientific, economic, financial, and commercial institutions so as to promote and foster their friendly relations and their cooperative ties in every domain.

Within the framework of its mission, the Association could cooperate with official institutions and organs of both States, with which it shall conclude cooperative agreements.

To achieve its mission, the Association can

- Organize and manage the mechanisms necessary for reciprocal information between both Moroccan and British circles interested in the essential historical aspects of both countries, their contemporary reality, and the forms of bilateral cooperation between the two States;
- Conduct various studies that would allow better knowledge of both countries;
- Create, promote and assist existing Moroccan and British entities in charge of developing bilateral cooperative actions in economic, academic, scientific, financial, and trade sectors in the two countries;
- Initiate, promote, and assist the exchange of academics and students by facilitating their recruitment, their reception and stay within institutions of higher education in each of the two countries, namely by granting them scholarships;

- Promote the teaching and the use of the English language in primary and secondary education by providing teachers and students with appropriate pedagogical materials, and by allocating annual excellence prizes for the most distinguished instructors and the best English language learners;
- Organize and sponsor seminars, work sessions, conferences aiming at allowing Moroccan and British people to meet, improve mutual understanding, and establish relations of common interest;
- Organize or sponsor cultural events allowing artists from the two countries to meet each other, and present their works in public within the framework of festivals;
- Edit and publish newsletters of these activities in order to inform the public;
- Promote the publication and dissemination of books in all fields, likely to help develop a better knowledge of contemporary authors in each country, and create or participate in the creation of cultural centers or libraries, which would be stocked with reference books of each culture;
- Allocate an annual prize to reward Moroccan or British citizens whose works are likely to reinforce cooperation between the two peoples and to enhance mutual understanding;
- Create, in cooperation with official and private organizations working towards a similar objective, partnership relations in order to capitalize on existing goodwill and reinforce cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Kingdom.





## Membership

### Article 5:

The Association is composed of founding members and active members, who could be admitted subsequently.

For that purpose, every new application should be approved by at least half the members of the Board of Directors and approved by the President of the Association.

The members of the Association should respect the statutory clauses of the Association and its internal regulations.

The General Assembly could propose to the Board of Directors the admission into the Association of sustaining and honorary members based on the services, financial support and assistance they have given or are likely to give to the Association.

### Article 6:

Individuals and legal entities of British nationality could join the Association. However, the duties they might perform in the administration or direction of the Association, and the number of voices they might have within its organs shall not give the Association the nature of a foreign association as described in the Dahir regulating the law of associations in Morocco.

### Article 7:

Every member is free to withdraw from the Association at any time.

## List of members

### Board members:

HH Princess Lalla Joumala, President  
H.E. Mr. Hassan ABOUYOUB, Itinerant Ambassador  
Mr. Abdelkrim BENNANI, Executive Vice President, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs, Royal Court  
Mr. Hassan AGZENAI, Chief Executive Officer, 'Assesseur', CMH  
My. Driss ALAOUI M'DAGHRI, Professor, Former Minister of Communication  
Mr. Abdesslam ZENINED, Former H.M.'s Ambassador to UK  
Mr. Noureddine BENSOUA, MBS Treasurer, Director General of the Taxes Department, Ministry of Finance  
Mr. Mostapha TARRAB, Director General, Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP)  
Mr. Khalid ALIOUA, Chief Executive Officer, CIH  
Mr. Younes MAAMAR, Director General, Office National de l'Electricité (ONE)  
Mrs. Margaret CANT, GUEDIRA, Assistant Treasurer, Professor  
Mr. Driss OUAOUICHA, MBS Secretary General, Former Vice President for Academic Affairs at Al Akhawayn University  
Dr. Mohamed CHTATOU, Expert on Education, ISESCO, Assistant Secretary General  
Dr. Abdellatif KRIEM, Assesseur, Professor  
Mr. Larbi RMIKI, Professor  
Mr. Amine BENAÏSSA, Doctoral student at Oxford University

### Corresponding members:

Mr. Derek CONWAY, Mr. Derek CONWAY, Member of the British Parliament, President of the Moroccan-British Friendship Group at the Parliament  
H. E. Mr. Anthony BAILEY, Advisor of the Policy Unit of 10 Downing Street and Department of Education and Skills, Delegate for Great Britain and Ireland, Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George.  
Dr. Foulath HADID, Fellow, Saint Antony's College at Oxford  
Mrs. Dunia FARMAN FARMAIAN, Communication Advisor, Spokesman for MBS at the "Sacred" exhibition  
Dr. S. MIRESKANDARI, Lawyer, Dean and Dean Solicitors, London  
Mr. Michel DE FABIANI, Former Vice President BP Europe  
Dr. George JOFFE, Professor at Cambridge University, President of the Moroccan Studies Society  
Dr. Nasser D. KHALILI, President of the Maimonides Foundation, London  
Mrs. Gilda WALKER, Public Relations Advisor to the President of WWF

### Honorary members:

H.R.H Princess Alexandra  
H.E. Abdessadek RABIAH, Secretary General of the Government  
H.E. Mr. Charles GRAY, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Morocco  
H.E. Mr. Mohamed BELMAHI, Ambassador of His Majesty the King to UK  
Mr. Frank LAW, C.B.E.  
Sir Marrack GOULDING, Former Warden, Saint Antony's College, Oxford University  
Mr. Joseph GAGGERO, President of the British Moroccan Society



## Activity report 2006

*Presented to the General Assembly, March 31, 2007*

This past year has been a very busy and productive year with a focus on two main areas:

Support for the recently established Fellowship on Moroccan and Mediterranean Studies at The University of Oxford, and Negotiating and setting up partnership with The British Library for an international, interfaith exhibition on the manuscripts of the Holy books of the three religions of the book.

### **H.M. King Mohammed VI Fellowship on Moroccan and Mediterranean Studies at Saint Antony's at Oxford.**

This year, the MBS support to the Fellowship covered lecturers, students, and the library.

#### **Guest Speakers**

In collaboration with the Fellowship at Oxford, three Moroccan speakers were sent by MBS to lecture in different areas:

Mr. Ahmed OSMANE on Democracy and Political Evolution in post independence of Morocco.

Mr. Hassan ABOUYOUB on the economic situation and future prospects for Morocco, and

Mrs. Rahma BOURQIA on the recent family law reform and its social and legal implications on practice.

A round table on national reconciliation practices was held in June focusing on the example of the "Instance d'Équité et de Reconciliation" in Morocco, with the participation of some of its members along with academics.

A scholar-in-Residence, Mr. Mohamed KENBIB spent 6 weeks at Oxford last Fall, serving as advisor and resource person for students and faculty conducting research on Morocco. During his stay Professor KENBIB also lectured on Morocco related topics at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, and London.

Seven Oxford students researching various political, economic and social aspects of Morocco and recommended by Dr. WILLIS, The Mohammed VI fellow at Saint Antony's have benefited from MBS support either through financial support for the intensive study of Arabic at a summer institute.

(3 students); or through the use of the office space and facilities at the association headquarters in Rabat (4 students). MBS officers have been instrumental for the Oxford student researchers in setting up appointments with scholars and administrative officers for interviews or access to primary data.

In consultation with Dr. WILLIS, the MBS sent a substantial set of books to the Oxford center for Middle Eastern Studies Library. These books are used by researching faculty and students working on Morocco related areas. The books were obtained by the MSB as donations from the publishing institutions or purchased for the Chair.

The MBS started the tradition of a yearly meeting with Oxford Faculty and officers to go over the relations of the realizations for the preceding year and the prospects for the following year. The MBS took note of areas where it can lend support to the Fellowship program.

The MBS started the tradition of a "Lecture Series", organizing a conference in Rabat attended by diplomats, university professors and officers. The theme chosen was "The Presentation of Morocco through English Travel Literature," and the lecture was given by Pr. Mohamed LAAMIRI of the Center for African Studies.

### **Ahl Al Kitab Exhibition**

Following up on the last MBS board recommendation to explore the exhibition feasibility, several meetings were held with The British Library and a number of actions taken to ensure the launching of the exhibition on April 26.

The Feasibility Study was financed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and conducted by The British Library in 2004. The results were very encouraging.

Negotiations with The British Library concluded with the following agreements:

- The exhibit would have 4 axes: One axis for each of the three religions of the book and the fourth for the interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and coexistence.
- MBS to take the fourth axis
- MBS to contribute with 25% of the cost
- The exhibition to be organized under the joint Royal Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and Chairman of the Three Faith Forum.
- The opening on April 26 to be chaired by H.R.H. Prince Moulay Rachid and H.R.H Prince Philip.
- MBS Day to be organized in May 02, to which MBS friends and partners are to be invited. H.E. Pr. Ahmed TOUFIQ to give a lecture on "Muslims and Democracy."

#### **MBS to participate with:**

- 4 ancient manuscripts of the Qur'an from the Royal Library of Marrakech and the National Library of Rabat
- 1 ancient manuscript of Hadith from The Royal Library
- 3 music groups: Françoise Atlan and the Fes Orchestra, Tamsamani group, Aissaoua group
- 2 Calligraphers.

MBS will take advantage of the exhibit to organize educational trips for students to visit the exhibit and liaise with British School Children and students in collaboration with the British Council.

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs will be sending a group of Oulemas, Imams and Murshidats in training for interfaith experience and a closer look at the other.



### **An institutional brochure is being prepared for the «Sacred» exhibition**

A Website for the MBS is almost ready to be open to the public. It is being revised in light of the Comments received from a small Communication committee. The basic version of it will be launched next week to link up with The British Library site for The «Sacred» Exhibition Coverage.

### **Prospects for next year**

The following are some suggestions to ponder. Any other ideas are most welcome.

- How to better benefit from the Exhibition from April 26 to September 23.
- How to bring a reduced itinerant version of the exhibit of Morocco and get schools to benefit from it.
- How to better support the Mohammed VI Fellowship at Oxford
- How to achieve the scholarship fund with Oxford for Bright Moroccan students
- How to enrich the lecture series in Morocco
- Other suggestions



The Mohammed VI chair  
of Moroccan and Mediterranean studies  
at S<sup>t</sup> Anthony's College, Oxford University





## Activity report 2004-2005

### Dr. Michael Willis

The first year of the Fellowship has been taken up with a number of different projects aimed at establishing the Fellowship and raising the profile of Morocco at Oxford and in the UK in general.

The start of the Fellowship was formally marked by the visit of a delegation from St Antony's College to Rabat in October 2004. The Warden of the College, Sir Marrack Goulding, the Director of the Middle East Centre, Dr Eugene Rogan, Honorary Fellow Mr Foulath Hadid and the newly appointed holder of the King Mohammed VI Fellowship, Dr Michael Willis, were presented to His Highness Prince Moulay Rachid in a ceremony at the Royal Palace. At the ceremony, the Agreement establishing the Fellowship was signed by Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala for the Moroccan British Society and by Sir Marrack Goulding for St Antony's College. Sir Marrack Goulding and Foulath Hadid were also formally decorated by His Highness Moulay Rachid for services to Moroccan-British relations along with other prominent members of the Moroccan British Society Mr Frank Law, Mr Derek Conway MP and His Excellency Mr Anthony Bailey.

### *Activities at Oxford*

#### **Lecture Series on Morocco in the Contemporary World**

The main event organised by the Fellowship during the year was a weekly lecture series entitled 'Morocco in the Contemporary World: The Road Ahead' which invited a distinguished collection of speakers to address the College on a variety of themes related to contemporary Morocco. The series started with a lecture by George Joffé, Director of the Centre for North African Studies at Cambridge University, on political reform in Morocco. It was followed by an address by His Excellency Ambassador Hassan Abouyoub, former Cabinet Minister, Ambassador and nominee for the Directorship of the World Trade Organisation on the subject of Morocco and the Globalised Economy. Professor Richard Gillespie, Head of the Department of Politics at Liverpool University gave the third lecture in the series on Moroccan-Spanish relations and the following week Dr Michael Willis, the holder of the Fellowship, gave his opening lecture to the College which focused on the Islamist movement in Morocco. Journalists gave the fifth and sixth talks in the series with Toby Shelley from the Financial Times and Jon Marks from Cross Border Information speaking respectively on the Saharan question and business and politics in Morocco. Professor Rahma Bourqia, President of Mohammedia University, then visited to speak on the subject of women and social change in Morocco. The final and culminating lecture in the series was given by former Prime Minister Ahmed Osman who spoke on the theme of 'Morocco: Lessons from the Twentieth Century; Challenges for the Twenty-First Century.' The lecture was attended by members of the corps of Arab Ambassadors in London who were also invited to the reception held in Mr Osman's honour at the Middle East Centre following the lecture.

#### **Students and Courses**

One of the major objectives of the Fellowship in its first year has been to increase the profile of, and interest in, Morocco and its regional environment amongst students at Oxford. This has been done through setting up new courses and the encouragement of postgraduate students to focus their research on the region.

Two new courses taught by Dr Willis on North African Politics and the History of the Maghreb have now been established for students studying for the highly selective MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford. These courses have succeeded in attracting students who have asked that more courses related to the region be offered and as a result an additional course on the International Relations of the Maghreb will be offered from next academic year. Altogether, over one third of the students registered for the MPhil took a course related to Morocco in their first year. Dr Willis has also contributed to the teaching of other courses already taught at Oxford related to the Middle East to which he has added a North African component.

Several research students are now working on projects related to Morocco either directly supervised or assisted by Dr Willis. Rachel Orth is an MPhil students working on a project looking at the mechanics of Privatization projects in Morocco. Sylvia Bergh is a DPhil student carrying out research on local development projects in southern Morocco; and, beginning in October 2005, Avi Spiegel has started work on a DPhil looking at youth and politics in Morocco.

### **Conferences and Speaking Engagements**

Dr Willis has been invited to give a number of lectures and presentations during his first year as Fellow. In addition to his lecture at St Antony's as part of the series on Morocco in the Contemporary World these have included:

Diversity in Morocco. Moroccan Cultural Days, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University, May 2005.

Islamism in Morocco: The End of the Moroccan Exception? Middle East Studies Association (MESA) of America, San Francisco, USA, November 2004

Western Saharan Options Moroccan Royal Academy of Diplomacy, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco, April 2005.

Containing Radicalism through the Political Process in North Africa. Securitizing Terrorism in Europe and North Africa: Strategies for Regional Cooperation, NATO Advanced Research Workshop, Madrid, Spain, June 2005.

Islamism in Morocco: A New Algeria in the Making? Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Exeter University, February 2005.

Berberism, Islamism and the State: A New Configuration in Maghrebi Politics? British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) Durham University, UK, September 2005

Tunisia and its Maghreb Neighbours, Ambassadorial Seminar, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, October 2004.

In addition to these events, Dr Willis attended a conference on the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement held in Madrid in January 2005 and also one on Moroccan Migration held at Sussex University in July 2005.

### **Research and Publications**

Dr Willis has continued to write and publish on themes related to Morocco and its regional environment. The main focus of his research has been a book for Hurst & Co publishers on the comparative politics of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Pieces written by Dr Willis that have been published this year have included:

'Morocco' in C. Neal Tate (Editor): *Governments of the World* (Macmillan Reference, USA, 2005)

(with Nizar Messari) 'Analyzing Moroccan Foreign Policy and Relations with Europe'

Chapter in Gerd Nonneman (Editor), *Analyzing Middle Eastern Foreign Policies: The Relationship with Europe* (Routledge, London & New York, 2005)

'The Long and Winding Road', *Emerging Morocco* 2005.

A number of further pieces written by Dr Willis are currently in press and include:

'Justice and Development or Justice and Spirituality?: The Challenge of Morocco's Non-Violent Islamist Movements'

Chapter in Bruce Maddy-Weitzman and Daniel Zisenwine (Editors): *The Maghrib in the New Century: Identity, Religion and Politics* (University of Florida Press, Gainesville, 2007)

'The Politics of Berber (Amazigh) Identity'

Chapter in Yahia H. Zoubir and Haizam Amirah-Fernandez (Editors), *The Maghreb in Motion* (Routledge, London, 2007)

'Containing Radicalism Through the Political Process in North Africa' *Mediterranean Politics Special Issue: 'Securitizing Terrorism in Europe and North Africa: Strategies for Regional Cooperation'* 2006



Dr Willis spent two weeks in Morocco in April 2005 during which time he gathered material for his research which included interviewing politicians, journalists and members of governmental and non-governmental organisations. He also paid a visit to Al Akhawayn University where he gave a lecture to the Royal Moroccan Academy of Diplomacy (see above) and led a research seminar with Moroccan diplomats and graduate students on contemporary Algeria.

Dr Willis has continued to be an active member of the editorial board of the international journal Mediterranean Politics and has performed peer review for this journal in addition to articles for the Journal of North African Studies and Journal of Modern African Studies. He was also a formal rapporteur for an Economic and Social research Council funded project on Maghrebi migrants in Britain and is a regular contributor to the North African forum held in London.

### **Media**

Dr Willis has given regular interviews to the print and broadcast media during his first year. These have included interviews with Le Matin (Morocco), 2M TV Morocco, Radio France International, BBC World Television and the Asia Times.

### **Scholarships**

Work has begun on setting up scholarships for Moroccan students to study at Oxford. Initial contacts have been made with regard to potential donors for the scholarships. These will be followed up on during 2005-06.

### **Other Activities**

Other activities that the Fellowship has been engaged in during the year have included:

- Helping to host a visit to Oxford by four researchers from the Universities of Oujda and Marrakech in February 2005.
- Meeting with Moroccan Prime Minister Mr Driss Jettou during his visit to Britain in December 2004.
- Organising an informal gathering of all students in Oxford with connections to Morocco.

### **Programme for Academic Year 2005-2006**

A range of activities are planned for the academic year 2005-2006 which aim to build on the firm base established during the first year of the Fellowship:

Professor Abdou Filali Ansari has been invited to give the prestigious annual Antonius Lecture at St Antony's College in June 2006. An academic workshop on the provisional theme of 'The Maghreb: Between Europe and the United States?' is projected to be held in Trinity (Summer) term at St Antony's.

The establishment of a visiting scholars scheme to enable leading Moroccan scholars to come and spend time at St Antony's College both to further their own academic work and to contribute to the intellectual and academic life of the College and University through lectures and seminars.

Dr Willis will be speaking at conferences in Amman, Jordan; Washington DC; Barcelona and Cambridge University he will also be making an extended trip to Morocco in the Spring of 2006.

A selection of the texts of the lectures presented in the 'Morocco in the Contemporary World' series will be assembled for publication.

Dr Willis will be taking sabbatical leave for six months from July 2006 to work on his book for Hurst & Co.

Work to establish scholarships for Moroccan students will continue.

## **2005-2006**

The King Mohammed VI Fellowship in Moroccan and Mediterranean Studies was established in 2004 as the fruit of an agreement between the Moroccan British Society (MBS) and St Antony's College, Oxford University. As well as strengthening and promoting Moroccan-British ties, the new Fellowship aimed to promote study of Morocco in Britain through the endowment of an academic position at Britain's most prestigious university.

In October 2004 the formal agreement between St Antony's College and the MBS was signed at a ceremony in Rabat by Her Highness Princess Lalla Joumala, President of the MBS, and Sir Marrack Goulding, Warden of St Antony's. The same month the first holder of the Fellowship, Dr Michael Willis, began work at in the Middle East Centre at St Antony's.

In its first two years, the Fellowship has organised a number of events at Oxford. These have included a lecture series on the theme of 'Morocco in the Contemporary World: The Road Ahead' in spring 2005 that comprised contributions from a range of academics and politicians, including former Prime Minister of Morocco, Mr Ahmed Osman. In June 2006 a conferences entitled: 'Truth, Justice and National Reconciliation: The Moroccan Experience in Comparative Perspective' was held and invited members of Morocco's Equity and Reconciliation Commission to discuss Morocco's approach to issues of national reconciliation with experts on similar processes in other countries.

At the level of teaching and students, the Fellowship has established several new courses related to Morocco. A number of Masters and Doctoral students have now begun research on Morocco, under the supervision of Dr Willis, looking at themes as diverse as youth and politics in Morocco and Morocco's sugar industry.

In addition to teaching and supervising students, Dr Willis has spoken at a large number of international conferences and seminars both in and outside Britain and has made regular contributions about Morocco to the media.

Future projects for the Fellowship include the establishment of a visiting Fellowship for Moroccan academics to come to Oxford and the creation of a scholarship fund for outstanding Moroccan students to study at Oxford.



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