



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MIDDLE EAST ACTIVISTS, ALBRIGHT AND ISAACSON TO DISCUSS  
WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE ARAB SPRING AT NDI EVENT**

WASHINGTON, DC – A panel of political and civic activists from North Africa and the Middle East will join National Democratic Institute (NDI) Chairman Madeleine K. Albright and Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, to discuss what's next for the Arab Spring at an event hosted by NDI on Monday, Nov. 7.

Panelists from Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Yemen will take part in the event, which will be held at 5 p.m. in the Pavilion Room at the International Trade Center in the Ronald Reagan Building.

Former Secretary of State Albright will lead off the discussion, which will be moderated by Isaacson.

The panel will be followed by the NDI 2011 Democracy Award Dinner at 7 p.m. at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, where Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the keynote speaker.

Panelists for the Arab Spring discussion are:

***Atia Lawgali***, who joined the National Transitional Council in Libya as Minister of Culture in May, previously served as manager of the Health Department Information Center in the Ministry of Health in Benghazi from 1988 to 2000.

***Sheikh Mohammed Abu Luhoum***, a prominent founding member of the recently formed Justice and Building Party, served as a member of parliament in Yemen's first legislature after North and South Yemen were unified in 1990. He was a founder of the Republican Party of Yemen in 1991.

***Dr. Amal Habib Al Yusuf***, a Bahraini civic activist and ophthalmic surgeon focusing on defending the rights of Bahraini patients and healthcare workers, was one of the doctors trapped in the main hospital in Bahrain during the siege by military forces last March.

**Mohammad Al Abdallah**, a Syrian lawyer, human rights activist and writer, formed the Committee for Families of Political Prisoners after his father and brother were arrested. He now writes for several English and Arabic newspapers and blogs.

**Rafat Al Akhalim**, a Yemeni youth activist, is a leader in *Resonate! Yemen*, an organization that promotes youth engagement on policy initiatives.

**Dr. Muneera Fakhro** is a Sunni candidate for parliament in Bahrain, where she has published three books and authored studies focusing on gender and democracy.

**Dr. Azza Kamel** is the director of Appropriate Communication Techniques for Development, an Egyptian women's rights group, has published numerous studies on gender equality and the impact of violence against women.

NDI is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information about the dinner and about NDI is available at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).

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