



# UN Alliance of Civilizations FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

## North African & Middle Eastern Fellows Spring 2012



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**Muath AbuDalu** (Jordan) currently serves as the Political and Public Affairs Officer at the Canadian Embassy in Jordan and has been engaged in political activism in the Kingdom since 2003. He served as a board member of the Free Assembly, an emerging political group in Jordan that advocates for social democratic thought in the country. He is also the co-founder of Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development, which aims to enhance youth participation in political life, as well as The Association for Youth Development & Initiatives ("Aydi"), a non-profit organization that aims to increase the employability of young Jordanian residents. He served as Public Diplomacy Officer with the British Embassy in Jordan, as the Program/Research Associate and as a team leader for the Euro-Mediterranean Program. He has conducted several studies and research projects on topics such as newly emerging political movements in Jordan, tribal dynamics, the current regime, and public spending in the kingdom. He holds an MA in International Studies from the University of Jordan and a bachelor's degree in Bio Systems Engineering from Jordan University of Science and Technology.



**Youstri Alghoul**, (Palestine). He got a bachelor degree of English Education from The Islamic University of Gaza, he also holds a Master degree of Middle East Studies' department from Alazhar University of Gaza. He studies a wide range of courses about leadership and youth exchange by Ministry of Youth and Sport, YMCA, Can'an Institute and UNICEF. He lectured for how to adapt with other cultures and youth exchange. Furthermore, He studied other fields like human rights and democracy, creative thinking, specialized diplomacy training program, political psychology, international humanitarian law, the best practice of prudent governance in the security sector. He travelled to Germany by OBS Institute for Youth summer leaders, and participated in blogger's conference in Spain last year. He is a blogger and an author. He has published two books, and is working now on the third one. He has also written for many local and Arab newspapers and is chief editor of Madarat magazine. As a member of the Palestinian Writers' Union, he worked in the Ministry of Culture.



**Mohammad Al-Shami**, (Yemen) works as Project Manager with Resonate! Yemeni foundation. Mohammed facilitated engaging youth with Yemeni reforming plan, the establishment of an independent youth coalition in Aden and was most recently responsible for the planning and execution of a workshop that brought 50 of Yemen's civil society youth leaders from across the country to train on building advocacy campaigns and institutionalizing the youth movements to enhance their capacity so they can play a key role in the new era. Recently, he designed a public campaign in order to support and monitor the transition government in Yemen. He is also a member of the steering committee which develops the strategic direction of Resonate! Mohammed is a co-founder of many other initiatives and foundations like: Yalla Shabab, Life Makers Foundation, Yemen Gate, Media Youth Group and the Media Center at the Change Square during the Yemeni revolution. Mohammed has had a long career of social entrepreneurship working in leadership capacity for international/local organizations in Sana'a, Aden, Hadhramout, Taiz and Hodeida.



**Saif Al Sharji** (Oman) is a project Controls Engineer in Worley Parsons Oman, a lead Oil & Gas Engineering Consultant Company; he is responsible of Cost Controls, Managements of project Change and controlling the project man-hours. Saif graduate with a Bachelor of Science, Computer Science and Minor degree in Business Administration. He has 5 years of experience in professional and diverse positions in field of Project Services & Control, Systems Analyzing, with solid knowledge in Software Engineering, DB Managements and web designing. Saif also serve as the Y-PEER focal Point in charge, at the UNFPA GCC Area office. He is responsible for Design and implementing of youth project, facilitate in peer Educator training course for young people as well as assisting in regional or sub-regional workshops and training. He is also the Oman Coordinator of the youth for change program. Saif has a leadership background as he was one of the administrators of the First International Rover Net Moot during Arab Rover Camp. Currently Saif is working on establishing his own Organization "Majan youth Development" its main objective is to advocate on youth participation and intercultural dialog.



**Achref Aouadi** (Tunisia) Emanating from a family of political activists, Achref started as a blogger and a cyber activist. In 2009, he was selected to take part in a leadership program in the University of Minnesota. After the accomplishment of the program, Achref founded the Student-To-Student university club, the first English-speaking university club in Tunisia. The club focused on students' advocacy and community service. After the Tunisian evolution, Achref, founded I WATCH organization, a Tunisian watchdog organization working on transparency, good governance and anti-corruption. I WATCH put together the second largest domestic observation mission in Tunisia's last elections. Achref graduated in 2011 from the International Anti-Corruption Academy and is still enrolled in a master's degree in the cross-cultural studies. In 2011, he was chosen by the United Nations to represent the Tunisian civil society in the United Nations Convention Anti-Corruption. In 2011, he was elected the founding president of the Lions Club Tunis Pioneers. During the Libyan war, Achref served on the Tunisian-Libyan borders to rescue around 500.000 refugees who crossed the borders to seek refuge in Tunisia.



**Abdallah Brahimi** (Algeria) holds a Master's degree in Law, Management with a specialization in Economics and Land Planning. He also holds a Bachelor's in Economics, Economy and Enterprise Management. He has successfully completed training programs on planning and implementation of new urban development in South Korea and has also completed the country-focused training courses in Industrial and Urban Environmental Management for Algeria. He is an active member of Touiza National Volunteer Association based in Algiers. Mr Brahimi was recently appointed as Deputy Director of the noise and visual pollutions, air quality and clean transportations in the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning.



**Bashara Abdul Wahab Doughaish** (Yemen) holds a bachelor degree in Computer Science from Sana'a University (2007). She is working in Education for Employment (YEFE) and she started working for YEFE in 2008 at an entry-level position as an Executive Secretary. Since then, she has received two promotions, first to Office Manager, and then to Program Associate in December 2011. She is involved with the issue of youth unemployment in Yemen and across the Middle East and North Africa, as well as encouraging youth civic engagement and improving cross-cultural awareness. Despite the difficult situation in Yemen over the past year, she has been very involved with the YEFE Alumni Club, which provides ongoing support services to the graduates of YEFE's training programs. She organized numerous alumni events, including continuing education courses, guest lectures by Yemeni private and public sector leaders, community service events, and other civic engagement events. She is currently involved in one of YEFE's largest projects to date – the Yemen Community Livelihoods Project in partnership with USAID and Creative Associates, which will provide vocational training and work opportunities for at least 2,000 youth from eight different governorates throughout Yemen over a two-year period.



**Zahra Farmani** (Iran/Iraq) has BSc. in Cellular and Molecular Microbiology from University of Northern Tehran and Professional certificate of English from Z.E.I. She has around 5 years of community development work experience in a USAID Funded international NGO (ACDI/VOCA) and at present she is program admin/communication coordinator. She prepares the general weekly reports of community development program department which are being sent to the HQ (base on the information extracted from outreach reports of field staff). She is in charge of Youth and Gender issues of her organization. She passed professional online courses of Cornell University- USA, and she obtained 5 professional certificates of management (Managing productivity, managing performance, Interviewing and selection, Supervisory skills and finance management). Because of her good leadership skill, she has participated in many community development and leadership trainings held by ACDI/VOCA, as trainer or facilitator. She was one of the key staff in Youth Summer Camps on Leadership and Local Governance, which were held in last three years



**Nayla Hajjar** (Lebanon) After getting her B.A in Business Administration with major in Banking and Finance from Notre Dame University in Lebanon, she worked for 2 years as financial analyst in a multinational corporation before she decided to move her career path into the civil society sector in which she was volunteer since 2007. In 2010 she joined Adyan, the Lebanese foundation for interreligious studies and spiritual solidarity, as Executive Director for “Understanding” Program- an international educational initiative supported by Anna Lindh Foundation followed by the scientific coordination responsibility of the “Leaders for Interreligious Understanding” Program.. Currently she is the Development and International Relations Officer at Adyan and a Masters candidate in International Affairs and Diplomacy. During 2011, she was one of the 4 youth leaders invited as speakers by the League of Arab States for the 13th meeting of heads of national councils and committees on population in Qatar and was a speaker in a panel related to Arab Spring in the 9th UN general youth assembly in New York. She has an equivalent minor in psychology and she joined the modern theater school in 2008 where she participated as main actress in three different plays till now.





**Haythem Kamel** (Egypt) is a youth activist with knowledge of the Euro-Arab civic society actively involved in the youth development; His major turning point was co-founding the Sustainable Development Association (SDA) after organizing the Youth Employment Summit (YES) in 2002. He is one of the Co-founders and board members of the Egyptian Youth NGOs Federation which led to better cooperation among youth organizations, and the Egyptian Youth Consultant Group in supporting the creation of a national youth employment policy in Egypt. He worked at the League of Arab States (LAS) for establishing and coordinating the LAS Youth Forum which multiplied into several youth activities, strengthened the Agenda for Youth Issues in the Arab Region. It also built a stronger partnership between the League of Arab States and Council of Europe. Later, he worked at Anna Lindh Euro Mediterranean Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue as coordinator of the Egyptian Network and organizer of the Arab regional training course for citizenship and intercultural dialogue. Through his civil youth activities he received a number of awards within the Scouting movement, the Euro-Med Youth Award for organizing one of the best youth project in the Euro Med YOUTH Programme II; and the Chevening Fellowship, as he studied the government relations with the NGOs and Civil Society at University of Glasgow, UK. He is now working as a freelance trainer/Consultant with a number of international organizations.



**Yasmina Lahlou** is from Marrakesh, Morocco. She grew up in Marrakesh .She obtained two Masters: one in Marketing and Communication, and another in Marketing and Advertising. She also holds a degree in French literature at La Sorbonne University of Paris. Upon graduation, she started work as an advertising executive, copy-writer, in the leader agency in Casablanca, Morocco: Shem's publicity (from 2000 to 2002). Afterward, she moved into journalism. She formerly worked as a journalist, reporter and head of cultural columns for a few years in *Jeune Afrique*, a weekly news magazine based in Paris (from 2004 to 2008 which covers the political, economic and cultural spheres of Africa, with an emphasis on Francophone Africa and the Maghreb. She now lives in Casablanca and work as an independent free-lance journalist and Correspondent for various Panafrican and Panarab magazines sold worldwide: *New African*, *New African Business*, *New African Woman*, *Metropolis*, *Zyriab*, *Diptyk*.



**Kholoud Mansour** (Syria) works for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Damascus. She has a Bachelor degree in Economics and a post-graduate diploma in International Economic Relations from Damascus University. Her articles on current situations appear under pseudonym in different printed and online media outlets. She is an alumni of the Young Leaders Visitors Program (YLVP) that combines intercultural leadership training with theory and practice in the fields of transparency, democracy and human rights. Cutting-edge social media solutions are used throughout the program, as tools for learning and for building networks that promote dialogue, knowledge sharing and openness. She was a co-founder of the Debate Club affiliated to the British Council in Damascus back in 2004. Every fortnight, the Club will address various controversial notions and promote for intercultural dialogue and concrete channel of mutual discussions between Syrian and foreign students. She has been a speaker and an active participant in several conferences and trainings relevant to democracy, human rights, intercultural dialogue, civil society organizations, leadership, and social media.