

*VERSION FRANÇAISE CI DESSOUS  
FRENCH, ARABIC AND PERSIAN VERSIONS BELOW*

## **Manifesto for a Secular Middle East and North Africa**

The 2009 protests in Iran followed by the Arab Spring have the potential to herald a new dawn for the people of the region and the world. The protests have clearly shown that people in the region, like people everywhere, want to live 21st century lives.

We, the undersigned, emphasise their modern and human dimension and wholeheartedly welcome this immense and historical development. We are vehemently opposed to their hijacking by Islamism or US-led militarism and support the call for a free and secular Middle East and North Africa made by citizens and particularly women in the region.

Secularism is a minimum precondition for the freedom and equality of all citizens and includes:

1. Complete separation of religion from the state.
2. Abolition of religious laws in the family, civil and criminal codes.
3. Separation of religion from the educational system.
4. Freedom of religion and atheism as private beliefs.
5. Prohibition of sex apartheid and compulsory veiling.

## **SIGNATORIES**

1. Mina Ahadi, Spokesperson, International Committees against Stoning and Execution, Iran/Germany
2. Marieme Helie Lucas, Sociologist, Founder and former international coordinator of Women Living Under Muslim Laws and founder of Secularism Is A Women's Issue, Algeria/France
3. Maryam Namazie, Spokesperson, Equal Rights Now – Organisation against Women's Discrimination in Iran, Iran/UK
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5. Siavash Abghari, Esmail Khoi Foundation, Iran/USA
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10. Farideh Arman, Coordinator, Committee to Defend Women's Rights, Iran/Sweden

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23. Zeinabou Hadari, Centre Reines Daura, Niger
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29. Ayesha Imam, Women's Human Rights and Democracy Activist, Nigeria/Senegal
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31. International Committee against Execution, Germany
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39. Cherifa Kheddar, President of Djazairouna, Algeria
40. Monica Lanfranco, Marea Feminist Magazine, Italy
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50. One Law for All, UK
51. Pragna Patel, Southall Black Sisters, UK
52. Fariborz Pooya, Iranian Secular Society, Iran/UK
53. Protagora, Zagreb, Croatia
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62. Aisha Lee Shaheed, London, UK
63. Farida Shaheed, Shirkat Gah, Lahore, Pakistan
64. Siba Shakib, Filmmaker, Writer and Activist, Iran/USA
65. Sohaila Sharifi, Women's Rights Campaigner, Iran/UK
66. Issam Shukri, Head, Secularism and Civil Rights in Iraq, Iraq/Canada
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68. Fatou Sow, Sociologist CNRS, Dakar, Senegal
69. Afsaneh Vahdat, Coordinator, International Campaign for Women's Rights in Iran, Iran/Sweden
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72. Anne Marie Waters, One Law for All, UK
73. Vivienne Wee, anthropologist, feminist and human rights activist, Singapore and Hong Kong, China
74. Women In Black, Belgrade, Serbia
75. Sara Zaker, Theatre Director, Bangladesh
76. Stasa Zajovic, spokesperson Women in Black, Belgrade, Serbia

## **FRENCH**

### **Manifeste pour la laïcité au Moyen Orient et en Afrique du Nord**

Les protestations de 2009 en Iran et le Printemps Arabe qui a suivi pourrait faire se lever une nouvelle aurore pour le peuple de la région et du monde. Les manifestations ont clairement montré que le peuple dans la région, comme partout, veut vivre au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Nous sous signés, soulignons leur dimension moderne et humaine et soutenons de tout coeur cet immense tournant historique. Nous nous opposons avec véhémence

à ce qu'il soit détourné par l'islamisme ou par la militarisation sous l'égide des Etats Unis et reitérons l'appel pour un Moyen Orient et une Afrique du Nord libres et laïques, lancé par les citoyens et particulièrement les femmes de la région.

La laïcité est le pré-requis minimum pour assurer la liberté et l'égalité de tous les citoyens, et cela inclue:

1. la totale separation de la religion et de l'état.
2. l'abolition des lois religieuses en matière familiale et dans le code penal.
3. la séparation de la religion et du système d'éducation.
4. la liberté de religion et d'athéisme, définis comme croyances personnelles.
5. l'interdiction de l'apartheid sexuel et du voile obligatoire.

## ARABIC

### بيان من أجل شرق اوسط وشمال افريقي اعلان

إن احتجاجات إيران عام 2009 والربيع العربي الذي أعقبها تحمل أملاً بفجر جديد لشرق اوسط لاحتجاجات بشكل واضح أن شرق اوسط المنطقة، كغيرها من شرق اوسط المنطقة وللعالَم. لقد أظهرت االعالَم، تسعي لحياته وتواكب متطلبات القرن الحادي والعشرين.

نحن، الموقعون أدناه، نؤكد على البعد الحديث والإنساني لهذه الثورات ونرحب بترحيب حار لثورات سواء كان بهذا التطور التاريخي الكبير. ونحن نعارض بشدة سلب مكاسب هذه ذلك على يد الحركات الإسلامية أو السياسات العسكرية التاريخية بقية أمريكا، ونؤيد الدعوة لقيام شرق اوسط وشمال افريقي اعلانية بارادة المواطنين في المنطقة وخاصة النساء.

لك: إن الاعلانية تمثل الحد الأدنى من أجل تحقيق حرية ومسواة لكل المواطنين، ويشمل ذ

1. فصل الدين عن الدولة فصلًا تامًا.

2. إلغاء التشريعات الدينية الخاصة بالأسرة والتشريعات المدنية والجنائية.

3. فصل الدين عن النظام التعليمي.

4. حرية الدين والاحاد لكم معتقدات شخصية.

5. منع سياسة التمييز الجنسي والاحجاب الاجباري.

## PERSIAN

### شمال افريقي اعلان س كوالا-راي خاورميان همانى فست ب

مبارزات سال 88) 2009 ميلادي (در ايران و در پى آن "بهار عربى" اين ظرفيت را دارد كه طلوعى تازه را به مردم منطقه و جهان نويد دهد. اعتراضات به روشنى ميدهد كه مردم اين منطقه، هستند يكمى و نظير مردم هر جاى ديگر، خواهان يك زندگى قرن بىست

ما امضاء کنندگان زیر بر ابعاد انسانی و مدرن این مبارزات تاکیدی می‌گذاریم و با تمام وجود از ماقاطعانه مخالفت خود را با مصادره این انقلابات این تحول عظیم تاریخی استقبالی می‌کنیم. اعلام می‌داریم و می‌لایتم (دولتی) تحت رهبری آمریکا و مبارزات توسط اسلیم گرای و ی از فرسخوان "یک خاورمیانه و شمال آفریقای آزاد و سکولار" حمایت می‌کنیم که توسط شهروندان بویژه زنان مطرح شده است این منطقه

پیش شرط حداقل برای آزادی و برابری همه شهروندان و دربرگیرنده این مفاد سکولاریسم است:

- ۱- جدایی کامل مذهب از دولت
- ۲- ال‌غای قوانین مذهبی در قوانین خانواده، مدنی و جنایی
- ۳- جدایی مذهب از سیستم آموزش و پرورش
- ۴- آزادی مذهب و بی مذهب بی عنوان اعتقادات شخصی
- ۵- ممنوعیت آپارتاید جنسی و حجاب اجباری

We call on world citizens to support this important campaign by signing on to our petition: <http://www.change.org/petitions/world-citizens-defend-a-free-and-secular-middle-east-and-north-africa>

We also ask that supporters click 'like' on our Facebook page to support this important campaign: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/A-Free-and-Secular-Middle-East-and-North-Africa/271164176261820#!/pages/A-Free-and-Secular-Middle-East-and-North-Africa/271164176261820> and Tweet: #freeseccularMENA in support of a free and secular Middle East and North Africa.

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