Understanding the Arab Uprisings in their Second Year: From National Humiliation to Legitimacy

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Abstract:
The ongoing uprisings across the Arab world are historic in that they are the first time that citizens across many parts of the region seek to shape their own governance institutions and national values. Khouri will assess the significance of this epic process of national self-determination whose ultimate but still elusive prize is genuine sovereignty. Overthrowing regimes is a process still in progress, as is the second phase of this, which is the formation of new constitutional systems that are defined by the citizenry and capture a consensus of different values and sentiments in society. The new players involved in this process continue to emerge and evolve. Khouri will review progress, landmarks and obstacles in this area, which help as glimpse what the Arab region's mosaic of governance systems may look like in the years ahead, as well as potential implications for regional and global relations.

Bio:
Rami George Khouri is a Palestinian-Jordanian and US citizen whose family resides in Beirut and Nazareth. An internationally syndicated political columnist and book author, he is the first director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. He also serves as a nonresident senior fellow at the Kennedy School of Harvard University and the Dubai School of Government. He is editor at large, and former executive editor, of the Beirut-based Daily Star newspaper, and was awarded the Pax Christi International Peace Prize for 2006.

He teaches or lectures annually at the American University of Beirut, University of Chicago and Northeastern University. He has been a fellow and visiting scholar at Harvard University, Mount Holyoke College, Syracuse University, The Fletcher School at Tufts University, Northeastern University and Stanford University, and is a member of the Brookings Institution Task Force on US Relations with the Islamic World. He is a Fellow of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (Arab East Jerusalem), and a member of the Leadership Council of the Harvard University Divinity School and the International Advisory Council of the Nieman Journalism Foundation at Harvard University. He also serves on the Joint Advisory Board of the Northwestern University Journalism School
in Doha, Qatar, and recently completed a four-year term on the International Advisory Council of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

He was editor-in-chief of the Jordan Times for seven years and for 18 years was general manager of Al Kutba, Publishers, in Amman, Jordan, where he also served as a consultant to the Jordanian tourism ministry on biblical archaeological sites. He has hosted programs on archaeology, history and current public affairs on Jordan Television and Radio Jordan, and often comments on Mideast issues in the international media.
He has BA and MSc degrees respectively in political science and mass communications from Syracuse University, NY, USA.