



The Group of 78
Le Groupe des 78

Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series

Dr. Monia Mazigh

What is really happening in the Middle-East: An uprising, a revolution or a change of guard?

DATE: Tuesday, December 6, 2011

TIME: 12:00 noon

PLACE: Palais Imperial Restaurant, 311- 313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa

COST: \$30 for luncheon and presentation

\$5 for presentation only

(For presentation only, please plan to arrive by 12:45. Coffee and tea will be available.)

RESERVATIONS: group78@web.net or 613-230-0860 by Friday, December 2, 2011.

We regret that late registrations cannot be accepted.

The group is required to pay for those who reserve but do not come.

Therefore, individuals who do not cancel their reservations at least 24 hours before the luncheon will be billed \$30.

The so-called Arab Spring continues to unfold, revealing both encouraging progress and worrying setbacks on different fronts. The outcome can be a new enlightenment to global affairs or a reversion to oppressive politics, or a mixture of the two. This region also continues to affect many other international issues that variously impact world political and economic stability. Where is this going and what is in store for, primarily, the people in the region, and for the international community at large? What roles should other governments and peoples be undertaking to support the popular struggles? What, in particular, can Canada do to contribute meaningfully to these efforts? Monia Mazigh brings her deeply personal and professional experiences to this topic and these questions.

Dr. Monia Mazigh was born and raised in Tunisia and immigrated to Canada in 1991. She speaks Arabic, French, and English fluently and holds a Ph.D. in finance from McGill University. Dr. Mazigh has worked at the University of Ottawa and taught at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia. In 2004, she ran in the federal election as a candidate for the NDP, gaining the most votes for her riding in the history of the NDP.

Dr. Mazigh was catapulted onto the public stage in 2002 when her husband Maher Arar, was deported to Syria where he was tortured and held without charge for over a year. During that time, Dr. Mazigh campaigned vigorously for her husband's release and later fought to re-establish his reputation and sought reparations. In January 2007, after a lengthy inquiry, her husband finally received an apology from the Canadian government and was offered compensation for the "terrible ordeal" his family had suffered.

Dr. Mazigh has authored a book called *Hope and Despair* which documents her ordeal after her husband was arrested and how she campaigned to clear his name. It was published in 2008. Recently, Dr. Mazigh has written a novel in French, *Miroirs et mirages*.

Dr. Mazigh presently lives in Ottawa with her husband and two children