



PROJECT on Middle East Democracy

www.pomed.org ♦ P.O. Box 25533 ♦ Washington, DC 20027-8533

WHY POMED?

The Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) is dedicated to examining how genuine democracies can develop in the Middle East and how the United States can best support that process. While many groups influence American policy towards the Middle East, there are no organizations consistently and credibly calling for our government to peacefully support sustained, authentic democratic reform in the region. Democracy is both a moral imperative and a fundamental concern for U.S. national security.

WHY NOW?

Despite President Bush's dramatic rhetorical shift towards a "forward strategy of freedom," U.S. support for democracy in the Middle East is waning. The Iraq war has sapped enthusiasm for "democracy promotion" among Americans and Middle Easterners alike. At the same time, the administration has used democracy selectively, turning a blind eye to the repressive acts of friendly autocrats while using "democracy" as a weapon to threaten our enemies. The U.S. must act now to regain its credibility on democracy by consistently and peacefully supporting democratic reform.

ACTIVITIES

To increase U.S. support for democracy in the Middle East, POMED is building an American constituency of legislators, policymakers, activists and advocates. We:

- ✓ **Foster dialogue between and among Americans and Middle Easterners** by organizing conferences in the region to discuss effective strategies for reform; conducting panel discussions in Washington; distributing a newsletter featuring expert contributors; and publishing opinion articles which explore and offer innovative approaches to democracy promotion.
- ✓ **Provide accurate, thorough research and analysis** to legislators, policymakers and practitioners by publishing our "Weekly Wire," which analyzes U.S. legislation and policy impacting political reform in the Middle East; writing country and issue background papers; and organizing informational briefings and events for members of Congress and their staff.
- ✓ **Advocate a consistent and credible pro-democracy foreign policy** toward the Middle East by discussing the consequences of legislation with lawmakers, staff, and executive branch officials, and providing staff support to legislators who are engaged in supporting democracy.

POMED's FUTURE

In order to sustain this high level of activity, POMED seeks committed supporters to join the organization as volunteer staff, donate resources or services, and contribute funds. POMED also seeks institutional allies who would be interested in partnering to achieve common goals.

POMED is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C.

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RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since April 2007, POMED has:

- Conducted three conferences in Cairo, Amman and Rabat bringing together young Americans and Middle Easterners to jointly develop policy recommendations for political reform
- Begun publishing a blog, "The POMED Wire," and an electronic bulletin, the "Weekly Wire," analyzing democracy-related activity on Capitol Hill