

EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS – 2009 Multi Nation Program
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Mohammed Nosseir is Chair of the Secretariat of International Relations and a member of the Election Committee of Egypt's Democratic Front Party, which was established in 2007 to promote liberal democracy in Egypt. In these roles he works to establish relationships with international liberal organizations and parties and recruit and promote candidates to run in the 2010 parliamentary elections. Mr. Nosseir is also founder and general manager of Global Marketing Consultancy, which assists multinational companies aiming to expand their business in Egypt and the Middle East. Mohammed came to the fellowship with the following goals:

- To better understand U.S. foreign policy with special focus on democracy promotion in the Middle East;
- To learn about U.S. congressional and presidential elections with regards to their campaign strategies and management;
- To educate people about the Democratic Front Party as a liberal organization aimed at promoting liberal democracy in Egypt;
- To establish a network of people and organizations he met during the fellowship.

Mohammed found a general lack of knowledge about Middle Eastern politics during his travels, where most Americans he met view Middle Eastern challenges through the prism of the American experience and perspective. He also concluded that the U.S. Electoral College system was not easily applicable to Egypt's situation. He was, however, impressed with the concept of checks and balances in the U.S. He writes, "Applying a certain technique on its own won't really benefit the society, we need to think about Concepts, Values, and then develop a structure that is applicable to our society."

Through his conversations he realized that the U.S. is a country of diverse opinions, where people he met have different ideas about how to solve different problems and issues. He was also impressed that the majority of American people have strong faith in the U.S. Constitution and that some Americans carry a copy of the constitution with them.

Going forward, Mohammed hopes to return to the U.S. once or twice a year and have follow-up meetings with some of the people he met on the fellowship. He also plans to conduct a number of events and activities in cooperation with some of the organizations he visited, including establishing Egypt's first liberal think tank. And, he will present the ideas and findings gained during the fellowship to his party leaders and make a presentation at the Egyptian American Friendship Association on U.S. foreign policy.