



Cairo, April 27, 2016

Re: call for nominations

Religious Freedom and Business  
 The Associação pela Liberdade Religiosa e Negócios (ALRN)  
 United Global Compact Business for Peace platform

Dear Sir/Madam,

The nomination of Cornelis Hulsman, founder, de-facto CEO of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT) in Egypt, by Prof. Willem Kuiper was well received in Egypt. Please find attached a statement signed by eight prominent Egyptians and two non-Egyptians.

Name	Position
Dr. Mohamed Higazy	Until recently Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs in Egypt. Prior to this Egyptian Ambassador to Germany, India and other countries. Member of the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs.
Dr. Imam El-Refai	CEO of Mazayaco, the number one company for perfumes in Egypt with 21 branches around the country. Prominent member of the Lions Club in Egypt. Involved in charity work, including supporting people with Hepatitis C with medicine.
Cherif Esmat Abdel-Meguid	Chairman, Islamic Telephone Company. Son of the late Esmat Abdel-Meguid who was Egypt's Foreign Minister and later Secretary-General of the Arab League. Abdel-Meguid is from a very prominent Egyptian family. He is also involved in charity work.
Dr. Mahmoud A. Khayyal	Prof. of Pharmacology in the Department of Medicine, Al-Azhar University. Chairman of the Department from 1991 or 1992 until 2001. Today leading a debating group of Egyptian liberals (not a formal entity)
Dr. Amr Assaad Khalil	Art Curator, Consultant
Dr. Hoda Awad	Professor of Political Science and Political Communication at Misr International University, Cairo, Egypt. Previously Professor of Political Science at the American University in Cairo. Member of the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs.
Eng. Sawsan Gabra Ayoub Khalil	Chair of the board of CIDT

90, 14 B Street, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt  
 Tel. & Fax: (+202) 2359 8087  
 E-mail: [info@cawu.org](mailto:info@cawu.org)  
[www.cawu.org](http://www.cawu.org)



Adel Rizkallah	Country Finance Director ALSTOM, 2010-2012 and Financial Manager CIDT, May 2013 – today
Abdallah Schleifer	Distinguished Visiting Professor of Mass Media at Future University in Egypt Editor-in-Chief of the Muslim 500, a highly prestigious publication in the Muslim World listing annually the 500 most influential Muslims in the World. Prof. Schleifer has been participating in major dialogue meetings between Muslims and Christians
Mary Hing Hing Lai	CEO Sunseng International Ltd, Hong Kong Major trading group for trade between Egypt and China

The list could be much longer but we only received Prof. Kuiper's nomination of Cornelis Hulsman on April 24. Please also note that we are now in the Holy Week for the Coptic Orthodox Church which makes it impossible to ask the many Bishops Hulsman knows for their support.

We hope this list of signatories provides you with a good indication that Hulsman's work is much appreciated by diplomats, businessmen and academics, Egyptian and non-Egyptian, Muslim, Christian and regardless what other religion people confess. In this regard it is also good to notice that Hulsman has accepted a Baha'i intern to work with us despite the fact that Baha'is are explicitly forbidden. He was able to get this internship accepted in Egypt and led the intern in his work avoiding complications in a very sensitive climate. Hulsman was also able to bring last year a Georgetown PhD student to Kafr Darwish, a small village in Upper Egypt, because his PhD is about blasphemy in Islam and Kafr Darwish had experienced the expulsion of a Christian family from the village because of a blasphemy case. Hulsman was not only able to get local church support but also that of a local Salafi orfi judge (customary law). Egyptian security did not obstruct the local investigation Hulsman was leading. The family could later return to the village.

Sincerely Yours,

Adel Rizkallah,  
Office Manager CIDT



90, 14 B Street, Maadi, Cairo, Egypt  
Tel. & Fax: (+202) 2359 8087  
E-mail: [info@cawu.org](mailto:info@cawu.org)  
[www.cawu.org](http://www.cawu.org)

Statement on the nomination of Cornelis Hulsman for the Global Business and Interfaith Peace Award 2016.

We, undersigned, support the nomination of Cornelis Hulsman, founder and director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT) in Cairo, Egypt for the Global Business and Interfaith Peace Award 2016.

Cornelis Hulsman has, throughout his entire life, demonstrated leadership in championing interfaith understanding and peace. With this desire in mind he studied Development Sociology at Leiden University, The Netherlands, and in 1994 gave up a well-paid job as Director of the Dutch Emigration Foundation in the Netherlands in order to go with his family to Egypt to work in interfaith understanding.

Between 1994 and 1997 he investigated Muslim-Christian incidents in Egypt and rapidly discovered how shallow most reporting on such incidents is. He consequently established the Religious News Service from the Arab-World in 1997, funded by subscriptions, which in 2003 was reorganized and renamed Arab-West Report in preparation for the foundation of the Center for Arab-West Understanding (CAWU) and the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT).

His investigative reporting is focused on truth finding that avoids looking at events through ideological glasses. It is descriptive and takes conflicting points of view into consideration and explains, whenever this is possible, why positions are conflicting. He discovered patterns in incidents that were mostly not known to a general public but that need to be known for efforts that work towards conflict resolution.

The around 40,000 articles and reports collected have been placed in a database called Arab-West Report. Hulsman has been working for years on an advanced search function for this database for researchers to see more rapidly the context of various incidents because only through a better knowledge of this context it will be possible for parties to work towards





conflict resolution. Hulsman has been supervising over 180 student interns who have become goodwill ambassadors for intercultural understanding and peace. He is currently working with the Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS, <http://www.dans.knaw.nl/en>) of the combined Dutch universities and research centers on making the data better accessible to an international academic public.

Hulsman has been supporting initiatives in Egypt to create an early warning and early response system to address conflicts in an early stage so that they do not become larger and gradually become very hard to manage.

We believe his work is concrete and innovative and deserves recognition and support. We also believe that Hulsman's nomination would be a tremendous boost for his work and all who support him in Egypt.

We, therefore, support the nomination of Prof. Dr. Willem Kuiper, emeritus professor at the University of Amsterdam. Prof. Willem Kuiper has seen the academic merits of the Arab-West Report database. We, the undersigned, have different backgrounds but all of us have seen aspects of the work of Cornelis Hulsman that show how concrete and innovative his work is in Egypt. It is certainly not only important to relations of peoples of different convictions in Egypt but also for Egyptians and people in the West to better understand each other, refrain from actions that increase tensions but instead focus on mutual understanding and peace between peoples of all convictions.

Name	Function
- Hoda Foad	Professor of political science and political communication at Mize International University, Cairo, Egypt
- Adel Rizkallah	Country Finance Director ALSTO 17 (02/10 - 11/12) & finance manages CIDT (05/13 - till date)
- Sawsangabro Ayoub - Khalil	Chairman of the board CEDT
- Mahmood - A. Khayyat	Prof. of Pharmacology, Al Azhar Univ. (Chairman of the dept for about 10 years till 2001)



Signatories of Statement on the Nomination of Cornelis Hulsman for the  
Global Business and Interfaith Peace Award 2016,

Name	Position
<del>Abdellah Schleiter</del> Abdellah Schleiter	Disting. Visiting Professor of Mass Media Future University in Egypt & Emeritus Prof. of Journalism The American University in Cairo
Cherif Abdel-meguid	Chairman, Islamic Telephone Co.
Mary Hing Hing Lau	CEO, SunSey International Ltd. Hong Kong
Mohamed Higazy	Former Assistant Minister for foreign affairs.
Amar Assaad Khalil	Art Curator / Consultant
IMAN A. AL-RIFAIY	Hazayya - city-center - nasr city Cairo - Egypt - U.A.R. Hadi - 5/11/23 - sig me

