Multicultural Negotiation Facilitator and Interpreter (Arabic <> English)

Breaking cycles, Building bridges, from Polarising Perspectives to Unifying Action

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Sex M Date of birth 01/05/1967

Nationality UK

Residency: Belgium, with unrestricted right to work, registered freelancer

PERSONAL STATEMENT

In essence, I am a cross-cultural fully bilingual (CLASSICAL ARABIC & ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKER) interpreter, cultural mediator and negotiations facilitator, UK-educated to Masters level in Engineering (MEng) and in International Law with International Relations (LLM).

The success of my work is enhanced by my expertise in Middle Eastern and Islamic values and customs. My approach is to foster a spirit of partnership between negotiation counterparts in order to achieve shared humanitarian objectives, based on shared principles. This approach is founded on clear respect and integrity as perceived by the negotiation counterparts. It has evolved through experience gained in negotiating with security forces and their political authorities to gain humanitarian access, particularly in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In each case, I have focussed with negotiation counterparts on administrative procedures to ensure future success rather than on shortcomings in previous activities. This approach embodies the principles of coaching, in which I am also involved.

International Mediation Council

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

https://cim-imc.com/user/ramsey+tewfik+isak/?profiletab=main Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) www.frontline-negotiations.org

INTERPRETING – RELATED QUALIFICATIONS:

NEGOTIATION – RELATED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Interpreting in the Reception context EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA)
- Metropolitan Police Test in Arabic translation and interpreting Chartered Institute of Linguists
- Harvard Advanced Professional Certificate in Humanitarian Negotiation
- Clingendael Academy Certificate in Humanitarian Negotiation

Mother tongue(s): English, Arabic

Other language(s):

Turkish

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

LISTENING A2 SPOKEN INTERACTION A2 READING A2 WRITING A2

French

LISTENING B1 SPOKEN INTERACTION B1 READING B1 WRITING A2

Japanese

LISTENING A2 SPOKEN INTERACTION A2 READING A1

WORK EXPERIENCE

June '20 – present

- -Negotiation Facilitator, Interpreter and translator between Arabic and English (Independent) -Executive Coach (Independent)
- Negotiation skills training facilitator (CCHN volunteer)

EUAA — European Union Agency for Asylum

July - Sep '22

EUAA — European Union Agency for Asylum

Glons Reception Centre: Arabic / English interpreter, translator and cultural mediator

- Serving as a cultural mediator and communication facilitator between State authorities and residents at the reception centres online (via Microsoft Teams) and in person
- Helping residents and staff achieve clarity in communication that avoids unnecessary anxiety due to ambiguity or generalities
- Helping staff and residents plan the complex combination of interventions required in the case of some residents, involving a multitude of specialist professionals.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Geneva

Gulf Regional Delegation, Kuwait: Detention Delegate

- Developed the relationship with detention authorities in Kuwait through facilitating ICRC workshops for security forces, which paved the way for negotiations to gain ICRC access to places of detention not currently visited.
- Participated in ICRC visits to places of detention in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar in order make recommendations on the improvement of accommodation, healthcare and nutrition.
- Updating content for reporting to Institutional donors

June '13 – June '20 Terminated due to

lerminated due to uncertainty of future missions as a result of Corona virus

Occupied Palestinian Territory, West Bank Sub-Delegation, Hebron: Protection Delegate

- Networking and negotiating with both the Israeli and Palestinian security authorities to:
- reduce security incidents and improve passage of ambulances through security checkpoints
- facilitate access for family visits to prisons and to other areas isolated by security measures
- Supported the assessment of beneficiaries for sustainable livelihood projects.
- Participated in UN Protection Cluster meetings.
- Updated content for reporting to Institutional donors

Syria Delegation, Damascus: Senior Arabic Translator and Interpreter

- Interpreting in high-level external meetings, including with an inter-ministerial review committee.
- Developing a new mechanism of coordinating with State authorities for ICRC visits to places of detention and then participating in some of those visits.
- Facilitating a joint project between the ICRC and State health and detention authorities to develop the provision of healthcare and nutrition to detainees in line with international guidelines.
- Advising on negotiations for ICRC access to no-go areas for urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Supervising and coordinating the team of translators / interpreters.

Lebanon Delegation, Beirut: Arabic Translator and Interpreter

- Interpreting in sensitive external meetings, including with senior judicial figures and medical staff.
- Advising on negotiations for ICRC access to security force investigation centres and opening new channels of communication.
- Participating in visits to places of detention, building rapport which assisted in gaining further access.
- Translation of confidential documents

Iraq Delegation, Baghdad: Arabic Translator and Interpreter

- Interpreting in high-level external meetings, including with the President and Prime Minister of Iraq.
- Developing administrative procedures in coordination with State security authorities to facilitate and improve ICRC access to places of detention and initiating negotiations for other humanitarian access.
- Selection, supervision and coordination of translators / interpreters
- Translation of confidential documents

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15-16 June 2023 V

Workshop interpreter, The Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights:

"Regional Actors as Drivers of the Political Process in Syria: Experts' Workshop"

23-25 May 2023

Training Workshop interpreter, CEPOL – EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training, Brussels: "Study visit for Tunisian project partners hosted by the Belgian Federal Criminal Police on criminal finance"

24-25 October 2007

Conference interpreter, European Commission, Porto:

"19th Meeting of Directors-General for Civil Protection of the EU, the EEA, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey"

22-23 October 2007

Conference interpreter, European Commission, Brussels:

"Subcommittee meeting on migration, social & consular affairs"

28-29 September 2007

Conference interpreter, ADR Center, Roma Eventi, Rome: "Preventing and Managing International Commercial Disputes"

7 June 2006

Conference interpreter, European Parliament, Brussels:

"Delegation To The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly"

26 April - 7 May 2006

Arabic Language interpreting coordinator, European Social Forum, Athens

3 May 2006

Conference interpreter and Arabic Language interpreting coordinator, Mediterranean Social Forum Preparatory Assembly, Athens

4-7 May 2006

Interpretating Coordinator and Conference interpreter, European Social Forum, Athens

24-29 January 2006

Conference interpreter, World Social Forum, Caracas

16-19 June 2005

Conference interpreter, Mediterranean Social Forum, Barcelona

2-3 June 2005

Conference interpreter, European Parliament, Brussels: Conference organised by the Committee for Tunisian Liberties and Human Rights

Conference interpreter, World Social Forum, Brazil

26-31 January 2005 14-17 October 2004

Conference interpreter, European Social Forum, London