

BIOGRAPHY OF REV. MAJED EL SHAFIE

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

ONE FREE WORLD INTERNATIONAL

Rev. Majed El Shafie is a human rights advocate and founder of One Free World International (OFWI). His human rights journey started in his native Egypt that he was later forced to flee after he was severely tortured and sentenced to death for his conversion to Christianity and bringing awareness to human rights violations related to religious persecution. Belonging to a very prominent legal and political family in Egypt, Rev. El Shafie had tried to work within the Egyptian system to reform the country's human rights regime. Between the challenges he faced in these efforts, his firsthand experience as a survivor of religious persecution, the work he has engaged in since by advocating for religious freedom, confronting governments that violate this fundamental right, and conducting fact-finding missions and humanitarian/rescue operations, he has obtained significant knowledge and insight into the dynamics of persecution of religious minorities by religious extremists and totalitarian governments alike.

Rev. El Shafie has established two effective human rights organizations including One Free World International (OFWI) which is one of the leading organizations advocating for religious minorities globally and has 28 branches around the world. He has organized and led delegations of parliamentarians and religious leaders to address minority rights and humanitarian issues with government leaders, including several cabinet ministers and other high-level officials, opposition leaders, and religious leaders among others in countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Cuba, India, and Bangladesh. Rev. El Shafie has developed excellent relationships with members of the Canadian House of Commons, Senate, and Cabinet, and has built bridges with the US Congress in order to educate decision-makers about violations of religious freedom around the world. He has had the opportunity to testify numerous times before parliamentary bodies including the Subcommittee for International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, United States Congressional subcommittees and commissions, and the Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism in Canada. He has advocated on behalf of Christians, Falun Gong, Jews, Bahá'ís, Ahmadiyya Muslims, and China's Uyghur Muslims, among others. Leading North American and international news media have featured his work which has also been the subject of an award-winning feature-length documentary.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2016 Raoul Wallenberg Citation for Moral Courage

2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTISE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided expert testimony of conditions facing religious minorities.
- Relied on in numerous cases in the Refugee Protection Division (Ontario) and Immigration Board (Florida).
- Created an underground human rights organization to pursue equal rights for Egyptian minorities and built organization to 24,000 members in just two years.
- Created and developed one of North America's most effective international human rights organizations focused on the rights of religious minorities around the world.

- Conducted fact-finding missions, rescue operations, and humanitarian interventions in countries where religious minorities are being persecuted and intervene directly through in-person meetings with high-level politicians and government officials regarding human rights concerns.
- Organized conferences and human rights events that attract thousands of participants every year to educate the public about religious persecution and human rights issues.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

Testified by invitation before parliamentary committees in Canada and congressional committees in the United States on issues related to minority rights, including:

- 7/6/2016 *The Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration (CIMM), Parliament of Canada*
Resettling Syrian Refugees in Canada
- 27/11/2014 *The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE),*
Parliament of Canada
ISIS and Religious Minorities
- 30/9/2014 *The Sub-Committee on International Human Rights (SDIR, previously SDEV) of the*
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Parliament of Canada
Iraqi Minority Refugees in Kurdistan
- 25/6/2013 *Joint Session of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights and the*
Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa of the United States House of
Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
Religious Minorities in Syria: Caught in the Middle
- 21/3/2012 *The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, United States Congress*
Religious Freedom in Afghanistan and Pakistan
- 22/11/2011 *SDIR, Parliament of Canada*
Religious Freedom in Egypt and Iraq
- 17/11/2011 *The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights of the United States*
House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
Religious Freedom in Egypt and Iraq
- 30/11/2010 *SDIR, Parliament of Canada*
Recommendations with Respect to Certain Issues Pertaining to the Human Rights
Situation in Afghanistan
- 30/11/2009 *Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism in Canada, Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to*
Combat Antisemitism
- 16/6/2008 *SDIR, Parliament of Canada*
Canadian Policy Regarding Religious Minorities: Iraq, Egypt, and Pakistan

2/12/2004 *SDEV, Parliament of Canada*
The Persecution of People of Faith

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

Television: Whistleblower (CTV National News), W5, Canada AM, The Arena, The Source, and others
Radio: CBC Radio and others
Print: National Post, Ottawa Citizen, Toronto Star, Toronto Sun, and others
International: Israel (Haaretz, Jerusalem Post, Maariv, Yediot Aharonot), Denmark, Germany, France

Feature Documentary:

C. Atkins (Dir.), (2012) *Freedom Fighter* [Documentary], United States: Destiny Image.

M. Himel (Prod.), *Persecuted Christians* [Television Broadcast], March 14, 2012, Toronto: VisionTV.

Television:

K. Tomlinson, "Christian fears persecution if sent back to Egypt", on *CTV National News: Whistleblower*, March 16, 2006, Toronto: CTV.

K. Tomlinson, "Man claims torture in Egypt after refugee claim turned down", on *CTV National News: Whistleblower*, December 14, 2006, Toronto: CTV.

E. Levant, "Iran Irony" on *The Source*, August 12, 2011, online: SunNews
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/iran-irony/1108134934001>>, accessed July 29, 2012.

E. Levant, "Egyptian Genocide?" on *PrimeTime*, October 11, 2011, online: SunNews
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/1213251309001>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

B. Lilley, "Religious Prosecution [*sic*]" on *Byline*, November 16, 2011, online: SunNews
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/search/majed%20el%20shafie/religious-prosecution/1279603040001>>, accessed July 29, 2012.

M. Coren, "Persecution of Christians" on *The Arena*, December 14, 2011, online: SunNews
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/search/majed/persecution-of-christians/1328192026001>>, accessed July 29, 2012.

E. Stakelbeck, "Egyptian Dissident Warns of Brotherhood's Rise" on *CBN News*, February 16, 2012, online: CBN News <<http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2012/February/Egyptian-Dissident-Warns-of-Brotherhoods-Rise/>>, accessed July 22, 2012.

M. Coren, "Par for the Course" on *The Arena*, July 25, 2012, online: SunNews
<<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/search/all/par-for-the-course/1754368754001>>, accessed July 29, 2012.

E. Levant, "Beyond a Youtube Video" on *The Source*, September 13, 2012, online: The Source <<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/beyond-a-youtube-video/1839021026001/page/2>>, accessed September 15, 2012.

M. Coren, "US Ambassador to Libya Killed" on *The Arena*, September 11, 2012, online: SunNews <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fWd4gEuDt4>>, accessed October 1, 2012.

"Our Survival Here Is at Stake" on *Byline with Brian Lilly*, July 22, 2014, online: SunNews <<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/our-survival-here-is-at-stake/3691372590001>>, accessed September 9, 2014.

M. Coren, "Isis Expands its Bloody War" on *The Arena*, August 8, 2014, online: SunNews <<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/isis-expands-its-bloody-war/3721904036001>>, accessed September 9, 2014.

Print and Online News:

M. Maslanik, "Torture spurs man to fight for religious freedom" in *Finger Lakes Times*, October, 2006, online: Living Testimony <<http://living-testimony.blogspot.ca/2006/10/rev-majed-el-shafie-egyptian-ex-muslim.html>>, accessed July 21, 2012.

"El Shafie envisions one free world for all, takes his case to Winnipeg" in *Jewish Tribune*, October 23, 2007, online: Jewish Tribune <<http://www.jewishtribune.ca/uncategorized/2007/10/23/el-shafie-envisions-free-world-for-all-takes-his-case-to-winnipeg>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

"The Persecuted" in *The Ottawa Citizen*, September 10, 2008, online: Canada.com <<http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/features/faithandethics/story.html?id=9927efbd-fbaf-4fba-97f5-ef3305284911>>, accessed July 30, 2012.

T. Godfrey, "Woman tired of hiding in church sanctuary" in *The Toronto Sun*, September 14, 2008, online: NoOnesIllegal <<http://toronto.nooneisillegal.org/node/33>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

C. Chan, "Multi-faith Forum Focuses On Human Rights" in *The Epoch Times*, September 20, 2009, online: TheEpochTimes <<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/canada/human-rights-forum-22718.html>>, accessed July 22, 2012.

M. Wagner, "Human rights group: Hamas disinters Christians in Gaza" in *The Jerusalem Post*, December 12, 2009, online: JPost.com <<http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=162975>>, accessed July 24, 2012.

M. Little, "Corrupt Afghan Government Sullying Canada's Name, Committee Told" in *The Epoch Times*, December 2, 2010, online: TheEpochTimes <<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/canada/corrupt-afghan-government-sullying-canadas-name-committee-told-46833.html>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

C. Lewis, "Analysis: Situation only getting worse for Egypt's Christians" in *The National Post*, January 3, 2011, online: National Post, <<http://life.nationalpost.com/2011/01/03/analysis-situation-only-getting-worse-for-egypts-christians/>>, accessed July 30, 2012.

“Majed El Shafie: The holocaust the world has never known” in *Christian Telegraph*, January 11, 2011, online: Christian Telegraph <<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue11890.html>>, accessed July 21, 2012.

M. Adler, “Reverend Urges Canadian Government to Help Coptic Refugees” in *East York Mirror*, January 15, 2011, online: Inside Toronto <<http://www.zuza.com/news-story/59841-reverend-urges-canadian-government-to-help-coptic-refugees/>>, accessed July 21, 2012.

R. Moffatt, “A Light in Dark Times” in *The Epoch Times*, February 3, 2011, online: The Epoch Times <<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/arts-entertainment/a-light-in-dark-times-50557.html>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

R. Spivak, “Interview with Tortured Egyptian Who Escaped to Israel on A Jet Ski and then Obtained Asylum in Canada” in *The Winnipeg Jewish Review*, February 6, 2011, online: WinnipegJewishReview.com <http://www.winnipegjewishreview.com/article_detail.cfm?id=777&sec=7>, accessed July 24, 2012.

R. Spivak, “Head of Egypt human rights group fears Brotherhood takeover” in *The Jerusalem Post*, February 14, 2011, online: JPost.com <<http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=208104>>, accessed July 21, 2012

“One Free World International Founder Majed El Shafie Leads First Canadian Delegation to Iraq Since the War Began” on *Yahoo! News*, September 20, 2011, online: Yahoo! News <<http://news.yahoo.com/one-free-world-international-founder-majed-el-shafie-073313821.html>>, accessed July 22, 2012.

S. Kolenko, “‘Humbling’ human rights mission” in *The North Shore Outlook*, September 21, 2011, online: NorthshoreOutlook.com <<http://www.northshoreoutlook.com/news/130296088.html>>, accessed July 24, 2012.

“Genocide in All but Name” in *The Jewish Tribune*, February 21, 2012, online: Jewish Tribune <<http://www.jewishtribune.ca/uncategorized/2012/02/21/genocide-in-all-but-name>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

S. Kirshner, “Christians in Egypt, Iraq feel vulnerable, filmmaker says” in *The Canadian Jewish News*, March 2, 2012, online: The Canadian Jewish News <<http://www.cjnews.com/node/89445>>, accessed July 22, 2012.

M. Swan, “Moving beyond the Mideast headlines in ‘Persecuted Christians’ ” in *The Catholic Register*, March 9, 2012, online: The Catholic Register <<http://www.catholicregister.org/home/item/14026-moving-beyond-the-mideast-headlines-in-persecuted-christians>>, accessed July 29, 2012.

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“Majed El Shafie Leading Canadian Delegation to Washington, DC” in *Maranatha News*, April 18, 2012, online: Maranatha News <<http://www.maranathanews.com/2012/04/18/human-rights-activist-majed-el-shafie-leading-canadian-delegation-to-washington-dc/>>, accessed July 22, 2012.

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E. Belz, “ ‘Defend the Persecuted’ ” in *Religion Today*, May 15, 2012, online: Christianity.com <<http://www.christianity.com/news/religiontoday/11670520/print/>>, accessed July 25, 2012.

L. Luzajic, “Welcome Back, Khadr?” in *Canada Free Press*, July 19, 2012, online: Canada Free Press <<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/welcome-back-khadr1>>, accessed July 22, 2012.