

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Distinguished international scholar visits Laurier to speak on Islam, Human Rights and the Secular State

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Contact: Kevin Crowley
Associate Director: News and Editorial Services
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710, ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

or

Wendy Webb, Administrative Assistant
Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710, ext. 3185 or wwebb@wlu.ca

WATERLOO — Distinguished international human rights scholar Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im will visit Wilfrid Laurier University October 2 to deliver a public lecture on Islam, Human Rights and the Secular State. The lecture will take place at 8 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall on Laurier's Waterloo campus. Admission is free and the lecture is open to the public.

Originally from Sudan, Dr. An-Na'im is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory University Law School in Atlanta, Ga. He is an internationally recognized scholar of Islam and human rights, and human rights in cross-cultural perspectives. Dr. An-Na'im teaches courses in international law, human rights, and Islamic law, and his research interests include constitutionalism in Islamic and African countries, and Islam and politics.

"Dr. An-Na'im has been writing about Islam and human rights for more than 20 years," says Dr. Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights at Laurier. "He is an internationally respected scholar who is interested in interfaith and intercultural dialogue. The issues he addresses have become particularly important in the post-9/11 world, and his lecture will appeal to a broad audience at Laurier and in the wider community."

Dr. Howard-Hassmann is bringing Dr. An-Na'im to Laurier as part of the Islam and Human Rights lecture series sponsored through her Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights. The next speaker in the series will be Dr. Tariq Ramadan, an influential Swiss Muslim scholar who was named by Time magazine as one of the world's "100 most consequential" people in the scientists & thinkers category. Dr. Ramadan will speak at Laurier November 26, 7:30 p.m., in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.