

## **Personal Memories on Prof. Mohammad El-Sayed Selim**



### **PD Dr. habil Hans Günter Brauch, Mosbach, Germany** **Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS)**

I had known Prof. Mohammad El-Sayed Selim from Cairo University later from Kuwait University since the mid-1990s when I was working closely with colleagues at Complutense University in Madrid.

Mohammad Selim was a Professor of Political Science at Cairo University and Kuwait University. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Carleton University, Canada in 1979, and since then he taught in Cairo University, American University in Cairo, King Saud University, United Arab Emirates University, and Kuwait University. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Zambia, Addis Ababa University and UCLA. Between 1995 and 2003 he established the Center for Asian Studies in Cairo University and served as its first director. He has written a number of books and articles in Arabic and English in scholarly journals on issues related to foreign policy analysis, Arab-Asian relations, and Euro-Mediterranean studies. He also represented the Government of Egypt in a number of world and Asian forums.

Among his major books are: *Non-Alignment in a Changing World* (1983), *Relations Among Muslim States* (1991), *Foreign Policy Analysis* (First Edition: 1998; Second Edition: 2014), *Towards a Red Sea Forum for Security and Cooperation* (1998), *Arab-Central Asian Relations* (2000), *The Development of International Politics in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (First edition: 2008; Second edition: 2014), *The Nationalization of the Suez Canal Company: A Study in Decision Making* (2002).

I have invited Mohammad Selim to several conferences that were financially supported by the scientific branch of NATO as part of its scientific Mediterranean Dialogue Programme:

- September 1998: *Third Pan-European Conference on International Relations in Vienna*;
- 8-10 September 2001: *Fourth Pan-European Conference on International Relations in Canterbury, England* as a Co-organiser of a Workshop on *Environmental Security in the Mediterranean* with ten sessions and 30-35 speakers;
- 17-20 March 2004: *Convention of the International Studies Associations (ISA) in Montreal, Canada*, to two panels I was organizing on Mediterranean policy issues;
- 24-27 August 2005: First Global International Studies Conference, Istanbul during the AFES-PRESS Workshop on *Security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks*.

Mohammad Selim accepted my invitation to become a co-editor of the first volume of the Hexagon Book Series: Hans Günter Brauch, P. H. Liotta, Antonio Marquina, Paul Rogers, Mohammad El-Sayed Selim (Eds.): *Security and Environment in the Mediterranean – Conceptualising Security and Environmental Conflicts*. With Forewords by the Hon. Lord Robertson, Secretary General of NATO, and the Hon. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer, 2003). For this book, he made the foreword by the Hon. Amre Moussa, then Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, possible, which may have been the only time that the Secretaries of NATO and the Arab League jointly introduced a book to which European, Arab and Israeli scientists had contributed.

Prof. Selim served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Peace Research and European Security Studies (1998-2016). In this function, I appreciated his personal advice for our work on the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and the new scientific debate on environmental and energy security

Mohammad Selim contributed the following five book chapters to several volumes of the Hexagon Book Series:

- “Conceptualising Security by Arab Mashreq Countries”, in: Hans Günter Brauch, P. H. Liotta, Antonio Marquina, Paul Rogers, Mohammad El-Sayed Selim (Eds.): *Security and Environment in the Mediterranean – Conceptualising Security and Environmental Conflicts*. (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer, 2003): 333-344.
- (with Hans Günter Brauch, P. H. Liotta): “Security Concepts for Cooperation in the Mediterranean: Conclusions and Outlook for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, in: Hans Günter Brauch, P. H. Liotta, Antonio Marquina, Paul Rogers, Mohammad El-Sayed Selim (Eds.): *Security and Environment in the Mediterranean – Conceptualising Security and Environmental Conflicts*. (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer, 2003): 955-990.
- “Environmental Security in the Arab World”, in: Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, John Grin, Czeslaw Mesjasz, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Navnita Chadha Behera, Béchir Chourou, Heinz Krummenacher (Eds.): *Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts*. Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 4 ( Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2009): 843-854.
- (with Abdullah Saha): “Energy Security in the Arab World”, in: Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, John Grin, Czeslaw Mesjasz, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Navnita Chadha Behera, Béchir Chourou, Heinz Krummenacher (Eds.): *Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts*. Hexagon Series on

Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 4 (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2009): 427-436.

- “Arab Perceptions of Soft Security Issues”, in: Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, Czeslaw Mesjasz, John Grin, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Béchir Chourou, Pal Dunay, Jörn Birkmann (Eds.): Coping with Global Environmental Change, Disasters and Security – Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks. Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 5 (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2011): 327-338.

During our meetings at international conferences in Madrid, Vienna, Canterbury, Montreal and Istanbul from 1996-2005 I had with him many personal discussions on the internal developments in Egypt and other Arab countries and on his perceptions of the relationship between Arab and European countries across the Mediterranean.

We were of the same age, Mohammad was just ten days older than me, and our mothers passed away the same year in 2010. During this close cooperation during nearly two decades, a close personal relationship developed based on mutual trust and respect for the respective cultures and traditions that had influenced us.

At the meeting in Vienna in 1998, he introduced me to his son Gamal who has since followed his father's footsteps obtaining his PhD also in Canada and also becoming a specialist in international relations. Gamal has so far published his first two books in English in my series, and I look forward to a continuation of the close cooperation with him as well in the years to come.

When Mohammad's great mentor Boutros-Boutros Ghali died in February 2016 Mohammad, his son Gamal and I decided that a pioneering volume on the so far only UN Secretary General from an Arab country would be appropriate.

I looked forward to realising in due time the project on Mohammad's mentor. This would also be a signal that the cooperation among the children of Abraham is possible and is needed even more. Boutros-Boutros was a Coptic Christian, his wife was a Sephardic Jew, and the editor would be a Sunnite Muslim. This would also be a collaborative legacy of Gamal and me to continue the cooperation in the spirit of his father Mohammad Selim and his great mentor.

Mosbach, Germany, 22 March 2017  
Hans Günter Brauch