

Mervat Rishmawi

Mervat Rishmawi is a Palestinian human rights activist who obtained her LLM degree from the University of Essex in 1994. She worked with the International Secretariat of Amnesty International for approximately 12 years, most of which as Legal Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. In this capacity, she was one of a 5-member regional legal advisors' team, each member being responsible for one region of the world. She also worked as Deputy Director for the MENA programme. During her work with Amnesty International, Mervat Rishmawi developed most of the organisation's work in relation to the League of Arab States. She also provided legal advice to research teams, ensuring the accuracy of legal analyses pertaining to international human rights and humanitarian law. She maintained contacts with a large number of officials and human rights activists in the MENA region. She also provided training for human rights activists, judges, lawyers, etc.

Mervat left Amnesty International at the end of March 2010 and is now self-employed as a human rights consultant. She aims to carry out projects and training to strengthen organisations across the MENA region, as well as further her work on the League of Arab States.

Mervat Rishmawi has authored a number of reports for Amnesty International, including many on the human rights mechanisms of the League of Arab States. She has also published in academic journals and text books.

She is a Fellow of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex as well as being a Fellow of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham and was appointed as a Commissioner for the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the National Human Rights Institution for Palestine in 2014.