

Center for Arab - West Understanding Annual Report 2013



Summary Report June 11, 2014

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Executive Summary

2013 was a difficult year for CAWU due to the tremendous violence, and thus the need for conflict resolution is greater than ever. The violence following the deposal of Morsi created difficulties in keeping interns with us, but more-so the destruction of our data by sabotage on July 27, 2013 created much larger difficulties in the office.

Concern about developments in Egypt strengthened our links to the Dutch [Cairo Overleg](#) in which representatives of Dutch churches, Muslim and Jewish organizations advocate dialogue in The Netherlands. Since they were founded in 2008 following a visit to Egypt, organized by us, they remain deeply concerned about dialogue between people of all convictions in Egypt.

In December 2013, Cornelis Hulsman was asked to become the editor of the *Maadi Messenger*, a publication reaching 3,000 (mostly expatriates) living in Cairo. This position will facilitate additional publicity for the work of CAWU in Cairo.

On this Report

This report has been compiled by Cornelis Hulsman and Adel Rizkallah, with the assistance of Sawsan Gabra, Nevine Naguib, Yosra El Gendi, Dietrich Müller-Ehrhard with some writing and editing by Jenna Ferrecchia. Additional editing was provided by Susan Richards-Benson, former senior editor of AWR and current editor-in-chief of Online Editing Services. This report describes the activities of our organisations from 1 January 2013 until 31 December 2013. This report was only completed on June 11, 2014 after the completion of the auditing report by Ebeid Office which took time since Ebeid was a new partnership.

About CAWU: Goals and Principles

The Center for Arab-West Understanding is an Egyptian NGO registered under no. 6985 with the Ministry of Social Solidarity in June 2007. The goal of the organisation is to facilitate further understanding between communities in Egypt and between the Arab World and the West. These goals are facilitated through producing materials for the electronic magazine Arab-West Report, holding monthly forum meetings, and hosting interns from Egypt and around the world.

Purpose: The development of a Center promoting stability, tolerance, and dialogue through high quality reporting and documentation, opposing polemics. The documentation functions as the spill off from various activities that aim at reducing tensions and fostering links between peoples of different backgrounds. At the core, Muslims and Christians, however, this also needs fostering links between Islamists and non-Islamists, the Arab-World and the West.

According to the three-year plan that specified the goals for 2012-2014 presented in July 2011 we specified the following as our three main goals:

- To foster communication between Egypt and the West.
- Engage Muslims and Christians in regular dialogue meetings at the local level through the creation of a forum to regularly discuss dialogue and understanding.
- Internships contribute to the education of participants and content of the AWR database.

Assisting Egyptians in the management of conflict and tensions was a goal in our strategic report of 2010 but was not included in our plan for 2012-2014 since we feared that this might be overambitious with the limited resources we had. Yet, despite our limited funding, we have. Subsequently, our limited staff has still been able to achieve some notable successes.

Guiding principles: Objectivity, non-partisanship, promoting mutual understanding. Our focus is on social and interfaith relations.

Providing materials for Arab West Report: CAWU is closely linked with the publication Arab West Report for which staff and interns provide articles, reports, translations and analysis. *Arab-West Report* is a major source of information for student interns and of thousands of users outside of our organization. CAWU projects that foster dialogue will also make use of AWR.

Interns at CAWU have become ambassadors for better intercommunal relations. In 2013, AWR served 23 student interns, a remarkable increase over the past year despite growing violence in Egypt. This is a clear indication of trust in CAWU and AWR. Also in 2013,

CAWU used its strong network and access to decision makers, members of cabinets, parliamentarians, professionals and journalists in Egypt, Arab and Western countries for interns, the construction of a central database, and bringing people of different faiths and cultures together.

CAWU Board Activities

Board Members

The highest decision making authority in CAWU is the General Assembly that elects the board. The board of CAWU was reconstituted according to the extraordinary general assembly meeting held on July 17, 2013 and is made up of:

- Eng. Sawsan Gabra Ayoub Khalil (Chairwoman),
- Dr. Nabil Ahmed Helmy (Deputy chair),
- Dr. Hoda Awad (General secretary - Prof. Political Science at the American University in Cairo),
- Mr. Cherif Esmat Abdel Meguid (board member - founder/director of the Hatef al-Islami – Islamic Telephone Hotline),
- Ms. Mary Lai (Treasurer - Chinese businesswoman in Egypt).

Founder Cornelis Hulsman participated in all meetings, even though he was not a board member. The board considered his attendency as essential to the board meetings since Hulsman was responsible for most activities.

In the coming assembly meeting, expected to be held on April 27, 2014, the new board is expected to be composed of the following members:

- Eng. Sawsan Gabra Ayoub Khalil (Chairwoman),
- Cornelis Hulsman (Deputy chair),
- Dr. Hoda Awad (General secretary),
- Adel Rizkallah (Treasurer).
- Dr. Nagwa Raouf (board member - Founder and President of Emarat Al-Insan Foundation).

Summary of Board Decisions

Most discussions in the board in 2013 concerned organizational changes. CAWU was also affected by the destruction of the website and Arab-West Report database on June 27, 2013. Much effort has been made to restore the website and database.

Board Meetings

Board Meeting Date	Members Present
January 21, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nabil Helmy: Vice-Chairman of the Board• Dr. Hoda Awad: Secretary of the Association• Amin Makram: Member• Mr. Cherif Esmat Abdel Meguid, member

Key Decisions Made:

- Discussed activity and financial report for 2012
- Approved the annual report of 2012.
- Proposal for a funding request to Stichting Arab-West Foundation
- Intern Diana Seródio proposing to working with young Egyptian members of different Egyptian political parties to foster dialogue. Agreed pending funding.
- Relations CAWU and CIDT.

February 2, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nabil Helmy: Vice-Chairman of the Board• Dr. Hoda Awad: Secretary of the Association• Mr. Cherif Esmat Abdel Meguid• Amin Makram: Member• Mary Lai: Member
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Key Decisions Made:

- Approval minutes board meeting January 21, 2013
- Approval of narrative and financial report 2012 – signing documents by deputy chairman Nabil Hilmy, Treasurer Amr Sherif and Hoda Awad as secretary.
- Amr resigning as treasurer because of his departure to Turkey.
- Discussions for amendment of articles in CAWU constitution.
- Brief report of a meeting with Dr. Nagwa Raouf and Egyptian youth on Saturday February 16 in which our interns presented their work to Egyptian youth. Purpose: attracting Egyptian youth to become member of CAWU and thus be engaged in activities with our non-Egyptian interns at CAWU.
- Setting date for general assembly (agenda: approval of financial and narrative reports for 2012)
- Setting date for extra-ordinary general assembly - Presenting board members with copy of new film "One Hand; the heroic struggle for Muslim-Christian unity in the new Egypt, <http://onehandthemovie.com/>-- Proposal for requesting funds from the Stichting Arab-West Foundation, The Netherlands – possibly delaying this to next board (after GA elections).

October 3, 2013

- Dr. Nabil Helmy: Vice-Chairman of the Board
- Dr. Hoda Awad: Secretary of the Association
- Mr. Cherif Esmat Abdel Meguid, member
- Mary Lai: Treasurer

Key Decisions Made:

- Reassigned the board positions.
- Approved the letter to CIB Bank for assigning Mari Lai as a new treasurer.

General Assembly Meetings

Meeting Date	Members
July 17, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association's Members

General Assembly meeting:

- Approved narrative and financial year report 2012.

Extra-ordinary GA Meeting:

- Amended two articles of CAWU constitution.
- Changed article 30: reducing board from 7 to 5 members (easier to fix meeting and have a quorum)
- **Changed article 31: changing the election's conditions of the board members.** The minimum age of becoming a board member was changed from 35 to 21.

Achievement of Goals

<i>GOAL</i>	<i>INPUT</i>	<i>OUTPUT</i>
Foster communication between Egypt and the West.	Development of internships, lectures of AWR, 65 iContact newsletters, informing media.	Awareness of different opinions. Encouragement to engage in dialogue despite increasing polarization in Egypt and between Egypt and Western countries.
Engage Muslims and Christians in regular dialogue meetings at the local level.	<p>Forum discussions with Muslim and Christian participants.</p> <p>Organization of Egyptian multi-party delegation to The Netherlands and European Parliament in October 2012.</p> <p>Stronger involvement of our interns in forum discussions in 2013.</p>	<p>Encourage engagement in dialogue with ideological opponents instead of public incitements.</p> <p>We have maintained contacts with all parties represented in the multi-party delegation despite mostly mutual exclusion of parties following political polemics in Egypt.</p>
Assist Egyptians in the management of conflict and tensions.	<p>Discussions following our two workshops on conflict resolution in 2011.</p> <p>Conflicts increased after President Morsi was deposed on July 3, 2013. The need for conflict resolution is greater than ever.</p>	<p>Interest shown by senior member of the SCAF in June 2011.</p> <p>Assistant President Emad Abdel Ghaffour spoke in December 2012 on setting up a program on conflict resolution with the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>AWR and Missio in 2013 published a report on Muslim-Christian relations and the need for dialogue.</p>

Following our three-year strategic report for 2012-2014, we set firm quotas numbers on our level of outreach and engagement. As shown by the numbers below, we generally reached the target number concerning the number of interns and also newsletters send. Forums, however remained under-represented due to the initial work set about recovering the lost Data after July 27, and also the increased level of political unrest in Egypt which resulted in a curfew from 14 August to 12 November.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Target Number</i>	<i>Actual Number</i>
Target nr. of interns	20	23
Target nr. of newsletters	50-75	65
Target nr. of forums	12	9

More information on these activities can be found in the following sections.

Foster Communication between Egypt and West

Internships

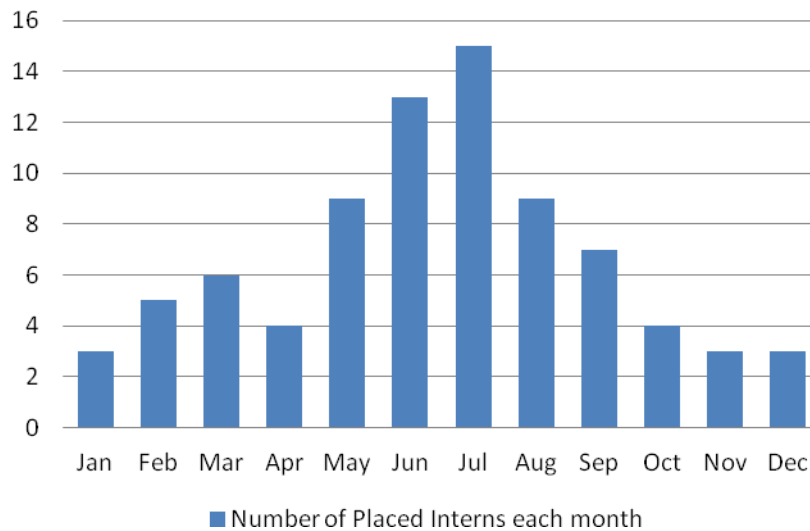
Since 2008, CAWU has had responsibility for a large number of foreign and Egyptians interns who work with our office to improve their practical skills. The organisation offers three formal Internship programmes including translations internships, research internships and multimedia internships. Throughout the year we also had one IT intern Rebekka Daubenberger who stayed with us for 7 months and one administrative intern.

Jenna Ferrecchia was volunteer **CAWU's** inter-coordinator in 2013 and left in February 2014.. A replacement will be sought for this position. Cornelis Hulsman spends a lot of time reviewing and meeting with interns in order to guide and improve their work.

Interns have been very satisfied with the opportunity to work with CAWU for a period of several months. Each intern documented their experiences for the '*Meet the interns*' pages on the CAWU website. Due to the destruction of our database on June 27, the pages for 2012 and 2013 were lost. Efforts to repair these pages manually are time consuming.

CAWU offers flexible working hours with a young, dynamic team of both Egyptians and foreigners to broaden their knowledge of important personalities and their positions in Arab-West dialogue. We provide opportunities to develop profound insights into intercultural and inter-religious relations. CAWU had 23 new interns from eleven countries during 2013, which exceeds the total number of interns in 2012 and is thus a major achievement. However, with the continuing unrest many potential interns have hesitated to come to Egypt.

Most CAWU interns have an excellent command of written English, some knowledge of Arabic, a good understanding of Arab-West/Christian-Muslim relations (e.g. a background of Middle East Studies), and have good computer and research skills. CAWU is able to put these skills to good use in a wide range of office activities, from assisting the *AWR* editing team, to writing biographies and updating the Electronic Documentation Centre.

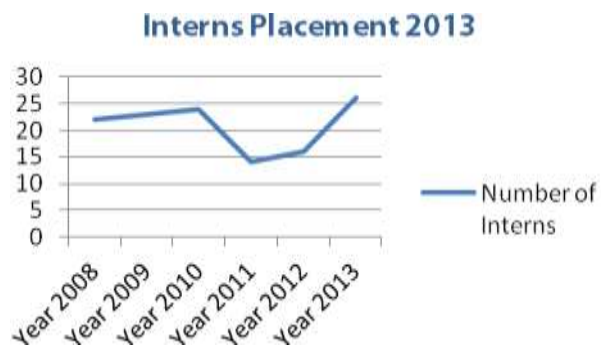


The number of active interns varies throughout the year, but interns are obviously most available during the summer months. A decrease in interns also occurred following the political disturbances following the overthrow of President Morsi and the state of emergency declared in August. A dip also occurred during the April exam period.

The graph indicates that a greater effort should be made to receive interns throughout the non-peak months.

Intern Placement Rate from 2008 – 2013

Placed Interns 2008-2012	
Year	Number
2008	22
2009	23
2010	24
2011	14
2012	16
2013	26
total	125



2013 1st half = 17 | 2nd half 2013 = 9

Total number of interns from Jan. 1, 2008 until Jan. 1, 2014 = 125

The number of interns, despite the contrary one would expect because of reported violence in Egypt, continued to grow in 2013. This was primarily because of word of mouth and interns

knowing that CAWU does provide good advice to interns in a country going through a difficult transition period.

Arab West Report received in May 2006 former Dutch Prime Minister Andreas van Agt and organized a lecture at Cairo University: "[Cultures between Clash and Reconciliation: The Role of the Media](#)." See also [here](#).

Following this lecture, internships at hosted with *Arab-West Report* greatly increased. In 2008 responsibility for interns was transferred to CAWU. Interns have contributed to investigative and media critique reporting making them skeptical of media and political activist reporting. The internships have increased the visibility of *Arab-West Report* in western academic circles.

Intern Engagements with the Western Media

Intern Quinta Smit held an interview with the Dutch publication Media 1 on the demonstrations and removal of President Morsi. See [here](#).

Intern Robert Forster interviewed by Norwegian newspaper Stavanger Aftenbladet on demonstrations and removal of President Morsi.

Intern Esther Schoorel's interview with F. Douglas May on myths in reporting on Christians in Egypt was picked by various media outlets including journalist Barbara Gallets.

Intern Eline Kasanwidjojo interviewed on 4 July by Martine Weber from German radio Mephisto 97.6. See [here](#).

List of Intern Placements 2013

No	Name	Nationality	Period
1.	Diana Seródio (R)	Portuguese	25/09/12 – 15/03/13
2.	Rosalynne Keim (R)	German	15/10/12 – 15/02/13
3.	Robert Bental (T)	British	19/05-19/07
4.	Anton Bondarew (T)	German	30/06-30/10
5.	Rebekka Daubenberger (IT)	German	05/01-01/07
6.	Marco De Blasi (R)	Italian	01/06-01/08
7.	Ahmed Deiab (R)	Egyptian	06/01-01/2014
8.	Daniela De Maria (T)	Italian	14/07-14/09
9.	Hina Fathima (R)	Indian	28/07-19/08
10.	Robert Forster (R)	Norwegian	02/06-09/09
11.	Denise Hartlieb (T)	Austrian	20/05-27/06
12.	Tarek Hassan (A)	German	07/02-07/04
13.	Calum Humphreys (T)	British	07/05-04/07
14.	JooWon Kim (R)	Korean	01/06-31/07
15.	Aidan Mascarenhas Keyes (T)	British	13/03-01/06
16.	Fouad Ben Masoud (R)	Dutch	15/01-21/06

17.	Nadira Mekic (R)	German	03/03-28/03
18.	Myles Ormerod (T)	Chinese	07/05-04/07
19.	Federica Raimondi (T)	Italian	15/07-15/09
20.	Lila Raouf (R)	American	01/05-01/06
21.	Flynne Rushton (T)	British	27/07-02/09
22.	Esther Schoorel (R)	Dutch	01/09-25/01/14
23.	Eline Kasanwidjojo (R)	Dutch	07/10/12 – 31/03/13
24.	Quinta Smit (T)	Dutch	01/02-01/07
25.	Verena Walther (R)	German	28/07-29/08
26.	Kevin Yi (R)	American	01/07-30/07

T: Translations from Arabic to English with support of experienced translator (10)

IT: Information Technology (1)

R: Media critique research (14)

A: Administrative support (1)

Newsletters

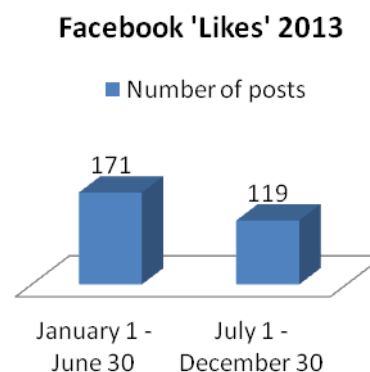
CAWU in coalition with Dutch NGO Arab West Foundation sent out a total of 65 newsletters to subscribers during 2013 maintaining the goal of 50-75 newsletters a year.

iContact newsletters were managed by Diana Ghali in the first half of 2013, and in the second half of 2013 by Jenna Ferrecchia. Most texts for 65 newsletters have been provided by Cornelis Hulsman, Jayson Casper and interns. iContact newsletters inform our readers of the latest reports and developments.

Newsletters with media overviews highlight our own investigative reporting. *Arab-West Report* until 2010 was sent to a limited number of around 100 subscribers. In 2010, we switched to a Drupal platform which made our newsletters free of charge in order to reach a larger public and we now reach an audience of around 3000 people including academics, students, journalists, politicians and other interested people in the Arab world and the West.

Social Media Strategy

CAWU Social Media Engagement 2013		
	Jan.1-Jun. 30	Jul. 1-Dec.30
Number of Likes	171	119



A Social Media Marketing plan has yet to be formulated by Jenna Ferrecchia in 2013 although

a CAWU Facebook page has been created. Only 6 posts have been made in 2013.

Despite this low rate of engagement, the page garnered more interest throughout the year **with an approximate 5.4 'likes' a week. A strong online presence** is necessary for any modern organisation and in particular helps in showing the activities of the organisation as well as garner interest from potential sponsors and interns. A strong social media plan is necessary to accomplish this.

Website Performance

We have seen a remarkable increase in hit and visits to our websites including:

- www.enawu.com
- www.cawu.org
- www.holyfamilyegypt.com
- www.egyptforpeace.com

The website www.arabwestreport.info is managed by the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation, but some material is contributed by CAWU. All websites went down following an act of sabotage on June 27, 2013. Back-ups were restored, however, these are **outdated and the content needs to be updated. Sadly, our 'Meet the Interns' pages from 2010-2012** have been deleted also and they will need to be contacted to repair the website.

Engage Muslims and Christians in regular dialogue meetings at the local level

Monthly Forums

Date	Subject	Organized by	Speaker	Location	Attendants
16/2	Youth dialogue	CAWU	Cornelis Hulsman	CAWU Office	25
27/3	One Hand	Interns	Cornelis Hulsman	Coptic Evangelical headquarters downtown Cairo	25
19/4	Church in Egypt	Dr. Giuseppe Scatolin	Cornelis Hulsman	Comboni Fathers	30
24/5	Holy Family tradition in context	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal	Cornelis Hulsman	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal	20
31/5	Islamization of Politics	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal	Different speakers	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal	20, incl CAWU interns
23/10	Jews in Egypt	Intern Ahmed Diab and Jenna Ferrecchia	Ahmed Diab and Jenna leading discussion including Jewish participants	Korean Center	50
5/11	Christians in Egypt	Korean Center	Jayson Casper	Korean Center	15
12/11	Christians in Egypt	Korean Center	Cornelis Hulsman	Korean Center	15, incl CAWU interns
24/11	Developments in Egypt	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal	Different speakers	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal	15

On the forum meeting of May 24 Dr. Khayyal wrote:

Dear Kees,

I would like to thank you so much for your interesting informative, objective presentation at my place. As a matter of fact I have received phone calls from almost all the attendants in the following days praising the presentation.

Undoubtedly, much effort was invested in visiting all the places referred to in the lecture and gathering all such details. One amazing conclusion was how traditions could overwhelmingly distort historical events, particularly if combined with strong beliefs that are widely spread among non-critical thinkers. Unfortunately we were all so much absorbed by the presentation and the following heated discussions that we missed recording the whole event.

Thank you once again and I hope to see you soon

Regards
MK

Assisting Egyptians in the Management of Conflict and Tensions

Assisting Egyptians in the Management of Conflict and Tensions was an important goal in the aforementioned Strategic Report of October 28, 2010. Work in this direction was initiated with two workshops in June 2011, which resulted in Cornelis Hulsman being extended an invitation to explain the proposal to a member of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) in the days that the workshops were carried out. **CAWU however, was forced to “table”** this initiative due to lack of funds and personnel. The Dutch Embassy was ready to consider a request for funding on the condition that it would go through an Egyptian NGO that would receive a permit first from the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Remarkably enough, Assistant President Emad Abdel Ghaffour informed us in December 2012, that he was engaged in discussions on setting up a program on conflict resolution with the Ministry of Interior. There are no indications that these discussions continued because of **the tensions following President Morsi’s controversial degree in November 2012, and his removal on July 3, 2013.** In September 2013, AWR and Missio published a report on Muslim-Christian relations and the need for dialogue. CAWU remains committed to this initiative. Adel Rizkallah worked in 2013 on strengthening the procedural requirements that the Center for Arab-West Understanding needs to meet. CAWU accepted several new members, and on April 27, 2014, will elect a new board that will need to become more active in this regard.

Content and Impact

CAWU provided a number of reports lectures that have had a substantial impact

In 2008

- Responded to the film ‘Fitna’ by the Dutch MP Geert Wilders in March and April 2008
- Reporting on tensions around the monastery of Abu Fana following clashes on May 31, 2008
- HRH Prince Hassan bin-Talal hosted the launch of the Electronic Network for Arab-West Understanding (ENAWU), a project of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation (CIDT) that produces *Arab-West Report*. HRH also provided a speech in honor of the work of *Arab-West Report* describing our work as a vector of change. See [‘The Need to Build a System for Collective Intelligence’](#).

In 2010

- CAWU was invited by the Anna Lindh Foundation to present methods of addressing tensions and conflicts at their well-attended Forum in May 2010. See [here](#).
- Cornelis Hulsman presented in several sessions the ZIVIC supported investigation on causes of interreligious tensions in Egypt as well as how *Arab-West Report* is working to reduce tensions and conflicts in Egyptian society. '[Religious and Cultural Developments in Arab and European Countries and Their Impact on Politics](#)'.

In 2011

- Together with Initiatives for Change, CAWU hosted '[The Imam and the Pastor: A Peace-building Workshop](#)' in June 30, 2011. It was a workshop on how civilians can play a role in reducing tensions in society. The workshops drew the attention of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) and led to an invitation to Cornelis Hulsman to explain the purpose of the workshop which was well received. Plans to train civilians and work on peace building were developed, but were to date not carried out for lack of funding.

In 2012

- A lecture was given in the European Parliament at the invitation of the EPP (European Christian Democrats), the ECR (conservatives and liberals) and COMECE (organization of the European Catholic Bishops). The request was to speak about Muslim-Christian relations and '[The Harm of Misreporting on Egypt's Christians](#).' Representatives of Open Doors and Church in Need spoke about the persecution of Christians in Egypt.

Hulsman disagreed with them and showed photos of an Egyptian Orthodox priest and a Salafi sheikh working together. There is violence in Egypt, but there is also cooperation. Both need to be presented. Some 200 people participated, including Coptic Orthodox Bishop Athanasius of France, making this one of the largest non-parliamentary events organized in the Parliament in the past 15 years. This illustrates a great interest in the European Parliament for the position of Christians in Egypt and other Arab countries for which other speakers had been invited.

- October 8-12, 2012, organizing visit of an Egyptian multi-party delegation (FJP, el-Nour, Wafd, Free Egyptians Party, Tagammu Party) to visit Dutch Parliament, political parties, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, the Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy and the European Parliament. Funded through the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Matra South program). Discussions included pluralism, constitution and economic cooperation.
- Lecture Cornelis Hulsman at the annual Bjørn Bue's **Human Rights Memorial Lecture** for 2012 in Stavanger, Norway, on 23 October, coinciding with United Nations Day. The lecture series was inspired by Matthew 25:35-36 and was established in 2002. Since 2002, the list of previous lecturers has included persons involved in human

rights and peace and justice work in El Salvador, Kenya, DRC, Northern Uganda, Columbia, Pakistan as well as former Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik.

Note: This list of lectures and presentations is by no means complete. Not only Hulsman, but other members of *CAWU* have given presentations. The above given list is only a sample of the most prominent lectures and presentations.

Networking

Cornelis Hulsmann met with key people (1) and lectured at different institutions (

Table 2).

Between 3-10 April, Cornelis Hulsmann presented four lectures on Egypt at the University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic. The lectures took place in the context of the “Arab Week” at the university, which students had organized. His texts and PowerPoint presentations were placed online by the university: <http://www.khv.zcu.cz/ihistud-workshopy.php>. The initiative for this had come from Petra Písarová, a former trainee of AWR. This is indicative of the impact that providing services to volunteers and interns has, who can then in turn become ambassadors of the ideals that AWR stands for.

Between April 20 and April 28, Cornelis Hulsmann visited churches, Christians and Muslims between Cairo and Assiut.

Activity Calendar

Date	Person/Organisation/Location	Purpose
January 10	Meeting Mohammed Hassouna, Chairman of the Moral Rearmament Association CAWU Office	Discussing cooperation between CAWU and MRA
January 15	Dr. Sayf of Merkaz Hedarat at their office.	Inquiries about Merkaz Hedarat
January 16	Dr. Nadia Mustafa of Merkaz Hedarat at their office.	Inquiries about Merkaz Hedarat
February 13	Dr. Mahmoud Khayyal in Heliopolis	Preparation for Forum Meeting
February 15	Father Yo’annis in Cairo	On seeking support for poor Christians in Oufadah village
February 16	CAWU Forum	Meeting with Egyptian and non-Egyptian youth on intercultural dialogue
February 25	Preparatory meeting in Café Greco, Maadi for meeting with Dr. Essam el-Haddad, organized for AUC Prof. Abdallah Schleifer, intern Eline Kasanwidjojo, CAWU board member Mary Lai. Followed by meeting with Dr. Essam el-Haddad in Presidential Palace	Interview for Arab West Report
February 28	Meeting Coptic businessman Samir Mitri with	For Intern

	CAWU Intern Fuad	
March 22	Meeting Prof. Abdallah Schleifer and Dr. Cecere with interns in preparation for meeting Sufi Sheikh Azamiya in Sayida Zeinab	Intern meeting for AWR
March 26	Meeting Egyptian Business Development Association in Heliopolis	Preparation for June Workshop
April 4	Attending National Unity event of Wafd Party, stressing Christian/Muslim unity in Egypt at Wafd Office in Dokki	Hulsman attended at the invitation of Wafd member Dr. George Messiha.
April 20 - 28	Visiting Upper Egypt from Cairo to Aswan	Visiting the locations of the Holy Family with US Photographer Norbert Schiller. Networking. Work on revising PowerPoint on Holy Family tradition.
April 27 – May 1	Anna Lindh Foundation organised a Youth Dialogue Meeting in Turkey	Intern Diana Serôdio attended on behalf of CAWU.
June 1	Celebration with Ministry of Tourism of the arrival of the Holy Family in Egypt.	Invited to event. Networking.
June 4	Workshop EBDA at EBDA Office, Heliopolis	EBDA is seeking Dutch support for Egypt Agriculture development
June 6	Meeting with Dr. Medhat Mounir, Canadian Academy	Networking
June 12-13	Meeting Dr. Abdel Wahab Abdallah, Osama el-Maraghly (Ministry of Awqaf) and Judge Walid Taha while visiting Governorate of Aswan	Discussion with Ministry of Awqaf and Aswan Governorate about possible projects for Dutch NGO Agriculture without Borders
June 15	Hany Aziz	Speaking on church building and holy family travel promotion.
June 19	Dr. Mahmoud Azzab from Bayt el-Eila at Azhar	Interviewed by intern Aydan and discussing cooperation between CAWU and Bayt el-Eila.
June 20	Dr. Abul Futuh at his office	CAWU interns Eline Kasanwidjojo and Quinta Smit interviewed him.
June 20	Dr. Nabil Abdel Fatah at Café Riche	Preparation for meeting with interns.
June 21	Dr. Abdelrahim Ali at his office in Dokki	Intern interview (Eline and Quinta), talks about possible cooperation with CAWU
June 24	Agriculture without Borders, Nijmegen, NL	Vice-President Hulsman met with the Agriculture without Borders foundation and was asked about general knowledge on Egypt and his network in Egypt. This involved non-MB and MB and thus brings parties together.

July-August	Dr. Johannes Sporer, University of Vienna, AU	Worked out proposal on research in correcting misguided claims in West. Sadly, unrest in Egypt cancelled research.
July 22	Dr. Amr Darrag FJP, Cairo	Interview for AWR
July 23	Interview with Bishop Qulta. Visit to Raba'a Adawiya with Markus Tozman, Cairo	First impression of sit-in
July 24	Meeting with Walid al-Haddad, Raba'a Adawiya	Interview for AWR
July 25	Interview with Safwat Hegazy, Raba'a Adawiya	Interview for AWR
August 19	Email from Vice-President Hulsman to all members of the Oct. 2012 Egyptian Multiparty Delegation George Messiha response: Dear All, I must express to all of you how deeply wounded am I, for every drop of blood. For every one who was killed either from the MB or the police or the army. Egypt is in a critical situation in its new history. Violence from all sides is extreme. The sound of bullets is the only common sound these days, The smell of blood is very very usual and normal to smell these days. And common sense has no place these days. Truth is very rare. Each side has his own story which is totally different. GOD help us. George	Requesting dialogue in response to violence against churches in Egypt.
August 19	Cairo Overleg, Den Haag, NL	What can be done to advocate dialogue?
	George Messiha response: GOD be with you in your quest. I also hope that common sense leads the different part to start a real dialogue. I'm not good too, I feel like a very tiny element in this equation. Gen. El Sisi is determined to End the short history of the MB, and on the other hand the MB is fighting to break the army and police, and then take full control over Egypt through a strict theocratic rule. We true liberals are fighting a lot for common sense and dialogue. But no one wants to hear to us no more. Do your best to help us please. Regards George	
August 19	Dutch Parliament, Den Haag, NL	Parliamentary hearing on Egypt with all-Egyptian experts. Hulsman was the only Western expert present.
September 11	Mensen in Nood (People in Need), Den Bosch, NL	On humanitarian situation in Egypt
September 23	Michael Servaes, MP Dutch Socialist Party.	Follow-up on hearing in Dutch

October 10	Anna Lindh Foundation Egypt, Cairo	Parliament on 19.09.13 Participation in network meeting
October 12	Father Daoud, Cairo	Update on issues of poverty in Minya.
October 21	Dr. Amr Darrag, Cairo	Interview by interns, Hulsman, Yosra and Jayson Casper
November 15	Lisa Winther from the Stefanus Alliance International (Together for the Persecuted in Norway)	Correspondence on planned visit to CAWU office. Delayed due to unrest in Egypt.
December 13-15	Clergy in Aswan and Edfu. Christian lawyer in Edfu. Christians and Sheikh Habib in Marinab	Status of church-building in Marinab, following up on former report by AWR. With Dr. Hala Fahmy.

Other Activities

January – May: Intern Diana Serôdio researched on the '*2012 Egyptian Constitution*', a project edited by Cornelis Hulsman and with help from Jayson Casper. Published by MISSIO, Germany.

June 2013: Intern Rebekka Draubenberger and Intern Coordinator Jenna Ferrecchia worked on a new design for the publication Arab West Report, making it more compliant with JSTOR criteria for academic publishing.

June 19: Cornelis Hulsman agreed with Dr. Mahmoud Azzab, Bayt al-Eila, the main centre for dialogue between Muslim and Christian leaders at the Azhar in Egypt, that CAWU can provide free translations of translation interns for the Bayt al-Eila dialogue centre.

August-September: Cornelis Hulsman with interns Hina Fatima and Robert Forster worked on **the report** '*Christian Victims of the growing Islamist non-Islamist Divide: The Urgent need for peace and reconciliation*'. Published by MISSIO, Germany.

Much efforts in the second half of 2013 were devoted to restoring lost data such as the 'Meet the Interns' pages on cawu.org. Efforts are still needed to replace lost 'Meet the Interns' pages on CAWU.org

The largest newspaper in the Netherlands started a campaign against tourism to Egypt claiming it would help to fight human rights abuses in Egypt. *Arab-West Report's* response was swift and the campaign was aborted. This was noted during a press conference during **Amr Mousa's** campaign in the presidential elections and **Minister of Tourism, Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour**, complemented *Arab-West Report* for its response.

Administration

CAWU board-members and staff work as volunteers and occupy full-time paid positions elsewhere. The administration of the NGO was strengthened by the work of Adel Rizkallah. Intern coordination was managed by Jenna Ferrecchia. Cornelis Hulsman organised and managed internal and external relations for the NGO. The highest decision-making authority in CAWU is the General Assembly that elects the board.

Fundraising is a major concern for the organisations; however, one cannot overstress the necessity of doing so within the pre-requisites of the Egyptian government. Several Egyptian NGOs have gotten into difficulties for not adhering to Egyptian regulations. CAWU has not violated any regulations and by the experiences of other NGOs show the need to engage in fundraising only within the given parameters set by Egyptian authorities. Experience has also highlighted the need to fundraise domestically within Egypt. Current funding covers core functions, but CAWU will need to expand revenue sources.

Working with CAWU as an NGO is difficult due to lack of staff and also because of tedious procedures with the Ministry of Social Solidarity that has specific requirements for writing board minutes, year reports and who is authorized or not to withdraw money from the CAWU bank account. Bank withdrawals need board decisions that need to be presented to the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Fundraising

Although core funding is covered, a concerted effort needs to be made to expand donors and sources of funds. This will need to be a priority in 2014.

On November 13, H.E. Minister Gaber al-Sultan, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, invited Cornelis Hulsman for a meeting to inquire about the work of CAWU **which he remarked was “descriptive.”** He furthermore provided a good characterization of *Arab-West Report* as a publication that wants to be descriptive and not advocating a particular partisan position. We interpreted this meeting as recognition of the goals that CAWU indeed stands for.

Hopes for the Future

The role that CAWU is more pivotal now than at any time in its past. Responsible reporting in media is critical. Conflict prevention/resolution in an explosive world is essential. Cooperation in nation-building is fundamental. The Arab-Muslim world and Egypt will never be at peace with the world until they are at peace with themselves. Arab, Egyptian and Western audiences need to gain more understanding towards the processes at work in Egypt. CAWU will continue to work towards a better understanding of Egypt.

Cairo, June 11, 2014

Dr. Hoda Awad
General Secretary

Appendix 1: Activities January – December 2013

Table 1: Activities of Cornelis Hulsman to Promote Improved Muslim-Christian Relations and Arab-West Understanding

Person/organization	Date	Location	Purpose
Meeting Dr. Mohamad Sofar, chairman Program for Civilization Studies and Dialogue of Cultures at Cairo University	15/1	Cairo University	Inquiries for cooperation to set up summer school, Program at Cairo University is not free to act
Meeting dean of Faculty of Economics and Political Science	12/2	Cairo University	Inquiries for cooperation to set up summer school
Lori Lawson, professional curriculum builder	19/2	Office CIDT	Discussion on how to make a curriculum for a summer school
Marc van Oudheusden starting of setting up RSS system	24/2	Office CIDT	Start RSS system
Meeting with Joost Geijer, Dutch Embassy	26/2	Restaurant in Maadi	Agriculture Egypt, knowing of work of AWR, network of AWR/CAWU
Meeting with Volkhard Windfuhr, chairman Foreign Press Association	28/2	Office Mr. Windfuhr	Mr. Windfuhr providing an update on the current situation in Egypt
Ministry of Economy/Egypt meeting	4/3	Ministry of Economy Den Haag	Meeting on Egypt, wanting activities to address food security in Egypt
Meeting Church in Laren (NH)	5/3	Laren (NH)	Meeting advised by Kerk in Actie
Meeting Dutch Arabist Eildert Mulder	7/3	Den Haag	Press
Board meeting AWF	7/3	Rotterdam	Attending board meeting of Dutch NGO
Politician Henkjan van Schothorst, SGP	12/3	Den Haag	Follow up their visit to Egypt in December 2012
COMECE	14/3	Brussels	Networking for CAWU
AUC Press	9/5	AUC	Talk about new book on

Holy Family, we need to write a proposal and suggest authors for various chapters

Dr. Grossmann, German Archeological Institute	4/6	German Institute	Archeological	Talk about new book on Holy Family for AUC Press
With Adel Rizkallah meeting Dr. Abdelmonem Mashat, head Faculty of Economics and Political Science	11/6	Future University		Cooperation with CAWU/summer school
Ambassador Ahmed Abdelaziz, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Egypt	20/6	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		General update of our work
Dr. George Messiha, Wafd	20/6	Café riche		Dr. Messiha providing a general update on the situation in Egypt
Judge Dr. Walid Taha	21/6	Sheikh Zayed City		Informing about CAWU
Conference in Vienna on Christian minorities	June 30 – July 4	University Vienna		Presentation of paper on statistics of Christians in Egypt
Meeting Dr. Peter O'Brien, European economist, reader of AWR for many years	9/7	Brussels		Discussing current developments in Egypt
Dieter Mueller-Ehrhart coming to Egypt	19/7	Cairo		Discussing plans how to recover our database after the total destruction of our data on June 27
Kirsten Wolfrat.	24/7	Den Haag		Providing information for paper on sensationalized media reporting
Yosra el-Gendy	Aug 26-31	Copenhagen		Leadership training in Danish Egyptian Dialogue Institute workshop
Library Peace Palace	28/9	Den Haag		Obtaining documents for contacts in Egypt
Arie de Boer, consultant Kerk in Actie	8/10	Cairo		For update about work of CAWU/AWR
Digital Investigation	28/10	Hilversum		Discussion about securing our data. Two other visits took place in December
Monique al-Faizy	29/10	Den Haag		Responding to questions of Monique al-Faizy for a book on the Coptic community
Prof. Wolfram Reiss	Nov	Kiel, Germany		Presenting book on Art 2 of the Constitution at an academic conference
Former Palestinian PM Salam Fayad	7/11	Tilburg		Meeting after lecture, talking about visiting Egypt

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Dr. Sultan al-Jaber	13/11	Cairo	The Minister inquired about Arab-West Report and CAWU
Hafiz Irfan, MA student International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan	20/11	Cairo	Student asking for contact with Dr. Nabil Luka Bibawi and information AWR
Dr. Safwat Bayadi	22/11	Cairo	Meeting about the Constituent Assembly, preparation for a visit one week later with Salafi sheikh Hamdi from Qufada, Maghagha
Christian family in Shubra with journalists of the Sued Deutsche Zeitung.	Nov 25– Dec 2	Shubra, Cairo	Spending week with Coptic Catholic family in Shubra resulting in special Christmas edition of SDZ magazine. Meetings with Salafi sheikh Hamdi, father Douglas May and others arranged
Patriarch Ibrahim	29/11	Cairo	About Sued Deutsche Zeitung interviewing Catholic family
Forum on Egyptian-Gulf cooperation	Dec 4/5	JW Marriot Hotel, Cairo	Networking
Proofreaders team Maadi Messenger, members church council Maadi Community Church, Road 9 publishers	Dec	Cairo	Several meetings for start editorship of Maadi Messenger and including articles from CAWU interns
Catholic Bishop Antonius, member of Constituent Assembly	10/12	Cairo	Interview with Jayson Casper about the constitution which resulted in a very long transcript, Arabic and English in AWR
Prof. Willem Kuiper	28/12	Zaandam	On publishing his research on the Good Garden/part of Holy Family tradition and new book for AUC press on Holy Family

Table 2: List of Lectures

Name	Date	Group	Location
Cornelis Hulsman	9/3	Lecture about AWR at meeting Coptic Orthodox Church/PKN in Amersfoort	Amersfoort
	April 3-10	Students University of West Bohemia, Initiated by former volunteer of AWR FOUR lectures: - Holy Family, - Muslim-Christian relations - Egyptian Constitution - Two Muslim and two Christian scholars working towards dialogue	Pilsen, Czech Republic
	21/5	On Arab-West Report at the Anna Lindh Foundation	The Hague
	26/5	Coptic Orthodox Church, for entire church community on a Sunday after mass, subject Arab-West Report showing part of film One Hand followed by discussion	Assen
	3/7	Lecture on Coptic population statistics in Egypt	Vienna University
	16/12	Lecture on Holy Family tradition	Zagazig Coptic Orthodox Church
	Total 9 lectures (excl numerous smaller presentations)		

Table 3: CAWU related reporting in Western and Egyptian media

Author	Title of the article	Date	Publication Location or on the Internet
Cornelis Hulsman	Egypt celebrating revolution	Jan 25	Nederlands Dagblad *
	Discrepancies between Coptic Statistics in the Egyptian Census and Estimates provided by the Coptic Orthodox Church	Febr 2013	MIDEO 29

	Absent police weakens Christians in Upper Egypt	May 11	Nederlands Dagblad
	Egypt opens doors for Christian tourists	June 3	Nederlands Dagblad
	Church building Egypt	June 18	Nederlands Dagblad
Diana Serodio and Jayson Casper. (ed) Cornelis Hulsman	The Egyptian Constitution	Sept 10	Missio – Aachen
Sarah Topol	A priest, Douglas May, talks about the challenges of life in Egypt Catholic in Cairo	Spring 2013	http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=3671&pagetypeID=4&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1
Yosra El Gendi	Interview with Bishop Yohanna Qulta on the situation in Egypt	Aug 19	http://globalministries.org/
Cornelis Hulsman	'Egypt's Constitution: Sorting through the Rhetoric'	Sept 13	http://www.arabwestreport.info/development-egypts-constitution-analysis-assessment-and-sorting-through-rhetoric
			Commissioned by Missio
	Radio interview with Danish Radio	Sept 24	http://www.dr.dk/P1/orientering/indslag/2013/09/13/153334_1_1_2_1_1_1_1_1.htm
Cornelis Hulsman With Hina Fathima and Robert Forster	Christen in Agypten: Die washsende Kluft zwischen Islamisten und Nicht-Islamisten	Sept 10	In print translated and published by Missio
	Christian Victims of the Growing Islamist/non-Islamist divide: the Urgent need for peace and reconciliation	Sept 10	Minority Rights Group (London) and AWR http://www.arabwestreport.info/christians-victims-growing-islamist-non-islamist-divide-urgent-need-peace-and-reconciliation
Yosra El Gendi	Report on what Copts want in the Constitution	October 2	Yosra El Gendi http://www.oasiscenter.eu/
Cornelis Hulsman	Remembering Maspiro	October 9	Nederlands Dagblad
	Interview with Dr. Abdelfutuh Abdel Monem [The interview was made with Quinta Smit and	October 16	Middle East Institute http://www.mei.edu/c

Eline Kasanwidjojo in June 2013 but was overtaken by events in Egypt and thus a second (telephone) interview was needed]		ontent/conversation-egypts-aboul-fotouh
Interview with Dr. Amr Darrag: First Morsi need to be freed, then Muslim Brothers are willing to talk	November 4	Nederlands Dagblad
Introductory text on Arab-West Report for Summary of PhD thesis of Dr. Wolfram Reiss about the Sundayschool movement	November 7	Korea Mission Quarterly (date this text was delivered was 7 nov. date of publication not known)
Cairo longs for support from Arab Gulf states	December 4	Nederlands Dagblad

* The Nederlands Dagblad often changed titles and sometimes text during their editing of the texts provided.

Table 4: Interviews

Name of Person(s)	Subject	Date	Publication/radio
Afa interview with Cornelis Hulsman	Interview about current affairs Egypt	14/1	Swedish radio
Afa interview with Cornelis Hulsman	Interview about 2 years after the revolution	25/1	Swedish radio
Interview with Cornelis Hulsman	Interview about current affairs Egypt	11/2	El-Pais, Spain
Rik Bokelman	Interview with Cornelis Hulsman about AWR, in Dutch, later translated in English for AWR	4/3	Interview Christelijk Informatie Platvorm (CIP), http://www.cip.nl/
Interview with Cornelis Hulsman	Commentary about Muslims praying in a mosque in Tessalonici that had been closed for 90 years, creating a controversy between Muslims and Christians in Greece and between Greece and Turkey	3/5	Italian radio
Fanny (editor Faustschlag)	Cornelis Hulsman interviewed about One year president Morsi	27/6	Radio mephisto 97.6 - Faustschlag <faustschlag@mephisto976.de>; Broadcasted 30/6
Michael Gunn	Change of power in Egypt (asked permission to quote AWR)	6/7	The Tablet
Prof. Dr. Christof Sauer	Quoted AWR/Hulsman in his PhD	9/7	Mail received that we were quoted in his studies, date of publication unknown at this moment
Kimberley van Eijkel/ Ricard Gonzalez for La Nacion, Argentina	Interview with Cornelis Hulsman about how the Pope is seen in the Arabic world	24/7	La Nacion
Hazel Haddon of Al Ahram Online writing for Al-Jazeera Online	Current situation Christians in Egypt	15/8	Al Jazeera online
Gerard Russell, book author	Situation Christians in Egypt	19/8	For book in preparation
Kerk in Actie	Photos with text on the work of CAWU/AWR	27/8	http://www.kerkinactie.nl/projecten/Interculturele-dialogoog-en-vertaalwerk--p507-7796#tab_ref
Ahmed Sedik, working with CNN and German magazines	Introduced to AWR by Danish journalist Flemming Rasmussen	3/10	
Interview with Yosra El Gendi	Inget tydlig politiskt motiv till attacken	22/10	Dagen.se

Center for Arab-West Understanding

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