

Thursday, 26 January 2017, 6 pm
ZMO, Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin

LAW & REGULATION

Chaired by **Dr Chanfi Ahmed** (IAAW)

Political or Apolitical Hajj

Lecture by **Saud Al-Serhan** (King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies)

The idea of mobilizing the Hajj season for political use can be tracked back to 1900, when al-Kawakibi published his book *Umm al-Qura* (Mother of Towns) in which he called for a secret Islamic congress to be convened during the Hajj in Mecca every year. The Saudi government, insists on the Hajj season remaining an apolitical occasion, where from the beginning, in 1926, King 'Abd al-'Aziz decided not to make Hijaz and the Hajj a place to debate political issues, this position was adopted and maintained by his successors. However, after 1979 the Iranian leadership insisted on promoting its revolutionary ideology by organizing demonstrations, most notably 'The Demonstration of Disavowal from Polytheists.' In it, Iranian pilgrims recited revolutionary slogans in the streets of Mecca and Medina.

Saud Al-Serhan is the Director of Research at KFCRIS. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow in the College of Social Sciences and International Studies, Exeter University, and a Distinguished International Affairs Fellow of the National Council on US-Arab Relations, USA.

Muslim Women and the Mecca Pilgrimage

Lecture by **Prof Dr Werner Ende** (emeritus, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)

Ever since the rise of Islam in the first half of the 7th century (C.E.), women have participated in the annual Hajj to Mecca. The various Muslim schools of law had to define the preconditions under which women were allowed (alone, with a mahram or in a group) to travel to Mecca and perform the pilgrimage rites there. There have been, and still are, some differing views among those schools with regard to a number of details concerning issues related to women on the Hajj. For several reasons, the proportion of women participating in the annual pilgrimage has increased in recent years. The authorities are obliged to handle the problems originating from this development – such as questions of providing security and medical care especially for women, and of monitoring their correct performance of the pilgrimage rites in accordance with the doctrine dominating in Saudi Arabia.

Werner Ende, born 1937 in Wittenberg, studied Islamic Sciences in Halle, Hamburg and Cairo. After research posts in Hamburg and Beirut he held the chair for Islamic Studies at the Orientalisches Seminar of the University of Freiburg from 1983 to 2002. Ende is editor of the series "Freiburger Islamstudien" and co-edited the journal "Die Welt des Islams" between 1981 and 2011. Selected publications include books and articles on Arab historiography, the Wahhabiya and the Twelver Shia in modern times.

