



## **MEETING MINUTES FOR LIGHT MILLENNIUM Wednesday OCTOBER 13, 2010**

### **Attendees-Board of Directors:**

Bircan Unver  
Sultan Catto  
Korcan Yurdacan - Treasurer  
Ayse Aydogmus

### **Guests:**

Mark Meiowitz  
Sirin Cengizalp  
Abdullah Tansel  
Advisory Board Member:  
Kalman Angus-Clark  
LM-Special Event Coordinator: Janet Ekstract

ABSENT: Selcuk Acar, Board Member  
Irmak Karayal, Youth Board Rep.

### **Meeting Address:**

BARUCH College  
17 Lexington Ave  
Room# 908A  
New York, NY 10010  
(At the corner of the 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue)

**Host:** Sultan Catto

**Minutes Taken by:** Janet Ekstract

**Reviewed by:** Bircan Ünver

**Edited by:** Emily L. Joyce

Bircan opened the meeting by discussing the project she and Shirin, an LM volunteer, are currently working on together.

### **SHIRIN/BIRCAN PROJECT:**

Studying the speeches given by the presidents and prime ministers of 192 countries at the Millennium Development Goals Summit in 2010. Among its eight goals is freedom of expression for the LM's website. These millennium goals could be a bridge between the UN and the global community. Shirin is doing the research and has completed the first ten countries.

Shirin said, "I have read the first ten speeches – from Nigeria, Switzerland, Bhutan, Guatemala, and others – and have categorized and summarized the eight millennium goals. We are in communication with government representatives in order to learn what they have done in conjunction with the MDGs goals." Bircan said, "This is a way to set the stage for the LM, and create more attention for what we are promoting. We hope to become a leading organization in this."

Bircan said that James Dette has expressed an interest in the LM in connection with UN activities.

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## **GUEST INFORMATION:**

Mark Meirowitz is a lawyer with a PhD in politics. He teaches politics, history, and law; he also writes articles on his website. He belongs to many Turkish organizations, is studying Turkish, and is on the board of the Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce.

Shirin graduated with a degree in political science from Baruch College. The first volunteer work she did for the organization was for the RESET/Stephen Kinzer event. She helped with the setup and the photography.

## **ITEM #2:**

Bircan nominated herself as chairperson. The vote was unanimous. We did roll call and proxies, and we had a majority.

## **DRAFT OF APRIL 24, 2010 MINUTES:**

We reviewed who attended the previous meeting. Janet took notes and we approved them online. Bircan said to send them to the LMBoD yahogroups, and say they are the minutes. If anyone has issues with them, they should send her an e-mail. (This is Mark's professional advice.)

## **OUTSTANDING:**

Bircan mentioned that she was unable to pay the web posting that was due September 20, 2010. She said they are flexible, however, and that she can pay the quarterly fee of \$30. She deposited \$40 into the LM's account. She said it's about \$120 per year for that plus the domain name. It is called "Share Hosting," and we have an IP address.

Bircan said, "I paid \$78 to renew the organization's domain name, which expired on June 27, 2010, and extended it with the same name until July 27, 2019. We are safe for nine years in terms of our domain name."

The organization's bank account balance as of October 13, 2010, is \$114.50, which includes today's deposit of \$40.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Bircan said that after the 4/24/10 meeting, we had a deadline to submit financial reports. Yolanda Billings ("For Common Good"), a CPA accountant, helped us file our e-card and CHAR900 form. 990 Forms require an annual operation budget over \$25,000, and since our annual operational budget is less than this, Yolanda Billings advised us to file an e-card with the IRS, and to file with the State Attorney General separately (Char500). In ten years, this was the first time we filed an e-card with the IRS. All that is required is to declare that the organization's annual operation budget is not over \$25,000.

Form 990 has different categories (you pick the one that is correct for your organization). There is a direct access to verify. We filed electronically and Bircan gave the letter to Mark. The letter said that the filing was incomplete. Bircan signed the Charities Form, as did Korcan because he is treasurer. Bircan sent a \$50 filing fee with the Char500 to the NYS Attorney General.

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**DONATIONS:**

\$100 donation from board member. A donation of \$25 was made through NYCharities.Org (and \$1 campaign). One person became a member online through NYCharities.Org (\$6.00). Bircan reported this information to the group.

Websites and TV programs have financial value, according to Bircan. She said it depends on the traffic and content. We have no advertising, so Mark said there is no income from the website; Bircan said, "The content is the asset. When a commercial entity reproduces it, it does have financial value."

Bircan proposed to go through New York Charities (NYcharities.org). They take three cents on every dollar, and send a statement every month. Bircan said, "You can have a voice in the LM with \$1. If we are able to reach one million we can sustain ourselves with that."

**REQUEST FROM CHAIRPERSON BIRCAN:**

Go online and become a \$1 member! Ask your friends to become \$1 members as well.

Bircan proposed, in cooperation with Sultan Catto, to have a program with just a \$1 registration fee (to cover the cost of photocopying and flyers) to get people involved as members in music, art, and cultural events. Sultan said, however, that Baruch may not like the idea of charging for the event, even a \$1 registration fee.

Program theme: "I Dream." With a \$1 entrance fee at Baruch College, Mark M. suggested a light function. He offered his conference room at his office on Forty-sixth and Fifth Avenue for November 2010: Mark said we must find a location. He will ask his friend Scott Wilson to play music.

Azime offered to locate venues for such an event, since Baruch may not allow the \$1 registration fee. Mark said that non-profits may donate space to the LM. Suggestions were made about an arts organization that could donate space to the LM.

Janet, Azime, and Mark all suggested Thursday, November 18, since Thursdays are the last day in the week for events. In any case, Friday evenings are difficult to draw people to. An alternative date was proposed for the week before November 18, just in case.

**MEETING ROOM OFFER:**

Mark said that we can use the conference room in his law office at Forty-sixth and Fifth Avenue. The room can accommodate approximately twenty-five people.

**FUNDRAISING:**

Bircan said if we focus on one fundraising idea at a time, we will succeed, as long as we collaborate. Mark asked how we can financially support the LM. Bircan also asked each board member and attendee of the meeting if there is anyone willing to be:

- a) Support Group Coordinator
- b) \$1 Campaign Coordinator
- c) Fundraising Coordinator
- d) Grant Writer

No one was interested.

## **PROPOSAL FOR THE LM'S 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO BE HELD THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE 2011 – FESTIVAL AT A PARK**

Mark M. proposed using party rooms in buildings as an alternative for events that the LM wants to host.

Reactivating Support Group and Bircan proposed to elect Mark Meirowitz as coordinator. Its purpose is to support the LM. The group mentioned getting high level connections for fundraising. Bircan said that the support committee's contributions will sustain minimum expense.

Mark M. suggested a fundraiser. (Janet has her proposal out for the LM on women's rights. She and Bircan proposed a collaboration with another organization on this event.) The event would be a fundraiser for both non-profits, and would give a portion of the money to charity.

Bircan picked a date for the annual meeting: November 2010 or the first week of December 2010 (must be this year). Mark said we can hold the annual meeting an hour or two before the November 18 event.

Bircan suggested that Shirin join the LM as a youth representative to the UN.

Bircan asked Korcan what he would like to contribute to the LM, and he mentioned his interest in the Armenian-Turkish Synergy Initiative. A discussion ensued about Bircan's trip to Yerevan, Armenia. She was criticized by the representatives of the Civil Society Institute for not using the word "genocide" in her presentations. In her personal dialogues with the representatives of the CSI, as well as during her four lectures, she expressed her opinions to the students, teachers, and principals of three high schools and one middle school. At the last seminar (Friday, January 29, 2010), two CSI representatives and some of the attendees tried and failed to convince her to call the events of 1915 "genocide." The CSI withdrew from the LM's TASI following Bircan's visit to Armenia.

Korcan said we should try to bring the two countries together. Bircan said it's very difficult to get moderate people to work for this type of event. She wanted to open the archives for the "coexisting and peaceful" period until the beginning of 1900, but neither academicians nor government agencies have shown any interest in collaborating. Janet suggested that Korcan get involved with something else.

Bircan asked our help for grassroots support for the LM, such as sending e-mails.

Bircan attended the MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUMMIT on September 20, 2010, which evaluated ten years of millennium development.

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Bircan attended the United Nations General Assembly's Annual 65<sup>th</sup> session on September 23, 2010.

She also informed the BoDs that she attended Nigeria's side event on MDGS, as well as another one that was organized by the International Transparency and UN-Development Program on the MDGs and its Anti-Corruption aspect.

### **DEDICATION ISSUE:**

Report on Millennium Development Goals 2010: Where Are We Now and Freedom of Expression (FoX is not part of MDGoals). We are proposing to the UN that Freedom of Expression should be included in MDGoals.

James Dette is a retired American representative of NGO. He is now working on global-related issues. He may be very effective at the UN for LM, Bircan reported.

Kalman asked Bircan how she did with a contact from Lebanon she had developed at the UN General Assembly. She said she had to get back to him on that.

### **COLUMBIA LUNCH AND PALESTINE STUDIES CENTER EVENT:**

Bircan said she proposed to Columbia to collaborate with the LM at the UN for their newly formed Center for Palestine Studies. UNGA reflected that they expect Palestine to be a UN member next year.

Bircan mentioned the LM's TV Accolade Award for Francis Bacon: "Humans Are Violent," a documentary that she produced. She also informed the BoD that she applied to QPTV for its time-slot lottery in 2011. She hopes to get a slot on a monthly basis. QPTV could air the program but doesn't own it; LMTV does. "When the conditions are met, we could create another website and do web streaming for LMTV," Bircan said.

QPTV will inform us after October 18 if we will get the TV time slot. Bircan said we can also ask the NY Council of Arts for financial support.

TASI: Two online members have not yet sent in their resignations. This is indicated on the LM's site.

Azime said, "Let's all brainstorm our ideas for the November 18 event." Abdullah said it could be done through student organizations, and since it is a non-academic event, we can easily get the room – perhaps the same room (ref: "2015 and Beyond in Science and Arts, May 7, 2010). Abdullah said his gut feeling is that colleges don't like \$1 attendance fees. Kalman said the \$1 donation at Baruch requires too much scrutiny.

The meeting ended at 5:05 pm.