

TOMMASO VIRGILI

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NATIONALITY: Italian
DATE OF BIRTH: 30th July 1987

PROFILE

- Work experience at the European External Action Service, law firm, United Nations, Middle East Forum think tank.
- Legal studies, with a particular focus on international law, human rights law and international affairs.
- Post-graduate specialization on Islam and the Middle East, current Ph.D on Islamic constitutionalism.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Brussels, Belgium
Mar-July 2014 **EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE - BLUE BOOK TRAINEE**
Division Middle East IV.A.1 (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan).
Supervisor: Nacira Boulehouat, Deputy Head of Division.
- Dealt with diplomatic and political issues between the EU and Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan.
 - Conducted research and drafted reports.
 - Attended meetings at the EEAS, Commission, Council and Parliament. Wrote summaries.
 - Replied to letters and parliamentary questions.
- Castelfiorentino, Italy
Nov 2013 - current **STUDIO LEGALE (LAW FIRM) CASINI-BENSI - LEGAL TRAINEE**
Supervisor: Avv. Antonella Benisi.
- In charge of supporting the firm's activities with regard, in particular, to writing legal documents and advice on all matters of Italian Law.
- Philadelphia, USA
Apr-July 2012 **MIDDLE EAST FORUM, LEGAL PROJECT - LAW CLERK**
Supervisors: Sam Nunberg (director), Ann Snyder, Adam Turner.
- Conducted research on different countries' law and practice concerning freedom of expression and its restrictions due to religious sensitivity, with particular regard to Islam.
 - Wrote legal articles.
 - Attended meetings on various issues concerning the Middle East and Islam. Wrote briefings.
- New York, USA
Sept- Dec 2010 **PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS - INTERN**
Supervisor: First Counsellor Luca Zelioli, Human Rights Office.
- Attended formal meetings of the General Assembly Third Committee, General Assembly Plenary, Security Council, European Union member states;
 - worked on the drafting of various resolutions on human rights within the General Assembly Third Committee;
 - assisted with the preparatory work for the presentation and negotiation of the Italian resolution on crime prevention;
 - conducted research on human rights issues, drafted reports;
 - wrote official reports for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

EDUCATION

- Jan 2014 - Present **PH.D IN PUBLIC COMPARATIVE LAW: 'Constitutionalism in Muslim Countries: the struggle between Sharia and Human Rights, with particular reference to Egypt and Tunisia'.**
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy.
- 2012 - 2014 **MASTER OF ARTS IN MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES WITH ARABIC.** GPA: 3.85/4
American University of Paris, Paris, France. Supervisor: Prof. Ali Rahnama.
- June-July 2013 **ARABIC LANGUAGE INTENSIVE PROGRAM.** GPA: 4/4.
American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2006 - 2013 **GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN LAW** (Licenza Magistrale). 100/100, *cum laude*.
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy.
Tutor: Andrea de Guttry, Full Professor of International Law.
- 2006-2011 **MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW** (Laurea Magistrale in Giurisprudenza). 110/110, *cum laude*.
University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy.
Final thesis: *Freedom of Expression between Western and Islamic Law*. Supervisor: Prof. Paolo Passaglia.
- 2001- 2006 **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.** 100/100.
Liceo Classico Statale "Virgilio", Empoli, Italy. (Classical studies, including Latin and ancient Greek).

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

'The European Court of Human Rights and Free-Speech Schizophrenia', *American Thinker*, August 2012.
http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/08/the_european_court_of_human_rights_and_free-speech_schizophrenia.html

'La fotografia dell'Egitto di Tommaso Virgili', *Fatto & Diritto Magazine*, September 2013.
<http://www.fattodiritto.it/la-fotografia-dellegitto-di-tommaso-virgili/>

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC TRAINING

- Dec 2011- Jan 2012 **Winter Programme "Two Nations and Three Religions in Israel and Palestine"**.
Galilee International Management Institute, Nahalal, Israel.
- Mar-Apr 2010 **École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France**
Visiting Student in International Law (Tutor: Jean-Louis Halpérin, Professor of Law).
- July 2009 **Summer School on the International Criminal Court**
Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.
- March 2009 Participation at **ILSA international law competition, Philip Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, 2009** (International rounds, Washington D.C., U.S.A.).

LANGUAGE SKILLS

LANGUAGE	READING	LISTENING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Italian	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	Mother tongue
English	C2 - Proficient	C2 - Proficient	C2 - Proficient	C2 - Proficient
French	C2 - Proficient	C2 - Proficient	C2 - Proficient	C1 - Advanced
Spanish	C1 - Advanced	B2 - Independent	A2 - Basic	A2 - Basic
Arabic	B2 - Independent	A1 - Basic	A1 - Basic	A1 - Basic

ENGLISH CERTIFICATES: **TOEFL iBT**, score: 103/120, 14th October 2011. **Cambridge Advanced**, level C1, 8th February 2010.
FRENCH CERTIFICATE: Diplôme d'études en langue française, **DELFF**, level B1, score: 99.5/100, 28th July 2011.
- Competences perfected during studies and work experiences conducted abroad for prolonged periods.

WRITTEN DISSERTATIONS AND PAPERS

- 'The Past, the Present (and the Future?) of Sharia and Human Rights in the Egyptian Constitution' [in English], 2013.
- 'What Place for Islamic Law and Human Rights? A Struggle for the Soul of the New Egypt' [in English], 2013.
- 'Reason, Justice and Free Will between Mutazila and Thomas Aquinas' [in English], 2013.
- '*What Went Wrong?* : the arduous relationship between Liberty and Islam in the view of Bernard Lewis' [in English], 2012.
- 'Protecting the "sensitivity of believers": A malicious restyle of the crime of blasphemy which threatens human rights' [in English], 2012.
- 'Apostasy from Islam under *Sharia* Law' [in English], 2012.
- 'Freedom of Expression between Western and Islamic Law' [in Italian], 2011.
- 'Genesis, birth, survival of Israel' [in Italian], 2011.
- 'Anti-terrorism Blacklists and Human Rights: a critical Reappraisal of the Practice of the UN Security Council and the European Court of Justice' [in English], 2010.
- 'International Criminal Court and Al-Bashir Arrest Warrant: legal aspects, problems and perspectives', [in Italian], 2009.
- 'International Justice and Khmer Rouge Crimes: the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia' [in Italian], 2008.
- 'Universalism and International Protection of Human Rights' [in Italian], 2007.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2014 **Ouseley Memorial Research Scholarship | School of Oriental and African Studies**, London, UK – 7,500 £ (Award declined).
- 2013 **M.G. Slosberg Foundation Grant for research in the field of social justice** – 1,700 EUR.
- 2012 **Tuition grant | American University of Paris** – 14,442 EUR (44% tuition fee).
- 2012 **Rotary Foundation Global Grant 'Future Vision' for studies on conflict prevention/resolution** – 32,000 USD.
- 2012 **Award for thesis on human rights | Fondazione Alessandro Pavesi**, Napoli, Italy – 12,500 EUR (Award declined).
- 2011 **Tuition scholarship | Galilee International Management Institute**, Nahalal, Israel. – Winter Programme 'Two Nations and Three Religions in Israel and Palestine'.
- 2010 **Two-month research scholarship | École Normale Supérieure**, Paris, France - visiting Student in International Law.
- 2009 **Tuition scholarship | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies**, Pisa, Italy - International Training Programme for Conflict Management training course.
- 2006-11 **Five-year full scholarship | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies**, Pisa, Italy - five-year Master's degree.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Internet; Microsoft Word; Microsoft Power Point; Microsoft Excel; Academic Research Browsers: Westlaw; Lexis Nexis.

COMPUTER CERTIFICATE: **European Computer Driving Licence**, Core, Full.