

Ribal Al-Assad

Founder and Director of the Organisation for Democracy and Freedom in Syria and Chairman of the Iman Foundation



Ribal Al-Assad is the Founder and Director of the Organisation for Democracy and Freedom in Syria and Chairman of the Iman Foundation, which promotes global intercultural dialogue. He campaigns internationally for democracy, freedom and human rights, and is a regular speaker on human rights platforms, as well as writing regularly on these issues.

Ribal was born in Syria and has lived in the West since being exiled from his country as a child. He is a leading authority on Syrian politics and how the current conflict is shaped by regional and geopolitical dynamics. He is also a staunch advocate of consistency and integrity in foreign policy, and believes liberal and democratic countries should uphold these values in all circumstances. Since entering public life, he has interacted with politicians, civil servants, academics, journalists, think tanks, pro-democracy, and human rights groups all around the world, from the US to the Far East.

He is particularly involved in promoting interfaith dialogue and relations between Muslims, Jews and Christians around the globe. Ribal has successfully helped tackle intra-religious conflict and violence in Lebanon. One of his notable achievements was to help facilitate a rapprochement between the Alawite and the Sunni Muslims in North Lebanon.

Ribal holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree from the InterAmerican University in New York and an MA in International Relations from the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. He is fluent in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Ribal is a keen sportsman with a special interest in Thai boxing, Shaolin kung-fu, swimming and tennis. Currently living in London, he is married and has two young sons.