



Advancing a Values-Based U.S.-MENA Policy: ACMER's Advocacy Agenda Overview

ACMER advances a U.S. foreign policy towards the Middle East and North Africa that prioritizes human rights, democratic governance, accountability, and civilian protection. Our work is organized across five core pillars that address the structural drivers of conflict, repression, and instability in the region.

1. Human Rights & Accountability

Human rights abuses and impunity undermine regional stability and U.S. credibility. The U.S. has existing legal tools to protect civilians and enforce accountability, but too often fails to use them.

ACMER's Policy Priorities:

- Enforcing U.S. human rights law, including Leahy Laws, Magnitsky sanctions, and arms transfer restrictions.
- Conditioning U.S. security assistance on respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- Protecting humanitarian access and civilian life, including restoring funding for life-saving aid.

2. Ending Militarized U.S. Policy in the Region

Decades of militarized U.S. policy have fueled civilian harm, escalation, and instability while weakening democratic oversight.

ACMER's Policy Priorities:

- Restoring congressional oversight over war powers and arms transfers.
- Repealing outdated Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs).
- Prevent misuse of U.S. weapons and prioritizing diplomacy over military force.

3. Democratic Governance & Political Inclusion

Durable peace depends on inclusive governance, protected civic space, and accountable institutions.

ACMER's Policy Priorities:

- Defending civic space, political rights, and independent media, including confronting transnational repression targeting diaspora communities.
- Supporting democratic benchmarks in U.S. diplomatic and security engagement.
- Advancing inclusive, civilian-led political transitions and self-determination.

4. Countering Authoritarian Influence & Corruption

Authoritarian influence and corruption fuel conflict and repression, often when tolerated as a tradeoff for security cooperation.

ACMER's Policy Priorities:

- Disrupting financial and political networks that enable authoritarian power.
- Targeted sanctions and conditionality to counter corruption tied to repression and conflict.

5. Economic & Digital Governance

Economic and digital governance shape political inclusion, accountability, and long-term stability.

ACMER's Policy Priorities:

- Transparent and accountable economic and digital governance.
- Fair development standards through international financial institutions.
- Economic self-determination and civilian-led reconstruction in post-conflict settings.