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Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu

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Egyptian Human Rights Activist to Speak at Ramapo College March 21

Dr. Nawal El Saadawi on “Women, Dissidence and Creativity”

(MAHWAH, NJ) - Dr. Nawal El Saadawi, an Egyptian physician, human rights activist and feminist author, will be speaking on “Women, Dissidence, and Creativity” in the H-wing auditorium of Ramapo College on March 21 from 2-3 p.m.

Dr. El Saadawi, most recently in the news for her role in the recent Tahrir Square protests, became a medical doctor at Cairo University in 1955 and received a master’s in Public Health from Columbia University in New York in 1966.

She will speak about the role of women in the recent uprising and how they have used creative endeavors to challenge political power. Students from classes in the Social Sciences and Human Services and Contemporary Arts units are preparing questions to pose to Dr. El Saadawi about her activism for the question and answer session.

Dr. El Saadawi has ceaselessly challenged the Egyptian government as well as religious authorities in her writing and work for the improvement in the lives of women. She has been imprisoned several times.

Dr. El Saadawi is the author of the renowned works, “Woman at Point Zero,” “God Dies by the Nile,” and “Memoirs in a Women’s Prison,” among many other writings that have challenged political and patriarchal powers. She is the recipient of honorary doctorates from Mexico University, Flemish University, University of Saint Andrew-Scotland, University of Illinois, University of Tromso and University of York, and has been a distinguished visiting professor at more than several institutions of higher learning. She has also received numerous literary awards, including the Pan-African Writers’ Association Literary Award, International Writer of the Year Cambridge England, and One of the Great Minds of the 21st Century Award by the International Biographical Institute of North Carolina.

The program has been funded with support from The American Federation of Teachers, The Schomburg Scholar program, Ramapo College Platinum Fund, Ramapo College History Club, Ramapo College Diversity Action Committee, and the Deans of American and International Studies, Contemporary Arts, and Social Sciences and Human Services.

For more information, please contact Associate Professor of Sociology Erin Augis at 201-684-6849 or at eaugis@ramapo.edu.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.