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Lila Jaafar is a Senior Program Manager with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), focusing on the Middle East and North Africa region. She has more than 10 years experience developing and implementing programs to strengthen political parties, civil society, electoral processes and the political participation of women and youth throughout the Arab world. Ms. Jaafar lived in the Middle East for the past 20 years, having spent almost equal time in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. From 2007-2011 and throughout the January 25 revolution, she served as NDI's resident representative in Cairo. As one of the individuals accused in the "Foreign Funding Case" against NGOs in Egypt, Ms. Jaafar was relocated to Washington, DC, in 2012. Prior to NDI, Ms. Jaafar worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). She holds an M.A. in International Relations from the Lebanese American University in Beirut.