

REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND TERRORISM

A seminar for journalists, Istanbul, November 12-14 2012

Arrival - Sunday 11th November

1830 – Meet in foyer of hotel The Marmara Pera where TRF representative will meet you (if you arrive later or are late meeting us please make your own way to the welcome reception)

1845 – Welcome reception at The Marmara Pera Hotel

Day One – Monday 12th November

0815 – Meet in Foyer of The Marmara Pera Hotel where a TRF representative will meet you

0900 – Introduction – course outline, objectives, practical arrangements, ground rules on attribution etc

0905 – **The death of global jihadism, a disparate al Qaeda?**

Moderator: [William Maclean, Specialist Security Correspondent, Reuters](#)

Speakers:

Abdullah Anas, Algerian cleric, leader of the Taruf conflict-resolution consultancy

Noman Benotman, Senior Analyst (Strategic Communications), Quilliam Foundation

Key Issues:

- If al Qaeda is just a collection of local insurgencies, is it still al Qaeda?
- Global jihadism may be dead, but is political Islam on the rise?
- How is the language of jihadism changing – a shift to politics as normal, a focus on colonial crimes?

1045 – Break

1055 – Move to Training Room for next session.

1100 – **How authoritarian rulers use social media to repress revolutions, collect intelligence**

Moderator: [Sean Harder](#)

Speakers:

Neil Fisher Unisys, VP Global Security Solutions

Andy Carvin, senior strategist at NPR, Twitter reporter on Arab Revolution
Tony Dyhouse, ICT KTN, Cyber Security, (Qinetiq)

Key Issues:

- To what extent have dictatorships infiltrated social media sites to derail revolutions, track dissident networks and plant pro-regime propaganda?
- How can citizen/regular journalists and bloggers protect their own work and their contacts in an age when governments can use the anonymity of the Internet to gain covert membership of opposition networks?
- To what extent is this tactic used in Russia, China, the west, the Arab states?

1245 – Lunch

1330 – Security, Terrorism and the Media

Moderator: [Mark Trevelyan](#)

Speakers:

Yavuz Baydar, longtime Turkish journalist and columnist for Today's Zaman (Baydar is also a media ombudsman dealing with reader complaints, something he introduced into Turkish media. His bio here: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/yavuz-baydar>)

James Brabazon, UK filmmaker, author of My Friend The mercenary
<http://www.jamesbrabazon.com/>

Key Issues:

- The importance of language: Why do we call some people terrorists and others freedom fighters?
- How do the role and responsibilities of the media change in the age of 24-hour news channels, Facebook, Twitter and WikiLeaks?
- How can journalist improve their ability to sift fact from fiction in handling public statements from armed groups?
- Travelling alongside/with armed groups, how can journalist report honestly while ensuring their own safety and staying detached.
- How can journalists combat censorship in a digital world?
- Turkish issues

1445 – Break

1500 – Race politics, Islamophobia, and extremisms of the far right and left?

Moderator: [Mark Trevelyan/William Maclean or Paul Taylor \(Reuters\)](#)

Speakers:

Noman Benotman, Senior Analyst (Strategic Communications), Quilliam Foundation

Peter Knoope, Director. International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (The Hague)

Matthew Goodwin, Associate professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nottingham, UK

Key Issues:

- Is the new European far-right movement, typified by the formation of the European Defence League, a harbinger of religious and communal conflict religion in the West?
- With its anti-Islam focus, can the new European far right be seen as the illegitimate offspring of the War on Terror?

- Would spreading economic decline in Europe create polarising new extremisms of the left, right.
- Does Anders Breivik represent anything more than a very small community of extremists?
- Are anti-capitalist anarchism in the West adopting the methods of terrorism?

1615-1630- Break

1630 - Fragile state case study: Somalia: What happens when states fail, armed groups and warlord-criminals compete for power, and climate stress grows

Moderator: [William MacLean](#)

Speakers:

Shukri Gesod, Somalia expert, Oxfam Africa

Mary Harper, BBC Africa Editor

Key Issues:

- Is famine ever about food per se, or is it about access to famine and water– ie in other words about local and central governance/
- What happened in the Somalia famine of 2001 – how did it undermine the power of the militant group al Shabaab?
- Does maritime piracy have a future, or are the pirates turning inland to become more traditional bandits?
- What role can the booming private sector play in rebuilding the state?

1800 - Drinks and set up for screening

1830 - Film screening (possible) Entering Paradise With Your Shoes On (about Somali militancy)

1900 – Post-film Q&A

Speakers:

Shukri Gesod – Oxfam Africa

1945 – End and Dinner

Day Two – Tuesday 13th November

Site Visit – Fatih Mosque

0945 – Depart hotel

1015 – Arrive Fatih Mosque

Speaker:

1030 - Doç. Dr. Rahmi Yaran (Mufti of Istanbul)

The importance of Cami for Muslims and Tolerance and Living Together

1200 – Depart back to hotel

1230 – Lunch at hotel

1300 – Turkey’s bridge building role in the Middle East and the World

Moderator: Prof Fuat Keyman

Speakers:

Hugh Pope, Project Director Turkey/Cyprus, International Crisis Group

Mustafa Akyol, columnist for Hurriyet Daily and author of “Islam without Extremes, a Muslim Case for Liberty.”

Mensur Akgün, Foreign Policy Program Consultant, The Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV)

Fehim Taştekin, Journalist, Radikal Daily

Key Issues:

- What role is Turkey seeking to play in the Iran standoff?
- What are Turkey’s real ambitions in relation to Syria and the other countries of the Arab Spring? In Somalia and the rest of Africa?
- Does Turkey see a future for itself in Europe?
- Turkey once maintained a foreign policy based on policy of “no enemies.” But that foreign policy stance appears to be changing. How?
- What unique leadership role can Turkey play in the region?

1430 - Break

1445 – The Arab Spring: A Real World Test of the Responsibility to Protect

Moderator: TBC

Speakers:

- **Andrew Tabler**, senior fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- **Youssef Mahmoud**, senior advisor on Middle East and Africa, International Peace Institute
- **Rachel Gerber**, program officer for genocide and mass atrocity prevention, Stanley Foundation

Key issues:

- Libya marked the first UNSC-sanctioned intervention in which the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) was invoked as reason for taking action. R2P language was also invoked in the UNSC resolution in support of the Arab League-brokered power transfer in Yemen. Yet R2P has not been invoked in other cases such as Syria. Where does the R2P debate stand? How has it been affected by the Libyan intervention? What are the barriers to collective action in Syria?
- In what other ways have R2P principles factored into the international response to the Arab Spring? What post-revolution lessons can be drawn from Libya, Tunisia, Yemen and other cases? How is the international community supporting the development of new regimes in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Yemen? Is this support geared toward preventing future atrocities in the region and how does it relate to R2P? What more can and should be done?
- What roles do countries like Turkey play in brokering peace and halting atrocities in their region? What has been the role of regional organizations like the Arab League and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation?

1615- End and break

1630 – Depart hotel for The Seed – Newsmaker Event

1730 – Arrive The Seed

1800 – Reception Drinks

1900 – NEWSMAKER EVENT

US Role in the World – Foreign Policy Priorities Following the US Presidential Election

Moderator: [Paul Taylor, Reuters](#)

Speakers:

Zalmay Khalilzad, former US Ambassador to UN, Iraq, Afghanistan

Key issues:

- After the Nov 6 US elections, we have a new US President. What are his priorities likely to be?
- How large will Iran loom in the new president's life? The people power movement in the Middle East?
- The world faces the emerging threat of complex, multiple crises and the global security system and diplomatic practices do not appear to have kept up with the threat. In what venues do leaders make the best decisions? The UN? Global Summits? How important is US leadership in today's world of multiple powers?

Day Three – Wednesday 14 November

0900– Preventing Nuclear Terrorism: Separating rhetoric from action

Moderator: [Keith Porter of Stanley Foundation](#)

Speakers:

Miles Pomper, senior research associate at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and co-chair of the Fissile Materials Working Group

Mustafa Kibaroglu, chair Department of International Relations, Okan University

Key Issues:

- For all the rhetoric given to securing nuclear material like highly enriched uranium (HEU), material remains vulnerable to theft and proliferation. What's actually been accomplished since 50+ world leaders have held two summits on the issue?
- How plausible is a nuclear terrorist attack? Does the motive still exist within al Qaeda? Is there a black market for material? How difficult is it to engineer an improvised nuclear device?
- What role does the IAEA play in nuclear security? How might it be strengthened?
- The Dutch this year are convening a summit to explore prospects for a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. What are the prospects for such an agreement given the absence of Israel and Iran at such a summit?

1030 – Break

1045 – Future Challenges I: Cyberwarfare and espionage

Moderator: [TBC](#)

Speakers:

Neil Fisher, Unisys..

Tony Dyhouse, ICT Knowledge Transfer Network, Cyber Security, Senior Manager, Qinetiq

Key Issues:

- Anonymous, WikiLeaks, Lulzsec – what are the latest trends among hacker groups? How do they change the flow of information? What role do journalists have in reporting on hacked information?
- Son of Stuxnet, or rather sons of Stuxnet – what do we now know about the latest advanced persistent threats?
- China and Russia vs the West. Is a cyber Iron Curtain descending across the globe, when it comes to approaches to the Internet. Does one group favour a gated community, the other a global commons?
- Cyberespionage and the roles of US, China and Russia

1230 – Lunch

1330 – Pakistan: A global terrorism concern, a key to peace in Afghanistan?

Moderator: [William Maclean](#), [Specialist Security Correspondent, Reuters](#)

Speakers:

Ehsan ul-Haq, former Director-General, Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan

Jeffrey Goldberg, Journalist, The Atlantic and co-author of “The Ally from Hell” about the danger he says Pakistan poses

Peter Knoope, Director International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (The Hague)

Key Issues:

- Is the West seeking to contain Pakistan or cooperate with it?
- What is the state of relations as the United States and its partners prepare to start drawing down troops, how prepared is Afghanistan to guarantee its own security?
- What are the chances of a negotiated arrangement between Afghan authorities and the Taliban? What is al Qaeda’s plan or the Afghan endgame?
- How will a Western pullout affect Pakistan, its relations with Afghanistan and India, and the militant groups operating from its soil?
- How secure is Pakistan’s nuclear material and weapons? And what would happen in the event of a possible collapse of the state?

1500 – Break

1515 – Future challenges II –Could Arab Spring become an Arab Revolutionary *Decade*? And will it lead to a revival of the Green Movement in Iran?

Moderator: [Paul Taylor](#)

Speakers:

Abdullah Anas, Algerian cleric

Srdja Popovic, Centre for Applied Non-Violent Action and Strategies (CANVAS), Belgrade

Fawaz Tello, Syrian Activist

Key Issues:

- After Syria, is war the new normal for Arab Spring countries?
- Will the rebellions in the Middle East have any effect, for good or ill, on the Israeli-Palestinian dispute?

- How do revolutions fare in their aftermath? Are there lessons for north Africans to be learnt from the past, or does the 21st century Information Technology revolution mean past upheavals are no longer relevant?
- Is there a growing symbiosis between the Arab Spring and the Occupy movement, WikiLeaks, Anonymous and union activism in the West?

1645 – End of Conference