

**Militant Islamism and Jihadism  
After the End of the Caliphate**

**Rethinking Extremism, Radicalization  
and the 'Global War on Terror'**

May 2 – 3, 2019  
Le Bristol, Beirut

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

For more than a quarter of a century, the spread of terrorism in the Middle East and abroad in the wake of the rise of militant Islamist groups such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS) has been at the center stage of policy making in and on the region. After the slow but steady downfall of Al-Qaeda and the territorial defeat of IS in Iraq and Syria, we are now at a critical point where it is necessary to rethink extremism, radicalization, and the 'Global War on Terror' in a more updated and proper context.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), in partnership with Saint-Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), will host a two-day conference on the current threat of IS and Al-Qaeda in Europe and the Middle East. In particular, the conference aims to analyze how the surge of terrorist activities in the Middle East has affected the region and its vicinity, and to discuss the abstract effects the 'Global War on Terror' has had on the perception of Islam around the world. This timely event seeks to kick off a critical debate in order to draw the right lessons from past experiences and to develop adequate policies for the future.

The event will start off by shedding light on the recent developments in the Middle East. First, it will address the transformation and future of IS in the region and assess whether there might be a genuine risk of a return or metamorphosis of the organization. The second objective is to better understand Al-Qaeda's footprint in the wider Middle East and to analyze how the group has sought to adapt itself to different environments. Third, the way extremist Islamist activities and efforts to tackle them have shaped the states and societies of the Middle East will be debated, particularly in light of the question of whether the 'Global War on Terror' has facilitated the resurgence of authoritarianism in several Arab countries.

Additionally, the conference will focus on Europe and the broader nexus between terrorism and the image of the Middle East and Islam around the world. Two panels will be devoted to terrorism and radical Islam in Europe as well as the numerous challenges that returning fighters pose to European states. Last but not least, a final expert debate will discuss whether the perceptions of Islam and the predominance of the security framework have had a negative impact in the fight against terrorism, undermining the search for inclusive political solutions to the Iraq and Syria crisis.

## PROGRAM

**May 2, 2019**

*The Convention Room, Le Bristol*

**09:00 – 09:15      REGISTRATION**

**09:15 – 09:30      WELCOMING REMARKS**

Karim Bitar | Institute of Political Science, Saint Joseph University (Beirut)

Gregor Jaecke | Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Syria/Iraq Office (Beirut)

**09:30 – 11:00      PANEL 1**

**The Transformation and Future of the Islamic State**

Chair: Gregor Jaecke | Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Syria/Iraq Office (Beirut)

- **From a Military Power to Insurgency Warfare: The Operational Capabilities and Strategies of IS in Syria and Iraq**  
Hisham al-Hashimi | Iraqi Faciliators Network (Baghdad)
- **The Financial Resources and Economic Activities of the Islamic State**  
Renad Mansour | Chatham House (London)

**11:00 – 11:30      COFFEE BREAK**

*The Convention Room Mezzanine, Le Bristol*

**11:30 – 13:00      PANEL 2**

**The Global Footprint of Al-Qaeda**

Chair: Bianca Steinhilber | Goethe University (Frankfurt am Main)

- **The Core Organization of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan**  
Katherine Zimmerman | American Enterprise Institute (Washington, D.C.)
- **Development of Terrorism in Africa: The Impact of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State's Expansion**  
Yan St-Pierre | MOSECON (Berlin)
- **Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in Syria: Capabilities, Resources and its Relationship with Turkey**  
Sam Heller | International Crisis Group (Beirut)

**13:00 – 14:30**

**LUNCH**

*La Coupole, Le Bristol*

**14:30 – 16:00**

**PANEL 3**

**How Militant Islamism has Changed the States of the Middle East**

Chair: Henning Speck | CDU/CSU Faction of the German Bundestag (Berlin)

- **The Iraqi Security Sector during and after the Fight against the Islamic State**  
Inna Rudolf | King's College London (London)
- **Empowering Authoritarianism in the Case of Egypt**  
Issandr El Amrani | Open Society Institute (Amman)
- **The Impact of the Iranian Revolution of 1979 on Radical Islam and Today's Relationship between Iran and Jihadist Organizations**  
Hassan Ahmadian | Harvard Kennedy School (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

**May 3, 2019**

*The Convention Room, Le Bristol*

**09:00 – 09:15**

**REGISTRATION**

**09:15 – 09:30**

**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

Dr. Georg Birgelen | Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Lebanon (Beirut)

**09:30 – 11:00**

**PANEL 4**

**Terrorism and Radical Islam in Europe**

Chair: Daniela Braun | Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (Berlin)

- **The Activities of the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda in Europe**  
Tim Segler | KAS Working Group Inner Security and Counter-Terrorism (Berlin)
- **Homegrown Terrorism and Salafi-Communities**  
Peter R. Neumann | King's College London (London)
- **The Nexus of Prison and Radicalization**  
Ángel Vicente Lopez Muriel | Resident Twinning Advisor in Turkey (Ankara)

**11:00 – 11:30**

**COFFEE BREAK**

*The Convention Room Mezzanine, Le Bristol*

**11:30 – 13:00**

**PANEL 5**

**The Challenge of Foreign Fighters for Europe**

Chair: Thomas Flichy de la Neuville | Ecole Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr (Saint-Cyr)

- **European Foreign Fighters in Syria and Iraq**  
Christoph Reuter | Der Spiegel (Beirut)
- **Returning Foreign Fighters – Assessing Numbers, Threat and Treatment of Returning European Fighters**  
Yan St-Pierre | MOSECON (Berlin)
- **The Legal Perspective: How to Deal with Returning IS-Fighters?**  
Cuno Tarfusser | International Criminal Court (The Hague)

**13:00 – 14:30**

**LUNCH**

*La Coupole, Le Bristol*

**14:30 – 16:00**

**PANEL 6**

**Media and Cultural Representations: Covering Islam and the 'Global War on Terror'**

Chair: Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou | Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva)

- **National Security, Terrorism and the Media**  
Rym Momtaz | POLITICO (Paris)
- **Beyond Orientalism and Neo-Orientalism**  
Adam Shatz | London Review of Books (London)
- **Reflections on the Media Coverage of the Arab Revolutions and the 'Global War on Terror'**  
Alia Ibrahim | Lebanese American University (Beirut)

**16:30 – 17:30      CONCLUDING SESSION**

Chair: Karim Bitar | Institute of Political Science, Saint Joseph University (Beirut)

Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou | Graduate Institute of International and  
Development Studies (Geneva)

*in discussion with*

Bernard Rougier | Université Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris)

**17:30 – 17:45      CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Karim Bitar | Institute of Political Science, Saint Joseph University of Beirut (Beirut)

Gregor Jaecke | Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Syria/Iraq Office (Beirut)