

Understanding Extremist Violence in the Middle East and Beyond

An international conference sponsored by the United States National Academy of Sciences Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and hosted by New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), by

invitation only - **DRAFT**

April 1-4, 2019

Day 1 (April 1)

8:45-9:15 Welcome: New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) and National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

9:15-10:15 Overview, Moderated by: Valery Tishkov

- Thomas Pickering, Hills and Company, *Turmoil and Related Threats in the Middle East*
- Vitaly Naumkin, Institute of Oriental Studies: *The Kurdish problem and its impact on the situation in the Middle East*

10:15-10:30 break

10:30 -12:00 Policy to prevent and mitigate violence, Moderated by: Brian Dodwell

- William Courtney, Rand Corporation: *U.S. Policy in Countering Violence*
- Liudmila Babynina, Institute of Europe: *The threat of increased violence in the Northern Ireland in the context of Brexit*
- Kristian Alexander, Zayed University: *Security, Extremism and GCC Government Responses*

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Drivers of violent extremism, Moderated by: Vassily Kuznetsov

- Scott Atran, University of Michigan and Oxford University: *Violent Extremism and Sacred Values*
- Glenn Schweitzer, NASEM: *Water Scarcity and the Rise of Violence*
- Birga Schumpe, NYUAD : *The Psychology of Violent Extremism: Understanding the Quest for Adventure and Glory*
- Ruslan Mamedov, Council for International Affairs: *Shias, Sunnis, and Christians; What Are the Challenges for Iraqi Security?*

3:00-3:15 break

3:15 -4:45 Radical groups beyond the MENA region, Moderated by: Scott Atran

- Sara Zeiger, Hedayah: *Developments, Challenges and Messages in East Africa*
- Jocelyn Belanger: *Deradicalizing Detained Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka: Empirical Support for the 3N Model*

- Valery Tishkov, Institute of Ethnology : *New Tactics of International Terrorism in Eurasia (Russia and Central Asia)*
- Kanchan Chandra, NYU New York and NYU Abu Dhabi: *Why Ethnic Parties Crowd Out Armed Organizations in India*

4:45-5:45 General Discussion

5:45 pm Banquet at the Torch Club

END Day 1

Day 2 (April 2)

8:45-10:15 ISIS and related groups, Moderated by: Vitaly Naumkin

- Montassir Sakhi, Paris Dauphine University: *Genesis of ISIS and Transformation of Iraqi and Syrian Societies during the Revolution and Civil War*
- Nikolay Plotnikov , Institute of Oriental Studies, Extremism/Terrorism: *Foreign Fighters in Syria as a Factor in the Duration and Violence of the Civil War*
- Hosham Dawod , Center for Study of the Interdisciplinary Aspects of Religion: *Fall of ISIS and Metamorphosis of Jihadism in Iraq*
- Erin Miller, University of Maryland: *The dynamics of Franchise Terrorism: The Islamic State and Al Qaida*

10:15 -10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 ISIS and related groups, continued, Moderated by: Ruslan Mamedov

- Brian Dodwell, Combating Terrorism Center, U.S. Military Academy: *Understanding the Islamic State's Relationship with Its Wilayat. The Case of Wilayat Khurasan*
- Vassily Kuznetsov , Institute of Oriental Studies: *Non-state Violent Actors in the Middle East and North Africa in the Context of Arab-Muslim Political Tradition: Case of Libyan Militia Groups*
- Akhmet Yarlykapov, Institute of Ethnology: *Russian Terrorist Networks in and Outside Russia after ISIS. What is Next?*

12:00-1:30 lunch

1:30-3:00 Mitigating Violence, Moderated by: William Courtney

- Muhammad al-Ubaydi, Combating Terrorism Center, U.S. Military Academy: *Jihadi Media Operations*
- Farangiz Atamuradova: *CVE models & challenges to Implementation: A view from the field*
- Mohammed Hafez, Naval Post-Graduate School: *Countering Extremism in Rebel Networks*
- Naved Bakali, American University Dubai: *Problematizing CVE Programming and Exploring Alternative Approaches*

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-5 pm Discussion of Break-out groups

END Day 2

Day 3 (April 3)

9:00-12:00 Breakout Groups at Southern Sun Hotel

Afternoon off

Day 4 (April 4)

9:00-10:00 Breakout Groups at NYU Abu Dhabi Campus

10:00-12:00 General Discussion

12:00-1:00 Next Steps