

“Security amidst Dissolution”
**The Challenges of Assuring the Continuity of Security Arrangements
in the Middle East amidst the Reality of the Dissolution of the Regional
Order and the Fragmentation Process it is Witnessing**

Maison du Futur, Bikfaya
May 25th and 26th, 2018

AGENDA

Friday, May 25th

- 09:00 – 09:30 Arrival and registration
09:30 – 10:15 Welcoming address:
President **Amine Gemayel** from Maison du Futur and
Former PM **Fuad Siniora**
H.E Ambassador **Martin Huth**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of
Germany to Beirut
Malte Gaier from Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

First Session: The Multi-Layered Fragmentation Phenomena

Moderator: **Oraib al-Rantawi**, Director General of al-Quds Center - Jordan

The first session will tackle the fragmentation phenomena plaguing the region with its different ramifications starting with the collapse of national boundaries and emergence of failed states, to the widespread Sunni-Shia rift, to feud among competing societal fractions, to intra-squabble among sectarian, ethnic and minority groups.

- 10:15–11:45 **Husain Haqqani**, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute, former Ambassador of
Pakistan to the United States - USA
Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor at Kuwait University - Kuwait
Russel A. Berman, Professor, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford
University – USA
- Discussion
11:45 – 12:00 *Coffee break*

Second Session: Impact of the Rule of Militias and State Dissolution on Security

Moderator: **Peter Rimmele** from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Current crises in the Middle East are marked by the rise of militias with ethnic, sectarian, local, tribal or simply criminal identity. Being active in failed, failing or fragile States, those militias are successfully conquering or sharing power with the governments, thus asserting themselves as one of the main trends shaping the future order of the Middle East. Panelists shall discuss the impact of the increasingly active presence of militias on security arenas: Hard security, security of resources and cultural security.

12:00 – 13:30 **Riad Kahwaji**, Founder and Chief Executer Officer of INEGMA - UAE
Mohamed al-Yahia, Senior Fellow, Gulf Research Centre - USA
Ali al-Dabbagh, Former spokesperson of the Iraqi Cabinet - Iraq

Discussion

13:30 – 15:00 *Lunch Break*

Third Session: Case Studies: Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Gulf states

Moderator: **Joseph Khoury**, Professor and writer, CEO and co-founder of REACH (MdF, BM)

The third session will describe the current state of the regional upheaval, with a prospective assessment of its expected evolution in the next phase; panelists shall address the local situation (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan(s) and Gulf states). The discussion of dissolution will encompass the notions of state and geo-strategic understandings of the nature of the regional order in disarray.

15:00 – 16:30 **Fady al-Ahmar**, Professor and researcher at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, expert on Syrian and Middle Eastern politics - Lebanon
Wahid Abdel Majid, Chief of al-Ahram Center for Strategic Studies - Egypt
Mutassem Sioufi, Syrian activist and researcher, Executive Director of the initiative "Next Day" - Syria

Discussion

Saturday, May 26th

10:00 – 10:15 Welcoming address:
Ayad Allawi, Former Vice President and Prime Minister, Iraq

Fourth Session: Role of Regional (Turkey and Iran) and International Actors (US, Russia, EU, and China), in Increasing or Reversing the Fragmentation Process

Moderator: **Ubaidly Ubaidly**, journalist and researcher - Bahrain

The fourth session aims to identify the role of regional and international actors in increasing or reversing the fragmentation process.

10:15 – 11:45 **Elena Suponina**, Expert on Asia and the Middle East, adviser to the director of the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies , Russia
Seyed Hossein Mousavian, Policymaker, research scholar at Princeton University - USA
Joseph Bahout, Visiting scholar in Carnegie’s Middle East Program - USA

11:45 – 12:00 Discussion
Coffee break

Fifth Session: Conclusion: An Open Discussion of Approaches

Moderator: **Nadim Shehadi**, Director of the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies in Tufts University - USA

This panel serving as a wrap-up session will build on the previous discussions in order to identify potential scenarios in the Middle East, explore approaches of utility in managing negative trends, and envisage the forthcoming steps in the matter.

12:00 – 13:30 **Joseph Maïla**, Professor at ESSEC, former Chancellor of Université Catholique de Paris - France
Sami Aoun, Professor at Sherbrook University, Quebec - Canada (MdF, BM)
Hassan Mneimneh, Scholar at Middle East Institute and Principal at Middle East Alternatives - USA (MdF, BM)
Discussion

13:30 *Lunch*