

The Middle East: When Will Tomorrow Come?

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SPEAKERS



Mikhail BOGDANOV

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

He held various diplomatic posts in the MFA headquarters and abroad: Yemen (1974–1977), Lebanon (1977–1980), Syria (1983–1989, 1991–1994), Russia’s Ambassador to Israel (1997–2002), Director, Middle East and North Africa Department, MFA of Russia (2002–2005), Russia’s Ambassador to Egypt, Plenipotentiary Representative to the Arab League (2005–2011).



Raghida DERGHAM

Founder and Executive Chairman, Beirut Institute; Columnist and New York Bureau Chief, Al Hayat

An authority on strategic international relations, Raghida Dergham is a pioneer as an international geopolitical columnist and in launching an indigenous think tank for the Arab region with a global reach. A frequent inspirational lecturer at universities throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, she spoke at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Georgetown among other distinguished universities. She is a frequent participant in Policy conferences worldwide. Besides writing a weekly column in Al-Hayat, Dergham is contributor to Huffington Post and Opinion Writer in Arab News. Dergham is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and an Honorary Fellow at the Foreign Policy Association. She served on the International Media Council of the World Economic Forum, composed of 100 of the most respected and influential media figures worldwide and was named one of the 100 Most Powerful Arab Women in 2011 and in 2016.



Daniel KURTZER

U.S. Ambassador to Egypt (1997–2001), to Israel (2001–2005); Professor of Middle East Policy Studies, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

He served as the United States Ambassador to Israel and as the United States Ambassador to Egypt. Kurtzer was also a speechwriter and member of the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff; and served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs and as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research. He is co-author of "Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East" (2008), co-author of "The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace, 1989–2011" (2013), and editor of "Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict" (2012). Kurtzer served as a member of Secretary of State John Kerry's Foreign Affairs Policy Board and previously served as an advisor to the bipartisan Iraq Study Group. He earned his PhD from Columbia University.



Jamal KHASHOGGI

Writer, Saudi Arabia

He obtained a BA from Indiana State University. Khashoggi worked as a correspondent for the Saudi Gazette and other Arab newspapers from 1987 to 1999. He covered major events such as the Afghan war, the democratic transformation in Algeria and the war in Kuwait. He has been recognised for his work on Islamist movements and has published works on Sudan, Turkey, Yemen, Egypt and Jordan. In 1999 he was appointed deputy editor of the Arab News, and in 2003 he took over the editorship of the newspaper Al Watan before being appointed media advisor to the Saudi ambassador Prince Turki Al Faisal in London and then Washington. In 2007 he became the Editor-in-Chief of Al Watan for the second time, but then left in May 2010 after he was chosen by Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal to lead the establishment and management of the news channel Al Arab. Khashoggi is also the author of three books.



Alastair CROOKE

Director, Conflicts Forum

He is a political and geo-financial commentator, focusing on the Middle East. Mr. Crooke was formerly advisor on Middle East issues to Javier Solana, the EU Foreign Policy Chief, and is a former EU negotiator (facilitating various ceasefires in the Occupied Territories on behalf of the European Union)

and an adviser to the Middle East Quartet. He has worked with Islamist movements for 30 years, particularly Hamas and Hizbullah, and other movements in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East. He is also the author of books and analytical articles.



Shaukat AZIZ

Prime Minister of Pakistan (2004–2007)

He held several senior management positions in Citibank as Executive Vice President including head of institutional banking for Central Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa and later for Asia Pacific, followed by Chief Executive of the banks global wealth management business.

Mr. Aziz became Finance Minister of Pakistan in 1999 and was named “Finance Minister of the year” for 2001 by both Euromoney and The Banker magazines published in the United Kingdom. As Prime Minister, he co-chaired the UN Secretary Generals’ Committee to promote reform and coherence at the United Nations. As recognition of his services to Pakistan, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by his Alma Mater, The Institute of Business Administration, University of Karachi, Pakistan. In 2014 Mr. Aziz was appointed Senior Visiting Research Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford University, United Kingdom, where he also chairs their annual Emerging Markets Forum. In September 2014, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration from the East Asia University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Aziz’s new book, “From Banking to the Thorny World of Politics”, was released on May 26th 2016.



Vyacheslav TRUBNIKOV

Director of Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation (1996–2000); First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President’s Special Representative of the Russian Federation in CIS (2000–2004); General of the Army

In January 1992 he was appointed the First Deputy Director of Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. From January 1996 to May 2000 he was the Director of Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation. He has a military rank of General of the Army.

In June 2000 he was appointed the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President’s Special Representative of the Russian Federation in CIS (with the rank of Federal Minister). From 2004 to 2009 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India.

He specializes in international security issues. In 2000–2004, he was a co-chair of a set of intergovernmental bilateral working groups focused on combating terrorism and finding solutions to new challenges and threats.

He is a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, associated member of International Institute for Strategic Studies (United Kingdom) and of the Russian Union of Journalists.

Since May 2010 he works in the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences and is a member of the IMEMO Directorship. He was merited with high Soviet, Russian and CIS state and public awards.



Moshe YA'ALON

Minister of Defense of the State of Israel (2013–2016)

He has an extensive military experience in the Israel Defense Forces. In 1995 Mr. Ya'alon was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed to the position of Head of Intelligence. In 1998 he was appointed OC of the Central Command, and after two years was nominated to Deputy Chief of the General Staff. In 2002 he was appointed as the IDF's 17th Chief of the General Staff. In 2005 he left for Washington and served as a Research Fellow in The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. In 2006 he became a Senior Fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. Simultaneously, he served as the Chairman of the Center for Jewish Identity and Culture in Jerusalem.

In 2008 Mr. Ya'alon announced that he was joining the Likud party. After the 2009 elections, he was appointed as Minister for Strategic Affairs and Vice Prime Minister. In 2013 he was appointed as the Defense Minister of the State of Israel.



Vitaly NAUMKIN

President of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

In 1991 – visiting Professor, American University in Cairo. In 2003 – visiting Professor, University of California, Berkeley. Ambassador of Good Will for the U.N. Alliance of Civilizations. Author of about 500 publications – books, chapters and articles in Russian, English, French, Arabic and other languages on the Middle East, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Islam, International Relations, Security Studies, Conflict Management and Resolution. Member of the Scientific Councils under the Foreign Minister of Russia and under the Security Council of Russia. Member of the Advisory Council of the Valdai Discussion Club. Member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Member of the Academic Board of the Russian Council for Foreign Affairs.



Bakhtiar AMIN

Minister of Human Rights of Iraq (2004–2005)

One of the three founders of Foundation for Future for the BMENA region since 2005, its executive President in 2006 and Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2013–2015. This was a G8 initiative to support the CSOs in BMENA and almost 240 projects in this region.

Also, Mr. Amin was the Secretary General of Kurdish Institute in Paris (1988–1996); Adviser to Danielle Mitterrand Foundation France Libertés (1991–1996); Executive Director of Human Rights Alliance in Washington (1997–2000); Executive Director of International Alliance for Justice (2000–2003); Alternate Member of Governing Council in Iraq in 2003 and member for Foreign Relations, Media And Civil Society Committees. Also he was a member of Transitional Administrative Law (TAL), which was the basis for the Iraqi Constitution.



Mohammed MARANDI

Associate Professor, University of Tehran

He is an associate professor at the University of Tehran and a member of the North American Studies department at the Faculty of World Studies. He has regularly appeared as a political commentator on international news networks such as RT, CGTN (CCTV), CNN, Press TV, BBC, France 24, and Aljazeera and he has written articles for think tanks, academic journals, websites and newspapers.



Hasan Selim ÖZERTEM

Political Analyst, Ankara

He is an Ankara-based political analyst. Hasan Selim Özertem received his B.S. in Economics from Middle East Technical University, where he also completed his M.A. in Eurasian Studies with his thesis entitled “Russian Soft Power in the Post Soviet Space”. He has worked for Ankara-based think-tank, the International Strategic Research Organization (USAK) (2006–2016). He has worked on several projects with the United Nations, the Turkish Ministry of Interior, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and BP. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Department of Political Science, Bilkent University.

Hasan Selim Özertem has contributed to national newspapers and journals such as Hurriyet Daily News, Radikal, Sabah, Star, and Analist with his comments and analysis and has appeared on several Turkish and international media platforms such as CNN International, BBC, Al-Jazeera, Sputnik, New York Times, Washington

Post, Financial Times, Reuters, TASS, NTV, TRT, and CNN TURK. He is a contributor to the German Marshall Fund's "On Turkey Series". His research interests are security, political economy, energy, elite politics, Russia, the Caspian Basin, and Turkish Foreign Policy.



Vasily KUZNETSOV

Director, Center for Arab and Islamic Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences; Head of the Centre for Political Systems and Cultures, Faculty of World Politics, Moscow State University

From the very beginning of his scientific career he tries to combine researches in the field of classical Arabic studies with analysis of the current political process in the Arab World and especially in the Maghreb States. He is co-author of Analytical Reports for the Valdai Discussion Club, co-author of the Analytical Report for Russia's Council on International Affairs, author of articles and essays on political transformation in post-revolutionary Tunisia written on fieldwork (2011–2015), on the problems of state-building in the Arab World. He participates in several second-track initiatives dedicated to the Russian Middle East politics.



Ali NASSER MOHAMED

President of South Yemen (1980–1986)

After graduating from a Pedagogical University in Aden, Muhammad became a teacher, then a principal at a secondary school. In 1964, he joined the Arab national movement of South Yemen against British colonialism. He underwent military training in Taiz (North Yemen) and in Egypt. After achieving independence from Great Britain and forming the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on November 30, 1967, Ali Nasser Mohamed held the following positions: Governor of the Islands (1967); Governor of the Lahij Governorate (1968); Minister of Local Self-Government (1969); Defense Minister (1970–1977); Prime Minister (since 1971); Chairman of the Presidential Council (since 1978), Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, Chairman of the Presidium of Supreme People's Council (since April 1980). Ousted as a result of the events on January 13, 1986. In 1995, Ali Nasser Mohamed founded the Arab Center for Strategic Studies, which has branches in Yemen, Egypt, Syria and the UAE. In 1999–2006, he was receiving offers from some political powers to run for presidency but declined them all. In November 2011, Ali Nasser Mohamed became the leader of the Southern coalition known as the First Southern Congress in Cairo. Concurrently, a federalisation project was launched to solve the problems of the South and the Yemeni crisis in general.



Ismail OULD CHEIKH AHMED

Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for Yemen

Bringing 29 years of development and humanitarian assistance experience with the United Nations in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed was also the Special Representative of the Secretary General for the United Nations Mission for the Emergency Ebola Response (UNMEER), covering all countries affected by the disease and helping coordinate the response and mobilize capacity and resources to tackle it. From early 2014, Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and Deputy Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Prior to that, Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed worked as the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Yemen (2012–end of 2013) and Syria (2008–2012) after holding several positions with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), including as Director of Change Management in New York, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi, and UNICEF Representative in Georgia.



Andrey KORTUNOV

Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)

Graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and postgraduate studies at the Institute for US and Canadian Studies, USSR Academy of Sciences. He was Deputy Director of the Institute for US and Canadian Studies. Founder and first president of the Moscow Public Science Foundation. He taught Russian foreign policy at the University of Miami (USA), and at the Lewis & Clark College in Portland (University of California). In 2011, he was elected Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council non-profit partnership established by order of the President of the Russian Federation. Academic focus: international relations, foreign and domestic policy of Russia and Russian-American relations. Author of over 120 publications dedicated to the analysis of Soviet/Russian-American relations, global security, and the foreign and domestic policy of the USSR and Russia.



Paul VALLELY

Major General, US Army (Ret.); Chairman, Stand Up America and the Legacy National Security Advisory Group

He retired in 1992 from the US Army as Deputy Commanding General, US Army, Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. General Valley served in many overseas theaters to include Europe and the Pacific Rim Countries as well as two combat tours in Vietnam. He has served on US security assistance missions on civilian-military relations to Europe, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Turkey, Israel, Indonesia and Central America. He has served as a consultant to the Commanding General of the Special Operations Command as well as the DOD Anti-Drug and Counter-Terrorist Task Forces.

General Valley has been a military and strategy analyst on television and radio for over 15 years. He is also a guest lecturer on National Security, Middle East/international political, strategic planning matters and the Global War against Radical Islam and other threats to America. He and LTG Thomas McInerney authored the book, "Endgame: The Blueprint for Victory in the War on Terror". He was the senior military analyst for the Fox News Channel for many years. General Valley is well known for his published articles and talks on the Middle East Chessboard/Global threats with recommended solutions and options.



P. R. KUMARASWAMY

Professor of Middle Eastern studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

During 1992-1999 he was a Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Jerusalem. Since joining JNU in September 1999, Mr. Kumaraswamy has been researching, teaching, and writing on various aspects of the West Asian Region. His works include India's "Israel Policy" (2010), "Historical Dictionary of the Arab Israeli Conflict" (2015); "Beyond the Veil: Israel-Pakistan Relations" (2000); "India and Israel: Evolving Strategic Partnership" (1998).

He has published research articles in a number of refereed and non-refereed international journals and regularly contributes to Indian as well as international media outlets.

In February 2010, Mr. Kumaraswamy set up the Middle East Institute, New Delhi and serves as its honorary director. From 2012 he is editing an annual series on Persian Gulf that deals with India's relations with the region. He is also the editor of Contemporary Review of the Middle East, a refereed quarterly launched by Sage in March 2014.



Nabil FAHMY

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt (2013–2014); Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, American University in Cairo

He steered the course of Egypt’s diplomacy during a time of immense challenge. During his tenure as Minister, Fahmy formulated a strategy to reorient the country’s foreign policy, ensuring that Egypt had numerous foreign policy options both regionally and globally, while also restructuring the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in order to address the future challenges. After his tenure as Minister, Fahmy resumed his position as Dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo (AUC). Before that he had served as Egypt’s Ambassador to Japan (1997–1999) and to the USA (1999–2008). During his distinguished diplomatic career, he also served in numerous government and international positions focusing his work on international and regional security, disarmament and non-proliferation, and Arab-Israeli diplomacy.

He publishes frequently on these issues as well as on domestic and global governance. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Physics/Mathematics in 1974, a Master’s degree in Management in 1976, both from the American University in Cairo, and was awarded an Honorary PhD in 2009 from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Middlebury College.



Irina ZVYAGELSKAYA

Chief Research Fellow, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences

She is a Professor at the Moscow Institute of International Relations (University) and at the Institute of African and Asian Studies (Moscow State University). Dr. Zvyagelskaya’s area of expertise includes contemporary history, conflicts, international relations and security issues in the Middle East and Central Asia. She authored over 200 publications, including books, chapters and articles.



Ebtessam AL-KETBI

Founder and President, Emirates Policy Center

She is also a professor of Political Science at UAE University and a member of Consultative Body of GCC Council.

Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi attained her Ph.D. in Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Cairo University.

She is a Secretary General of Gulf Development forum and also Board member of Association of political sciences.

Dr. Ebtessam Al-Ketbi is a trustee's board member of Arab Unity Studies Center and trustee's board member of Arabic Organization for Transparency plus a Consultative board Member of Arabic Thought Foundation and a trustee's board member of Arabic council for social sciences.

She has published a number of papers, including "The security dimensions of military relations between GCC countries and USA", "The global community and the war on terrorism: threat or opportunity?", "Democratic Transformations in GCC Countries", and "Citizenship concept in the GCC countries".



Seyed Hossein MOUSAVIAN

Head of the Foreign Relations Committee of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (1997–2005)

He is a former Iranian policy-maker who served for more than a quarter century as an official in Iran's government, working on foreign and security policy. Mr. Mousavian served as Director-General of West Europe at the Foreign Ministry of Iran (1987–1990), Iran's Ambassador to Germany (1990–1997), Head of the Foreign Relations Committee of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (1997–2005), spokesperson for the Iranian nuclear negotiation team (2003–2005), Foreign Policy Adviser to Secretary of National Security Council (2005–2007) and Vice President of Center for Strategic Studies (2005–2009). He is a Middle East Security and Nuclear Policy Specialist at the Program on Science and Global Security at Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University, USA.



Nourhan ELSHEIKH

Professor of Political Science, Cairo University; Member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

She is a Director of Strategic and International Studies Center and a Member of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs.

Previous positions: Director, Center for American Studies, Cairo University (2009–2011); Director, Youth Studies Center, Cairo University (2008–2015); Head, Training Unit, International Center for Future & Strategic Studies (ICFS), Cairo (2005–2013).

Prof. ElSheikh teaches courses on international relations, foreign policy, Russia and CIS in both Arabic and English for graduate and undergraduate students. She gives lectures at Nasser Higher Military Academy (Egypt), the Institute of Arab Research and Studies (Arab League), and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies at the Egyptian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and other institutions and research centers.

She has written many books, among them: "Theory of International Relations" (2015), "Soviet and Russian Attitudes toward Arab Unity" (2013), "Russian Foreign Policy in the Middle East" (2010), "Restructuring Russian Foreign Policy 1985–1996" (2000), "Decision Making Process in Russia" (1998).



Leonid GRIGORYEV

Chief Adviser to the Head of the Analytical Centre under the Government of the Russian Federation

Author of more than 300 publications, the co-author and scientific adviser of many monographs and projects. He graduated from Moscow State University and in 1972 got PhD ("Cyclical reproduction of fixed capital in USA"). He is a co-founder of Economic and Mathematical School at MSU (1967–1971 – President of the School). From 2013 Leonid Grigoryev is the Chief Adviser to the Head of the Analytical centre under the Government of Russia. In June 2013 he became a tenured professor of National Research University Higher School of Economics and in September 2014 – the Head of World Economics Department of NRU HSE. In 1999 he became a member of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy.



Abdallah AL DARDARI

Senior Advisor for reconstruction and rehabilitation in MENA, World Bank Group; Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of Syria (2005–2011)

He was the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) since October 2014 until February, 15, 2017. Mr. Al Dardari served as the Chief Economist at the ESCWA and the Director of the Economic Development and Globalization Division. Under his leadership the division supported Arab efforts to deepen regional economic integration, and assisted member states in designing policies that would lead to inclusive growth, job creation, and human security. Recent examples include support to National Development planning initiatives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, advisory services on trade and regional integration to Member Countries as well as the National Agenda for the Future of Syria Programme.

Before joining UN ESCWA, Mr. Al Dardari was Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of Syria (2005–2011) and Minister of Planning and Chairman of the State Planning Commission (2003–2005).

He has over ten years of experience as lecturer on the subjects of economics and international relations at various international institutions.



Naufel ALHASSAN

Deputy Chief of Staff, Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Iraq

He has a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering, a Master's degree in engineering and a PhD in Management and Administration. From 2007 he was Iraq's Commercial attaché in the United States of America. In 2014 he was appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Prime Minister's Office and Senior

Advisor to His Excellency the Prime Minister. He heads a number of key committees within government and has spearheaded the Prime Minister's political, economic and social reform agenda.



Gürkan KUMBAROĞLU

Director of the Energy Policy Research Center, Boğaziçi University; President, Turkish Association for Energy Economics

Immediate Past President of the International Association for Energy Economics (IAEE). Mr. Kumbaroğlu is Director and Chairman of the Board of the Energy Policy Research Center

at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. He is a Professor of Industrial Engineering and Director of the Energy Systems Modeling Laboratory at Boğaziçi University, and has been a Visiting Researcher and Professor throughout different universities worldwide including the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich, the Lawrence National Laboratory in Berkeley, RWTH Aachen University, the University of Sao Paulo, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the University of Campinas, and the University of Port Harcourt.

Mr. Kumbaroğlu is an Editorial Board member of the journals Sustainability, Innovative Energy Policies, and Journal of Self-Governance and Management Economics. He has received several international awards, published numerous articles and book chapters on energy economics, policy and sustainability.



Ilyas UMAKHANOV

Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

He was the President of the Center for International Cooperation (1992–1994); Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Russian-Arab University, Moscow (1994–1995); Chairman of the Dagestan People's Assembly Committee

for Budget, Finances and Taxes, Makhachkala (1995–1998); Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Dagestan, Makhachkala (1998–2001). In 2001–

2010, Umakhanov was a member of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Since 2010, he has been Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

He has the following decorations: Medal for Labour Valour, Order of Friendship, Order of Honour, Fourth-Class Order of Merit to the Fatherland.



Amal ABU ZEID

Member of the Lebanese Parliament, Free Patriotic Movement

He undertook his studies in Business Administration at the American University of Beirut before earning his MBA degree from London Business school in London UK.

Mr. Abou Zeid started his professional career in the GCC countries (UAE and Oman), where he played managerial roles in various companies before establishing his own business in the UK which focused on trade and import/export activities.

In 1998, he established OMT in Lebanon. OMT quickly became a leader in financial services and money transfer being the agent of Western Union in both Lebanon and Syria.

He then expanded his business in Lebanon, Western Europe, Russia and GCC countries where he established or took part in companies engaging in various industries ranging from real estate to automotive, banking/financial and innovative technologies.

Mr. Abou Zeid played active and important roles in prominent NGOs and social institutions in the country. He was elected Member of Parliament in 2016 and acts as advisor for both – the President of the Republic of Lebanon and the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



John BELL

Director of the Middle East and Mediterranean Programme, Toledo International Centre for Peace in Madrid

He was formerly Middle East Director in Jerusalem for Search for Common Ground, a global conflict resolution organization.

Mr. Bell has been involved in various discrete Track II mediation efforts between conflicted parties in the Middle East, as well as policy development initiatives at the regional level. He is also a former United Nations and Canadian diplomat who served as a member of Canada's delegation to the Refugee Working Group in the peace process, Political Advisor

to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for southern Lebanon, and advisor to the Canadian Government during the Iraq crisis in 2002–2003.

Mr. Bell is also a founding member of the “Jerusalem Old City Initiative” (University of Windsor), an effort to find creative options for this contentious issue.



Amre MOUSSA

Secretary General of the League of Arab States (2001–2011); Foreign Minister of Egypt (1991–2001)

Mr. Moussa was the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN (1990–1991) and Foreign Minister of Egypt (1991–2001). He ran for President of Egypt after the 25th of January Revolution, then was elected to the Constitutional Committee 2012 and led the Liberal members’ efforts for a more liberal Constitution. Mr. Moussa then founded the Congress party. He was the convener of the initial meeting of the Egyptian opposition (National Salvation Front) against the Presidential dictatorial constitutional decree in 2012 that caused it to be retracted. He was among the leaders who strongly supported the June 30th revolution that deposed ex-president Morsi. Mr. Moussa was then elected Chairman of the 2013 “50 member Committee” which drafted the existing Constitution of Egypt. He was awarded several orders and decorations of Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Ecuador and Venezuela.