

THE INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
OF RADICALISATION AND
POLITICAL VIOLENCE



The New Generation in the Middle East

**The Third Annual Atkin Conference
King's College London, 21 October 2011**

PROGRAMME

Friday 21st October

Location: Great Hall, Strand Campus, King's College London

09.00 Registration and Coffee

09.30 Welcome

Amal Abusrour and Sefi Kedmi, Atkin Fellows

09.40 How can diasporas advance peace in the new Middle East?

- **Dr. Hussein Ibish, Executive Director**, Hala Salaam Maksoud Foundation for Arab-American Leadership
- **Lorna Fitzsimons**, Chief Executive, Bicom
- **Ron Skolnik**, Director, Meretz USA
- **Zaki Chehab**, Editor-in-Chief, ArabsToday.net
- **Dr Manuel Hassassian**, Palestinian Representative to the United Kingdom

Moderator: **Prof Peter Neumann**, ICSR

10.40 The Atkin Fellowship

Odelia Englander and Alia Al Kadi, Atkin Fellows

10.50 Coffee Break

11.10 What next for new media in the new Middle East?

- **Michael Young**, opinion editor, Daily Star, Lebanon
- **Michael Weiss**, communications director, The Henry Jackson Society
- **Malik Abdeh**, chief editor, Barada TV, Syria; founder of the Movement for Justice and Development
- **Mahmoud Salem**, blogger, Sand Monkey

Moderator: **Dr John Bew**, ICSR

12.15 Buffet Lunch

13.30 A view from Tahrir Square

- **Dr Omar Ashour**, Exeter University
- **Dr Amany Soliman**, Atkin Fellow
- **Dareen Khalifa**, Egyptian Council on Human Rights, Cairo
- **Muna Dajani**, Atkin Fellow

Moderator: **Prof Peter Neumann**, ICSR

14.15 A view from the Rothschild tents

- **Gil Murciano**, Atkin Fellow, Reut Institute, Tel Aviv
- **Yael Patir**, Atkin Fellow, Peres Center for Peace, Tel Aviv

- **Talia Gorodess**, Reut Institute, Tel Aviv

Moderator: **Prof Peter Neumann**, ICSR

15.00 Coffee Break

15.20 This time next year in the new Middle East

- **Dr Sabri Saidam**, advisor to the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas
- **Tarek Heggy**, Egyptian author
- **Daniel Levy**, Middle East Task Force, New America Foundation
- **Jamal Zakout**, advisor to Palestinian Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad
- **Nahum Barnea**, journalist, winner of the Israel Prize for communication

Moderator: **Dr John Bew**, ICSR

16.30 *Syria: Inside the Secret Revolution*

- **A conversation with Jane Corbin, BBC**

Corbin's recent Panaroma programme – *Syria: Inside the Secret Revolution* – documented the Assad regime's brutal crackdown against its own people.

Moderator: **Manar Rachwani**, Atkin Fellow

17.00 Conference adjourned

About the Atkin Fellowship

Thanks to the generosity of the Atkin Foundation, ICSR offers young leaders from Israel and the Arab world the opportunity to come to London for a period of four months. The purpose of the fellowship is to provide young leaders from Israel and the Arab world with an opportunity to develop their ideas on how to further peace and understanding in the Middle East through research, debate and constructive dialogue in a politically neutral environment.

The Atkin Fellowship is aimed at promoting new thinking among young leaders - typically from government, business, academia, and the media.

Atkin Fellows are based at the ICSR offices at King's College London. During their Fellowship, they complete an academic paper dealing with one aspect of the current conflict, providing a concise analysis of the problem as well as outlining possible solutions. The paper is then published by ICSR.

Whilst in London Atkin Fellows also promote information and education about issues in the region by taking part in debates and discussions.

Every year, all Atkin Fellows come back to London to participate in the annual Atkin Conference - a major symposium on regional developments and peace in the Middle East. This reunion ensures that the Atkin Fellows become part of a network of young leaders, who continue to be linked to each other and ICSR.

For more information visit www.icsr.info

BIOGRAPHIES

Oday Abukaresh joined ICSR as an Atkin Fellow for Spring 2009. Abukaresh holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the School of Finance and Management - Hebron University, and a Master's degree in Humanitarian Affairs from La Sapienza University in Rome. Oday has also studied sustainable development and institution building at Alquds University and completed training courses in the KINGIAN nonviolence approach at the University of Rhode Island. As part of his professional experience, Oday has helped lead a basic law and electoral law reforming project at the Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Professions. He has also worked with MEND (Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy Organisation), and led a reconciliation project with the Alquds Center for Democracy and Dialogue.

Amal Abusrour was an Atkin Fellow at ICSR in 2008. Abusrour completed a BA in Social Science from Al Quds University, an MA in Politics and International Studies from the University of Leeds and completed a one year non-degree program in public policy and public administration at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She has been a member of the Young Political Leaders group, which is a joint Palestinian Israeli group since 2003. She worked for the Reform Program at the Palestinian Prime Minister Office for two years, before Hamas electoral victory in 2006. Currently she is a civil society activist and works for one of the Local NGOs in Palestine.

Malik Al-Abdeh, chief editor of Barada TV, a London-based Syrian opposition satellite channel. Al-Abdeh is also Director of the policy unit at the Movement for Justice and Development, which is a political opposition group leading the pro-democracy movement in Syria. He is a former BBC journalist and King's College London and SOAS alumni.

Alia Al Kadi joined ICSR as an Atkin Fellow in Spring 2010. Al Kadi holds a B.A. in Politics from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and an M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. She worked at the Royal Hashemite Court in Jordan as a Press Officer at the Media and Communication Division for several years and later as a Global Outreach Manager. She helped found the News Planning Department at ATV, the first privately owned TV station in Jordan. She has also assisted the research team at the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan on domestic security policy research in Jordan. Her areas of interest include Political Islam, Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Omar Ashour is the Director of the Middle East Politics Graduate Studies Program at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter (UK) and visiting scholar in the Brookings Institution. He is the author of *The De-Radicalization of Jihadists: Transforming Armed Islamist Movements*, (London, New York: Routledge, 2009). He specializes in Islamist movements and ideologies, conflict studies (with emphasis on ending political violence and transformations of armed groups), democratization, and terrorism. His research is based on intensive fieldworks in North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. Dr. Ashour's published works cover the Middle East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Arab and Muslim Communities in the West. Dr Ashour's works appeared in *International Affairs*, *Middle East Journal*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Conflict Studies*, and other academic and policy journals. Dr. Ashour is a consultant for the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and a regular contributor to media outlets including theBBC, al-Jazeera, CNN, Sky News, France 24, al-Arabiya, and CBC. Dr. Ashour obtained his bachelors and masters from the American University in Cairo. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science from McGill University in Canada.

Nahum Barnea is the chief columnist for Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's biggest daily. He won the State of Israel Prize for communication in 2007 and according to a 1998 survey he was considered the most influential journalist of the first 50 years of the State of Israel. Barnea was born in Israel in 1944, he served in the IDF in the paratroopers brigade and continued to serve on reserve duty as a paratrooper until 1992. He earned a B. A. in history and political science from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is now a member of their Board.

John Bew is Lecturer in War Studies at King's College London and Co-Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence. From 2007-10, John was Lecturer in Modern British History, Harris Fellow and Director of Studies at Peterhouse in Cambridge University. He is an expert on foreign policy and political violence and the author of four books, including *Talking to Terrorists: Making Peace in Northern Ireland and the Basque Country* (Hurst and Co., London, and Colombia University Press, New York, 2009), co-written with Martyn Frampton and Iñigo Gurruchaga. It has been reviewed widely in the international media and was listed in Foreign Policy Magazine's Global Thinkers Book Club in December 2009. John writes for the Irish Times, covering the release of British state papers under the Thirty Year Rule. He has appeared regularly on television and radio including Newsnight Review, the Review Show, BBC, CNN, and Reuters and has contributed to Times Higher Education Supplement, The Spectator, Standpoint, and Parliamentary Brief.

Zaki Chehab is a leading Arab Journalist. Having grown up in Tyre, Lebanon at the Palestinian refugee camp Burj El Shamali he is now married with two children. He is founder and Editor-in-Chief of ArabsToday.net, the largest Arabic language news website and former Bureau Chief of the London-based Al Hayat and Senior Editor of the Arabic TV channel LBC. Coming to London in the early 1980's, Chehab worked for various newspapers and magazines, until eventually joining Al Hayat. Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Chehab moved into television, analysing the events in Pakistan and Afghanistan and the Arab-Israeli conflict for CNN, BBC, Channel 4 (UK) and others. During the Iraq war and its aftermath, on June 30, 2003 on LBC TV, he became the first journalist in the world to broadcast interviews with members of the Iraqi resistance. Chehab has covered numerous conflicts in the Middle East for over twenty-five years, for local and foreign media agencies including The Guardian, CNN and the BBC. Some of his coverage includes the Lebanese Civil War, the Intifada and Afghanistan. He has interviewed many world leaders and politicians including Bill Clinton and Margaret Thatcher, in addition to the majority of Arab Sheikhs, Kings and Presidents. His first book *Iraq Ablaze: Inside the Insurgency* was published in 2005 by I.B. Tauris in the UK and Nation Books in the US. Other published books are *Inside the Resistance: The Iraqi Insurgency and the Future of the Middle East* (2005); and *Inside Hamas: The Untold Story of the Militant Islamic Movement* (2007).

Jane Corbin is internationally respected for many years as the face of the BBC around the globe. Jane has covered the world's major conflicts for more than two decades. As senior correspondent for Panorama, the BBC's flagship current affairs programme, she has investigated the key security and human rights issues of our times and won many awards and accolades for her work. Reporter and writer of more than 120 documentaries for Panorama and the BBC specialising in the Middle East and Central Asia. Corbin is the Author of 'The Base: al-Qaeda and the changing face of global terror' and 'Gaza First' – an insider account of the Oslo process. She has been an expert witness on Iraq, Afghanistan and terrorism before UK Parliamentary Committees and advisor to the All Party Parliamentary Group on conflict resolution. Corbin is a four times winner of the Royal Television Society Award and Emmy nominee.

Muna Dajani was a fellow at ICSR as part of the Atkin Fellowship Programme in Autumn 2010. Dajani is a Palestinian living in East Jerusalem with a background in civil engineering focusing on water and

sanitation from Birzeit University, a year course in environmental studies from the Arava Institute and a Masters degree in International Development and Environment from the University of Manchester. Muna has been working in the field of water politics, environmental conflicts and water justice in the West Bank. Her research will focus on the concept of peace parks and environmental cooperation as tools of conflict resolution in the Syrian – Israeli negotiations track.

Odelia Englander took part in the Atkin Fellowship programme in Spring 2009. Englander holds a BA in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy from the Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC) and in the process of finishing her MA in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies, specialising in International Intervention and Mediation. Odelia had been volunteering with the OneVoice Movement and served as the head of the Young Leaders Council, reporting to the international board of advisors on grassroots outreach activities. As part of her international involvement in promoting peace and reconciliation in the region, Odelia is a member of the Middle East Youth delegation to the annual Petra Conference of Nobel Laureates hosted by H.M King Abdullah II.

Lorna Fitzsimons grew up in Rochdale and has held a wide range of prominent public positions. Lorna served as president of the National Union of Students from 1992 to 1994, having made her first visit to Israel in 1989. As president, she was a director of Endsleigh Insurance and chair for many years of the European Students Forum. From there she moved on to a subsidiary of Saatchi and Saatchi to become an associate director. Among her clients were Proctor and Gamble and BT. Whilst in this role, Lorna became the first ever winner of the IPPR's Young Communicator of the Year award. In 1997, Lorna became one of the youngest MPs to be elected to Parliament, serving as MP for Rochdale at the age of 29. Whilst in Parliament, she was chair of the APPG on Kashmir as well as a member of Labour Friends of Israel. She was parliamentary aide to Robin Cook and was also on the Procedures and Modernisation Select Committees. In addition, Lorna was a member of the Hansard Society Board and chair of the Historic Parliamentary Labour Party Women's Committee, comprised of 101 female MPs. On leaving Parliament in 2005, Lorna set up her own consultancy and became a senior visiting fellow at the Defence Academy, which is responsible for post-graduate education and training for members of the UK Armed Forces and Ministry of Defence Civil Servants. Lorna took up the exciting and challenging post of CEO at the Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM) in October 2006. BICOM is a professional, independent, not-for-profit organisation devoted to creating a more supportive environment for Israel in the UK.

Talia Gorodess works at the Reut Institute for Strategic Thinking in Tel Aviv, where she heads a policy team dealing with the relations between Israel and the Jewish World. She is also responsible for Hebrew training as part of Reut's strategy and leadership training program. Prior to that, she worked as a research associate for the President at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., focusing on the Muslim World. In addition, she is a regular contributor to "Toshav Hozer" (Returning Citizen), a radio show in Galei Tzahal (IDF radio station) about current Israeli affairs. She maintains a personal blog where she writes about Zionism, culture and animals. Talia holds an M.A. degree in Security Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (2010), and was awarded a fellowship from Columbia University's Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Chicago (with honors) in 2006.

Manuel Hassassian is a Professor of International Politics and Relations and the Palestinian Delegate to the United Kingdom. He is currently the Executive Vice President of Bethlehem University, and has published extensively in academic Journals domestically regionally and internationally on the PLO, the Peace Process, Democracy and Elections, Refugees and Civil Society in Palestine. He is a member of the editorial board of the Arab Political Science Journal as well as the Palestine-Israel Journal, in addition he was editor in Chief of Bethlehem University Journal. Professor Hassassian is a board member of the Center of Non-Violence in Palestine. He is also a member of the Arab

Association for Human Rights. He was appointed by the Palestinian Authority to the General Secretary of the Bethlehem District Elections commission 1996, and was appointed Consultant to the Palestinian Ministerial Higher Commission on Church Affairs. He participated in many Track 2 diplomacy efforts, and is a visiting scholar to many American universities, lecturing on Models and Practices of Conflict Resolution and Management. He is the President of the Rectors' Conference at the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. He is also the president of the Palestinian/European Academic Cooperation in Education (PEACE) since 2001, (Location: UNESCO – PARIS). He is currently the Ambassador of Palestine to the U.K.

Tarek Heggy is a liberal Egyptian author, political thinker and international petroleum strategist. His extensive writings advocate the values of modernity, democracy, tolerance, and women's rights in the Middle East – advancing them as universal values essential to the region's progress. Heggy was born in 1950, into the Egyptian upper-middle class and hometown of his parents, Port Said. Both his father and mother inculcated within him a love of reading and an appreciation of languages at a young age. He studied law (LL.B & LL.M) at Ain Shams University in Cairo, followed by higher degrees in Modern Management Techniques from the International Management Institute of Geneva. From 1971 until 1979, he taught at the law schools of a number of North African universities. In July 1979, Tarek Heggy joined a major multinational petroleum and gas corporation as a Gas and Oil attorney (1979–1985) and went on to become deputy to the Chairman of its Egypt branch (1985–1988). In 1988 he became the Chairman and CEO of a top oil and gas multinational corporation in the Middle East. He resigned on July 1, 1996 to devote his efforts to a wide range of intellectual and cultural activities.

Hussein Ibish is a Senior Research Fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine (ATFP) and blogs at www.ibishblog.com. He is a regular contributor to many American and Middle Eastern publications, including Foreign Policy and the Atlantic. He also contributes to Al Hayat and writes a weekly column for Now Lebanon. He served as the Washington, DC Correspondent for the Daily Star (Beirut), and was editor and principal author of three major studies of hate crimes and discrimination against Arab Americans. His most recent book is *What's Wrong with the One-State Agenda? Why Ending the Occupation and Peace with Israel is Still the Palestinian National Goal* (ATFP 2009). From 1998-2004, Ibish served as Communications Director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. He has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Yosef Kedmi was an Atkin Fellow at ICSR in 2008. Kedmi holds a Law (LLB) and a Government and Politics (BA) degree from the Herzilya Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC) and is currently writing his Business Law Master's thesis (LL.M) on minority rights in the Israeli education system. He is an active member within the OneVoice Movement advocating for regional peace. Kedmi also previously assisted in providing free legal aid for the needy in Tel Aviv County Courts' Bailiffs' office.

Dareen Khalifa is part of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), and has worked on women's rights, labor rights, elections monitoring, freedom of belief and advocating against torture in Egypt. She has worked as a researcher and communication specialist for NCHR since January 2006. At NCHR she has worked on human rights education and advocacy in a number of Egyptian governorates. She is currently part of a network of Egyptian and Tunisian women activists, aimed at connecting activists to work jointly and share experiences on gender issues in the transitional period. Along with her work with NCHR, she worked as a free-lance researcher and training coordinator for civil society organizations and think tanks in Egypt. She has contributed to several human rights reports, including "The Global Integrity Anti-Corruption report on Egypt," "For a Nation without Torture," and the Verité 2010 Report on Labor Rights in Egypt. Ms Khalifa has also worked as an

election monitor during the 2007 Shura Midterm Elections and the 2010 parliamentary elections in Egypt.

Daniel Levy is the co-director of the Middle East Task Force at the New America Foundation in Washington, DC, and a senior fellow at both The Century Foundation and the European Council of Foreign Relations. Levy served in the Israeli delegation to negotiations with the Palestinians at Taba in 2001 and under Prime Minister Rabin in 1995. In 1999-2001, he was a special adviser at the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and at the Justice Ministry. Levy was a lead drafter of the informal Geneva Initiative (2003) and an analyst for the International Crisis Group. He is quoted, published, and appears widely in the media, and is co-editor of ForeignPolicy.com's Middle East Channel.

Gil Murciano was an Atkin Fellow at ICSR in 2010. Murciano holds a BA in International Relations and Communications from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is about to complete his MA in Conflict Research, Management and Resolution. Since 2009, Gil has been working as a national security analyst at the Reut Institute for strategic thinking in Tel-Aviv. Gil was a Fellow at the Legacy Heritage Fellowship, an international leadership program during the years 2009-2010 and still serves today as a personal adviser in the program. Over the course of his studies Gil served in the Prime Minister's Office as well worked as a research assistant in the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University. In addition, Gil was a member of the "Art of Statecraft" Program at the Shalem Institute.

Peter Neumann is Professor of Security Studies at the War Studies Department, King's College London, and serves as Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR, www.icsr.info), which he founded in early 2008. Prof. Neumann has authored or co-authored five books, most recently *Old and New Terrorism*, published by Polity Press in 2009. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed articles, dealing with different aspects of terrorism and radicalization, especially 'homegrown' radicalization in Western countries. As part of ICSR, he has led research projects and written influential policy reports about issues such as online radicalization, prison-based de-radicalization programs, and terrorist recruitment in Europe. The most recent – "Preventing Violent Radicalization in America" – was published in June 2011 by the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington DC, where Prof. Neumann served as visiting scholar (www.bipartisanpolicy.org). He sits on the advisory boards of numerous other think-tanks and institutions, including the Club de Madrid, the association of former Presidents and Prime Ministers. At the Department of War Studies, Prof. Neumann co-directs the MA program in Terrorism, Security and Society, and has taught courses on terrorism, counterterrorism, intelligence, radicalization and counter-radicalization at King's College London and the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where he continues to serve as adjunct professor. Prof. Neumann holds an MA in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin, and a PhD in War Studies from King's College London. Before becoming an academic, he worked as a radio journalist in Germany.

Yael Patir joined ICSR as an Atkin Fellow in Spring 2011. Patir is an Israeli from Tel Aviv. Since 2006 she has worked at an Israeli based NGO - the Shimon Peres Center for Peace where she serves as Director of the Civil Leadership Department, overseeing cross-border peacebuilding programmes that engage a wide range of civil society figures, including Palestinian and Israeli young political leaders. Yael took part in the establishment of the Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum, a network of some 100 Palestinian and Israeli peace and dialogue organisations, and has served as the Israeli Coordinator since the Forum's inception in January 2006. Prior to this, Yael worked at Tel Aviv University's School of Social Sciences as a Teaching Assistant in the Political Science Faculty, as well as Research Assistant for the Harold Hartog School for Government and Policy, with a focus on local authorities. Yael completed a specialised mediation course for political and civil society leaders and facilitation of dialogue between groups in conflict. She is an elected delegate to the Israeli party

“Meretz” convention, and an elected member of the “Meretz” Young Council. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology, Anthropology, and Political Science from Tel Aviv University.

Manar Rachwani joined ICSR as an Atkin Fellow for Winter 2009. Rachwani holds a Masters degree in Political Science from Al al Bayt University of Jordan (1999), and B.A in Law from the University of Jordan (1995). In addition to his work as a researcher, he has worked as Managing Editor of Art and Culture at Al Ghad Daily Newspaper based in Jordan, and Director of the Research Department at Al Arab Daily Newspaper based in Qatar. Rachwani’s areas of interest include Democracy, Human Rights, and Economic Reform. In addition to his articles in Arabic newspapers, he has published several studies on various issues in the Arab World, including, among others, "Structural Adjustment Policies and Political Stability in Jordan"; "Particularity Creation and Human Rights in the Arab World" and "Economic Reform and Democratization in the Arab World".

Sabri Saidam is Advisor to the Palestinian President on Telecommunications, Information Technology and Technical Education, and serves as Deputy Secretary General of Fateh's Revolutionary Council. He is a former minister of Telecom & IT of the Palestinian Authority. As part of this job, he led telecom market liberalization in Palestine in 2006 introducing the second mobile phone operator. He also led the introduction and ratification of the Palestine Telecom Regulatory Authority (PTRA) law, and introduced a series of initiatives inclusive of e-Gov, the National Academic Network, Falastinya (enhancing women participation in the ICT market), the Palestine Education Initiative (PEI); with a wide international partnership. Saidam helped launch .PS and its governing body, the Palestinian National Internet Naming Authority (PNINA), and founded the award winning Palestine Digital Library in 2004 and the Palestine e-Republic in 2007. He also co-founded the Internet Society- Palestine Chapter (ISOC-PS), PC & Net 4 All (for providing PCs and internet connectivity to deprived citizens) and the Birzeit Innovation Group (BIG), for innovation in technology. He completed a number of ICT- related studies, the last of which was on ICT in MENA (2011-2015). He was educated in Britain with a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine; and a certification in Human Development from Oxford University.

Mahmoud Salem is a blogger, activist, writer, a business development consultant and candidate for egyptian parliament. His blog is the most prominent English-language Egyptian blog. Entitled "Rantings of a Sandmonkey", it won the best Middle East and Africa blog awards in 2006 and 2007, and the 2001 Deutsche Welle Best of Blogs award for best English blog and has over 5.5 million unique views and his Twitter account has over 50,000 followers. His human rights activism areas have been in freedom of speech, human rights, religious rights, and Womens' rights. In 2005 he started the first anti-terrorism demonstration in Cairo, and participated in monitoring the Egyptian parliamentary and presidential elections. In 2009 he was picked for the Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow conference and the US Islamic Forum conference, and started the IRIS social campaign company. In 2011 He created Tweetback, the first Twitter-based fundraiser for sustainable development projects, and managed to raise over \$250,000 in a day. In 2011 he was one of the leading voices of the Jan25 revolution that brought down Egyptian president Hosny Mubarak and is currently running for parliament, and is involved in many development and transparency projects for a better Egypt. His writings have appeared in the Christian Science Monitor, the New York Times, The Daily Star, The Guardian and various online websites.

Ron Skolnik is the Executive Director of Partners for Progressive Israel (formerly “Meretz USA”), a progressive American Zionist organization dedicated to peace, democracy, human rights and social justice in Israel. Prior to returning to the US, Mr. Skolnik lived in Israel for over 25 years, earning his BA from Haifa University, and his Master’s Degree in Diplomatic and Military History from Tel Aviv University. During the Oslo process and second Intifada, he served as political advisor to the British

Ambassador to Israel and the Foreign Office in London, researching and reporting on political trends in Israel. His political analyses have appeared in HaAretz and the Jerusalem Report, and he has been interviewed on the BBC and Al-Jazeera English. Fluent in English and Hebrew, he has also worked as a translator and editor.

Amany Soliman joined ICSR as an Atkin Fellow in Spring 2011. Dr Soliman has a PhD and an MA in the political and social history of the Mediterranean from the Mediterranean Studies Institute at Alexandria University, and a BA in the Sociology of Media and Mass Communication from the faculty of Arts at Alexandria University. Dr Soliman's research area is the ethnic disputes and Nationalist movements of the Mediterranean and her PhD thesis was dedicated to researching the Nationalist movements of Catalonia and Basque in Spain during the twentieth century. She has been involved with Egyptian and Arab civil society NGOs and initiatives that work to empower youth and women for political participation and social equality in the Arab World. Among the initiatives and institutes she has been involved with are the Library of Alexandria, UNESCO, UNV, Youth Employment Summit, African youth Parliament, Mediterranean and European Social Forum, TakingITGlobal, North-south institute of the Council of Europe and Cultura de Paz.

Michael Weiss is the *Director of Communications and Research of the Henry Jackson Society(HJS)*, a London-based foreign policy think tank. A widely published journalist, Weiss has expertise in the Israel-Palestine conflict and human rights issues in the Middle East. He recently wrote HJS's Media Briefing: "Fatah-Hamas Reconciliation: A Preliminary Assessment" and co-wrote "The Syrian Opposition: Analysis with Original Testimony from Key Figures". Weiss has been published in *Slate*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The New Criterion*, *The Guardian*, *Beirut's Daily Star*, *Asharq Alawsat*, *Foreign Policy*, *Prospect*, *Standpoint*, *Democratiya* and *The New Republic*. He keeps a regular blog on foreign policy and the Middle East for the *Daily Telegraph* and one on culture for *The New Criterion*.

Sagit Yehoshua joined ICSR as an Atkin Fellow for Winter 2009. Yehoshua holds a Bachelors degree in criminology and Middle East studies and a Masters degree in Applied Criminology from Bar Ilan University at Ramat-Gan, Israel. Sagit is also a PhD Candidate, King's College London, with her dissertation subject being Profiles of Leaders of Terrorist Groups. Yehoshua has focused her studies on the psychology of terrorism and the profiles of terrorist groups and leaders. The research has involved years of interviewing the leaders of major terrorist organisations in Israeli prisons. She is also a lecturer at Bar Ilan University in the Department of Criminology. She has both designed and taught a course on Profiling of Terrorism in the Diploma Program for Profiling and is a Research Fellow at Institute of Counter-Terrorism (I.C.T.), Inter-Disciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel.

Michael Young is opinion editor and a weekly columnist at the Daily Star newspaper in Lebanon. He is author of *The Ghosts of Martyrs Square: An Eyewitness Account of Lebanon's Life Struggle* (Simon & Schuster), which was released in the UK in July. Young is a regular contributor to publications and websites in Lebanon and the United States, where he has been published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Slate, Reason, and Newsweek.

Jamal Zakout is Special Adviser to the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and Head of the Civil Society and Media Units at the Prime Minister's Office