

The background of the poster is a photograph of a US Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), sailing on the dark blue ocean. In the sky above the carrier, several US Navy fighter jets are flying in formation, leaving white smoke trails behind them. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

CHAIRMAN'S SERIES

# THE US & IRAN: ON A COLLISION COURSE?

Conference  
Programme

Conference Organised by:



**NUS**  
National University  
of Singapore



**Middle East  
Institute**  
Singapore

**13 August 2019**

Orchard Hotel Singapore  
Orchard Grand Ballroom  
442 Orchard Road, SG 238879

# Conference Statement

This conference will examine tensions between the United States and Iran. The withdrawal of the US from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the Trump administration's approach of "maximum pressure" has led Tehran to respond with a campaign of "maximum resistance". With both sides apparently locked into their positions, the risk of conflict — whether by accident or design — has grown.

This conference brings together former diplomats and experts from both sides to discuss the roots and aims of American policy on Iran, the possible consequences of the US' "maximum pressure" strategy, and the response from the Islamic Republic. In addition, policymakers and experts will examine the impact of a prolonged crisis on Asia's economies, which have already been damaged by the US-China trade war.

# Conference Schedule

Tuesday, 13 August 2019

8.00am	▼ REGISTRATION
8.50am	▼ ARRIVAL OF GUEST OF HONOUR
9.00am	▼ OPENING REMARKS  Mr Bilahari Kausikan   Chairman, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore (NUS)
9.05am	▼ OPENING REMARKS BY GUEST OF HONOUR  Dr Koh Poh Koon   Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry  Q&A moderated by Mr Bilahari Kausikan   Chairman, Middle East Institute, NUS
9.45am	▼ FIRST KEYNOTE SPEECH  The Honourable Richard L. Armitage   Former US Deputy Secretary of State  Q&A moderated by Mr Bilahari Kausikan   Chairman, Middle East Institute, NUS
10.15am	▼ SECOND KEYNOTE SPEECH  HE Dr Kazem Sajjadpour   President, Institute for Political and International Studies, Tehran  Q&A moderated by Mr Bilahari Kausikan   Chairman, Middle East Institute, NUS
10.45am	▼ BREAK

### 11.00am ▼ **FIRST SESSION: US ACTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES**

#### Opening Remarks

**Mr Karim Sadjadpour** | Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

#### Chairperson

**Dr James Dorsey** | Senior Fellow, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

#### Panellists

**Dr Michael Singh** | Managing Director, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy

**Mr Karim Sadjadpour** | Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

### 12.30pm ▼ **LUNCH**

### 1.30pm ▼ **SECOND SESSION: THE VIEW FROM IRAN**

#### Chairperson

**Dr Victor Kattan** | Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Institute, NUS

#### Panellists

**Dr Ali Vaez** | Iran Project Director, Crisis Group

**Dr Julia Rohnifard** | Director of Foreign Policy, EMIR Research, Kuala Lumpur

**Mr Kevjn Lim** | PhD Candidate, School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs, Tel Aviv University

### 3.00pm ▼ **THIRD KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**HE MJ Akbar** | Member of Parliament, Former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs

**Q&A moderated by Bilahari Kausikan** | Chairman, Middle East Institute, NUS

### 3.30pm ▼ **BREAK**

### 3.45pm ▼ **THIRD SESSION: THE IMPACT ON ASIA**

#### **Chairperson**

**Dr Serkan Yolaçan** | Research Fellow, Middle East Institute, NUS

#### **Panellists**

**Mr Gabriel Lim** | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade & Industry

**Mr Hitoshi Tanaka** | Chairman, Institute for International Strategy, Japan Research Institute, Ltd.

**Prof Pan Guang** | Director, Shanghai Centre for International Affairs

**Dr Tilak Doshi** | Energy Consultant

### 5.30pm ▼ **CLOSING SESSION: MEDIA COMPETITION**

#### **Chairperson**

**Mr Han Fook Kwang** | Senior Fellow, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

#### **Panellists**

**Ms Ellie Geranmayeh** | Deputy Director, MENA Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations

**Mr Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj** | Founder, Bourse & Bazaar

**Ms Holly Dagres** | Non-Resident Fellow, Middle East Security Initiative, Atlantic Council Scowcroft Centre for Strategy and Security, United States

**Mr Meir Javedanfar** | Senior Research Fellow, Ezri Centre for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, University of Haifa

### 6.45pm ▼ **END OF CONFERENCE**



### **Mr Bilahari Kausikan** **Chairman, Middle East Institute,** **National University of Singapore**

Mr Bilahari Kausikan is the Chairman of the Middle East Institute, an autonomous institute of the National University of Singapore. Mr Kausikan was Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2013, having served as Second Permanent Secretary since 2001. He was subsequently Ambassador-at-Large until May 2018. His earlier appointments at the Ministry include Deputy Secretary for South-east Asia, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, and Ambassador to the Russian Federation. Raffles Institution, the University of Singapore and Columbia University in New York all attempted to educate Mr Kausikan.



### **Dr Koh Poh Koon** **Senior Minister of State,** **Ministry of Trade and Industry**

Dr Koh Poh Koon was elected as a Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC on 11 September 2015. He is currently Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Trade and Industry and assumed the role of Deputy Secretary-General at the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) on 23 April 2018. As Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Dr Koh focuses on research and development and entrepreneurship matters, and is the patron of the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE). He is involved in the implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) domain strategy under the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2020 (RIE2020) plan. In addition, under the ambit of the Future Economy Council, Dr Koh co-chairs two sub-committees overseeing the transformation of the manufacturing and the trade and connectivity clusters. He also looks at the promotion of a dynamic and effective energy market in Singapore, which includes the liberalisation of the electricity market. In the area of trade and investment, Dr Koh oversees the development of Singapore's bilateral economic relations with China, the European Union, the Middle East, and Russia & Central Asia. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, National University of Singapore in 1996 and obtained his Fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) as well as the Academy of Medicine (Singapore) in 2005.



### **The Honourable Richard L Armitage** **Former US Deputy Secretary of State**

Ambassador Richard Armitage is the founder and President of Armitage International, LC, an international business consultancy that provides critical support in the areas of international business development, strategic planning and problem solving. He is a former US Deputy Secretary of State and has served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia and Pacific Affairs.

In addition, Ambassador Armitage has held a wide variety of high-ranking US diplomatic positions, including Presidential Special Negotiator for the Philippines Military Bases Agreement, Special Mediator for Water in the Middle East, Special Emissary to Jordan's King Hussein during the 1991 Gulf War, and Ambassador directing US assistance to the new independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Ambassador Armitage graduated in 1967 from the US Naval Academy and served three combat tours in Vietnam. He is the recipient of numerous US and foreign military decorations, as well as awards for distinguished public service. Most recently, he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun from Japan. Ambassador Armitage currently serves on the board of directors of ManTech International Corporation and is Chairman of Project 2049 Institute. He also is a member of The American Academy of Diplomacy and the Board of Trustees of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.





### **HE Dr Kazem Sajjadpour** **President, Institute for Political and** **International Studies, Tehran**

His Excellency Dr Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour is the current Chairman of the Department of Diplomacy and International Organisations of the School of International Relations. Dr Sajjadpour is also concurrently the President of the Iranian Institute for Political & International Studies (IPIS) with the rank of Deputy Foreign Minister. Prior to this, he was the Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on Strategic Issues between 2013 and 2016, and the former President of the Iranian Political Science Association. Among his notable diplomatic credentials was being the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative for the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva.

His Excellency received his PhD in Political Science from George Washington University and was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard University. He has taught at the College of International Relations of Tehran University, Azad University and Iran's National Defence University.

Dr Sajjadpour is the Editor-in-Chief for the Iranian Review of Foreign Affairs Journal and has contributed many articles to it since 2011. He has also published various chapters including "Neutral Statements, Committed Practice: The USSR and the War" in Iranian Perspectives on the Iran-Iraq War (1997) by Farhang Rajaee (Ed.); and "The evolution of Iran's national security doctrine" in Europe and Iran: Perspectives on Non-proliferation (2013) by Shannon N. Kile. His Excellency's latest book, published in March 2017, is entitled Transition in International Relations of post-Western World, which he co-authored with Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr Javad Zarif and Iranian Ambassador, Dr Ebadollah Molaei.



### **HE MJ Akbar**

**Member of Parliament, Former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs**

His Excellency MJ Akbar is a distinguished writer and Member of Parliament for India's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). During his long career in journalism, he launched, as editor, India's first weekly political news magazine, Sunday, in 1976, and two daily newspapers, The Telegraph in 1982 and The Asian Age in 1994. He has also been editorial director of India Today and The Sunday Guardian. He first served as an elected Member of Parliament between 1989 and 1991, and returned to public life in March 2014, when he joined the BJP and was appointed a National Spokesperson during the historic general elections that brought the party to office with a simple majority under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In July 2015, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Jharkhand. In July 2016, he was elected for another term, this time from Madhya Pradesh.

He is also the author of several internationally acclaimed books, including India: The Siege Within; Nehru: The Making of India; Kashmir: Behind the Vale; The Shade of Swords: Jihad and the Conflict between Islam and Christianity; Tinderbox: The Past and Future of Pakistan; and Blood Brothers, a novel. In addition, there have been four collections of his columns, reportage and essays.

In 2004, he was named a member of the committee set up by Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah to draft a 10-year charter for Muslim nations at a special conference in Mecca. In March 2006, he joined The Brookings Institution, Washington, as a Visiting Fellow in the Brookings Project on US Policy towards the Islamic world. He also serves as Chairman of the Trust for the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage.

# First Session:

## US Actions and Consequences

- ▼ What are the goals of US policy towards Iran?
- ▼ Is “maximum pressure” going to change Iranian behaviour?

### CHAIRPERSON



**Dr James Dorsey**  
**Senior fellow, S Rajaratnam School of**  
**International Studies, Nanyang Technological**  
**University, Singapore**

Dr James Dorsey is a Senior Fellow focused on the Middle East and North Africa who publishes widely in peer-reviewed journals as well as non-academic publications. A veteran, award-winning foreign correspondent for four decades in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the United States for publications such as The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, Dr Dorsey has met a multitude of the region's leaders. He covered primarily ethnic and religious conflict, including some of recent history's most dramatic events, such as the Iran-Iraq war and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Dr Dorsey writes a widely acclaimed blog, “The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer”, has published a book with the same title, and authors a syndicated column. He was a finalist for the 2012 European Press Prize, the Kurt Schork Award, and the Index on Censorship Award in 2012. He also co-directs the Institute of Fan Culture of the University of Wuerzburg.

# PANELLISTS



**Mr Karim Sadjadpour**  
**Senior Fellow,**  
**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

Mr Karim Sadjadpour is a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he focuses on Iran and US foreign policy toward the Middle East. He is contributing editor to *The Atlantic* and appears frequently on CNN, BBC, and NPR. He has lived in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East (including both Iran and the Arab world) and speaks Persian, Italian, Spanish, and proficient Arabic. He is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service (MSFS), teaching on US foreign policy and the Middle East. His recent publications include *Iran's Cyber Threat: Espionage, Sabotage, and Revenge* and *Ayatollah Machiavelli: How Ali Khamenei became the most powerful man in the Middle East*. He was previously an Analyst with the International Crisis Group, based in Tehran and Washington.



**Dr Michael Singh**  
**Managing Director and Senior Fellow,**  
**The Washington Institute for Near East Policy**

Dr Michael Singh is Managing Director and Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Dr Singh was Senior Director for Middle East Affairs at the White House from 2007-2008, and a Director on the National Security Council staff from 2005-2007. Earlier, he served as Special Assistant to Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice, and at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv. He co-chaired Senator Mitt Romney's State Department transition team in 2012, and served as Middle East advisor to the Romney campaign. Dr Singh has been an Adjunct Fellow at the Belfer Center at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and an economics instructor at Harvard College. His writings have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *International Security*, and elsewhere, and he has appeared as a commentator on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and other outlets. Dr Singh earned his bachelor's degree in economics summa cum laude from Princeton University and an MBA with high distinction (Baker Scholar) from Harvard Business School.

# Second Session:

## The View From Iran

- ▼ Iran is holding out despite sanctions.  
How will it respond to the US?

## CHAIRPERSON



**Dr Victor Kattan**  
**Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Institute,**  
**National University of Singapore**

Dr Victor Kattan is a Senior Research Fellow of the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is also an Associate Fellow at NUS Law. Dr Kattan has published widely in his field and is the author of numerous articles in international law journals and the author and editor of three books: *From Coexistence to Conquest: International Law and the Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1891-1949* (Pluto 2009), *The Palestine Question in International Law* (BIICL 2008), and most recently (with Peter Sluglett) *Violent Radical Movements in the Arab World: The Ideology and Politics of Non-State Actors* (IB Tauris 2019).

# PANELLISTS



**Dr Ali Vaez**  
**Iran Project Director,**  
**Crisis Group**

Dr Ali Vaez is Director of the Iran Project at the Federation of American Scientists. Trained as a scientist, he worked as a post-doctoral research fellow at Harvard University from 2008 to 2010. Formerly, he was Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's foreign correspondent in Switzerland from 2004 to 2008. He is also a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), where he received a Master's degree in International Public Policy.



**Dr Julia Rohnifard**  
**Director of Foreign Policy, EMIR Research,**  
**Kuala Lumpur**

Dr Julia Rohnifard is Director of Foreign Policy at EMIR Research, a Kuala Lumpur-based thinktank. She is also a consultant for PIR-Center, a Moscow-based thinktank, and a contributor to Al-Monitor. She used to be a Research Fellow at the National Research University Higher School of Economics. Initially specialised on Iran, its regional policy and domestic politics, she currently works on a broad spectrum of issues related to South-east Asia. Her publications can be found at the Malaysia Kini, Malay Mail Online, Malaysian Insight, Free Malaysia Today, Carnegie Moscow Center, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), South China Morning Post (SCMP), Al-Monitor.

# PANELLISTS



## **Mr Kevjn Lim**

**PhD Candidate, School of Political Science,  
Government and International Affairs,  
Tel Aviv University**

Mr Kevjn Lim is a PhD candidate at Tel Aviv University's School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs, researching Iranian strategy, foreign policy and domestic politics. He is also a Middle East and North Africa contributor for IHS Markit. He was previously a delegate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with postings in the Palestinian West Bank, Sudan's Darfur region, Iraq, Gaddafi's Libya and Afghanistan, handling issues linked to the protection of the civilian population in the context of International Humanitarian Law, and networking with non-state actors and armed militias. His work has appeared in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Intelligence and National Security, Israel Affairs, Comparative Strategy, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Jane's Intelligence Review, the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and The National Interest.

# Third Session:

## The Impact On Asia

- ▼ Asia is already affected by the US-China trade war. What is the impact of rising tensions in the Strait of Hormuz on their economies?

## CHAIRPERSON



**Dr Serkan Yolaçan**  
**Research Fellow, Middle East Institute,**  
**National University of Singapore**

Dr Serkan Yolaçan studies mercantile and religious networks as channels of informal diplomacy across West Asia. His book project *The Azeri Triangle: Informal Diplomats across Iran, Turkey, and Russia* connects the modern histories of three major states through an ethnographic and historical study of a diasporic society and its cross-border engagements. The project reveals the Azeris' historic role in West Asian politics and parallels it to that of the Arabs in the Indian Ocean and the Chinese in South-east Asia. Dr Yolaçan holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University and an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the Central European University. Prior to obtaining his doctoral degree, he worked as projects officer at the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) in Istanbul.



# PANELLISTS



**Mr Gabriel Lim**  
**Permanent Secretary,**  
**Ministry of Trade & Industry**

Mr Gabriel Lim was appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in April 2019. Prior to his current appointment, he was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Information and Chief Executive Officer of the Info-communications Media Development Authority. He was also previously the Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and served in the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Health and the Public Service Division. Mr Lim graduated from Stanford University's Sloan Management Programme with a Master of Science in Management under the Lee Kuan Yew post-graduate scholarship. He also holds a Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honours) from the University of Cambridge.



**Professor Pan Guang**  
**Director,**  
**Shanghai Centre for International Affairs**

Dr Pan Guang is Professor of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Director of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) and BR (Belt and Road) Studies Centre in Shanghai, Dean of Center for Jewish Studies Shanghai (CJSS) and Vice President of Chinese Association of Middle East Studies. He is International Council Member of Asia Society in USA. He obtained the 1993 James Friend Annual Memorial Award for Sino-Jewish Studies, Sankt Peterburg-300 Medal for Contribution to China-Russia Relations awarded by President Vladimir Putin in 2004, and Austria Holocaust Memorial Award in 2006. He was appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General as Ambassador of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisation (UNAOC) in 2008. Prof Pan has lectured and conducted research all over the world, including at Harvard University, Columbia University, RAND corp., the Brookings Institution, Stanford University, Oxford University, Leiden University, The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies & Research in UAE and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

# PANELLISTS



## **Mr Hitoshi Tanaka**

**Chairman, Institute for International Strategy,  
Japan Research Institute Ltd**

Mr Hitoshi Tanaka is Chairman of the Institute for International Strategy at the Japan Research Institute, Ltd., and a Senior Fellow at the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE). In 2006-2018, he was a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo. Mr Tanaka retired from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in August 2005 after serving for three years as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. Before being named Deputy Minister, he held various posts at the Foreign Ministry, including Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau (2001-2002) and Economic Affairs Bureau (2000-2001); Consul General in San Francisco (1998-2000); and Deputy Director-General of the North American Affairs Bureau (1996-98). Mr Tanaka holds a BA in law from Kyoto University and BA/MA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University. He is the author of JCIE's English newsletter, East Asia Insights.



## **Dr Tilak Doshi**

**Energy Consultant**

Dr Tilak K. Doshi is a consultant specialising in energy economics and public policy. Dr Doshi is an industry expert with over 25 years of international work experience in leading oil and gas companies and in thinktanks. His previous appointments include Chief Economist, Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore; Senior Fellow and Program Director, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia); Executive Director for Energy, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre; Specialist Consultant, Saudi Aramco (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia); Chief Asia Economist, Unocal Corporation (Singapore); Director for Economic and Industry Analysis, Atlantic Richfield Corporation (ARCO, Los Angeles, US).

# Closing Session: Media Competition

- ▼ US-Iran competition is as much psychological as material, and media narratives shape external perceptions and market responses.

## CHAIRPERSON



**Mr Han Fook Kwang**  
**Senior Fellow,**  
**S Rajaratnam School of International Studies,**  
**Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**

Mr Han Fook Kwang is a Senior Fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Editor-at-Large, The Straits Times. He spent 10 years in the Singapore Government Administrative Service before joining The Straits Times in 1989. He was Editor of the paper from 2002 to 2012.

He is the co-author of several books on Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, including Lee Kuan Yew: The Man and His Ideas, and Hard Truths to Keep Singapore Going. His latest book, Singapore in Transition: Hope, Anxiety and Question Marks, was published in 2016. He graduated from the University of Leeds in Mechanical Engineering under a Colombo Plan scholarship. He also holds a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University under a Singapore Government scholarship.

# PANELLISTS



**Ms Ellie Geranmayeh**  
**Deputy Director, MENA Programme,**  
**European Council on Foreign Relations**

Ms Ellie Geranmayeh is Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). She specialises in European foreign policy in relation to Iran, particularly on the nuclear and regional dossiers and sanctions policy. Ms Geranmayeh advised European governments and companies on the nuclear negotiations between Iran and world powers from 2013-2015 and continues to brief senior policymakers on how to effectively safeguard the implementation of the nuclear agreement. Her research also covers wider regional dynamics including post-ISIS stabilisation, and geopolitical trends in the Middle East. Prior to joining ECFR, she worked at the law firm of Herbert Smith Freehills. She graduated in Law from the University of Cambridge and received an LLM from the University of Virginia School of Law.



**Mr Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj**  
**Founder,**  
**Bourse & Bazaar**

Mr Esfandiyar Batmanghelidj is the founder of Bourse & Bazaar, a media company which supports Iran “business diplomacy” through publishing, research, and international events. He is the organiser of the Europe-Iran Forum, the leading international business conference on Iran, with editions in London (2014), Geneva (2015), Zurich (2016, 2017) and Paris (2018). Mr Esfandiyar’s writing has featured in Foreign Policy, Bloomberg Opinion, Quartz, Defense One, Asia Times, and Al-Monitor as well as on the front pages of leading Iranian periodicals Iran, Etemad, Hamshahri, and Diplomat Magazine. His research on Iranian political economy and social history has been published in the journal Iranian Studies, the Encyclopedia Iranica, and the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal. Mr Esfandiyar is a graduate of Columbia University, where he focused on international political economy.

# PANELLISTS



**Ms Holly Dages**  
**Non-Resident Fellow, Middle East Security Initiative, Atlantic Council Scowcroft Centre for Strategy and Security**

Ms Holly Dages is a Non-Resident Fellow with the Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security. She is also the editor of the Scowcroft Center's Iran Source blog and curator for the weekly newsletter, The Iranist. Before joining the Atlantic Council, Ms Dages worked as a freelance Iranian analyst, regularly following traditional and social media in English and Persian. She received a Master's degree in political science at the American University in Cairo. In 2013, she conducted on-the-ground research in Iran on the impact of sanctions for her Master's degree thesis, Do US sanctions change the regime? A critical analysis of sanctions on Iran. Ms Dages regularly gives analysis for television, radio, and print, including BBC News, CNN, Fox News, NBC News, The New York Times, The Telegraph, and The Washington Post. She also spent her adolescent years in Iran (1999 to 2006) and is fluent in Persian. Follow her on Twitter: @hdages.



**Mr Meir Javedanfar**  
**Senior Research Fellow, Ezri Centre for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, University of Haifa**

Mr Meir Javedanfar is an Iranian-Israeli lecturer, author and commentator. He has been teaching Iranian politics at the IDC since 2012. He is the co-author of MahmoudAhmadinejad's biography, The Nuclear Sphinx of Tehran, which has been published in four languages. He has published more than 100 articles on Iran and Iran-related matters for publications such as Foreign Affairs, Al-Monitor, The Diplomat, The Guardian and others. Mr Javedanfar has given lectures at more than 20 universities as a guest lecturer and spoken at universities in the following five languages: English, Hebrew, Persian, Spanish and Portuguese. He is currently completing his PhD at the University of Haifa. His thesis deals with Iranian security dealings with the Soviet Union and Iraq from 1970-1979.

# NOTES

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