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CONFRONTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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CONFRONTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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As a regional project manager based in Beirut, Khadije Nasser oversees the Institute for Strategic Dialogue’s implementation of a Strong Cities Network Municipality CVE Project with Lebanon and Jordan, promoting the role of sub-national actors in CVE, funded by the Government of Denmark. Previously, she worked as project manager and cultural advisor for the Danish Embassy in Beirut. Earlier on she worked for national and international NGOs in the region, managing prevention and advocacy projects in Lebanon and acting as trainer/facilitator in Jordan. In Denmark, Khadije Nasser has managed crime prevention initiatives targeting marginalised youth in Copenhagen and integration of former prisoners. As a former Role Model and Dialogue Ambassador for the Danish Ministry of Refugees, Immigrants and Integration, she has extensive experience in direct interventions with youth at risk. Khadije Nasser is fluent in Arabic, English and Danish, and holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Anthropology from the University of Copenhagen.

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Amanda Paul is a senior policy analyst at the European Policy Centre (EPC), a leading Brussels-based think-tank, where she co-heads the EPC’s Europe in the World Programme. She is responsible for managing EPC projects related to Turkey, the South Caucasus, Ukraine and Jihadist radicalisation. Amanda Paul is also a senior associate fellow at the International Centre for Policy Studies, a leading Kyiv-based think tank, where she contributes to research and projects related to Ukraine and the broader region. Prior to working at the EPC, Amanda worked at the Brussels based think-tank, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and Türk Henkel in Istanbul. Her areas of expertise include Turkish foreign, security and domestic policy, security and conflict resolution in the Black Sea/Eurasia region, Russian foreign policy in the former Soviet space and EU foreign policy in its Eastern neighbourhood. Amanda Paul is also an experienced journalist and columnist.
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JOSEP PIQUÉ

President, Toledo International Center for Peace – CITpax

Josep Piqué started working as a lecturer in economic theory in 1984. He later worked as an economist with the Studies Service of “La Caixa”. In the public domain, he has been Minister of Industry and Energy, Government spokesman, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Science and Technology, deputy and member of the Spanish Parliament and deputy in the Parlament of Catalunya. In the private sector, Josep Piqué has had positions in Ercros, Vueling, Airbus, Grupo Volkswagen, OHL, Alantra and Boston Consulting Group, among other companies. He has been the president of the Círculo de Economía, and is currently vice chairman of Círculo de Empresarios, president of Fundación Iberoamericana Empresarial and president of the Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax), among other positions in civil society institutions. He holds a PhD in Economics and Business Studies from the University of Barcelona.

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Eman Ragab is a senior researcher in regional security in the Middle East at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) since 2010. She is also an associate professor of Political Science at the Political Science Department of the American University in Cairo. Furthermore, she is the editor in chief of Alternatives Badaei, a bimonthly policy-oriented journal published by Al-Ahram Center. Dr. Ragab is an expert in international relations and security, with a focus on Egypt and the Gulf region. She holds a PhD in International Relations from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science – Cairo University, with specialisations in Security Studies in the Middle East.
EL-HAOUÈS RIACHE
Ambassador-Counsellor to Algeria’s Minister of Maghrebi Affairs, the African Union and the League of Arab States

El-Haouès Riache is Ambassador-Counsellor at the Algerian Ministry of Maghrebi Affairs, the African Union and the League of Arab States, in charge of counterterrorism and migration. Previously, he served as Ambassador-Counsellor at the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As Algerian Ambassador, he was stationed in Switzerland, Portugal and Namibia. El-Haouès Riache has represented Algeria at numerous summits, ministerial conferences and expert meetings, including the United National General Assembly, the African Union, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Barcelona Process. He studied at the Ecole nationale d'administration, Algeria.

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Alexander Ritzmann is the executive director of the European Foundation for Democracy (EFD), co-chair of the Communication and Narratives Working Group at the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) of the European Commission and a research fellow at the Brandenburg Institute for Society and Security (BIGS) in Potsdam, Germany. From 2012-2015, Alexander worked as Senior Advisor MENA Region and Project Manager for GIZ, the German Development Cooperation, based in Cairo, Egypt. Alexander Ritzmann is a former member of the Berlin State Parliament, where he oversaw the state police and intelligence agency in the areas of homeland security and data protection issues. He received his master’s in Political Science from the Free University of Berlin.

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MUSTAFA EL-SAGEZLI
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Mustafa El-Sagezli is the founder and general manager of the Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD), within the Prime Minister’s Office. The LPRD, formerly known as the Warriors Affairs Commission, is charged with disarming, providing training and supporting the reintegration of former combatants into professional life. A computer engineer by training, Mustafa El-Sagezli himself participated in the uprising against the Government of Muammar al-Qaddafi back in 2011 before taking up the position as Deputy Minister of the Interior in Libya’s Transitional Government. Mustafa El-Sagezli graduated from Utah State University and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

PATRYCJA SASNAL
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Patrycja Sansal is the head of the Middle East and North Africa Project at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) and member of the advisory European Working Group on Egypt. She has written on US and EU policies in the Middle East, socio-political transformation of the Arab world, the Arab-Israeli conflict, modern Arab thought, and published in “Al-Ahram”, “Le Monde”, “Insight Turkey”, “EUobserver” and “Polityka”. Fulbright scholar at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. in 2010, she holds a PhD in Political Science and was an associate at the American University in Beirut. Dr. Sasnal lectured at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Warsaw and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, where apart from the PhD she also earned master’s degrees in International Relations and in Arabic Language and Culture.

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Previous to her experience at the German Development Institute (DIE), Isabel Schäfer was a senior research fellow and lecturer in International Relations at the Institute of Social Sciences (ISW) of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (2009-2015) and project director at the Mediterranean Institute Berlin (MIB). From 2006 to 2009, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Middle Eastern Politics at the Free University of Berlin, Otto-Suhr-Institute. She holds a French-German diploma in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris and a PhD in Political Science from the Otto-Suhr-Institut for Political Science at the Free University of Berlin.
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Omar Shaban is an analyst on the political economy of the Middle East and the founder of PalThink for Strategic Studies. Omar Shaban was candidate for the first Palestinian parliamentary elections in 1996. He is not affiliated with any political organisation. Omar regularly writes for various international magazines and has been interviewed by many well-known international newspapers. He occasionally participates in conferences on political and economic issues, and Palestinian affairs such as the reconstruction of Gaza, the reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Euro-Med cooperation. Omar Shaban holds a bachelor’s in Economics from Egypt (1984) and a master’s in Entrepreneurial Studies from Stirling University, Scotland (1995).

AMR EL-SHOBAKI
Head of the Arab-European Unit. Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies – ACPS

Amr El-Shobaki is the head of the Arab-European unit at Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPS) and a former member of the Egyptian parliament (the court of cassation confirmed Dr. El-Shobaki’s success in the 2014 parliamentary elections. However, the Egyptian Parliament has not implemented the court’s ruling until today). His research focuses on political Islamic movements as well as on Arab and Egyptian political systems. Some of his publications include “The Muslim Brotherhood: From its Roots until Today” (published in French), “The Crisis of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt”, “Islamists and Democrats: The Problems of Building a Democratic Islamic Movement” and “The future of Islamic movements after the 11th of September 2011”. Dr. El-Shobaki’s writings include books and articles, which appeared in newspapers such “Al-Masry Al-Youm”, “Al-Hayat”, “Al-Sharq al-Awsat” and “Le Figaro France”. He earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Paris I (Sorbonne).

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MEHDI TAJE
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Mehdi Taje is the director of the Public Policy, Strategic and Prospective Studies department at the Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies (ITES). In addition, he is a lecturer at a number of Tunisian and foreign universities, head of the advisory cabinet Global Prospect Intelligence and a consultant for government authorities in Tunisia and the Sahel region. He is an expert in the area of risk anticipation and prevention, with a particular focus on the geopolitics of the Maghreb and Sahel region and the Middle East. Mehdi Taje earned his master’s in Pratique de l’Anticipation et de la Prospective from the University of Paris V.

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Teemu Tammikko is a senior research fellow within the EU research programme of The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Previously, he served as team leader in the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia and as political analyst and intelligence officer in EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dr. Tammikko is an expert in terrorism and other political violence, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism in Europe, border security and the Schengen Treaty. His recent publications include the journal articles “Political Resilience to Terrorism in Europe: Introduction to the Special Issue” (co-authored with Leena Malkki) and “Can Political Leaders Make a Difference? Norwegian versus Spanish Experiences in Responding to Terrorist Attacks”, which appeared in “Studies in Conflict & Terrorism”. He received his PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Tampere.

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Sylvia Tiryaki is a scholar, political analyst, civil society activist, and co-founder of the Global Political Trends (GPoT) Center. She is also the former vice-chair and a current faculty member of the International Relations Department at Istanbul Kültür University. Dr. Tiryaki writes for various national and international academic journals and newspapers. She is an expert in the fields of reconciliation and human security in Turkey, Cyprus, Armenia, the EU, and the Middle Eastern and North African region. She completed her master’s and doctoral studies at the Faculty of Law at Comenius University in Bratislava. In addition, she holds a second PhD in Political Theory from the European Studies and Politics at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University.
CONFRONTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

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Mattia Toaldo is a senior policy fellow for ECFR’s Middle East and North Africa programme where he focuses on Libya, Israel/Palestine and migration issues. From 2011-2013, he was a stipendiary fellow at the Institute for the Americas in London and a postdoctoral fellow for the British School in Rome and the Society for Libyan Studies, where his work focused on Western reactions to the Arab uprisings. Mattia Toaldo has researched and written on the Middle East peace process and on Libya since 2004. He has worked as a consultant both on foreign policy and domestic issues for several Italian policymakers. Mattia Toaldo earned his PhD in History of International Relations at Roma Tre University.

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His research is focused on international relations of the Middle East, North Africa (especially Tunisia) and Islamic radicalism. Dr. Torelli has appeared on Italian and international information networks (such as “Newsweek”, “El Pais”, “Hürriyet”, “RSI”, “RAI”, “Sky”) and in the Italian press as an expert of Islamic and Middle Eastern issues. Stefano has been a consultant for the Italian Parliament and adjunct professor in History and Institutions of the Middle East at the University IULM of Milan. Among his latest publications are monographs on the Tunisian transition (2015, Il Mulino) and on the Sunni-Shia divide in the Middle East (2017, Mondadori, with M. Campanini). He has published several academic and opinion articles and essays in international reviews such as “The British Journal for Middle Eastern Studies”, “Middle East Policy”, “Insight Turkey”, “Jadaliyya”, and he contributes to Oxford Analytica and The Jamestown Foundation’s Terrorism Monitor. Dr. Torelli earned his PhD in History from the International Relations at the University of Rome.

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Michal Vít is a research fellow at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. Previously, he was associated with the Institute for European Policy (IEP) in Berlin and served as junior research fellow at International Institute of Political Science at Masaryk University. His research focuses on the process of national identity formation of political parties in Central Europe. Dr. Vít has published and commented on national media on issues ranging from European politics, political parties and nationalism to migration and asylum policy. He earned his doctorate entitled East and Central Europe in Transnational Perspective from Masaryk University and the University of Leipzig.

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