



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

# NESA Update

March 2021 – April 2021

## NESA Region Trends – CENTRAL ASIA

- **Kyrgyzstan held a presidential election** on 10 January 2021 and a constitutional referendum on 11 April 2021. Yet, more people have responded to recent protests over the practice of bride abduction than the turbulent domestic political situation, with NESA alumnus Talant Sultanov stating, “We need a massive information campaign on all TV/radio channels, newspapers, and social networking sites – everyone should get it into their head: *ala kachuu* [bride abduction] is a crime, not a tradition; everyone involved is guilty – who kidnaps, who holds, and the relatives of girls who say ‘you must accept this and stay.’”
- Over the past six months, **Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan** have conducted multiple repatriations of women and children from the **Al-Hol and Roj refugee camps in Syria**. More than 318 Uzbek citizens – all women and children – have been repatriated from Syria and Iraq in three missions over the past two years. This will remain an important but sensitive issue in the coming months for the region.
- **Great power competition and the implications for Central Asia** remain a topic of interest. In an article for the Foreign Policy Research Institute, NESA alumnus Akram Umarov writes, “Central Asia is entering a period of growing geopolitical rivalry between its major external partners. This will possibly spread confrontation between the U.S., Russia, and China into Central Asia, establishing alliances and forcing regional actors to pick sides – heightening the risk of destabilization. But there are still alternative options for the region. The further deepening of Central Asian cooperation, foreign policy coordination, and trust-building measures can act as a bulwark against great power destabilization.” Such regional perspectives are important for U.S. policymakers as the U.S. continues to develop a long-term strategy towards the region.

### IN THIS REPORT

1–2 NESA Region Trends

3–9 Programs & Events

10–12 Engagement

13 Digital Series

14–15 Alumni Contributions

15 Upcoming Events

Engagement • Education • Outreach

## NESA Region Trends – NORTH AFRICA

- **While the security situation in Afghanistan** and impending U.S. withdrawal is an issue of concern for the countries in Central Asia, each remains primarily focused on its domestic situation, with both government officials and citizens regularly commenting on issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, availability of healthcare and other social services, and current economic challenges.
- **Amid a renewed global push to end the long conflict in Afghanistan**, key regional powers show support for a U.S. plan to accelerate regional cooperation and invigorate intra-Afghan talks on a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan. The groundwork is being laid for the key intra-Afghan peace parley in Istanbul, which is expected to bring together negotiating teams for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban Islamic Movement. The United States, Turkey, and the UN are hosting the gathering where Russia, China, Pakistan, and other Afghanistan neighbors will also be represented. This meeting is seen as a crucial opportunity for the Afghan warring sides to reach a political settlement paving the way for the United States to end its long war halfway around the world and withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.
- **The Turkey huddling comes in the wake of the annual ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Process**, known as the “Heart of Asia,”<sup>i</sup> held on 31 March in Dushanbe, Tajikistan where the United States noted that it is working closely with key international and regional partners, and the United Nations, to promote and support a process that leads to lasting peace in Afghanistan. During this meeting, Afghan president Ashraf Ghani outlined his peace plan which includes forming a transitional power-sharing government through early elections, review of constitution through the legal process, and agreeing on a comprehensive ceasefire. The five Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) are members of the “Heart of Asia” framework and expected to participate in the Istanbul meeting later this month. They all have announced support for the U.S.- backed plan regarding the formation of a power-sharing transitional peace government in Afghanistan and establishment of a ceasefire. They also opposed the return of the Emirate to the country.
- The view from the region is that a rash decision on **Western troop withdrawal** can increase the chances of failure of the intra-Afghan talks since it will favor the Taliban and disfavor the Kabul government. The Government continues to rely on the support of the remaining 2,500 U.S. and thousands of NATO troops in the country as well as the crucial assistance of some 18,000 American contractors who help in providing 100% of maintenance and service to the Afghan Black Hawk helicopters and C-130 aircraft. The contractors also manage the essential supply chain of the ANDSF while U.S. Combat aircraft run bombing missions against the Taliban and Da’ish attacks. Further, the ANDSF benefits from training and intelligence support provided by the international forces.

---

<sup>i</sup> The Istanbul Process is an Afghanistan-Turkey which was officially launched at a conference hosted by Turkey in Istanbul on 2 November 2011. Since then, Afghanistan supported by fourteen Participating Countries of the Heart of Asia Region and 16 Supporting Countries beyond the region as well as 12 Regional and International Organizations is leading and coordinating this Process. It is a platform for promoting regional security, economic and political cooperation centered on Afghanistan through dialogue and a set of Confidence Building Measures.

# NESA Programs & Events

## Eastern Mediterranean Roundtable

The NESA Center held a roundtable discussion on the Mediterranean Sea. Scholars from universities and think-tanks from Libya, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey were invited. The first panel focused on recent developments in Libya and the interim government's efforts to hold elections next December. The second panel addressed regional disputes over natural gas discoveries and pipelines. The discussion was held under Chatham House Rule. NESA plans to hold an in-person follow-up meeting once travel restrictions are lifted.

<https://nesa-center.org/security-energy-in-the-mediterranean-sea-roundtable>

## Eastern Mediterranean Roundtable Security & Energy in the Mediterranean Sea 22 March 2021



*Speakers from the Roundtable from top left: Director LTG (ret) Terry Wolff, Dr. Roger Kangas (Academic Dean and a Professor of Central Asian Studies), Dr. Gawdat Bahgat (Professor of National Security Affairs), David Des Roches (Associate Professor), Dr. Richard L. Russell (Professor of National Security Affairs)*

# NESA Programs & Events

## Tunisian National Defense Institute National Security Seminar

The NESA Center in partnership with U.S. Africa Command held its tenth annual Tunisian National Defense Institute (NDI) National Security Seminar for 45 senior government officials from 14 Tunisian agencies. The NDI led by the Director, Commodore Faouzi Zaiem, is a year-long Ministry of Defense program. It's now in its 38th year bringing a diverse group of interagency representatives together twice each week for an academic year to advance whole-of-government approaches to critical national security and political challenges. Each class is assigned a unique research theme by the Minister of Defense. This year's assignment was entitled "Brain Drain and Economic Opportunities." This is the 10th year in the NESA-AFRICOM partnership with the Tunisian National Defense Institute. <https://nesa-center.org/tunisian-national-defense-institute-national-security-seminar>

### Tunisian National Defense Institute National Security Seminar 24–25 March 2021



*Speakers from the Tunisian NDI National Security Seminar : from top left, Professor Anne Moisan, LTG (ret) Terry Wolff, Mr. Fahad Malaikah, Dr. Michael Brown, Ambassador Najmedine Lakhel. Ms. Elizabeth Tomko, MAJOR William Lindmier, Mr. Mohamed Malouche, Mr. Manuel Langendorf, Ms. Ronit Avni, Mr. Jean AbiNader*

# NESA Programs & Events

## Senior Executive Seminar

NESA hosted a timely Senior Executive Seminar (SES) focused on the continued threat of violent extremist organizations (VEOs), particularly their use of new media platforms, as well as best practices to combat violent extremism in the virtual and non-virtual space. The SES welcomed more than 50 foreign service and military officers from the United States and 23 other countries that participated in the seminar. To address the evolving issue of VEOs, the NESA Center brought in speakers from a wide array of backgrounds, including representatives from think tanks, academic institutions, and foreign governments, to discuss the topic of “The Adaptability of Violent Extremist Organizations: Illegality, Technology and Messaging.” The SES was led by **Dr. Hassan Abbas (Distinguished Professor of International Relations)**, along with **Dr. Michael Sharnoff**, and **Ambassador Ali Jalali** acting as program facilitators. <https://nesa-center.org/senior-executive-seminar-the-adaptability-of-violent-extremist-organizations-illegality-technology-and-messaging>

### Senior Executive Seminar The Adaptability of Violent Extremist Organizations: Illegality, Technology, and Messaging 29 March – 2 April 2021





# NESA Programs & Events

## Iraq NDC Discussion

The NESA Center conducted a virtual private event for the **National Defence College of Iraq** to address the challenges and obstacles ahead of U.S.-Iraq relations under the new Biden Administration. The discussion was led by **Mr. Daniel Curfiss**, with a welcome by **NESA's Academic Dean, Dr. Roger Kangas**, and **Director LTG (Ret.) Terry Wolff's** welcome and presentation. The Iraq delegation was headed by the **Dean of the Iraq National Defence College, Staff Navy MG Ahmed Omran Abd.** Following a session assessing U.S. National Defence Strategy considerations; a second session focused on the evolving challenges the world faces from COVID to climate change, and what policy priorities we can expect from the Biden Administration. <https://nesa-center.org/iraq-national-defence-college-discussion>

## Senior Executive Seminar The Adaptability of Violent Extremist Organizations: Illegality, Technology, and Messaging 31 March 2021



# NESA Programs & Events

## Community Oriented Policing and Countering Violent Extremism Seminar

NESA Center faculty met with present members of policing agencies and governmental agencies to discuss community-oriented policing (COP) and its applicability of countering violent extremism (CVE). The event was led by **Dr. Hassan Abbas (Distinguished Professor of International Relations)** with the first discussion focusing on the modern policing challenges faced in today's societies. **Mr. Arif Alikhan (Former Director of Constitutional Policing and Policy, Los Angeles Police Department)** and **Mr. Victor Vartanian (Former Special Agent, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)** discussed that community policing, when implemented correctly, can bring about successful results to local collaboration and countering violent extremism at home and abroad. The questions from audience members discussed the impact of local cooperation, the criticisms of community policing, the impact of the militarization of police, and the challenges that Covid-19 brought to community policing. <https://nesa-center.org/community-oriented-policing-and-countering-violent-extremism-seminar>

## Community Oriented Policing and Countering Violent Extremism Seminar

06 April 2021



# NESA Programs & Events

## Lebanon Fouad Shehab Command & Staff College Program

Events in **Lebanon and the United States** over the last 10 months have conclusively demonstrated that leaders do not have the luxury of responding to crises one at a time. The NESA Center led a virtual program that focused on **Navigating a Multi-crisis Environment** to help participants identify the parameters of the dominant contemporary crises, while also developing mechanisms to prioritize responses and skills for managing requests for aid. This short program led by **Professor Jennifer Jefferis** and moderated by **Professor Michael Sharnoff** exposed participants to a myriad of issues that currently characterize the international security environment and provided a forum for discussion and conversation about opportunities for cooperation and action. <https://nesa-center.org/lebanon-fouad-shehab-command-staff-college-program>

### Lebanon Fouad Shehab Command & Staff College Program **Navigating a Multi-crisis Environment** 6 April – 9 April 2021



*Speakers from the Lebanon Fouad Shehab Command and Staff College Program: from top left, NESA Professor Jennifer Jefferis, NESA Professor Michael Sharnoff, NESA Director LTG (ret) Terry Wolff, Dr. Paul Salem (President, Middle East Institute), Dr. Randa Slim (Senior Fellow and Director of Conflict Resolution and Track II Dialogues Program, Middle East Institute, Non-Resident Fellow, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS) Foreign Policy Institute), Dr. Sue Bryant (Executive Director, Strategic Education International; Adjunct Associate Professor, Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University), Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo (Senior Scholar, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security), Dr. Eveline Hitti (Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, American University of Beirut), Mr. Khaled Elgindy (Senior Fellow, Director of Program on Palestine and Palestinian-Israeli Affairs, Middle East Institute), Dr. Michael Brown (Professor of International Affairs and Political Science, Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University)*



# NESA Programs & Events

## Washington Embassy Orientation

NESA hosted an informative one-day Washington Embassy Orientation (WEO) focused on “US Relations with the NESA Region in 2021: Current Status and Issues on the Horizon.” The WEO - intended for audiences from the local Embassy community in Washington, DC - welcomed over 40 for diplomats and military officers from 24 countries. The orientation was chaired by Assistant Professor Brianne Todd, co-moderated by Dr. Richard Russell, and featured distinguished scholar-practitioners from the NESA Center faculty including Director LTG (Ret.) Terry Wolff, Dr. Roger Kangas, and Dr. Hassan Abbas.

<https://nesa-center.org/one-day-washington-embassy-orientation>

## Washington Embassy Orientation U.S. Relations with the NESA Region in 2021: Current Status and Issues on the Horizon 08 April 2021



*Speakers from the Program: from top left, Assistant Professor of Central Asian Studies Brianne Todd, Professor of National Security Affairs Dr. Richard Russell, Director LTG (ret) Terry Wolff, Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas, Distinguished Professor of International Relations Dr. Hassan Abbas*

# NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

## Dr. Hassan Abbas

---



**20 March 2021** – Presented on the topic of “How Ali ibn Abi Talib Unites Shia and Sunnis” during a webinar discussion with California based Muslim organization, IslamiCity. Live session was attended by over 600 listeners. <https://www.islamicity.org/77182/webinar-how-ali-ibn-abi-talib-unites-shia-and-sunnis>

**23 March 2021** – Had a conversation organized by New America with renowned writer, Kim Ghattas, for “The Prophet’s Heir: The Life of Ali Ibn Abi Talib”. The event was virtually attended by 63 participants. <https://www.newamerica.org/fellows/events/hassan-abbas-the-prophets-heir>

**7 April 2021** – Served as moderator at a Harvard conference for a Panel on the topic, “Islamic & Shiism dynamics in South Asia”. It had 300 attendees on zoom. <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/transnationalshiism/schedule>

## Dr. Gawdat Bahgat

---



**16 March 2021** – Published a post in National Interest titled “An Israel vs. Iran War Would Be a Disaster. Here Is How to Lessen Tensions.” An Iranian-Israeli peace is unrealistic under current circumstances, but a détente between

these two regional archenemies would help defuse regional tension. <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/israel-vs-iran-war-would-be-disaster-here-how-lessen-tensions-180340>

**18 March 2021** – Wrote a paper on Iran and Regional Security published on the NESA Center website. <https://nesa-center.org/iran-and-regional-security>

**18 March 2021** – Spoke at a roundtable discussion organized by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies on the JCPOA/Iran nuclear deal revival.

## David Des Roches

---



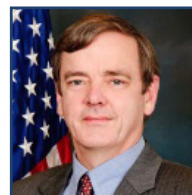
**24 March 2021** – Moderated the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations public affairs briefing. The briefing highlighted Anthony Cordesman’s updated assessment of Middle East Security. [Video: <https://youtu.be/pU-vHjAOo0AA>] [Report: <https://ncusar.org/publications/Publications/2021-03-22-Changing-Security-Dynamics-of-the-MENA-Region.pdf>]

**25 March 2021** – Was one of three speakers at a Chatham House closed think tank on Gulf military transformation. Professor Des Roches focused on the “soft” elements of defense transformation. The event was off the record and featured high-level practitioners from the region.

**1 April 2021** – Published a short piece on the Iran deal, how it was perceived in the Gulf, and the challenges the Biden administration will face in reviving it for Al Ra’a Magazine (Gulf Research Centre in Jeddah). This organization was rated in the top ten of Middle East think tanks in the last global rating. Arabic: [https://araa.sa/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5593:2021-03-29-10-27-01&catid=4438&Itemid=172](https://araa.sa/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5593:2021-03-29-10-27-01&catid=4438&Itemid=172)

## John H. Gill

---



**31 March 2021** – Participated in a presentation to the U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office with IISS regarding the upcoming co-authored monograph on India-Pakistan nuclear weapons.

## Ali Ahmad Jalali

---



**13 March 2021** – Joined a panel discussion on Afghanistan organized by a Sweden-based Salsal Foundation. The topic was the cultural roots of the Afghan conflict and how the U.S.-backed peace process can address the issue.

# NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

**15 March 2021** – Wrote an update of an U.S.- proposed peace plan for Afghanistan on the NESA website. <https://nesa-center.org/fast-paced-diplomatic-effort-to-jump-start-afghanistan-peace-process>

**20 March 2021** – Was interviewed for a special documentary by the Voice of America Pashto on the turn of the century (1400) on the Islamic Solar Hijri Calendar (the official calendar in Afghanistan and Iran) for a review of the past 100 years in Afghanistan.

## Anne Moisan

---



**18 March 2021** – Continuing a three-year effort for the Yemen-Libyan Task Force while still on-line, Professor Anne Moisan and Jennifer Jefferis scheduled two meetings for early 2021. The first meeting on 21 January was focused on

developing recommendations for the incoming American presidential administration regarding prospects for conflict resolution in Libya and Yemen. Participants were asked to come with two tangible recommendations for ways the incoming Biden Administration can support efforts to resolve the conflict and mitigate the long-term consequences.

In the second meeting on 18 March, participants were divided into 3 working groups based on the themes developed in the January meeting. The goal for this session was to develop a concise advisory “pitch” that could be circulated among leaders and policy makers focused on the Libyan and Yemeni conflicts.

**26 March 2021 & 30 March 2021**– Conducted “add-on WPS” discussions to the CTSES 02-21 Seminar with women assigned from the NESA-AFRICOM region. This is a “pilot” program focused on women, peace, and security (WPS).

**1 April 2021** – Along with LTG Terry Wolff, briefed BG Christopher Yancy (Special Adviser to the Commander) on NESA activities in support of U.S. AFRICOM. Listening Post Reports by Mr. Fahad Malaikah were also provided.

**7 April 2021** – Participated along with U.S. Africa Command’s Director of Intelligence (J2)–Rear Admiral Heidi Berg, in a closed session roundtable (RT) conducted by The Washington Institute for Near East Policy (TWI) where the challenges and opportunities facing the Biden Administration in the countries of northwest Africa were addressed. The virtual RT was moderated by TWI’s Executive Director Rob Satloff. Series of RT discussions over several months was the basis of TWI’s publication of the Presidential Transition Study, “Seizing Opportunities and Strengthening Alliances in Northwest Africa: Ideas for Policy Toward Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.” <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/seizing-opportunities-and-strengthening-alliances-northwest-africa-ideas-policy>

## Richard Russell

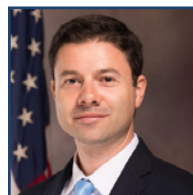
---



**17 March 2021** – Wrote a commentary on the Biden Administration’s “Interim National Security Strategic Guidance” posted on the NESA website. <https://nesa-center.org/commentary-on-the-biden-administrations-interim-national-security-strategic-guidance>

## Michael Sharnoff

---



**22 March 2021** – Wrote a paper titled “Five Domestic and Regional Security Challenges for Jordan in 2021” about Jordan – a close ally of the United States and Israel, and how it has a particular set of security concerns, challenges, and threats. The paper was published under a special publication for Strategic Assessment - A Multidisciplinary Journal on National Security for The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Israel. <https://strategicassessment.inss.org.il/en/articles/five-domestic-and-regional-security-challenges-for-jordan-in-2021>

# NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

## FORMER NESA STAFF UPDATES

---

Former intern, **Sean Braniff**, now Dr. Braniff, joined the team of the Air War College as an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Security Studies.

Former faculty member, **Dr. Murhaf Jouejati**, joined the faculty of the United States Naval Academy as the Class of 1955 Distinguished Visiting Professor in Middle East and Global Studies.

## NESA PME ENGAGEMENT

---

**30 March 2021 – Dr. Jack Midgley and Professor Richard Wiersema**, together with a team from the Lebanese Armed Forces G-5, began Phase I of the development plan for the new Lebanese National Defense College. This start is the result of three months of negotiation and coordination among the Lebanese Armed Forces, the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, and the NESA team. During Phase 1, G5 plans to use the Fouad Chehab Command and Staff College (FCCSC) and the Research and Strategic Studies Center (RSSC) campus for initial NDC activities. NESA and G5 will collaborate to create a design for the NDC, set selection criteria for students, determine the class size, required faculty and staff, and create the initial program of instruction.

**December 2021–March 2021** – NESA concluded its four-part lecture series in support of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJ NDC) on 9 March, with a lecture by **Dr. Michael Sharnoff** on the Biden administration's emerging Middle East policies. The three previous lectures were by: **Dr. Jack Midgley**, on Hard vs Soft Power (February); **Professor Dave DesRoches**, on New Developments in Drone Technology (January); and **Professor Richard Wiersema**, on Strategic Leadership (December). Topics were requested by the Commandant and Directing Staff of the RJ NDC. At the close of the lecture series, the RJ NDC leadership requested to meet with Professor Wiersema and plan next steps in continuing the NESA support program.

**22 March – 1 April 2021** – **Dr. Michael Bell**, with Professors **David Des Roches**, **Charles Marks**, and **Richard Wiersema**, taught an introductory strategy course to select staffers of the Saudi Arabian National Security Center. The NESA team wrote and delivered eight lessons, on topics requested by the NSC's leadership, in a seminar format aimed at developing skills needed by strategy practitioners. The thirteen attending students included five women national security professionals and two senior military officers. After this initial session, NESA will coordinate through the U.S. Military Training Mission and the Saudi Transformation Management Office for follow-on seminars focused on topics of immediate concern to the NSC staff.

Visit [www.NESA-Center.org](http://www.NESA-Center.org)  
for additional information.



# NESA Digital Series

## Jeffrey S. Payne

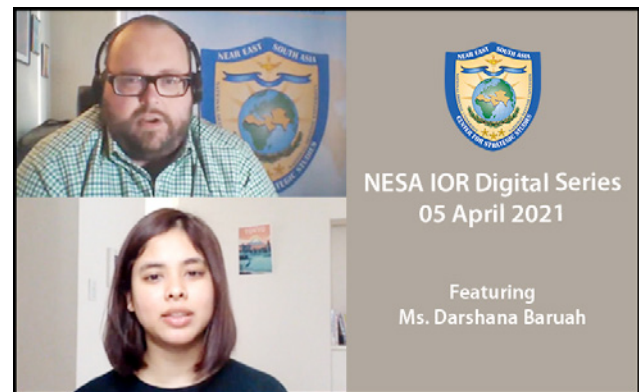


**23 March 2021** – NESA's Jeff Payne is honored to speak with **Mr. Blake Herzinger**, a Non-resident WSD-Handa Fellow with the Pacific Forum and President of the Singapore chapter of CIMSEC. Mr. Herzinger's expertise in security assistance, maritime security, and sea-power are discussed in relation to the Indo-Pacific and the security challenges emerging from this region. <https://nesa-center.org/the-indo-pacific-and-security-challenges-with-mr-blake-herzinger/>

**23 March 2021** – This iteration of the NESA IOR Digital Series features comments from **Dr. Christopher Colley** of the UAE National Defence College. His research on China-India relations is discussed, as well as what he sees as the nature of competition among major powers and how smaller regional states in the IOR (Indian Ocean Region) navigate relations with regional and non-regional powers. The opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the speaker and do not reflect the views of the National Defense College or the United Arab Emirates government. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-ior-digital-series-with-dr-christopher-colley/>

**25 March 2021** – Jeff Payne is joined by CNA's **Nilanthy Samaranyake** to discuss trend lines in the Indian Ocean Region, the problem sets facing U.S. decision-making towards the region, the particular challenges facing IOR island states, and what is going on regarding the dispute over the Chagos islands, and the status of Diego Garcia. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-ior-digital-series-with-ms-nilanthy-samaranyake/>

**5 April 2021** – This edition of the NESA IOR Digital Series features **Ms. Darshana Baruah**, Head of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's newly announced Indian Ocean Initiative. This conversation discusses the development of a maritime-linked regional identity throughout the Indian Ocean littorals and what forces are likely to shape how regional states engage within the wider IOR. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-ior-digital-series-with-darshana-baruah/>





# NESA Alumni Activities & Contributions

**Feb 2021 – Ghazi Ben Ahmed (Tunisia)** published an article: "[Mobility in the Mediterranean: Refocusing EuroMed relations on work, vocational training and mobility](#)," for the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies Global Governance Programme.

**Feb 2021 – Uttam Kumar Sinha (India)** published an article for The Nationalist: "[India's Arctic Approach: Not so far and away anymore](#)." Pages 18-20.

**25 Feb – Steven Blockmans (Belgium)** co-authored a study: "[Balkan and Eastern European Comparisons: Building a New Momentum for the European integration of the Balkan and Eastern European associated states](#)."

**March – Fatima Sadiqi (Morocco)** published a book: "[Feminist Daughters with Military Fathers: The Forgotten Legacy of Rural Berber Men](#)."

**01 March – Yasir Zaidan (Sudan)** published an article: "[Ethiopia-Sudan Border Skirmishes Spark Fears of a Wider War](#)", in World Politics Review.

**01 March – Shanthie D'Souza (India)** published an analysis for the Middle East Institute: "[India-Pakistan cease-fire: A change in the offing?](#)"

**04 March – Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an analysis for Middle East Monitor: "[What awaits Libya's novice prime minister-designate](#)."

**04 March – Emadeddin Badi (Libya)** published an article in Middle East Law and Governance: "[Of Conflict and Collapse: Rethinking State Formation in Post-Gaddafi Libya](#)."

**08 March – Hala Bugaighis (Libya)** published an Op-Ed for the Libya Herald on International Women's Day: "[Enough Tokenism: Its Time to Demand Meaningful Inclusion!](#)"

**08 March – Kahina Bouagache (Algeria)** published a contribution for the Wilson Center Enheduanna Blog: "[Gender Equality in Algeria Requires an Immediate End to Violence Against Women](#)."

**09 March – Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an article for Al Monitor: "[Libyan interim government formation stumbles on bribery allegations](#)."

**11 March – Uttam Kumar Sinha (India)** published an Op-Ed in the Hindustan Times: "[China's hydro hegemony is overstated. But India needs a plan](#)."

**11 March – Rupakjyoti Borah (India)** authored a thought piece: "[Why Northeast India Matters or Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision](#)."

**13 March – Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka)** was [quoted extensively](#) in Ceylon Today on the cancelled Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) grant.

**15 March – Omar Shaban (Palestine)** was interviewed about "[Covid-19 in the Gaza Strip](#)" by the Euro-Gulf Information Centre.

**15 March – Al Sharif Nasser bin Nasser (Jordan)** wrote an [article](#) in Al-Ghad (Arabic) about the recent incident in Al-Salt hospital where some Covid patients died due to oxygen shortages.

**16 March – Christian Koch (Switzerland)** published an article for Manara Magazine: "[After Al-Ula: Implications for GCC-EU relations](#)."

**17 March – Anas El Gomati (Libya)** published a chapter for the Carnegie Middle East Center's dossier on military authoritarianism in North Africa: "[Libya: A Tale of Two Armies](#)."

**18 March – Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an article for Middle East Monitor: "[Remembering Operation Odyssey Dawn, ten years on](#)."

**19 March – Dalia Ghanem (Algeria)** published an article for The Africa Report: "[Covid-19 has exacerbated Algeria's femicide problem](#)."

**19 March – Saban Kardas (Turkey)** co-authored a brief for the German Marshall Fund: "[A Dual Framework for the Turkey-U.S. Security Relationship](#)."

# NESA Alumni Activities & Contributions

**21 March** – Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria) published an article in French for L'Expression: "[Réconciliation inclusive et durable au Mali: L'Algérie est un acteur-clé.](#)"

**22 March** – Uttam Sinha (India) published an Op-Ed in the Hindustan Times: "[India must leverage the Indus Water Treaty for progress.](#)"

**22 March** – Zahra Langhi (Libya) published an Op-Ed in Al-Wasat: "No to aborting the political process and wasting the LPDF Roadmap compass". [\[Arabic\]](#) [\[English\]](#)

**24 March** – Dalia Ghanem (Algeria) published an article for the Carnegie Middle East Center: "[Algeria's Achilles' Hell? Resource Regionalism in Ouargla.](#)"

**25 March** – Abu Salah Md Yousuf (Bangladesh) was [interviewed](#) in The Times of India as PM Modi visited Bangladesh.

**26 March** – Emadeddin Badi (Libya) published an article for the Global Initiative Network: "[Muhasasa, militias and meddling foreign actors: The challenges facing Libya's new government.](#)"

**28 March** – Antonia Dimou (Greece) published an article in Modern Diplomacy: "[Greece and Egypt: Game Changers in the East Mediterranean's Energy Geopolitics.](#)"

**31 March** – Mustafa Haidan (Yemen) authored an Arabic article for the NESA website: "[Will the Biden Administration Make a Difference for Yemen.](#)"

**31 March** – Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria) authored an article

for the NESA website: "[Algeria, a Key Player for Reconciliation in Mali and Sustainable Peace in the Sahel.](#)"

**23 March** – Zine Labidine Ghebouli (Algeria) published an article JCL – MENA: "[Algeria: New Constitution, Old Balances.](#)"

**01 April** – Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka) published an article for the Observer Research Foundation: "[Sri Lanka's rejection of the UNHRC resolution: A shift towards China?](#)"

**01 April** – Mustafa Fetouri (Libya) published an article for the Middle East Monitor: "[Six obstacles on the road to Libya's December elections.](#)"

**01 April** – Asanga Abeyagoonasekera (Sri Lanka) published an article for ISAS – Singapore: "[Pakistan in Sri Lanka's Changing Foreign Policy.](#)"

**08 April** – Antonia Dimou (Greece) published an article for Modern Diplomacy: "[The Exceptionality of the Hashemite Rule in Jordan.](#)"

**08 April** – Mustafa Fetouri (Libya) published an article for Middle East Monitor: "[Is France honest in embracing Libya's new government?](#)"

**14 April** – Arslan Chikhaoui (Algeria) authored an article for the NESA website, "[North African Regional Integration: A New Paradigm.](#)"

**16 April** – Shanthie Mariet D'Souza (India) authored an article for the Middle East Institute: "[New Delhi's Afghan Quandary.](#)"

## NESA Upcoming Events

**Bay of Bengal Workshop** | 27–29 April 2021 | Virtual

**Regional Waters: Red Sea Smuggling Conundrum** | 17–18 May 2021 | Virtual

**Silk Road Future Leaders Alumni Workshop** | 25 May 2021 | Virtual

**Near East South Asia (NESA)  
Center for Strategic Studies**

Fort Lesley J. McNair  
National Defense University  
Abraham Lincoln Hall  
300 5th Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20319-5066

Phone: (202) 685-4131  
Fax: (202) 685-4999

**NESA-Center.org**

**Building Relationships**



**Enhancing Security**

 NESACenter

 @TheNESACenter

 Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies

 [Communications@NESA-Center.org](mailto:Communications@NESA-Center.org)