



NEAR EAST SOUTH ASIA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

# NESA Update

February – March 2023

## NESA Region Trends – CYBER

- **Pakistan continues to be in the eye of the storm with a political and judicial crisis** that further exacerbates the severe economic challenge the country faces. Pakistan's social and electronic media depicts political polarization that has now extended to the supreme court of Pakistan where various court judgments apparently support different political forces in the country. The primary contentious issue now revolves around the election date in coming months. The current government is allegedly delaying the national and provincial elections against the constitutional provisions while the opposition leader and former prime minister, Imran Khan, continues to galvanize his supporters who are demanding immediate elections.
- **Increased terrorist activity orchestrated by Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, also known as Pakistani Taliban, who are resurgent and hyperactive since the return of Afghan Taliban to power the corridors of Kabul. The Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas are volatile since this development and Pakistan's national security council has recently (early April) vowed to confront the challenge head on. It is doubtful if a major military operation in Pakistan is in the works as TTP cells are dispersed in adjacent urban areas and many TTP militants are enjoying a sanctuary in Afghanistan under the reign of their old ally – the Afghan Taliban. Afghanistan's unwillingness to act against TTP has repeatedly raised tensions between Islamabad and Kabul.
- **Iran and Israel keep confronting each other in different arenas, including the cyber domain.** Almost every week, there are reports on cyber attacks in both countries. No side takes credit or responsibility for such attacks. Based on open sources, this virtual rivalry is certain to intensify.
- **In the last few months, several rivals have taken initiatives to contain or de-escalate their confrontations.** The

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Engagement • Education • Outreach

## NESA Region Trends

list includes the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement, Turkey's warming relations with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Egypt, the re-integration of Syria in the Arab world, and the Abraham Accords. This significant wave of de-escalation has already started reducing tension in Yemen, Libya, and Lebanon. This wave of de-escalation is also likely to positively impact the cyber domain, meaning more cooperation and fewer cyber attacks.

# NESA Programs & Events

## **CTSES “Countering Narratives of Extremist Organizations: Managing Disinformation”**

From 27 February–3 March 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies hosted a Combating Transnational Threats Senior Executive Seminar (CTSES) titled “Countering Narratives of Extremist Organizations: Managing Disinformation” in Washington, D.C. NESA Center Deputy Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.), and Course Director Distinguished Professor Dr. Hassan Abbas started the seminar with a welcome and introduction. The five-day seminar focused on the potent and alarming dangers violent extremist organizations pose. Many states in the NESA region have undertaken strong measures to degrade, isolate, and destroy these organizations, but many still exist, and some are thriving. The violent extremist organizations have adapted and used technological advances, new media platforms, and new areas of operations to their advantage. The seminar analyzed the scope and extent of the challenge posed by extremist narratives. It facilitated conversations on lessons learned from effective campaigns, both in the hard and soft power domains and especially in countering extremist narratives. There was a particular focus on how extremist groups organize, recruit, utilize different means of communication—including disinformation campaigns, and build their narratives to think about strategies to counter these efforts. <https://nesa-center.org/ctses-countering-narratives-of-extremist-organizations>

## **CTSES “Countering Narratives of Extremist Organizations: Managing Disinformation”**

27 February–3 March 2023



*Course Director Dr. Hassan Abbas speaking to the group prior to the certificate ceremony.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## German Higher Officer's Seminar

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On 1 March 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies hosted a German Higher Officer's Seminar in Washington D.C. This seminar continues the proud tradition of hosting Washington Study visits of the German Staff Officer's Course, the German War Course, and the Higher Officer's Seminar in past years. Sessions included presentations on "Technological Developments in Warfare" with Distinguished Research Fellow Dr. T.X. Hammes of The Institute for National Strategic Studies and "Perspectives on the Ukraine War" with Associate Professor David Des Roches of the NESA Center. After each presentation, participants and speakers were encouraged to further contribute to the discussion with an off-the-record question and answer (under Chatham House rules of non-attribution). The academic lead was Professor David Des Roches. <https://nesa-center.org/german-higher-officers-seminar>

## German Higher Officer's Seminar

1 March 2023



*German Higher Officer's Seminar group photo on 1 March 2023 at National Defense University in Washington D.C.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## **NESA Roundtable with Nigar Göksel from Crisis Group Türkiye**

In acknowledgment of the one year since Russia began its full-scale invasion in Ukraine, Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies Executive Officer Sam Marrero moderated a roundtable with [Nigar Göksel](#) from Crisis Group Türkiye on Friday, 3 March 2023, on the **'Pros and Cons of Ankara's balancing act with the Ukraine-Russia War'** to discuss latest in the conflict and consider Türkiye's role. Topics considered at the roundtable included: Why Türkiye wants to remain in NATO? What sticks and carrots does Moscow have as leverage over Ankara? What opportunities exist for Türkiye given Moscow's potential weakening across the Turkic World "from the Adriatic to the Great Wall of China"?; Considering Türkiye has the 2nd largest standing military force in NATO, what would be the pros or cons of Türkiye flexing its muscles in the Black Sea maritime domain?; Is implementation of the grain deal lagging? How do economic considerations, domestic politics, and strategic thinking influence Türkiye's positioning in the Russia-Ukraine war? Göksel has been Türkiye Representative of Crisis Group since April 2015. She is also Türkiye/Cyprus Project Director. Based in Istanbul, she researches, produces reports, and conducts advocacy on regional and internal security issues in Türkiye and between Türkiye and its neighbors. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-roundtable-the-pros-and-cons-of-ankaras-balancing-act-with-the-ukraine-russia-war>

## **NESA Roundtable with Nigar Göksel from Crisis Group Türkiye**

3 March 2023



*Nigar Göksel (left) and Sam Marrero (right) during the roundtable on 3 March 2023.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## Tunisian National Defense Institute National Security Seminar

From 6–15 March 2023, the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies, in partnership with U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), held its twelfth annual Tunisian National Defense Institute (NDI) National Security Seminar for 49 senior government officials from 18 Tunisian agencies. Joining the program from the Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia here in Washington, D.C. were Elkansa Arfaoui Harbaoui, Counselor, and the new Defense Attaché S. Col Ferid Amor (a 2019 NDI graduate). Course Director Professor Anne Moisan led the seminar with this year's focus on developing resilient policy options to best and positively leverage Tunisian comparative advantages as it deals with the economic fallout of the Ukraine War. It was also centered on assisting the participants in their assigned research and to better equip them as Tunisia continues its democratic transition and addresses its short and long-term economic challenges exasperated by COVID-19. Sessions focused on long-term global trends, ongoing opportunities and challenges associated with Tunisia-U.S. bilateral relations, food and energy impacts on North Africa, insights on possible Biden Administration Middle East foreign policy as a result of the Ukraine conflict, the future direction of AFRICOM engagements, as well as on information pertinent to the class's assigned theme on food and energy insecurity. To that end, participants received presentations from fourteen speakers. <https://nesa-center.org/tndi-security-seminar>

## Tunisian National Defense Institute National Security Seminar 6–15 March 2023



*Group photograph of the TNDI National Security Seminar held from 6–15 March 2023.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## The 7th Great Power Competition Conference

On 7–9 March 2023, the Global and National Security Institute (GNSI) at the University of South Florida (USF), in collaboration with the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies, held the 7th Great Power Competition (GPC) Conference titled “The Current Rise of the Great Powers - The Struggle for Influence in the Middle East, Central, and South Asia.” The GPC Conference was part of a larger event, the GNSI Tampa Summit in Tampa, Florida, which was a new platform created by the Global and National Security Institute to bring together the best strategists, analysts, academics, and policy influencers. The GPC Conference is a semi-annual series of conferences focused on the strategic competition between the United States, Russia, and China, specifically in the Central Region, and the many varied issues that challenge the U.S. and its allies. <https://nesa-center.org/the-7th-great-power-competition-conference>

## The 7th Great Power Competition Conference

7–9 March 2023



# NESA Programs & Events

## **National Defense College of the United Arab Emirates Washington Study**

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The National Defense College (NDC) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sent a student delegation to the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies for two days of classroom instruction as part of their Washington Study Visit on 8–9 March 2023. Previously, the group visited the Pentagon, where they met with senior Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Joint Staff Middle East policy makers and toured the building with NESA Center Professor David Des Roches. The UAE NDC student group heard from leading experts on issues of modern security. Speakers included: David Des Roches, Associate Professor, NESA Center; Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, Professor, NESA Center; James Gallagher, President, The Gallagher Group LLC.; and Dr. Frank Hoffman, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University (NDU). The delegation's visit marks the latest step in a partnership between the NESA Center and the UAE Armed Forces Defense University. NESA has been a partner of the UAE NDC since its inception and has hosted visits from UAE armed forces groups for over a decade. Brigadier General (Navy) Mohammed Hamad Al Kaabi and UAE NDC Professor Dr. Nikolas Gardner led the delegation. The academic lead was Professor David Des Roches. <https://nesa-center.org/national-defense-college-of-the-united-arab-emirates-washington-study>

## **National Defense College of the United Arab Emirates Washington Study**

8–9 March 2023



*The National Defense College of the United Arab Emirates group photograph at National Defense University.*



# NESA Programs & Events

## **NESA Center Strategic Studies Network MENA Workshop**

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The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies held a Strategic Studies Network (SSN) meeting in Manama, Bahrain, from 14–16 March 2023. Twelve representatives of civil society from the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region participated in a roundtable discussion. NESA Center Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat led the meeting as the Course Director. The topics included climate change, energy transition, economic development, Iran, Abraham Accords, women peace and security, U.S. policy, and global power competition. In the last session, the Deputy Chief of Mission (U.S. Embassy Manama), David Brownstein, held a two-hour meeting with the participants and answered their questions on U.S. foreign policy. The SSN is a NESA Center initiative that promotes effective communications and strategic capacity through free and candid interaction in an academic environment to achieve regional cooperation for security issues.

## **NESA Center Strategic Studies Network MENA Workshop** 14–16 March 2023



*SSN MENA Workshop photo with Dr. Gawdat Bahgat (center-left) and David Brownstein (center-right) in the front center.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## 2023 NESA-IISS South Asia Security Forum

From 10–12 March 2023, the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies and its partner, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), co-hosted the 7th annual South Asia Security Forum in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. The NESA Center team Distinguished Professor Hassan Abbas, Distinguished Professor Ali Ahmad Jalali, and Adjunct Professor John Gill attended the forum, which brought together senior serving and former military and civilian officials and subject matter experts from India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The meeting featured topical issues of interest, including Afghanistan-related domestic and regional challenges that made a significant part of the discussions. <https://nesa-center.org/2023-nesa-iiss-south-asia-security-forum/>



*From the left: John "Jack" H. Gill (NESA Center Adjunct Professor) and Dr. Hassan Abbas (NESA Center Distinguished Professor of International Relations).*

# NESA Programs & Events

## **Qatar Armed Forces Doctrine & Concepts Visit**

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The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies hosted the visit of the Director of the Qatar Armed Forces Doctrine and Concepts Center, General Abdullah al-Ammari, and his staff on 15 March 2023 in Washington, D.C. NESA Center Deputy Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.) and NESA Center Academic Dean Dr. Roger Kangas met with the delegation, where they discussed the NESA mission and interaction with the Doctrine and Concepts Center. Afterwards, the delegation met with Associate Professor David Des Roches and reviewed NESA Center programs and proposals with Qatar. The NESA Center has a long history of academic events with Qatari Armed Forces and diplomatic services, and this visit continued to build upon that tradition. The academic lead was Professor David Des Roches. <https://nesa-center.org/qatar-armed-forces-doctrine-concepts-visit>

## **Qatar Armed Forces Doctrine & Concepts Visit**

15 March 2023



*Group photograph of the Qatar Armed Forces Doctrine and Concepts Center with the NESA Center.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## **NESA Center and Armenian National Defense Research University Strategic Dialogue**

From 27–31 March 2023, Near East South Asia (NESA) Center’s Academic Dean, Dr. Roger Kangas led a team consisting of Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, Associate Dean Charles Marks, and Professor Richard Wiersema to Yerevan, Armenia, in order to conduct a strategic dialogue with leadership, faculty, and analysts from the Armenian National Defense Research University (NDRU), in response to their invitation. The NESA Center team presented views concerning the nature of future conflict; Turkey, Iran, and NATO roles in the South Caucasus; Russian and Chinese influence in the region; regional implications of Russia’s war in Ukraine; and energy security issues. Following discussion of each topic, the approximately 40 Armenian participants then considered and debated applications of different strategic methods and approaches presented and critiqued by NESA Center faculty. In addition, the team visited the Institute for Oriental Studies, at the Armenia National Academy of Sciences, and exchanged views on regional policy and security issues with the analysts there. These engagements were sponsored through the U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) in Yerevan and opened opportunities for future collaboration with Armenian strategic studies experts and professional military education programs. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-center-and-armenian-national-defense-research-university-strategic-dialogue>

## **NESA Center and Armenian National Defense Research University Strategic Dialogue**

27–31 March 2023



*From the left: Dean Charles Marks, Professor Richard Wiersema, NDRU Commandant Major General Genadi Tavaratsyan, NESA Dean Dr. Roger Kangas, and Professor Dr. Gawdat Bahgat.*

# NESA Programs & Events

## **NESA Center Discussion with the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies**

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On 30 March 2023, a group from the Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies, including Deputy Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.); Professor Dr. Jennifer Jefferis; Professor Dr. Michael Sharnoff; and Executive Officer Sam Marrero met in the Director's office with Dr. Eitan Shamir, Director of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies. The BESA Center is an independent think tank affiliated with Bar-Ilan University in Israel. It analyzes Middle Eastern and global strategic issues, especially as they relate to the national security and foreign policy of Israel and regional peace and stability. Dr. Shamir shared his views on Israel's judicial reform and the series of Israeli protests that have challenged proposed changes to the country's legal system. He expressed his interest in partnering with the NESA Center for future engagements. <https://nesa-center.org/nesa-center-discussion-with-the-begin-sadat-center-for-strategic-studies>

## **NESA Center Discussion with the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies**

30 March 2023



*BESA Center Director Dr. Eitan Shamir engaging in discussion with the NESA Center team, including Deputy Director COL David Lamm, USA (Ret.) (on the left); Dr. Jennifer Jefferis (across the table); Dr. Michael Sharnoff; and Sam Marrero (to the far right).*

# NESA Programs & Events

## **West Point Model Arab League Saudi Orientation Program**

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On 30 March 2023, the NESA Center hosted a West Point United States Military Academy (USMA) Model Arab League (MAL) team at National Defense University in Washington, D.C. The group received briefings on Saudi history, including the development of the Saudi State and the Saudi Arabia oil industry. Associate Professor David Des Roches was the Course Director and led the group to the Saudi Embassy after the briefings for additional talks. <https://nesa-center.org/west-point-model-arab-league-saudi-orientation-program>

### **West Point Model Arab League Saudi Orientation Program**

30 March 2023



*Professor David Des Roches speaking to the group during the program on 30 March 2023.*

# NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

## Dr. Hassan Abbas



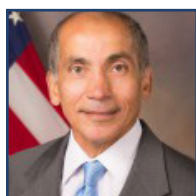
**19–20 March 2023** – Was a speaker at the Baghdad International Dialogue organized in Baghdad, Iraq. Presented on “Corruption and Governance Challenges: Global Best Practices.” The event was

attended by Iraq’s Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani. Around 150 participants attended the two-day conference to analyze developments in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein. Dr. Abbas was given an opportunity to present the prime minister with his recent book. <https://youtu.be/ZzWJTtWJRuA>



**21 March 2023** – Wrote the article “Five ways Iraq has changed since the U.S. invasion” for Grid News. “Twenty years later, a longtime visitor to Iraq describes a “new nation” in an ancient land — still struggling in the aftermath of war.” [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_Nm3R-16Cs3b-G2jJ6Znn7ygfAPHrqYEZ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_Nm3R-16Cs3b-G2jJ6Znn7ygfAPHrqYEZ/view)

**24 March 2023** – Authored an article titled “What Ramadan really means to me — and nearly 2 billion Muslims” for Grid News. “For many, Islam’s holy month involves much more than fasting prayer; it’s a “physical and spiritual cleanse” as well.” [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_0ahnBs6pL4rWHJkoQd74Kg9MM\\_t0OUA/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_0ahnBs6pL4rWHJkoQd74Kg9MM_t0OUA/view)



## Dr. Gawdat Bahgat

**31 March 2023** – Played roles in the publication of the new Chatham House paper on the Abraham Accords. Profes-

sor Gawdat Bahgat reviewed the manuscript, and Professor David Des Roches walked the authors through various issues on military cooperation before and during the writing. Both are mentioned in the acknowledgments.

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/2023-03-28-abraham-accords-israel-uae-normalization-vakil-quilliam.pdf>

## David Des Roches



**24 February 2023** – Participated in a closed meeting hosted by the Arab Gulf States Institute of Washington with H.E. Sarah Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology. <https://agsiw.org/programs/a-conversation-with-h-e-sarah-al-amiri-uae-minister-of-state-for-public-education-and-advanced-technology/>

<https://agsiw.org/programs/a-conversation-with-h-e-sarah-al-amiri-uae-minister-of-state-for-public-education-and-advanced-technology/>



**14 March 2023** – Moderated “The Impact of Growing Military and Civil Instability in the Middle East and North Africa Region” a review of indicators of conflict in the Middle East and North Africa compiled by Dr. Tony Cordesman for the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations. Dr. Cordesman produces periodic compilations of various indicators relating to Middle East energy and security.

**Report:** [http://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-02/230206\\_Cordesman\\_Changing\\_Strategic.pdf?VersionId=gZkZH3RmbBTwhKMURtHA03.NjhZ6RQNJ](http://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2023-02/230206_Cordesman_Changing_Strategic.pdf?VersionId=gZkZH3RmbBTwhKMURtHA03.NjhZ6RQNJ)

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-9hIEzhVKDE>

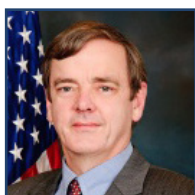
**29 March 2023** – Delivered a presentation on U.S. security issues in the Middle East to the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). GCSP runs a year-long program for international professionals in government. Most of them are diplomats or military officers. Professor Des Roches has been presenting on this subject for four years.

# NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

**31 March 2023** – Addressed the Model Arab League National Finals on Middle East/North Africa regional challenges. The National University Model Arab League (NUMAL) at George Washington University is a competitive educational activity in which various colleges represent members of the Arab League and debate resolutions as if they were those countries. This year's finals had about 450 participants. <https://ncusar.org/modelarableague/>



## John H. Gill



**29–30 March 2023** – Delivered a lecture on Intelligence and U.S. foreign policy at Adjunct Professor Gill's alma mater, Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. The lecture was held at the college's Rohatyn Center for Global

Affairs with both virtual and in-person attendance. He also gave a talk sponsored by Middlebury's career center, participated in a senior seminar on Indo-Pacific affairs, and took part in a class on South Asian identity and conflict. In the course of these events, he engaged with approximately 70 students, faculty, and alumni of the college community.



## Ali Ahmad Jalali



**15 February 2023** – Published the blog post "Russia's Poor Soldiering During the Failed Soviet Military Experience in Afghanistan" for LinkedIn. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/russias-poor-soldiering-during-failed-soviet-military-jalali>

**24 March 2023** – Spoke as a panelist for the webinar "What Can Afghanistan's Neighbours Do to Help Stabilization and Peacebuilding in Afghanistan?" presented by the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS), the Asian Studies Network (ASN), and the York Centre for Asian Research, York University. The webinar reviewed the policies of Afghanistan's neighbors towards the new regime in Kabul and the emerging patterns of regional cooperation and conflict in the region. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czpn3ifVQQM>

**Crisis at the Crossroads: What Can Afghanistan's Neighbours Do to Help Stabilization and Peacebuilding in Afghanistan?**

**Speakers:**

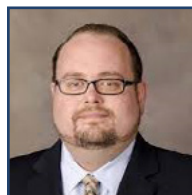
- Ahmed Rashid
- Shanthie Mariet D'Souza
- Xuecheng Li
- Serguei Plekhanov
- Farid Ahmad Tookhy
- Ali A. Jalali

**Moderator:** Roland Paris  
**Chair:** Nipa Banerjee

Friday, March 24th  
9:00am - 11:30am EDT  
Zoom



## Jeffrey Payne



**28 March 2023** – Briefed on the operations of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's (INDOPACOM) Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE) Climate Change Impact Engagement Efforts and Training Options.

**29 March 2023** – Had a discussion with senior fellows and the president of the Pacific Forum. Discussed Pacific Forum future efforts tied to critical technology cooperation throughout the Indo-Pacific. Conversations included topics



# NESA Faculty & Staff Engagement

pertaining to port information systems, telecommunications, and public-private tech development partnerships.

## Brianne Todd



**10 March 2023** – Spoke on an international expert panel on “Central Asia’s Geopolitical Importance: Western Policies and Agendas” for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting Regional Representative Office in Central Asia (IWPR CA). Conducted in English with Russian translation. <https://cabar.asia/en/central-asia-s-geopolitical-importance-western-policies-and-agendas>



**22 March 2023** – Attended the Nauryz celebration at the State Department hosted by the Embassies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. <https://www.inform.kz/ru/prazdnik-nauryz-otmetili-v-gosdepartamente-ssha-a4048789>

# NESA Alumni Activities & Contributions

02 March 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an Op-Ed for the Middle East Monitor: [“Libyans still insist on simultaneous presidential and legislative elections.”](#)

08 March 2023 – **Charani Patabendige (Sri Lanka)** published an article for Modern Diplomacy: [“Human Security Implications of Online Hate Speech against Women: the Barrier to Women’s Political Participation.”](#)

08 March 2023 – **Zine Labidine Ghebouli (Algeria)** wrote an article for the Middle East Institute: [“Algeria’s 2023 budget: President Tebboune’s make-or-break first-term project.”](#)

08 March 2023 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an article for The Diplomat: [“Turning a New Page in India-Germany Relations.”](#)

09 March 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** published an Op-Ed for the Middle East Monitor: [“Will a sudden agreement in Libya mean elections this year?”](#)

10 March 2023 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** co-authored an analysis for Mantraya: [“Taliban Incapacity and the growing threat of Islamic State-Khorasan Province.”](#)

14 March 2023 – **Eman Ragab (Egypt)** published an article for Ahram Online: [“Women and entrepreneurship.”](#)

15 March 2023 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** wrote an Op-Ed for FirstPost: [“Iran’s Taliban outreach poses a significant challenge to India’s Afghan policy.”](#)

21 March 2023 – **Shanthie D’Souza (India)** published an Op-Ed for The Diplomat: [“In Afghanistan, Taliban Face a Growing Threat in ISKP.”](#)

21 March 2023 – **Emadeddin Badi (Libya)** and Tarek Megerisi (Libya) published an Op-Ed for Middle East Eye: [“Libya elections: Has the UN lost the plot?”](#)

22 March 2023 – **Sarajeet S. Parmar (India)** wrote a policy brief for ISDP – Sweden: [“Engaging The Indo-Pacific: Some Pointers For Europe.”](#)

# NESA Alumni Activities & Contributions

23 March 2023 – **Nasser bin Nasser (Jordan)** published an Op-Ed for Jordan News: "[The implications of the regional race for talent.](#)"

23 March 2023 – **Mustafa Fetouri (Libya)** wrote an Op-Ed for the Middle East Monitor: "[Can Cairo torpedo the UN's plans in Libya despite its rapprochement with foe Ankara?](#)"

28 March 2023 – **Eman Ragab (Egypt)** published an Op-Ed for Ahram Online: "[After the Saudi-Iranian agreement.](#)"

30 March 2023 – **Tarek Megerisi (Libya)** published a policy brief for the European Council on Foreign Relations: "[Autumn of the patriarch: How to help Tunisians defend their democracy.](#)"

## Calendar

### Upcoming NESA Center Events:

- **MARSEC Digital Series: Tensions in the Indo-Pacific** | 6 April 2023 | Virtual
- **Lebanese Armed Forces Seminar** | 10–14 April 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **NESA Center Briefing at ARCENT Commander's Conference** | 20 April 2023 | Sumter, SC
- **Gulf Security Seminar** | 25–26 April 2023 | London, UK
- **Chatham House Iran Series** | TBD | London, UK
- **Saudi Arabia Fundamentals of Wargaming Program** | 1–5 May 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **KSA Staff Visit to CSC** | 1–5 May 2023 | Norfolk, VA
- **NESA-AFRICOM Workshop Series** | 1–3 May 2023 | Bangkok
- **WPS-NESA Alumni Workshop** | 1–5 May 2023 | Bangkok
- **Qatar Staff College Visit** | 1–5 May, 9 May 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **ARCENT Virtual Land Forces Intelligence Conference** | 9 May 2023
- **RJNDC Curriculum Review and 2023 Strategic Planning Meetings** | 8–9 May 2023 | Jordan
- **Washington Seminar** | 10 May 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Indian Ocean Island Forum** | 10–12 May 2023 | Bangkok
- **Army War College Staff Ride Seminar** | 16 May 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Silk Road Future Leaders Seminar** | 22–26 May 2023 | Washington, D.C.
- **Dynamics of Countering Human Trafficking in South Asia & the Gulf Workshop** | 22–26 May 2023 | Oman

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

**Near East South Asia (NESA)  
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**Building Relationships**



**Enhancing Security**

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