



## The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Israel and the Moshe Dayan Center (MDC) for Middle Eastern and African Studies

Cordially invite you to attend the twenty- seventh virtual meeting of the Hiwar Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

# Hiwar حوار

A KAS-MDC Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

### "The Day After the War"

WITH

**DR. OMAR AL-UBAYDLI** (Bahrain)

Economist and Director of Research at Derasat, Bahrain, He is also the lead of the MENA2050 Vision Team.

**ARIEL EZRAHI** (Israel)

Nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs, He is also a member of the MENA2050 Climate Action Committee

Moderator: **BRANDON FRIEDMAN, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, MDC, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY**

**WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

**16:00 - 17:30 (ISRAEL STANDARD TIME)**

**9:00 - 10:30 (EASTERN STANDARD TIME)**

**VENUE: ZOOM**

#### PROGRAM:

This meeting will be conducted in English.

16:00-16:05	<b>Opening remarks and brief introduction from Dr. Thomas Volk, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).</b>
16:05-16:10	<b>Dr. Brandon Friedman</b> introduces discussion and speakers.
16:10-16:50	<b>Discussion</b> between moderator and speakers.
16:50-17:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b> from audience to speakers.

[Please RSVP here](#)

The link to the event will be sent to the email used to register.

**Following the Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza, the MENA region is poised for a period of heightened tension and uncertainty. The conflict has exacerbated existing political divisions, deepened socio-economic challenges, and fueled widespread humanitarian suffering. The aftermath of the war is likely to see increased regional instability, with the potential for further violence, radicalization, and conflict spillover. Efforts towards peace and reconciliation will face significant challenges, requiring sustained international engagement and diplomatic initiatives. Rebuilding efforts in Gaza and addressing the root causes of the conflict will be paramount to preventing future escalation and fostering a more stable and prosperous future for the entire region.**

#### PANELISTS:

**Dr. Omar Al-Ubaydli** is an economist and Director of Research at Derasat, Bahrain, He is also the lead of the MENA2050 Vision Team. He holds affiliations as an associate professor of economics at George Mason University and as a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center. Dr. Al-Ubaydli also serves as an adjunct visiting professor at the King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals and holds non-resident fellowships at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington and Trends, UAE. With expertise in political economy, experimental economics, and the economics of the GCC countries, Dr. Al-Ubaydli has made significant contributions to academic research and policy analysis. Previously, he served on the Commonwealth of Virginia's Joint Advisory Board of Economists and taught economics at the University of Chicago. His research is widely published in international peer-reviewed academic journals, and he is a frequent contributor to Arabic and English-language newspapers and blogs such as AlHayat, The National, Forbes Opinion, and US News. Dr. Al-Ubaydli earned his BA in economics from the University of Cambridge and his MA and PhD in economics from the University of Chicago, solidifying his reputation as a leading authority in his field.

**Ariel Ezrahi** based in Berlin, is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs, where he spearheads a range of regional projects and initiatives. With expertise in energy and sustainability diplomacy, Ezrahi is a prominent figure in the media, providing valuable insights on critical issues facing the Middle East. Previously, he served as the inaugural director of energy at the Office of the Quartet, where he played a pivotal role in shaping energy strategies, including both conventional and renewable sources, and sustainability initiatives. Notably, Ezrahi was the driving force behind the Gas for Gaza project, chairing its task force and collaborating closely with key international stakeholders to advance this cornerstone Palestinian endeavor in collaboration with

Israel. Prior to his tenure with the Quartet, he served as Energy Adviser to former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, offering invaluable counsel on energy matters. With a background in corporate energy law and extensive experience in the Middle East and North Africa region, Ezrahi brings a wealth of knowledge to his current role. He holds an M.Phil. in modern Middle Eastern studies from the University of Oxford (St. Antony’s College), an LL.M in international law from Georgetown University, and an LL.B from the University of Manchester, underscoring his deep academic and professional expertise in the field.

Moderator: **Dr. Brandon Friedman** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. Brandon is also the Managing Editor of the Dayan Center’s journal *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review*.

**PLEASE NOTE**

We cordially invite the audience to participate in thirty minutes of Q&A with the speakers following a round of opening remarks.