



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

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

Hiwar

A KAS MDC Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

“Humanitarian Challenges in Gaza - A Collaborative Approach”

WITH

SARAH AWAIDAH (Palestinian Territories)

The Chief Operations Director of MENA2050. The Lead of MENA Aid Humanitarian Coalition.

YOTAM POLIZER (Israel)

The Global CEO of IsraAID. A leading partner at MENA Aid Humanitarian Coalition.

ARLAN FULLER (USA)

Project HOPE’s Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response

Moderator: **NIR BOMS, RESEARCH FELLOW, MDC, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY**

SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 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 **Opening remarks and brief introduction from Dr. Thomas Volk, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).**

16:05-16:10 **Dr. Nir Boms** introduces discussion and speakers.

16:10-16:50 **Discussion** between moderator and speakers.

16:50-17:30 **Q&A** from audience to speakers.

[Please RSVP here](#)

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

The October 7th massacre and the following War in Gaza have highlighted the significant humanitarian challenge that became part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the international agenda. The ongoing conflict in Gaza has already devastated its infrastructure, economy, and healthcare system, leaving the Palestinian population traumatized and in a state of perpetual emergency. The current campaign on Rafah and the closure of the Rafah crossing by Egypt have prompted the UN's humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths, to warn of an "apocalyptic" outcome. One major challenge in addressing this crisis is the difficulty in distributing aid. Blockades and security concerns have caused a critical shortage of resources. Reports of aid abuse by Hamas and efforts to find channels bypassing Hamas complicate Israeli attempts to collaborate with international partners and aid organizations. This issue has sparked political debate in Israeli society, with some advocating for halting aid to Gaza until Israeli hostages are released, while others support continued aid despite the risks. Our upcoming Hiwar will delve into these issues, featuring insights from ground-level partners in Gaza. Speakers will explore how Israeli, Palestinian, regional, and international organizations can collaborate effectively to alleviate the crisis and forge unexpected partnerships. We anticipate a thought-provoking discussion that will begin with an analysis of Gaza's current humanitarian situation.

PANELISTS:

Sarah Awaidah serves as the Chief Operations Director of MENA2050 and is a member of the Executive Committee, driving operational excellence and promoting regional cooperation. As the co-founder of MENA Aid, she led a coalition of 21 organizations, providing crucial assistance during the Turkey and North Syria Earthquake and extending support to the Moroccan Earthquake and the Flood in Libya. Concurrently managing the Hiwar joint project with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Tel Aviv University, Sarah facilitates critical discussions. Her expertise includes conflict transformation and studying the impact of World War II at Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany. Committed to breaking barriers, Sarah founded a language school offering courses in spoken Hebrew, English, and Arabic. Additionally, she operates a consultancy specializing in expert proposal writing. Notably, Sarah is an entrepreneur, managing her own business in the Palestinian Territories.

Yotam Polizer is the Global CEO of IsraAID, Israel’s biggest humanitarian NGO. He leads a team of over 300 professionals currently active in 16 countries, including a large-scale operation in Israel following the October 7th massacre. IsraAID is currently supporting 16 communities across the country, including Kibbutz Beeri, Nir Oz, the Nova survivors, and the Bedouin villages, with mental health support, education, and relief. Yotam is the 2023 Charles Bronfman award laureate. Following the August 2021 Afghanistan crisis, Yotam and partners led an operation to evacuate 167 at-risk Afghans from the Taliban. In the September 2015 refugee crisis in Europe, he led IsraAID’s humanitarian mission in Lesbos, Greece, to support Syrian refugees on the island and established IsraAID Germany to provide long-term support for Yazidi and Syrian refugees in Germany. Over the past 15 years, Yotam has built and led programs in Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, in

the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, and in South Korea to support the reintegration of North Korean defectors. He has also led missions in Nepal following the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake and in Sierra Leone in 2014 for Ebola survivors. Yotam has 15 years of experience in education, humanitarian aid, and international development. Prior to his work at IsraAID, Yotam worked in the Israeli Embassy in Nepal and was the program coordinator for Tevel Btzedek, an Israeli NGO focused on long-term development programs in the Himalayas. Yotam serves on the board of directors of SID (Society of International Development) and the advisory board of Justserve, an international service initiative. He is a Schusterman Fellow and graduated from Tel Aviv University and Israeli Open University, where he studied African studies and international relations.

Arlan Fuller is Project HOPE’s Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response. With over 20 years of experience in international development, humanitarian programming and human rights, he oversees the organization’s response efforts in natural disasters and humanitarian crises. In his current and previous roles, he has engaged with people and communities affected by disaster or conflict in Haiti, Gaza, Lebanon, Turkiye, Kosovo, Sudan, Somalia, Morocco, Uganda, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, and Thailand. Before Project HOPE, Arlan was the Chief Operating Officer for Conflict Dynamics International, a nonprofit organization working on building peace in communities affected by conflict in Sudan and Somalia. He also served as Executive Director of the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where he led field studies and policy analysis on health access in settings of disaster, conflict, and social marginalization. Arlan has additional experience working on global health and international development issues in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Originally from Boston, Massachusetts, he earned a JD from Boston College Law School, a Master’s degree in Peace Studies from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the College of the Holy Cross.

Moderator: **Dr. Nir Boms** manages the MDC Program on Regional Cooperation. He serves as a research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University where he is the Chairman of the Syria Research Forum and the Gulf Israel Policy Forum as well as the coordinator of the TAU Workshop on Israel and the Middle East and the Hiwar Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue. His recent book, "The Syrian War: Between Justice and Political Reality" (Cambridge university Press, 2020) is an edited volume on the Syrian War (2011 - 2019).

PLEASE NOTE

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