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

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

Hiwar

A KAS-MDC Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

"RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE ONE YEAR LATER AND ITS IMPACT ON THE MIDDLE EAST"

WITH

SAMUEL BARNAI (Israel)

Lecturer at the European Forum, the Rothberg International School, and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

MICKY ROZIN-AHARONSON (Israel)

Former Foreign Policy Adviser and Chief of Staff to the Israeli Minister of Transportation.

NAJAT AL-SAIED (United Arab Emirates)

Columnist and author of the book *Twitter Diplomacy: Media Polarization Before & After the Abraham Accords*.

Moderator: **BRANDON FRIEDMAN**

WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2023

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 Lina Michelsen, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and Moshe Dayan Center Hiwar staff

16:05-16:10

Dr. Brandon Friedman 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.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine began slightly over one year ago, at the end of February, 2022. The invasion was extraordinary, unexpected and fundamentally changed the world in which we live. In particular, it shattered assumptions about the post-cold war era and more importantly, the sustainability of peace in Europe over the long-term. Given Russia's significant involvement in multiple countries across the Middle East and North Africa, the invasion has also had a significant impact on the Middle East and the relations between countries in our region. Further, in this month's Hiwar, we will discuss important questions stemming from Russia's extended war with Ukraine along with lessons learned from the last year. Questions such as: how has the war affected food security and economic stability in the region? How has the war affected the region's relations with great powers? And has it led to new diplomatic messaging from regional states?

PANELISTS:

Dr. Samuel Barnai is an Adjunct Lecturer at the European Forum and at the Rothberg International School (at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and with the Department of Jewish History at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Dr. Barnai received his PhD from The Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is also a Research Fellow at the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism, and a member of the 2020 – 2021 Young Scholars' Forum in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Barnai specializes in large-scale studies of historical, socio-demographic, and cultural developments in East-Central Europe.

Ms. Rozin-Aharonson is an expert on national security, specializing in the Middle East, superpowers, Russia and Israel. She recently served as the Foreign Policy Adviser and Chief of Staff to the Minister of Transportation in Israel. Prior to rejoining the civil service, she was a research fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security. Her recent writings have focused on international involvement in the Middle East and the impact on Israel's national security – including regional developments such as Russia's role in the Middle East. Prior to joining JISS, Ms. Rozin-Aharonson concluded nearly a decade of service at the National Security Council in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office as Senior Director of the Diplomatic Secretariat.

Dr. Najat Al-Saied is a columnist for *Al-Ittihad* (an Arabic language newspaper published daily in the United Arab Emirates) and also a columnist at *Al-Hurra* (an American satellite television news channel in Arabic). After the Abraham Accords, and starting from January 2021, she joined different Israeli media outlets including *Israel Hayom*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and the *Jewish Press*, to write about current political issues in the MENA region. She is also the author of the book *Twitter Diplomacy: Media Polarization Before & After the Abraham Accords*.

Moderator: Dr. Brandon Friedman is the Director of Research and a Senior Research Fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC), Tel Aviv University, where he is also a member of the Faculty of Humanities. He is the Managing Editor of *Bustan: The Middle East Book Review*, jointly published by the MDC and Penn State University Press.

PLEASE NOTE

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