

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

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

Hiwar Forum

A KAS-MDC Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

"UKRAINE, RUSSIA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST"

WITH

KSENIA SVETLOVA (Israel)

Director of Program on Israel-Middle East Relations, Former Member of Knesset

AHMET KASIM HAN (Turkey)

Professor, Istanbul Aydin University

ABDULAZIZ ALKHAMIS (UAE/Saudi Arabia)

Presenter on SkyNews Arabia and Arab News Network

Moderator: **BRANDON FRIEDMAN**

WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2022

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. Beatrice Gorawantschy, 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.

*This event is being held under the [Chatham House Rule](#).

In the aftermath of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, world leaders and citizens have condemned the Kremlin's actions. The Middle East's complex association with its Russian counterpart has strained Gulf-Russian, Israeli-Russian, and Israeli-American relations. Several factors demonstrate Israel's ambiguous behavior during the Russia-Ukraine War. First, Israeli military operations in Lebanon and Syria to prevent a buildup of Iranian-shipped arms are carried out with little Russian interference. Israeli coordination with the Russians (via the Khmeimim Air Base in western Syria) has already begun to feel Russian pressure to curtail operations in Syria. Ukrainian and Russian communities in Israel, many of whom still have family in both countries, places Israel closer to the conflict as well. Finally, Israel's position as an ally of the US and its need to maintain friendly relations with Russia places the country as a potential actor for mediation, as we have seen with the recent visit of PM Bennett to Moscow. The Gulf faces other dilemmas navigating between the US and Russia. The recent spike in oil prices is likely to benefit the Gulf in the short term and despite British, American, and French requests, Saudi Arabia will not increase oil output. The UAE, however, a temporary member of the United Nations Security Council, voted along with Israel and the other Gulf countries in favor of the March 2nd UN resolution calling for an end to the violence in Ukraine. The crisis is likely to have long term effects on the regional energy market and perceptions of regional alliances. Our meeting will focus on further analysis of the Ukraine crisis on the Middle East.

PANELISTS:

Ksenia Svetlova is the director of the program on Israel-Middle East relations, an expert on Middle Eastern Studies, and a former member of Knesset. Svetlova was born in Moscow, Russia, and her family made aliyah to Israel in 1991. She holds a BA and an MA in journalism and Middle Eastern Studies from Hebrew University and is fluent in Arabic. She had served for 14 years as a reporter and analyst on Arab Affairs on Channel 9, covering Gaza, West Bank and Arab countries. In the 20th Knesset she served as member of Knesset and was a member of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defense committee. Today, she serves as a director of the Israel-Middle East program at Mitvim institute for regional foreign policy, and a fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy at Reichman University.

Dr. Ahmet Kasim Han presently serves as the Vice-Rector of İstanbul Aydin University and is also a member of faculty at the Department of International Relations of School of Economics and Administrative Sciences of the same institution. He is also adjunct professor of strategy at the Institute of Strategic Studies of the National Defense University. Previously, he served as Vice-Rector of Altinbas University, as well as Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Director and Board Member of various research centers and faculty member in Altinbas, Kadir Has, Istanbul and Istanbul Bilgi Universities. Dr. Han is the vice-chairman of Turkish Democracy Foundation, member of the board of EDAM, a leading independent Turkish think-tank and an advisory board member for Turkish - American Business Council. He served as the Chief International Relations Advisor of the Turkish Exporters Assembly from 2003 to 2006. He served as academic advisor to Armed Forces Higher Command and Control College for Joint Operations where he also thought courses on strategic thinking and Middle East and has thought for NATO/COE-DAT and NATO/PfP Training Center in Turkey and abroad. He is a graduate of Istanbul University Faculty of Economics and received his Ph.D. on International Relations from the same institution. Post his doctorate degree he has studied negotiations at Harvard University. In 2003 he has been awarded a "Young Leaders of Europe" fellowship by the Department of State of the United States of America. He has served as a visiting fellow in the Center for Syrian Studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland and in the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He is a senior associate research fellow for Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale and a Turkey panel expert and member of trilateral instituto dialogue for German Marshall Fund of the United States. Dr. Han has been assigned as a NATO/ TOLA observer in Afghanistan twice in 2005 and 2010 and has testified before the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Dubrovnik in 2013. He is a founding member of the International Relations Council of Turkey. He is widely consulted and quoted by the international and domestic news outlets. Han specializes in Turkish foreign policy, Middle East, Energy, strategic studies, strategic thinking, negotiations strategy and focuses on systemic change in international relations.

Abdulaziz Alkhamis is a Saudi journalist and researcher who is currently a presenter for the SkyNews Arabia program Friendly Fire and the Gulf Talk Program in the Arab News Network. Living in Abu Dhabi, he is also a researcher of the Royal Institute of International Relations (Chatham House). He holds a BA degree in Social Sciences and a graduate degree in Sociology from Milton Keynes University. He has been an editor or editor-in-chief at numerous newspapers in magazines throughout the Middle East, while simultaneously publishing multiple research papers related to the Middle East and the Gulf.

Moderator: Dr. Brandon Friedman is the Director of Research 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*. His research during the past three years has focused on three primary areas. First, he continues to investigate the social origins of political reform in Saudi Arabia, in historical perspective. He has also written about regional politics since the Arab Spring, focusing on identifying the social and political processes driving the breakdown of the state order across the region, with a particular emphasis on the Saudi perception of developments in Iraq and Syria. Third, in line with a new research program he has been working on with the Department of East Asian Studies, he has researched China's increasing engagement in the Middle East since the early 1990s. Brandon has been active in "Track II" initiatives on regional security issues since 2007. Brandon's PhD research focused on the political relations between the rulers of the Persian Gulf littoral during the period of British military withdrawal from the region (1968 to 1971). He reads Arabic and Persian.

PLEASE NOTE

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