From Revolution to Democracy: Lessons for Political Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa

Tuesday, May 10 from 9:30 to 11:00am
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Kenny Auditorium, Nitze Building
1740 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Forum Details:
As political turmoil continues throughout the Middle East and North Africa, a moment for conflict prevention presents itself. Tunisia and Egypt are navigating a difficult road to democracy while many of their neighbors are still in the midst of political unrest and revolt. What is needed to support these transitions? Looking to South Africa and Indonesia as examples, we will explore the complex space between political unrest, transitions away from autocracy, and the development of democracy. What does Middle Eastern history tell us about what may or may not work in the different countries of the region.

Speakers

Endy Bayuni
Visiting Fellow, East-West Center

Michele Dunne
Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Peter Gastrow
Senior Fellow and Director of Programs, International Peace Institute

Moderator
Leena El-Ali
Director, Muslim-Western Relations and Middle East & North Africa Programs, Search for Common Ground

Speaker Bios:

Endy Bayuni
Mr. Endy Bayuni is a Visiting Fellow at the East-West Center in Washington and formerly Editor-in-Chief of The Jakarta Post. Mr. Bayuni writes regular and widely read columns commenting on Indonesian domestic politics, including political Islam and foreign policy conduct. He was with the Jakarta Post from 1991 until 2010 and served in various positions, including national editor, managing editor and deputy chief editor. Mr. Bayuni was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2003/4 and a Jefferson Fellow at the East West Center in the fall of 1999. He has a B.A. in economics which he received from Kingston University in Surrey, UK.

Michele Dunne
Michele Dunne is a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and editor of the online journal, the Arab Reform Bulletin. She previously worked as a specialist on Middle East affairs at the U.S. Department of State and White House, where she served in assignments including the National Security Council staff, the Secretary of State’s Policy Planning Staff, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, and the Department of State’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. She holds a Ph.D. in Arabic language and literature from Georgetown University.
Peter Gastrow
Peter Gastrow is a Senior Fellow and Director of Programs at the International Peace Institute. He forms part of the Coping with Crisis program and focuses on multilateral responses to new transnational security threats. Mr. Gastrow was previously the Cape Town Director of the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. He has served as expert adviser to the South African government and as a member of various expert groups and panels of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Mr. Gastrow served as a member of the South African parliament and participated in the establishment of the National Peace Accord in 1991. He has served as a member of the National Peace Committee and of the National Peace Secretariat. In December 1993 he was appointed chairperson of the Law and Order Sub-Council, which formed part of South Africa’s transitional government structures. In 1993, he spent six months as a fellow at USIP in Washington DC writing a monograph ‘Bargaining for Peace: South Africa and the National Peace Accord’. After the April 1994 election, Mr. Gastrow was appointed as special adviser to South Africa’s Minister for Safety and Security and was chairperson of the Minister’s Interim Advisory Team.

Moderator Bio:

Leena El-Ali
Leena El-Ali has been Director of Muslim-Western Relations and Middle East and North Africa programs since 2005. She started SFCG’s programs in Lebanon (2008) and Pakistan (2009). Leena grew up in Lebanon, England and Sierra Leone, and studied Economics at the American University of Beirut and Oxford University. In 1989, she began her working life in London where she spent over a decade as a fund manager and debt strategist in the City before turning to an entrepreneurial career. In 2005 she moved to the U.S. and joined SFCG in Washington. Leena is bilingual in English and Arabic and speaks French, Spanish and the Pidgin English of Sierra Leone (Krio).

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