



**WIIS THIS WEEK**  
January 26 – February 2, 2014

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## EVENTS IN WASHINGTON, DC

### **CONFLICT IN SYRIA: GENEVA II AND THE ROAD AHEAD**

**Date:** Monday, Jan. 27, 2014

**Time:** 12:00 PM

**Location:** 1828 L Street NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** the Washington Institute for Near East Policy

As the international community prepares to meet on the Syria crisis in Montreux and Geneva on January 22 and 24, many questions remain regarding what can be agreed on at the negotiating table -- and to an even greater extent, what can be implemented on the ground. To discuss the outcome of the scheduled talks and the road ahead, The Washington Institute is pleased to host a Policy Forum featuring the varied perspectives of three Washington Institute experts on Syria: Andrew J. Tabler, Jeffrey White, and Aaron Y. Zelin. Tabler will focus on the regime and the opposition, White on the military situation, and Zelin on Salafi dynamics. Ambassador James F. Jeffrey will introduce the speakers and offer commentary.

**Featuring:**

- Andrew Tabler, Senior Fellow, Program on Arab Politics, the Washington Institute
- Jeffrey White, Defense Fellow, the Washington Institute
- Aaron Zelin, Richard Borow Fellow, the Washington Institute
- Amb. James Jeffrey, Philip Solondz Distinguished Fellow, the Washington Institute

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### **#WARCRIMES #POSTCONFLICTJUSTICE #BALKANS**

**Date:** Monday, Jan. 27, 2014

**Time:** 12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Location:** 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** the Wilson Center

Past post-conflict justice processes in the Balkan region were comprised of a variety of protagonists, such as governments, international institutions, and civil society. Mechanisms to cope with mass atrocities committed during the conflict in the 1990s included international trials in The Hague, domestic trials in many of the former states of Yugoslavia, and several truth commission attempts. In recent years there has also been a rise in youth activism to confront war crimes. However, literature in transitional justice that addresses this phenomenon remains underdeveloped. This research draws on over two-dozen in-depth interviews with youth activist leaders across the former Yugoslavia focusing on their performance-based campaigns. Additional data was collected from online prosopographic analysis—which consists of studying common characteristics of these activists by means of a collective study of their lives and careers. In his findings, the author explains why the

emergence of transitional justice youth activism in the Balkans falls short of the significant institutional reforms of earlier youth movement mobilizations in the regions. He also throws light on why their performance activism is distinct from practices of older, established human rights organizations in the region. Notwithstanding, he argues that this performance-based advocacy work has fueled the creation of a new spatiality of deliberation—so called strategic confrontation spaces—to contest the culture of impunity and challenge the politics of memory in the former Yugoslavia.

**Featuring:**

- Arnaud Kurze, Professor, New York University; Visiting Scholar, Center for Global Studies, George Mason University

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**FILM SCREENING: GIRL RISING**

**Date:** Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 PM

**Location:** John Burton Library, 3330 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA

**Sponsor:** School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University

The movie tells the stories of nine girls from different parts of the world who face arranged marriages, child slavery, and other heartbreaking injustices. Despite these obstacles, the brave girls offer hope and inspiration. By getting an education, they're able to break barriers and create change. Each girl's story was written by a renowned writer from her native country.

**THE ROLE OF ECONOMICS IN DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS: BURMA**

**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 PM

**Location:** 1025 F Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** the International Forum for Democratic Studies, the National Endowment for Democracy; the Legatum Institute; *World Affairs*; Democracy Lab

What are the elements that shape the outcome of a country's transition from authoritarianism to democracy? All too often policy analysts focus on political processes while the vital role of economic reform in determining democratic success or failure is frequently overlooked. While the military junta attempted to liberalize Burma's economy in the 1990s, these efforts failed due in part to a highly repressive political environment, a lack of rule of law, and the effects of international sanctions, all of which discouraged foreign investment in the authoritarian country. The political motivation required for real economic reform was too weak to encourage change. Now Burma is undergoing a rapid political and economic transformation, driven in part by unsustainable socio-economic conditions. Since Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest in November 2010 the country has taken steps towards greater openness, including the swearing in of Thein Sein as president in 2011 and the progressive lifting of sanctions by the US and EU. Yet Burma is still in a very early phase of transition and its future path is uncertain. Making a successful transition will depend on economic reform that can deliver on the promise of democracy and generate improvement across Burma's fractured society.

**Featuring:**

- Gwen Robinson, Senior Fellow, Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

**Moderator:**

- Anne Applebaum, Director, Global Transitions, Legatum Institute

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### **NUCLEAR WEAPONS: DO WE EVEN NEED THEM?**

**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014

**Time:** 8:00 – 9:30 PM

**Location:** 2201 G Street, Fungler Hall, Room 207, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** Women in International Security at George Washington University

**Featuring:**

- Rebecca Heinrichs, Visiting Fellow, the Heritage Foundation

RSVP at [rebekahj@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:rebekahj@gwmail.gwu.edu)

### **ARAB SPRING OR ARAB AUTUMN: WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE ARAB UPRISINGS**

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014

**Time:** 3:00 – 4:30 PM

**Location:** 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** the Wilson Center

In 2010 as young people across the Arab world began to rise up and demand a new kind of politics, women were active as leaders and participants, taking part in demonstrations, making their voices heard, and seeking change. Talk of an Arab Spring has now been succeeded by warnings about diminished human rights and democracy in the region. Within this complex and evolving picture, what are the prospects for expanding women's rights? What is the evolving role of women in shaping the future of the region? Join us for a panel discussion where speakers will discuss key challenges and opportunities for women's participation and rights in various countries in the region. The event will highlight insights from a new CARE research report analyzing women's political participation in countries such as Egypt, Yemen, and Morocco.

**Featuring:**

- Sherine Ibrahim, Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and Eastern Europe, CARE

- Maryam Jamshidi, Founder, Muftah.org; Author, "The Future of the Arab Spring: Civic Entrepreneurship in Politics, Art, and Technology Startups"

**Moderator:**

- Haleh Esfandiari, Director, Middle East Program, the Wilson Center

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### **THE POLITICS OF ENERGY DEPENDENCY: UKRAINE BELARUS AND LITHUANIA BETWEEN DOMESTIC OLIGARCHS AND RUSSIAN PRESSURE**

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:00 PM

**Location:** 1957 E Street NW, Voesar Conference Room, Suite 412, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, the Elliott School, George Washington University

Recent events in Ukraine again bring up the question of countries' energy policy choices and the role of powerful domestic groups in relation to Russia and the EU. The Politics of Energy Dependency looks at these issues from the perspective of post-independence energy politics in three post-Soviet states: Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania. It compares these three states' reactions to the serious external shock of their sudden transformation from constituents of a single energy-rich state to separate energy-poor entities heavily dependent on Russia, as well as politically-independent transit states. Using extensive field research and until now untapped local sources in Ukrainian, Belarusian, Russian, and Lithuanian, the book analyzes how these states' unique location, powerful domestic economic actors often making a profit of their situation of energy dependency and Russian power,

has affected Russia's ability to use energy as a foreign policy tool in the region, and these states' own political development.

**Featuring:**

- Margarita M. Balmaceda, Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University

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**MANAGING DIVERSITY IN DIVIDED SOCIETIES: RESEARCH AND PRACTICE**

**Date:** Thursday – Friday, Jan. 30 – 31, 2014

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

**Location:** 3700 O Street NW, Copley Formal Lounge, Washington, DC

**Sponsor:** Conflict Resolution Program, Georgetown University

In a globalized world with increased migration and mobility, diversity has become a central issue in society and government. Differences in race, ethnicity, language, religion, gender, and sexuality have both enriched societies and fueled tensions. In this light, conflict-affected communities encounter unique challenges to the implementation and realization of diversity. However, they also offer valuable perspectives and practices that can serve as model for other societies. We have yet to determine under which conditions diversity can be best utilized for the well-being of society rather than constituting a dividing force. Approaches by government have varied significantly between a laissez-faire policy and formal intervention utilized to foster multiculturalism or assimilation. Civil society groups have similarly struggled to bridge divides while recognizing differences. This conference seeks to address this puzzle by bringing together leading researchers, practitioners, and graduate students who are engaging with issues of diversity. We hope to evoke synthesis among varying perspectives to locate best practices and identify further gaps in research.

**Keynote:**

- Susan Collin Marks, Senior Vice President, Search for Common Ground

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## EVENTS OUTSIDE OF DC AREA

**UNIVERSITY IN EXILE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014

**Time:** 2:00 – 7:30 PM

**Location:** 63 5th Avenue, Tishman Auditorium, New York, NY

**Sponsor:** the New School

The University-in-Exile was created in 1933 as a refuge for European intellectuals facing persecution by the Nazi regime. It was the brainchild of Alvin Johnson, the president of The New School for Social Research, and helped facilitate the immigration of European scholars who would go on to enrich the American academic landscape and deepen connections between Europe and the United States in numerous disciplines. This event marks the 80th anniversary of the University in Exile at The New School and calls attention to the urgent need to continue protecting scholars around the world who are being persecuted and silenced.

**Featuring:**

- Samantha Power, US Ambassador to the UN

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**GOD, COUNTRY, AND THE BOMB: HOW RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY SHAPE NUCLEAR NARRATIVE IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014

**Time:** 12:15 – 2:00 PM

**Location:** Belfer Center Library, Littauer-369, Cambridge, MA

**Sponsor:** Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University

Iran and Pakistan have generated much debate with their respective nuclear dossier and nuclear weapons program. Both countries are Muslim-majority states, where religion and nationalism have shaped nuclear narrative. Ariane Tabatabai will examine the complex relationship between religious and national identities in both countries and their influence in fashioning nuclear narrative.

**Featuring:**

- Ariane Tabatabai, Stanton Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellow, International Security Program/Project on Managing the Atom

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## EVENTS ABROAD

**SECURITY AND WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN EGYPT LIBYA AND YEMEN**

**Date:** Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2014

**Time:** 5:00 – 6:30 PM

**Location:** The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE

**Sponsor:** Saferworld; Chatham House

Since the 2011 Arab uprisings, Yemen, Egypt and Libya have been caught in an unpredictable and often volatile political transition. This event will explore the impact of this ever-changing political landscape on women's public and political participation. The speakers will discuss the ways in which fear of escalating violence, crime, harassment and slander have reduced women's ability to mobilize and organize. They will also highlight initiatives and responses by activists, women's groups and civil society to address these challenges.

**Moderator:**

- Helen Twist, Manager, Middle East and North Africa Program, Chatham House

**Featuring:**

- Joshua Rogers, Egypt and Libya Program Coordinator, Saferworld

- Sara Khorshid, Egyptian Women's Rights Activist; Journalist

- Intisar Aladhi, Yemeni Women's Rights Activist; Founder, All Girls Foundation for Development

- Rida al-Tubuli, Libyan Women's Rights Activist; Founder "Together We Build" Movement

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**DIVISION AND CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND KEY ACTORS**

**Date:** Friday, Jan. 31, 2014

**Time:** 10:30 – 11:30 AM

**Location:** The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, 10 St James's Square,

London SW1Y 4LE

**Sponsor:** Chatham House

The political crisis in South Sudan that erupted in December 2013 has already claimed thousands of casualties and caused hundreds of thousands to be displaced. Fighting between government and rebel troops endures while peace talks continue in Addis Ababa, with little sign of resolution. This event will examine the political context in South Sudan, the key stakeholders in the ongoing conflict and negotiations, recent and possible changes to the South Sudanese government and their implications, including for potential elections in 2015, and the South Sudanese government's capacity to deliver services and build institutions in the medium to long term.

**Featuring:**

- Annette Weber, Head of Research, Middle East and Africa Division, SWP
- Peter Biar Ajak, Director, Centre for Strategic Analyses and Research, South Sudan

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