

ICSR Update

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008

ICSR is a unique partnership in which King's College London, the University of Pennsylvania, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, and the Regional Center on Conflict Prevention Amman are equal stakeholders.

Our joint mission is to bring together knowledge and leadership to counter the growth of radicalisation and political violence.

Dear Friend,

As you can see from this newsletter, ICSR has had an extremely busy summer, with events in three continents and two new projects that have recently been launched.

Let me highlight in particular the paper we launched in New York in late August. Richard Barrett, the head of UN's Al Qaeda/Taliban Monitoring Team, chose ICSR as the venue through which to provide his latest assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of Al Qaeda seven years after the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. The paper has been cited widely, and has made an important contribution to making the ongoing debate about Al Qaeda more informed.

I am also pleased about the way in which our project on Countering Online Radicalisation has gained traction. Thanks to the efforts of Tim Stevens, Andreas Berg and the whole ICSR team, we will be able to launch an innovative report with practical recommendations on how online radicalisation can be counteracted in January. We know that policymakers in Europe and beyond are keen to hear our ideas, and I believe this project will be an excellent example of how ICSR fulfils its mission of bringing together knowledge and leadership.

If you have any questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dr. Peter Neumann
Director, ICSR

Chief of UN's Al Qaeda Monitoring Team Launches ICSR Paper

Richard Barrett, the U.N.'s highest ranking official responsible for monitoring the activities of Al Qaeda and the Taliban, presented a comprehensive assessment of these organisations at an ICSR event in New York on 22 August.

Part of the ICSR Future Actions Series, Barrett's paper – written in his personal capacity – offers a blueprint for defeating Al Qaeda and the Taliban with a precise mix of military and political means. 'Seven Years After 9/11: Al Qaida's Strengths and Vulnerabilities' can be downloaded on the ICSR web site at <http://www.icsr.info/Papers>. Hard copies of the booklet are available for a nominal charge of £1 (€1.50, \$2). Place your order by sending an email to mail@icsr.info.

European Commission Releases ICSR/King's Study

The European Commission released an ICSR/King's College London study on how Islamist militants in Europe are recruited and mobilised. The study is entitled 'Recruitment and Mobilisation for the Islamist Militant Movement in Europe' and was commissioned by the EU in late 2006.

Based on extensive fieldwork in Britain, France and Spain, the report provides the most comprehensive picture to date of the methods through which Islamist militants in Europe mobilise their supporters and find new recruits. Along with three other studies, it will form the basis for EU policy-making on the issue of preventing violent radicalisation, bringing together knowledge and leadership to counter the growth of radicalisation and political violence.

An executive summary of findings and recommendations can be found below. The full report can be downloaded on the ICSR web site at <http://www.icsr.info/Papers>. Or visit the European Commission's web site at http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/terrorism/prevention/fsj_terrorism_prevention_pr_event_en.htm

What Others Say about ICSR

"When I was in government, I wished that something like ICSR existed. It's extremely important for those of us making the policies to have a forum from which to get independent expert advice and analysis to help with some of the tough questions that you don't have the time to examine in depth."

Rt Hon Kim Campbell,
former Prime Minister of
Canada

"There are few areas of domestic or international public policy where the case for exploration and enquiry is more pressing, where the need for understanding... is more urgent. I applaud you on this important initiative."

Rt Hon Jacqui Smith,
UK Home Secretary

ICSR

King's College London
138-142 Strand
London WC2R 1HH
United Kingdom

P +44 (0) 207 848 2065
F +44 (0) 207 848 2748
E mail@icsr.info

<http://www.icsr.info>

If you do not wish to receive *ICSR Update*, unsubscribe by sending a blank email to mail@icsr.info.

Projects in Progress

Radicalisation in Europe and North America. Ryan Evans was appointed as lead researcher at the ICSR offices in London. The project aims to find out what drives people to embrace extreme types of activism, specifically focusing on radical groups and movements in the US and Europe. The project involves institutional partnerships with the Swedish National Defence College and the START Consortium at the University of Maryland

Countering Online Radicalisation. The project – led by Tim Stevens – is the first study that brings together industry, government, experts and civil society to propose practical ways through which online radicalisation can be counteracted. Extensive interviews as well as multi-stakeholder workshops have been held, and the final report – eagerly anticipated by policymakers in the UK and beyond – will be released in January.

First Atkin Fellows Arrive – New Atkin Fellows Named

Atkin Fellows Amal Abusrour from the Palestinian Territories and Sefi Kedmi from Israel are now conducting research at the ICSR offices in London. The second 'pair' of Atkin Fellows – Oday Karsh from the Palestinian Territories and Yaniv Ofek of Israel – will arrive in February 2009.

Thanks to the generosity of the Atkin Foundation, ICSR offers young leaders from Israel and the Arab world the opportunity to come to London to develop their ideas on how to further peace and understanding in the Middle East through research, debate and constructive dialogue. Our hope is that the Atkin Fellowships will be successful in building a network of future Israeli and Arab leaders, who – through their joint involvement in research and debate – will build personal relationships that may help to lessen the impact of political crises and facilitate the building of peace. More information about the Atkin Fellowships can be found at www.icsr.info/project/atkin.

Events

(Unless stated otherwise, events take place at ICSR in London)

Radicalisation Workshop – World Summit on Counter-terrorism. On 11 September, ICSR hosted a workshop on de-radicalisation as part of the World Summit on Counter-terrorism at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at IDC Herzliya. Panelists included Magnus Ranstorp, Bob de Graaff, Tony Heal, Joel Mowbray and Shiraz Maher.

Pathways to Jihad in Pakistan On 26 August, ICSR Associate Fellow Laila Bokhari shared the results of her first-hand research into radicalisation pathways in Pakistan between 2005-2008. Using her extensive interviews with dozens of Pakistani militants and former militants, Laila presented a narrative of Pakistan as a land shaped by several distinct 'Jihads' over recent decades.

Upcoming: Civil Resistance as an Alternative to Political Violence. On 9 October Jack DuVall of the *International Center on Nonviolent Conflict* will talk about civil resistance alternatives to using violence as a method of bringing about political change. More information on the ICNC is available at <http://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/>.

Future Projects and Initiatives

Radicalisation and De-radicalisation in Prisons: Lessons from 12 Countries. The proposed ICSR study will compare and evaluate government policies on terrorist and extremist prisoners as well as the various programmes that have been aimed at rehabilitating them. It will produce the first systematic overview of best practice by drawing on the experiences from twelve countries. Our study will allow governments, the media and experts to learn from a wide range of case studies. Most importantly, it will help governments to avoid costly mistakes in addressing a new challenge.

If you would like to contribute to this project – or know of someone who might – please contact Dr. Peter Neumann at peter.neumann@icsr.info.