

ICSR Update

WWW.ICSR.INFO

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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,

Since launching our *Online Radicalisation Report* in April, ICSR Associate Fellow Tim Stevens and I have done a lot of travelling. In addition to visiting a number of European capitals, we spent nearly a week in Washington DC and were astonished at the amount of interest and support our work received. Clearly, the issue of internet radicalisation is one that's on many policymakers' minds, and we were glad to accept invitations from more than a dozen government departments, agencies, and committees of the Congress.

Clearing up 'muddled thinking' and helping governments avoid costly and counterproductive mistakes is one of our core objectives, and we all felt that our report made an important contribution in this respect – especially at a time when President Obama's Cyber Review was just about to produce its final report.

If you still haven't had time to read the report, watch the *Independent's* short video, which features comments from the report's two authors: <http://tinyurl.com/ko2wb9>.

Incidentally, ICSR is launching its own cyber initiative. Please check out our brand new blog – aptly titled *Free Radicals* – which features some of the most innovative thinkers sharing their insights about radicals and radicalisation (www.icsr.info/blog). For those of you who are members of *Facebook*, we have also launched an *ICSR Fanpage*, which will help you keep track of our movements and activities. Feel free to join!

Dr. Peter Neumann
Director, ICSR

ICSR Launches Major New Research Project on Prison De-radicalisation and Disengagement

ICSR has launched a groundbreaking new research project on de-radicalisation and disengagement programmes in prisons, which will compare the experiences of 15 countries.

Across the world, governments have launched programmes aimed at promoting disengagement and/or de-radicalisation among extremist and terrorist prisoners. Some of these programmes appear to be strikingly successful – others have a more mixed record. For governments hoping to facilitate an exit from terrorism, it will be critical to learn the right lessons.

The ICSR study brings together some of the world's leading experts in the area to produce the first systematic overview and critical analysis of best practice in this area. This will enable experts to learn from a wide range of experiences, and help governments to avoid costly mistakes. The project will conclude in early 2010.

The project is carried out in partnership with the University of Maryland, and receives funding from the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Australia.

Events

12 May: 'British Values and the PREVENT Agenda?' Shiraz Maher presented suggestions for a new approach towards interacting with Muslim organisations.

29 May: 'New Ideas for Peace in the Middle East' Atkin Fellows Odelia Englander and Oday Abukaresh presented their papers on aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

12 June: 'The Future of Hezbollah' Dr. Magnus Ranstorp spoke about the implications of the recent Lebanese elections for the future of Hezbollah.

Podcasts for ALL these events are available at www.icsr.info.

What Others Say About ICSR

“The work done by ICSR is enormously important, because you have no hidden agenda other than finding the most intelligent solution to any given problem. Nowhere is this more critical than when dealing with issues like terrorism, radicalisation, and political violence.”

Chuck Hagel, former United States Senator

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Free Radicals Blog Officially Launched

ICSR officially entered the cyber age with the launch of its new blog *Free Radicals* (www.icsr.info/blog). The blog is a forum for debate and fresh ideas on radicalisation and political violence. It features some of the most innovative young thinkers, discussing radicals and radicalisation, and providing them with an opportunity to share their thoughts and insight in real time.

Core contributors include Ahron Bregman (Israel/Palestine); Stephen Tankel (Afghanistan and Pakistan); Omar Ashour (Egypt and North Africa); Jeni Mitchell (Central Asia); Peter Neumann (UK and Europe); Tim Stevens (Cyberspace); and the mysterious Amm Samm (North America).

'Blogmistress' Alexandra Matine expects *Free Radicals* to turn into an 'essential resource' for everyone interested in radicalisation and political violence: 'Our aim is for *Free Radicals* to become a leading hub for debate, discussion, and new ideas. It's meant to be at the interface between experts, policymakers and the public – just like ICSR, only in real time'.

In addition to the blog, ICSR has also launched a *Facebook Fanpage*, which allows *Facebook* members to keep track of everything that's happening at ICSR, including the latest events and visitors to the ICSR office.

Paper Launch: Religious Dialogue in Yemen

This week, ICSR is launching the second paper in its series on *Developments in Radicalisation and Political Violence*. 'Incredible Dialogues: Religious Dialogue as a Means of Counterterrorism in Yemen' critically examines the dialogue project in Yemen, which aimed to change the attitudes of suspected Al Qaeda terrorists in the state's prisons.

The paper's author, Ane Birk, carried out extensive research in Yemen and tells the story of the programme, which inspired similar efforts in other Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia. The paper explores the roles of the state and the detainees, evaluating the dynamics of the programme as well as pinpointing its successes and failures.

This important contribution to the understanding of de-radicalisation and disengagement programmes can be downloaded free of charge at www.icsr.info. Hard copies can be ordered directly from ICSR.

Record Number of Applicants for Atkin Fellowship

Nearly a hundred young leaders from Israel, Jordan and Syria have applied to become the 2009/10 Atkin Fellows for Arab-Israeli Dialogue. This demonstrates how, in less than a year, the ICSR programme has turned into a focal point for efforts to promote understanding in the Middle East through research, debate and constructive dialogue.

The 2009/10 Atkin Fellows will have the opportunity to spend four months in London to conduct research and create networks of trust, which are hoped to facilitate new thinking among a future generation of leaders, typically from government, business, academia, and the media.

Meanwhile, this year's Atkin Fellows have presented their final papers, which can be downloaded free of charge at www.icsr.info.

ICT Organises 9th World Summit for Counter-Terrorism

The *International Institute for Counter-Terrorism*, one of ICSR's distinguished partner institutes, will hold its 9th International Conference from 7-10 September in Herzliya, Israel.

As in previous years, the conference will feature top decision-makers, officials and experts from across the world, making the event the most important annual gathering of stakeholders in the area. For additional information, see the attached leaflet, or go directly to ICT's website at www.ict.org.il.

We invite you to secure your place at
ICT's 9th International Conference

World Summit for Counter-Terrorism

Terrorism's Global Impact

Monday-Thursday, September 7-10, 2009
 Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, Israel



Over 1100 top decision-makers, defence, intelligence and police officials, prominent academic scholars, and security industry leaders from 53 countries took part in last year's conference. This year, many of them will be joined by hundreds of new participants from around the globe in the World Summit's four days of professional lectures, workshops and discussions.

- **If** you want to meet key decision makers in the fields of Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security
- **If** you want to interact with government, defence and police officials, who deal with terrorism
- **If** you want to learn about cutting-edge research, new operational practices and technological innovations from leading international experts
- **If** you want to meet entrepreneurs and significantly broaden your customer base in the global security and counter-terrorism industry
- **If** you want to participate in discussions and professional workshops on the most advanced and pertinent topics in modern counter-terrorism
- **If** you want to widen and diversify your global network of professional relationships in the field of counter-terrorism

Then you cannot afford to miss the World Summit on Counter-Terrorism:
ICT's 9th Annual International Conference

For additional information and registration, visit our website: www.ict.org.il