



# THE ANNUAL REPORT

**2019**

The Soufan Center is a 501c3  
non-profit organization

# TS ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| ABOUT US                              | 4  |
| LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER               | 5  |
| THE SOUFAN CENTER’S REACH IN 2019     | 6  |
| POLICY ENGAGEMENT: LOCAL IMPACT       | 8  |
| POLICY ENGAGEMENT: GLOBAL REACH       | 10 |
| ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND CONFERENCES | 12 |
| GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM                 | 14 |
| RESEARCH AND INTEL BRIEFS             | 16 |
| SALON SERIES                          | 18 |
| IN THE NEWS                           | 20 |
| STAFF AND TEAM                        | 22 |

# ABOUT THE CENTER

We are a non-partisan strategy center dedicated to increasing awareness of global security issues in the United States and around the world.

The Soufan Center fills a niche-role by producing independent, quality research and hosting proactive conversations in order to effectively equip thought leaders, policy makers, governments, bi- and multilateral institutions, media, and those in the non-profit and academic communities to engage in strategic security-related practices and dialogue about complex challenges. Our work focuses on a broad range of critical security issues including: international and domestic terrorism, humanitarian crisis analysis, great power competition, refugee and immigrant issues, and more.

## CONNECT

By building strategic partnerships with and among leading institutions across public, private, nonprofit, academic and philanthropic sectors, and with thought leaders in the security and human rights communities, we lay the foundation for a safer world.

## CHANGE

Through our role as an investigative and analytical resource, we examine a broad range of complex issues facing civil society, from international and domestic terrorism, to matters related to law enforcement, to cyber security, energy policy, and a range of human security challenges—environmental, food, and water resources.

## COORDINATE

By creating opportunities for civil society, philanthropies, policymakers and the private sector to come together, we facilitate dialogue with the aim of creating a comprehensive approach to greater human security.

## CONVENE

We provide a nonpartisan forum for discussion of issues by the public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit communities, creating a space that allows for the identification of common sense solutions for a safer world.



# LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Two and half years ago, I established The Soufan Center (TSC), a non-partisan strategy center dedicated to serving as a resource and forum for research, analysis, and strategic dialogue related to global security issues and emergent threats. We are a small but mighty organization with decades of experience across government, security, academic, and NGO sectors and with expertise in a plethora of global security issues, to include human rights, development, counterterrorism, geopolitical analysis, and multilateral institutions. Through its role as an investigative and analytical resource, it was my goal that TSC critically examine a broad range of complex issues facing civil society, from international and domestic terrorism to matters related to law enforcement and cyber security, as well as energy, water and food security.

This year, there was no shortage of security issues to cover. Whether it was the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, deteriorating situations in Sudan or Syria, increasing tensions between the United States and Iran, and Iran and its neighbors, the rise of violent white supremacy around the world, the increasingly complex challenge of disinformation, foreign interference in elections and democratic institutions, or the rise in global protest movements, events in 2019 were complex and left many throughout the world wondering what could happen next.

In 2019, I am proud of what our team has accomplished to to warn of global security trend lines from becoming fault lines through our research, global engagement, expert opinion and policy impact, as enclosed in the Center's very first annual report. Of note, the Center was invited to brief the U.S. Congress three times this year, where we provided expert opinion and policy recommendations on the global rise of violent white supremacy, the impact of the U.S. troop withdrawal in Syria, and global terrorism trends and their implications. Our research was cited by nearly 30 academic publications, and we were invited to more conferences this year to offer our expertise than ever before, delivering

30 speeches in international forums and events. I am proud that our work has been referenced over 1,000 times in media and news outlets in nearly 100 countries, which speaks to the increasing reach of the Center.

I am happy to report that The Soufan Center officially launched *TSC Arabic* this year, a new platform that will feature our Intelbriefs and research in Arabic, a project intended to build bridges with the Arabic-speaking world and the next generation of our readership. Another major accomplishment for The Center was our 2019 Global Security Forum, where over 400 experts from over 50 countries representing governments, multilateral institutions, NGOs, marketing agencies, tech companies, and businesses discussed the evolving threat of disinformation and the role of regulation, public-private partnerships, digital literacy, psychology, digital literacy tools, and emerging technology play in efforts to address it.

The global security space can be a difficult one to understand. At The Soufan Center, we strive to help make sense of an increasingly complex world, with multiple countries, issues, and dynamics interacting all at once. In a relatively short amount of time, we are proud to have come to be relied upon as a trusted resource of integrity, providing knowledge and tools to a variety of stakeholders so that they can successfully confront an evolving threat landscape and create contextualized, actionable policy solutions. In 2020 and beyond, we will continue building strategic partnerships, developing timely and critical policy research, and staying ahead of the global security curve in order to effect real policy change.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Soufan'.

Sincerely Yours,  
Ali Soufan

## THE SOUFAN CENTER'S REACH IN 2019

# 3

## Policy Research Reports

## Launch of *TSC Arabic*

## Congressional Testimonies

30

op-eds

**150+**  
**Media Interviews**

**Mentioned  
1,000+  
times by media  
outlets**

Produced  
**248**  
IntelBriefs

## Academic Publication Citations

**Speeches, including  
at the UN, NATO,  
GCTF, Global Coalition  
to Defeat ISIS, and  
International Institute  
of Justice**

## MAJOR TOPICS COVERED IN 2019

[illegible]

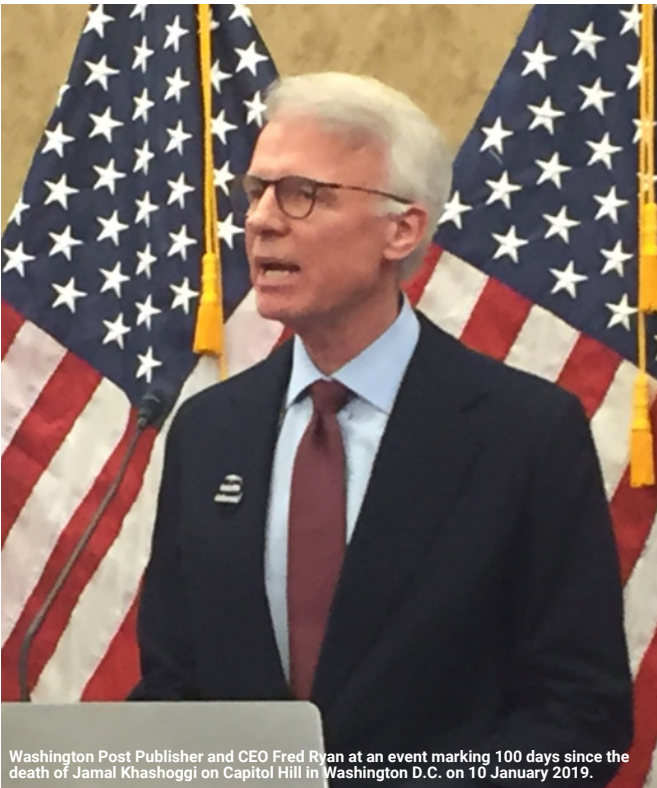
## MEDIA COVERAGE IN OVER 100 COUNTRIES

A word cloud of 50 countries, with the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, India, and China being the most prominent. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with the United States at the top and the United Kingdom at the bottom. The font size of each word represents its frequency or importance in the dataset. Other countries visible include Canada, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Egypt, Singapore, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Ukraine, Netherlands, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Serbia, Belarus, Austria, Denmark, Romania, Norway, Iran, Qatar, Sweden, New Zealand, Iceland, Peru, Colombia, Morocco, Slovenia, Hungary, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Malaysia, Vietnam, Algeria, Finland, Panama, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon.



POLICY ENGAGEMENT:  
LOCAL IMPACT

The Soufan Center kicked off 2019 by organizing a memorial event alongside author Lawrence Wright, documentarian Alex Gibney, lawmakers, journalists, human rights advocates, and friends, at the U.S. Congress to honor Jamal Khashoggi, a symbol of freedom of speech around the world, and to remember his humanity and courage on the 100 day anniversary of his death. The Soufan Center also testified three times before the U.S. Congress in 2019, where we provided thought-leadership and policy recommendations on global security issues, including on domestic terrorism, white supremacy extremism, terrorist finance, foreign terrorist fighters and conflict-related issues in the Middle East and North Africa. The Center provided ongoing insights and briefings to the U.S. Departments of State, Homeland Security, and Justice, and The Center’s staff and fellows frequently consult and brief U.S. intelligence and defense agencies, and elements of the U.S. military.



“Terrorism does not succeed or fail in a vacuum...The resilience of the ideology coupled with sectarianism & prolonged conflicts across the Middle East due to geopolitical power-rivalry is what has given rise to what we are witnessing today.”



“Western governments must take responsibility for their citizens by bringing them back to their home countries, where they can undergo risk assessments, face prosecution, and engage in rehabilitation & reintegration programs.”

Emerita Torres provides testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee Hearing on 'The Trump Administration's Syria Policy: Perspectives from the Field' in Washington D.C. on 23 October 2019.







Ali Soufan participates in a Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on 'Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017): Review of the Madrid Guiding Principles' on 13 December 2018.

# POLICY ENGAGEMENT: GLOBAL REACH

The Center has engaged in numerous global policy and strategic engagement discussions with the United Nations, The Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Global Research Network on Terrorism and Technology, the International Institute of Justice, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, among others. The Center also provided expert opinion to over a dozen foreign governments across Europe, the Middle East and Asia through 2019.



Stephanie Foggett participates in a United Nations CTED event on 'The Gender Dimensions of the Response to Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters' on 27 February 2019.



Ali Soufan (top left) participates in a high-level event organized by Qatar's Permanent Mission, in partnership with the United States, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and Football for Peace Foundation, on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, on 'Promoting the Power of Sport to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism.'



Ali Soufan presents at the GCTF Side Event 'Threats, Challenges and Resources related to FTF and Family Repatriations' in New York on 24 September 2019.



Stephanie Foggett participates in the 'Regional Summit on Security and Illicit Trade' in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 14 June 2019.



Emerita Torres participates in the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ) event 'Scoping Workshop: Addressing Racially- and Ethnically- Motivated Terrorism' in Valletta, Malta on 5-7 November 2019.

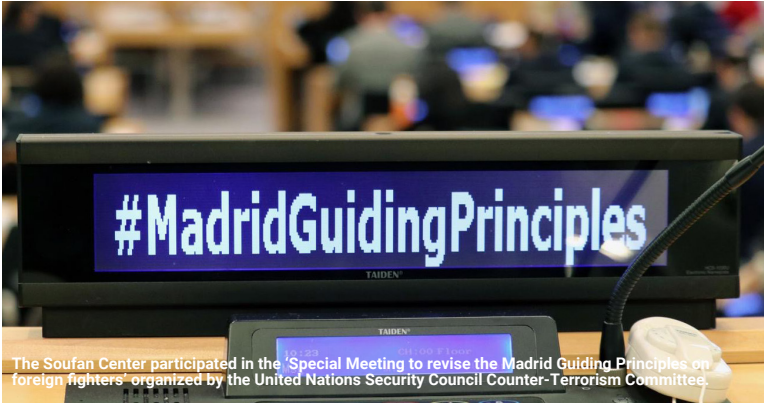


The Soufan Center participated in the Global Coalition Against Daesh/ISIS Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group Meeting in Ankara, Turkey on 7 May 2019.



# ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND CONFERENCES

In 2019, the Center was invited to lecture on our research and expertise at numerous academic institutions, including New York University, The University of Chicago, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M, Fordham University, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, DeSales University, George Mason University, Charles Sturt University (Australia), Leiden University (The Netherlands), George Washington University, Villanova University, The National War College, and Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar).



The Soufan Center participated in the 'Special Meeting to revise the Madrid Guiding Principles on foreign fighters' organized by the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee.



Ali Soufan speaks at 'Milipol Paris 2019' from 19-22 November 2019.



Emerita Torres speaks at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) workshop 'The Return of Foreign Fighters: Are we prepared for the Challenge?' in Herzliya, Israel on 12 September 2019.

In addition, the Center has been invited to provide expert opinion for panels and workshops at conferences hosted by GLOBSEC, The Brookings Institution, The Foreign Policy Research Institute, The International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)- The Hague, The Egmont Institute, The International Institute for Counterterrorism, the International Institute for Justice, NATO, The U.S. Departments of State and Justice, Homeland Security, The Global Engagement Center, The Anti-Defamation League and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.



12

Ali Soufan (left) participates in 'A Discussion on the Middle East: Today's Challenges' with Karen Greenberg (center) and John Brennan, former CIA Director.



Colin P. Clarke (right) speaks on a panel 'On Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and the Importance of Homeland Security Training' with (L-R) Dr. Ahmet Yayla, Bruce Hoffman, and David Wells at DeSales Center for Homeland Security on 21 November 2019.



Mollie Saltskog participates in a panel on the future of warfare at HPAIR 2019 held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on 18 August 2019.



Michael Masters participates in the 2019 Global Security Forum in Doha, Qatar from 15-16 October 2019.



Ali Soufan speaks at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas on 12 February 2019.



Ali Soufan (right) speaks at '#CGAat15: Futures of Counterterrorism' with (L-R) Michael Oppenheimer, David Scharia, Mary Beth Altier, and Melissa Salyk-Virk at New York University



Emerita Torres speaks at the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) in Valletta, Malta on 5-7 November 2019.



Sajid Shapoo is a Research Fellow at The Soufan Center



Meredith Stricker speaks at 'GLOBSEC 2019 Bratislava Forum: Navigating through Disruption' in Bratislava, Slovak Republic from 6-8 June 2019

13



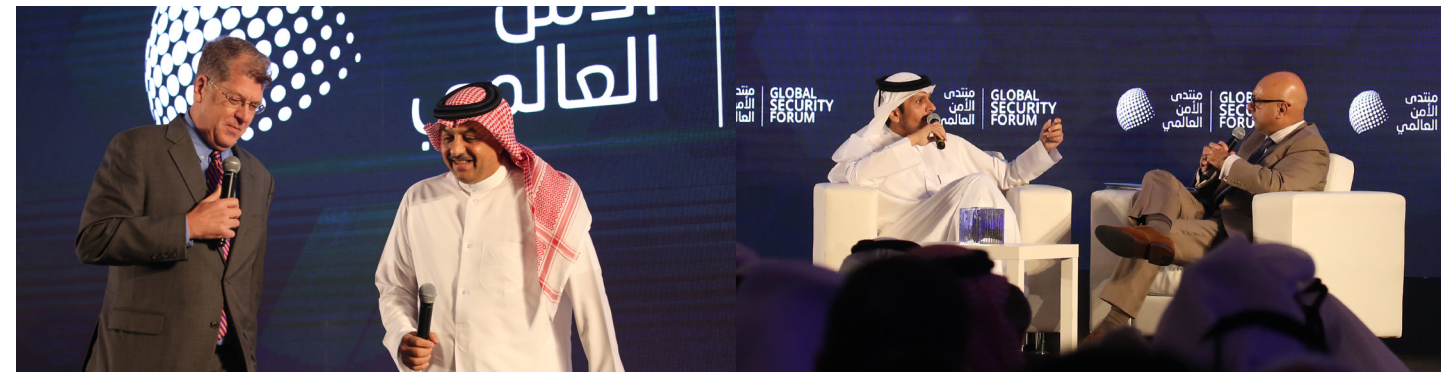


# THE ANNUAL GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM

Established in 2018, the Global Security Forum is an annual international gathering bringing together a multi-disciplinary network of experts, practitioners, and policy-makers from government, security, academia, media, entertainment, international organizations, the humanitarian sector, the private sector and beyond to discuss the world's most pressing topics. This invite-only event provides a unique platform for international stakeholders to convene and offer solutions that address the international community's leading security challenges. Each year, the Global Security Forum is organized by The Soufan Center (TSC) and the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS).

The 2019 Global Security Forum, titled 'Security Challenges in the Era of Modern Disinformation' explored the challenge posed by the proliferation of modern disinformation and the serious implications the phenomenon has on an increasingly interconnected world. With 50 countries represented and 400 participants from across governments, the tech sector, marketing agencies, businesses, non-governmental organizations and multilateral institutions, the event underscored the evolving global threat of disinformation and the challenge it presents to governments, communities, businesses, brands, and media. Through a series of panels, workshops, fireside chats and TED-style talks, Forum participants shared and debated their perspectives on the challenge and solutions, the role of governments and regulation, public-private partnerships, digital literacy, the psychology of disinformation, digital literacy tools and the emergence of deep fake technology and ways to combat it.

The 2019 Global Security Forum confirmed partnerships with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), New America, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Defense One, the Alliance for Securing Democracy, Qatar University, and Qatar Airways.



His Excellency, Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiya with Steve Clemons

His Excellency, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani with Ali Velshi



His Excellency K. Shanmugam with Peter Bergen

His Excellency, Hassan al-Thawadi



From left to right: Karen J. Greenberg , Charles Spencer, Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, Mikael Tofvesson, Jason M. Blazakis



Jen Easterly

Nicholas J. Rasmussen

Her Excellency Lolwah Rashid Al-Khater with Kimberly Dozier



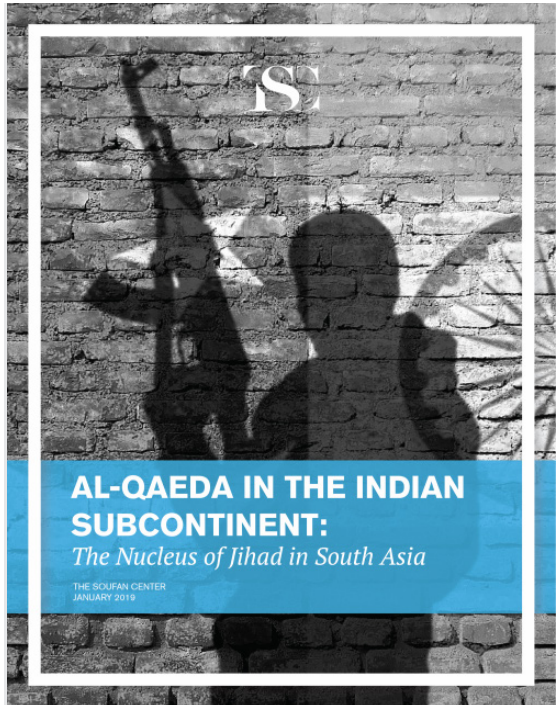
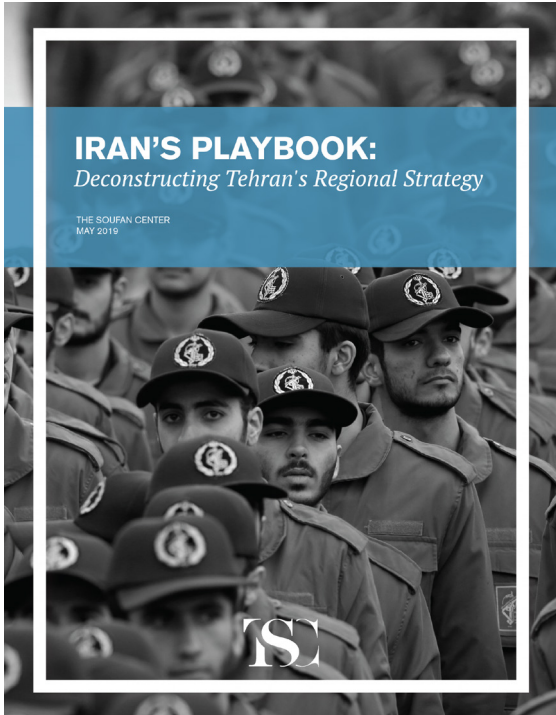
From left to right: Bobby Ghosh, Bret Schafer, Marie-Michelle Strah, John Montgomery, Alastair Aitken CBE



# RESEARCH AND INTEL BRIEFS

## Research

The Soufan Center produces independent, quality research in order to effectively equip thought leaders, policy makers, governments, bi- and multilateral institutions, media, and those in the non-profit and academic communities to engage in strategic security-related practices. Our work focuses on a broad range of complex security issues. This year, we produced three long form policy research reports focused on Al-Qaeda’s role in South Asia, Iran’s regional strategy, and the transnational rise of violent white supremacy.



## IntelBriefs

The Soufan Center’s IntelBrief (IB) is a daily research and analytical product focused on a crucial security-related issue, disseminated widely via our website, Intelbrief subscribers, social media platforms, and the Cipher Brief. In 2019, we produced 248 unique IBs, and below we feature our five most widely read IBs. Our topics include human rights, humanitarian crises, geopolitical power dynamics, transnational terrorism, foreign fighters, violent extremism and political protest movements.

## Most Read IntelBriefs

**INTELBRIEF: THE TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK THAT NOBODY IS TALKING ABOUT**

Posted on March 22, 2019 | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

**INTELBRIEF: TRENDS IN GLOBAL TERRORISM**

Posted on November 20, 2019 | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

**INTELBRIEF: NYC POLICE DEPARTMENT FORMS SPECIAL UNIT TO COMBAT RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY MOTIVATED EXTREMISM**

Posted on December 16, 2019 | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

**INTELBRIEF: THE ATOMWAFFEN DIVISION (AWD): A BRIEF PROFILE**

Posted on April 04, 2019 | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

**INTELBRIEF: ABU DHABI LOOKS TO SEPARATE FROM RIYADH'S DISASTROUS POLICIES**

Posted on July 08, 2019 | [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)



# SALON SERIES



(L-R) Meredith Stricker, Francesca Mannocchi and Siobhan O'Neill participate in a Salon Series on 'The Cyclical Nature of Terrorism: Documenting the Effects of Stigma, Alienation and Abuse on Women and Children' in New York on 24 April 2019.



(L-R) Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Jason Blazakis, Tess Owen, Colin P. Clarke and Emerita Torres participate in a Salon Series on 'The Global Rise of White Supremacy Extremism: Understanding the Threat and Applying Policy Solutions' in New York on 26 September 2019.

The Soufan Center, in partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York, hosted four Salon Series events this year. These are informed, collaborative, and provocative roundtable discussions with global experts that explore critical issues in the fields of international law, global and human security, human rights, political and religious violence, ideology and rhetoric, and more. These gatherings were carefully curated to include a multisectoral presence for the dissemination of cutting-edge policy solutions and actionable interventions. The Center is proud to use our unique capacity and connections to host impactful conversations with the power to effect change. This year, we explored the effects and ongoing implications of Congress' Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF); violent extremist groups and their role in exacerbating permanent conflicts in the MENA region; the cyclical nature of terrorism and its effect on women and children, and the global rise of white supremacy extremism. We were honored to partner with the United Nations, the government of Canada, the Global Strategy Network, Human Rights First, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Centre for Policy Research, and renowned journalists, documentarians and counterterrorism experts for these critical conversations.



Richard Barrett at a Salon Series on 'Exploring permanent conflicts across the MENA region: How violent extremist groups exacerbate this trend' in London, UK on 16 January 2019.



Rami Khouri at a Salon Series on 'The ongoing cycle of fragmentation and violence in the Arab region: exploring the effects of pervasive poverty, vulnerability and inequality.'



(L-R) Francesca Mannocchi and Karen Greenberg at a screening of 'ISIS, Tomorrow. The Lost Souls of Mosul' in cooperation with The Center on National Security in New York on 23 April 2019.



Sidney Jones (second from left) speaks at a Salon Series on 'Terrorism in Southeast Asia: A Current State of Affairs' in New York on 16 April 2019.





## IN THE NEWS

The Soufan Center’s 2019 research, expert opinion, IntelBriefs, fellows, and staff have been featured in several news and media outlets, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, The New Yorker, CNN, MSNBC, BBC, Fox News, EuroNews, Los Angeles Times, Slate, Voice of America, Defense One, Esquire, NewsWeek, National Public Radio, CTC Sentinel, Lawfare, The National Interest, Al Jazeera, and Univision. Our experts have been featured/interviewed with Fareed Zakaria, Lester Holt, Marco Werman, Razia Iqbal, Wolf Blitzer, Ali Velshi, Anderson Cooper, Peter Bergen and Christiane Amanpour, among others. Our research, staff, and fellows were mentioned over 1000 times in the media, in over 100 countries around the world.





# THE SOUFAN CENTER TEAM

The Soufan Center’s dynamic team has diverse professional, educational, and cultural backgrounds, including experience in human rights, law enforcement, international development, federal, state and local government, and the military. They leverage their subject matter expertise to offer world-class investigative methodologies, innovative analytical tools, and contextualized, actionable solutions.



***ALI  
SOUFAN***  
FOUNDER



***JOSEPH  
DONNELLY***  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



***MICHAEL G.  
MASTERS***  
PRESIDENT



***EMERITA  
TORRES***  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY  
RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS



***STEPHANIE  
FOGGETT***  
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS  
AND ENGAGEMENT



***COLIN P.  
CLARKE***  
SENIOR RESEARCH  
FELLOW



***JASON  
BLAZAKIS***  
SENIOR RESEARCH  
FELLOW



***MEREDITH  
STRICKER***  
SENIOR FELLOW



***RICHARD  
BARRETT***  
SENIOR FELLOW



***SAJID FARID  
SHAPOO***  
RESEARCH FELLOW

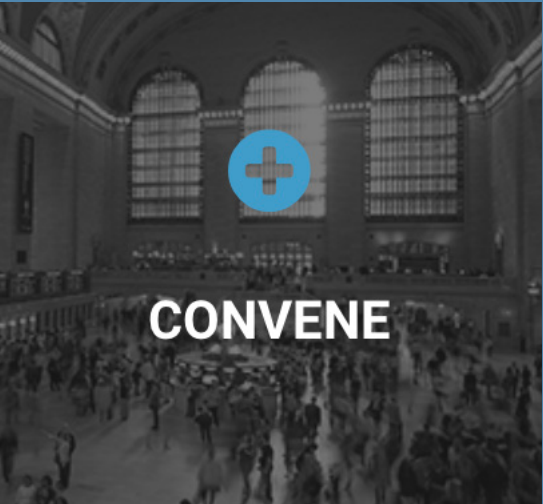
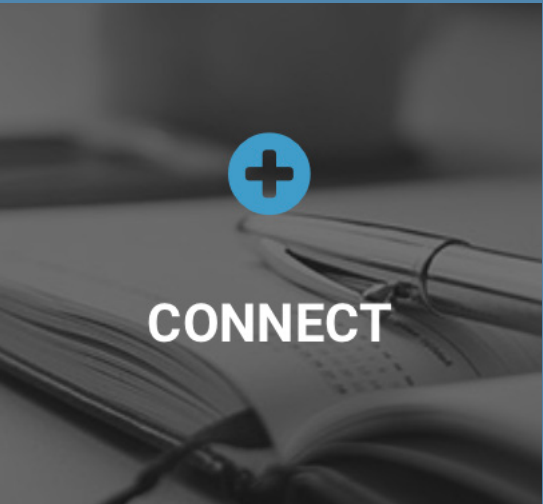


***PATRICK  
SKINNER***  
CONTRIBUTOR



***MOHAMED  
EL SHAWESH***  
DIGITAL MEDIA  
COORDINATOR

# HELPING TO MAKE SENSE OF AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD



The logo consists of a large, white, stylized 'TS' monogram. The 'T' and 'S' are interconnected, with the 'S' having a thick, bold stroke. The background is a solid blue with large, abstract, lighter blue curved shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.

# THE SOUFAN CENTER

The Soufan Center  
156 West 56th Street, Suite 1002  
New York, NY  
10019

✉ [Info@thesoufancenter.org](mailto:Info@thesoufancenter.org)

☎ +1 (646)-233-1707