CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Securing the Future Initiative (SFI) is soliciting proposals for research briefs on the role and impact of the United Nations Security Council in addressing the threat of terrorism over the past 20 years. This research will be part of the SFI project, the first independent assessment of the Security Council’s counterterrorism efforts and its impacts at regional, national, and local levels, as well as on the United Nations more broadly and the wider multilateral system. Led by experts with a combined experience of over fifty years in the field, the SFI is consulting with key stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, and civil society and other non-governmental organizations with a view to presenting a final report and recommendations in Fall 2022.

Successful applicants will propose a research brief of 3,000-4,000 words (not including footnotes) that shares fresh and innovative analysis from recent, ongoing, or new research that can assist policymakers and practitioners in better understanding the complex outcomes and effects of counterterrorism measures adopted or promoted by the Security Council, including on counterterrorism policies and legislation, international cooperation, human rights, civil society engagement, humanitarian action, and security sector capacities, for example. Another key element of successful proposals will include at least three (3) policy-relevant recommendations with regard to the Security Council’s future role and work in addressing terrorist threats. Such recommendations should be directed either at the Security Council (or other relevant UN bodies), national governments, and/or civil society or other non-governmental organizations for consideration. These SFI Research Notes will be published in partnership with the RESOLVE Network at the United States Institute of Peace. Please note that successful applicants will receive an honorarium (see below).

Specifically, we welcome research proposals focused on one or more of the three key themes below:

1. Impact at the global level of the Security Council’s counterterrorism framework and wider efforts against terrorism: for example, influence on norms, international cooperation, capacity-building, wider multilateral system, and on other relevant international agendas, e.g., human rights; humanitarian action; women, peace, and security; and development.

2. Impact at the national level of Security Council’s counterterrorism framework and wider efforts against terrorism: for example, influence on legislation, inter-agency cooperation, border control, counter-terrorist financing, and other operational measures; criminal justice and wider security sector institutions and practices; and effects on human rights’ protections; and

3. Impact on the ground of the Security Council’s counterterrorism framework and wider efforts against terrorism: for example, on understanding of the threat; the underlying conditions that can give rise to terrorism; the behavior terrorist groups; political and civic freedoms, privacy and other human rights; civil society organizations; and gender dynamics.
We welcome proposals that take the aforementioned impacts into account from a regional or country perspective including those from East Africa, West Africa, North Africa, Europe, Central, South, or Southeast Asia.

Proposals should include, where relevant, illustrative case studies or other concrete examples drawn from experiences or research in the field, focused either on a specific theme or region. We also welcome proposals that examine the Council’s impact on P/CVE (preventing and countering violent extremism), are cross-regional in focus, or cut across multiple thematic areas.

Interested candidates should present a 250 word abstract of the proposed paper and include a paragraph outlining their research background and experience as well as the gaps in research and analysis to be addressed by the proposed paper. Candidates are also requested to include a resume or CV.

The deadline for proposals is January 25; successful candidates will be informed by January 31 and completed briefs, of 3000-4000 words, will be expected no later than April 1. Each successful candidate will receive $2,500 USD for their paper ($1500 upon submitting the first draft and the $1000 upon submitting the revised version that takes into account the reviewers’ comments.

Please direct all proposals to Caitlin.OHara@TheSoufanCenter.org.

Yours sincerely,

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Executive Director
The Soufan Center

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