

THE SOUFAN CENTER

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

ALI SOUFAN AMONG 35 DISTINGUISHED IMMIGRANTS RECOGNIZED BY THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK FOR THEIR VITAL AND INSPIRING CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOCRACY

Former FBI Special Agent and Founder of The Soufan Center, Ali Soufan is an immigrant, entrepreneur, author, philanthropist, husband, and father.

ABOUT THE HONOREES

(New York, NY – June 28, 2023) The Carnegie Corporation of New York today announced its annual list of Great Immigrants, honoring 35 naturalized citizens who have enriched and strengthened American society and democracy. Each Fourth of July since 2006, the philanthropic foundation has invited Americans to celebrate these exemplary individuals by participating in its online public awareness campaign, [Great Immigrants, Great Americans](#) (#GreatImmigrants).

“I am proud to stand alongside fellow Americans who came to our country from all corners of the world,” says The Soufan Center’s founder Ali Soufan. “Immigration is an important part of the American story, one that enriches our government, society, and communities. Today—as an Arab-American, Muslim-American, and first-generation American—I am humbled and honored for this recognition.”

Reflecting on the recognition, The Soufan Center’s Executive Director Naureen Chowdhury Fink says, “Ali dedicated his career to protecting our country and defending America’s values. The Soufan Center was proudly founded by an immigrant and we celebrate these contributions today.”

For generations, immigrants have come to the United States seeking opportunities for themselves and their families. The 2023 Class of Great Immigrants is comprised of naturalized citizens from 33 countries and a wide range of backgrounds and fields. Among this year’s honorees are individuals who have fostered opportunities for others through their work as educators, mentors, philanthropists, job creators, public servants, storytellers, and advocates.

The 2023 honorees are recognized leaders in their fields, including two Nobel laureates, an Olympian, and a member of Congress. The complete list of the 2023 Class of Great Immigrants:

- **Wesaam Al-Badry** (Iraq) Photographer, Investigative Journalist, and Interdisciplinary Artist
- **Ana Lucia Araujo** (Brazil) Professor of History, Howard University
- **Kyriacos A. Athanasiou** (Cyprus) Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of California, Irvine
- **Ajay Banga** (India) President, World Bank, and Former CEO, Mastercard
- **Jean-Claude Brizard** (Haiti) President and CEO, Digital Promise

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- **Betty Kwan Chinn** (China) Founder, Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation
- **Ghida Dagher** (Sierra Leone) CEO and President, New American Leaders
- **Daniel Diermeier** (Germany) Chancellor, Vanderbilt University
- **Miguel “Mike” B. Fernandez** (Cuba) Chairman and CEO, MBF Healthcare Partners
- **Maria Freire** (Peru) Global Health Leader and Biophysicist
- **Nina Garcia** (Colombia) Editor in Chief, *Elle*
- **Timnit Gebru** (Ethiopia) Founder and Executive Director, Distributed AI Research Institute
- **Karen González** (Guatemala) Faith Leader, Writer, Speaker, and Immigrant Advocate
- **Azira G. Hill** (Cuba) Cofounder, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Talent Development Program
- **Roald Hoffmann** (Poland) Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Cornell University, and Nobel Laureate
- **Guido Imbens** (Netherlands) Professor of Economics, Stanford University, and Nobel Laureate
- **Angélique Kidjo** (Benin) Grammy Award–Winning Singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- **Bernard Lagat** (Kenya) Champion Runner and Five-Time Olympian
- **Min Jin Lee** (South Korea) Author and National Book Award Finalist
- **Ted Lieu** (Taiwan) U.S. Congressman, California, District 36
- **Karen Lozano** (Mexico) Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- **Daniel Lubetzky** (Mexico) Founder, KIND Snacks and Starts With Us
- **J. Patrice Marandel** (France) Former Chief Curator of European Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- **Stephen Michael** (Guyana) Brigadier General, U.S. Army (ret.), and Senior Executive, UBS
- **Alanis Morissette** (Canada) Grammy Award–Winning Singer-Songwriter, Thought Leader, and Wholeness Advocate
- **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** (Nigeria) Director-General, World Trade Organization
- **Pedro Pascal** (Chile) Actor and Time 100 Honoree
- **Susan Polgar** (Hungary) Chess Grandmaster and Triple-Crown World Champion

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- **Ke Huy Quan** (Vietnam) Academy Award–Winning Actor
- **Helen Quinn** (Australia) Professor Emerita of Physics, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford University
- **Julissa Reynoso** (Dominican Republic) U.S. Ambassador to Spain and Andorra
- **Oscar A. Solis** (Philippines) 10th Bishop, Diocese of Salt Lake City
- **Ali Soufan** (Lebanon) Chairman and CEO, The Soufan Group, and Former FBI Special Agent
- **Inge G. Thulin** (Sweden) Former Chairman, President, and CEO, 3M Company
- **Ponsi Trivisvavet** (Thailand) CEO and Director, Inari

ABOUT THE SOUFAN CENTER (TSC)

Based in New York, The Soufan Center (TSC) is an independent non-profit organization offering research, analysis, and strategic dialogue on foreign policy challenges with a particular focus on global security, conflict prevention and resolution, and the rule of law. Follow [@TheSoufanCenter](#) and visit <http://thesoufancenter.org/>

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