



Arab Center Washington DC
المركز العربي واشنطن دي سي

Activities Report 2021



Bringing Arab perspectives to US policy conversations since 2015

- Quality
- Diversity
- Impact

Arab Center Washington DC (ACW) is a nonprofit, independent, and nonpartisan research organization based in Washington, DC, dedicated to furthering the political, economic, and social understanding of the Arab world in the United States.

Our work is guided by a strong belief in:

- = The importance of democracy in the Arab world
- = A respect for human rights and civil liberties
- = The just and peaceful resolution to conflict

Message from the Executive Director



On behalf of my colleagues at Arab Center Washington DC (ACW), I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of you who have supported the center and interacted with us since our inception in 2015, particularly over the past year.

If you've read a policy paper, listened to a podcast episode, attended a virtual event, or posted or re-posted something on social media, you already know that ACW believes in the vital importance of democracy in the Arab world, respect for human rights and civil liberties, and the just and peaceful resolution to conflict. These values guide our work as a policy research center and the work of our many resident and non-resident contributors, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Much like 2020, the year 2021 was tumultuous in its own right. While we had adjusted relatively well to remote work and online events and navigated the ups and downs of attempts to return to normalcy, like other similar institutions we continued to face formidable challenges, uncertainty, and political fallout from events brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, both domestically and throughout the Arab world. As an authoritative research center on the Arab world and US-Arab relations, ACW persisted in providing timely, nonpartisan, objective, and evidence-based academic research and policy analysis. It is our hope that you found our papers, events, videos, and podcasts informative and intellectually stimulating, and trust that you will continue to follow and support our work in 2022 and beyond.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of private and institutional donors who provide the funds necessary to maintain our academically rigorous and independent research agenda. I hope you will consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help us advance this critical work.

We look forward to your continued engagement in our activities in 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Khalil E. Jahshan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Khalil E. Jahshan

Research and Analysis

Independent • Timely • Evidence Based

In 2021, Arab Center Washington DC produced:

19 Public seminars and conferences, including:

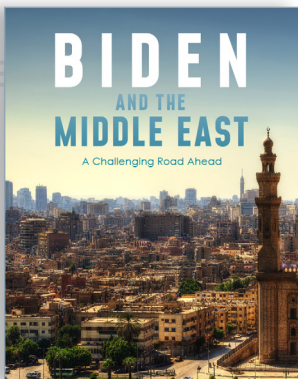
- ACW Sixth Annual Conference, “US Policy and Global Competition in the Middle East”
- Three-day conference, “Looking towards Peace in Afghanistan after the US-NATO Withdrawal”

242 Policy analysis and research papers

47 Audiovisual analyses (Videos, Podcasts, and Infographics)

A full-length edited volume

Biden and the Middle East: A Challenging Road Ahead



Arab Perspectives Diverse Expertise Inclusive Discussions

30

Research Fellows and
Academic Board Members

over
200

Scholars contributing content

50%

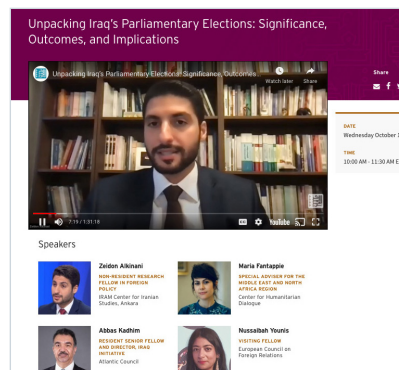
Women and 50% men speakers
at public events

72%

Native experts on pressing issues

40%

Young scholars



Growth and Outreach

575,000

People directly engaged with our content

over
5 million

Reached on social media

65%

Increase (from 2020) in website traffic

31%

Increase (from 2020) in Twitter followers

34,500

Video views on YouTube

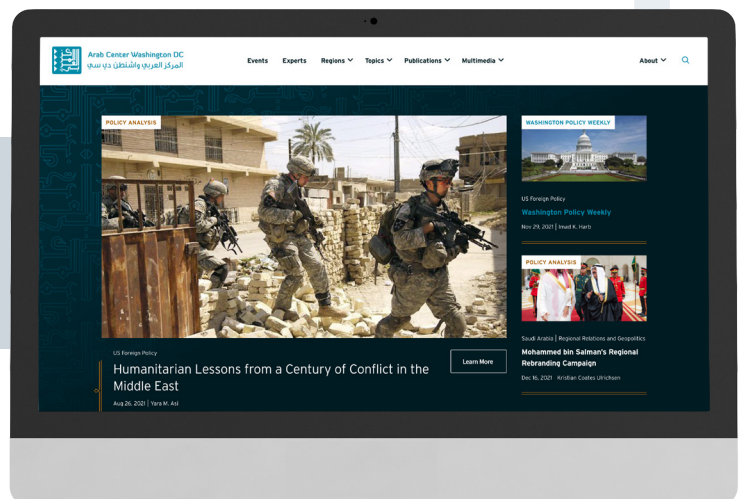
5,120

Event attendees

6,800

Newsletter subscribers

A new and improved research-oriented website was launched in 2021



Information • Education • Impact

37

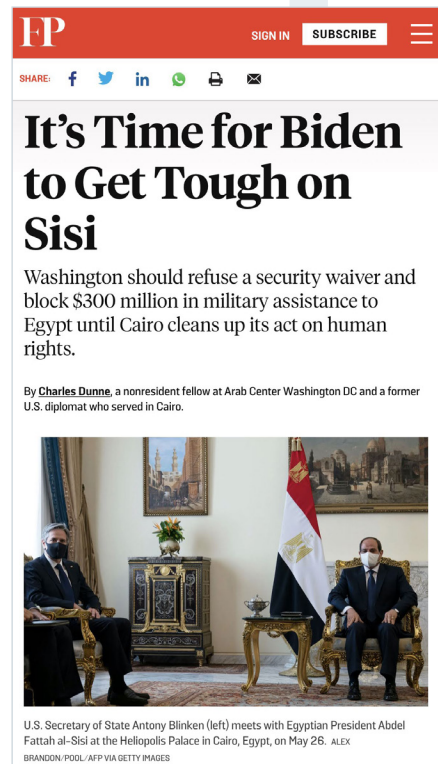
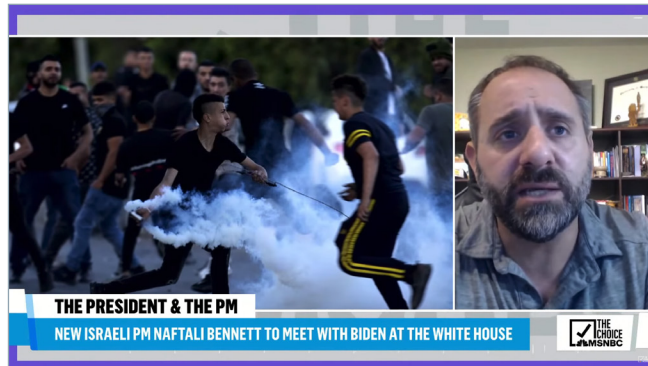
Op-eds in global media outlets

14

Articles printed in US mainstream media

226

Expert media interviews

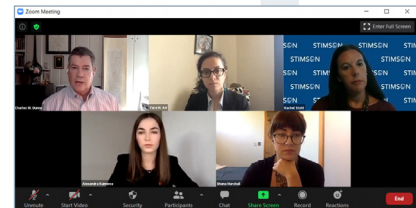


Information • Education • Impact

Offered lectures to academic classrooms, seminars, and community groups

Hosted prominent leaders, UN officials, a US State Department representative, and scholars from academic institutions in the US and MENA

Reached hundreds of thousands of people in the US government and Congress, policy establishments, academic institutions, Arab and European officialdom, human rights and development organizations, and US and international media



2021 Themes and Issues

The year's highlights explored in analytical papers, webinars, and audiovisual materials

Democracy and Human Rights

- The state of human rights and democratization ten years after the Arab Spring
- Challenges to Biden's human rights agenda in the Middle East
- The slowly changing gender dynamics in Arab countries
- The military takeover and mass protests in Sudan
- The plight of Arab refugees



US Policy in the Region

- Congressional advocacy for Palestinian rights in the post-Trump era
- US policy and global competition from Russia and China in the Middle East
- The future of Afghanistan after the US-NATO withdrawal

Israel-Palestine

- Israeli criminalization of Palestinian human rights organizations
- The Nakba in Israeli public discourse and school curricula
- Growing reports of Israeli apartheid
- Reconstruction in Gaza faces Israel's siege and the politics of international funding
- Israeli settler violence on the rise amid lack of accountability and Israeli military protection





Levant

- The rehabilitation of Assad and the prospects for political transition after a decade of war in Syria
- Lebanon's many crises after the catastrophic Beirut explosion
- A look at Jordan's royal family tensions and reform efforts
- American Priorities and Russia's Multifaceted Policy in Syria

Regional Relations and Geopolitics

- Saudi regional repositioning and foreign influence in Lebanon
- The limits of Saudi-Iranian détente
- Russia flexing its diplomatic muscles across the region
- Egypt and UAE exporting authoritarianism and coups across the region
- The Ethiopia-Sudan-Egypt negotiations and the future of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam



The Gulf

- The GCC crisis and new strategic architecture emerging in the Gulf
- A new era in relations between Turkey and the Gulf Arab states
- Mohammed bin Salman's global decline and his regional rebranding campaign
- The war in Yemen and its challenges and opportunities
- Assessing an emerging Saudi-Emirati rift

Egypt and North Africa

- Tunisia's constitutional crisis and nascent democracy
- US policy toward Egypt's dismal human rights record and authoritarian governance
- The Algerian Hirak protests and the future of democracy in the country
- Morocco-Algeria tensions, the Western Sahara, and normalization with Israel
- The challenges and prospects of Libya's interim government



Media and Technology

- The NSO Pegasus hacking scandal and Israel's legacy of digital repression
- Arab space programs level up
- The Palestinian youth movement and the role of social media
- The challenges facing Arab Journalists today

Elections

- The Palestinian leadership crisis and the challenges of holding elections under occupation
- The significance and implications of Iraq's parliamentary elections
- Libya's elections amidst divisions, violence, and foreign interference





Health, Environment, and Development

- COVID-19 vaccination inequality in Israel/Palestine
- Food insecurity in Arab populations
- Climate change as an existential threat in an unstable region
- The overlooked threat of cancer in the Arab world
- Challenges facing sustainable development goals in the Arab world

Arabs and Muslims in America

- The changing Arab American activism in the United States
- Twenty years after 9/11 and anti-Muslim hostility in the United States
- Including Arab Americans in the Biden Administration is not enough



Arab Youth

- The Tishreen protests and youth mobilization in Iraq
- Palestinian youth activism in the Sheikh Jarrah era
- Youth, revolutions, and Islamism in the Arab world
- The challenges and needs of Arab youth today

Support ACW and Invest in Evidence-Based Research

ACW relies on contributions from individual supporters, organizations, foundations, and corporations. Contributions to ACW—a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization—are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations provide critical support for this important work, helping ACW attract and retain outstanding scholars to maintain our academically rigorous and independent research agenda.

Donate
Now



ACW is affiliated with the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) and its network of research centers and academic institutions around the world. Headquartered in Doha, Qatar, ACRPS is one of the premier independent research institutes in the Arab region.



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