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Activities Report

Delivering Evidence-Based and
Rights-Centered Research since 2015



Arab Center Washington DC
المركز العربي واشنطن دي سي



During a year of unprecedented challenges and monumental events in the Middle East and North Africa, ACW's work in 2024 provided essential and timely analysis of critical developments affecting the region while highlighting the importance of human rights, democracy, and just and peaceful resolution to conflict.

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Letter from the Executive Director

At a time of great challenges to global security and stability, providing evidence-based analysis on developments in the Middle East and North Africa and US foreign policy in the region is more critical than ever. In 2024, our team at Arab Center Washington DC (ACW) worked tirelessly to highlight credible voices in bringing you rigorous in-depth analysis of the emerging events and their impacts on the region and the world. Over the last 12 months, our work has been pivotal in filling a glaring gap in research that centers on human rights, democracy, international law, and just and peaceful resolution to conflict.

At Arab Center Washington DC, we are committed to providing timely, unparalleled, and objective policy analysis that millions of followers worldwide view. With the dedication of ACW's team of creative and skilled staff and fellows and the support of our board members and constituents, we responded effectively to several major critical events and developments in 2024 while maintaining our hard-earned reputation as an authoritative research center on Middle East politics and US policies and interests in the region. On behalf of Arab Center Washington DC, 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.

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

We look forward to continuing to provide valuable insights to the public debate and to engaging with you as we enter our 10th year in 2025.

Sincerely,



Khalil E. Jahshan
Executive Director



Quality · Diversity · Impact

Arab Center Washington DC (ACW) is a nonprofit, independent, and nonpartisan research organization dedicated to furthering the political, economic, and social understanding of the Arab world in the United States and to providing insight on US policies and interests in the Middle East and North Africa.

As a Washington-based, authoritative research center on the Arab world, ACW addresses fundamental aspects of US-Arab relations through timely and objective academic research, policy analysis, and educational exchange.

Highlighting Arab perspectives in US policy conversations



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Continued Commitment to Quality and Inclusion

Producing Reliable Analysis in Unprecedented Times

In 2024, ACW continued to respond to major events and developments throughout the MENA region through publishing high-quality research and incisive analysis, producing thought-provoking audiovisual offerings, and hosting engaging policy conversations. While maintaining our excellent reputation for evidence-based independent analysis, our work covered political, economic, social, environmental, and other pressing issues for the Middle East and North Africa and US policies in the region, and contributed to shaping the global agenda and charting a path forward for MENA.

30

Public and private events

5k

Social media posts and presence on 10 platforms

250

Original policy and research publications

100

Podcast and video analyses

Major Conferences

- Ninth Annual Conference, “The 2024 Elections amid the Gaza War: The Future of US Democracy, Foreign Policy, and Global Standing”
- “Covering Palestine: A Shireen Abu Akleh Memorial Symposium”
- “Keynote Conversations: Where Does the Palestinian National Movement Go from Here?”

Foreign Policy Working Group

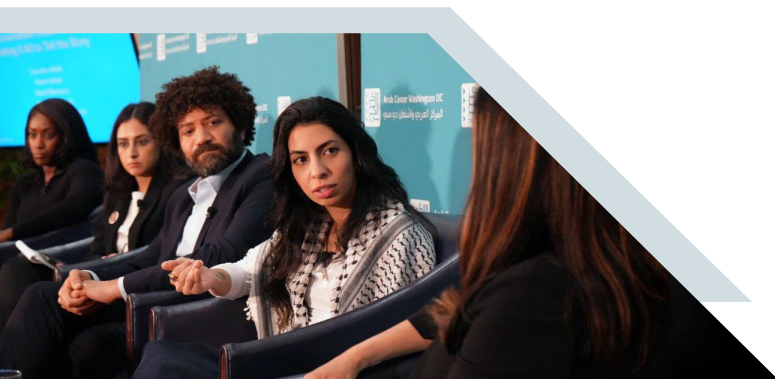
- More than 30 experts from over 20 organizations providing insights on US policy toward Palestine/Israel





Prioritizing Inclusive Discussions and Diverse Expertise

ACW prioritizes inclusivity and diversity in all areas of programming. In 2024, we continued our tradition of including and highlighting Arab voices, as well as those of female experts and scholars from the Global South, in our research and policy conversations.



Research Fellows and Academic Board Members contributing analysis



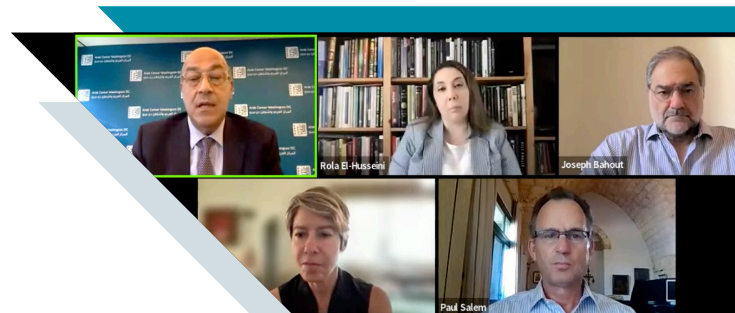
Scholars contributing content



of analysts were of **Arab** background or native to topic



of experts speaking at public events were **female**



Shaping Policy and Public Conversations

Informing Millions of People Around the World

In 2024, ACW's work served as a vital resource for rights-based policy solutions to inform decisionmakers, journalists, scholars, students, and the general public.



Website visits



Reached on social media



Increase in web traffic



Media views on YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram



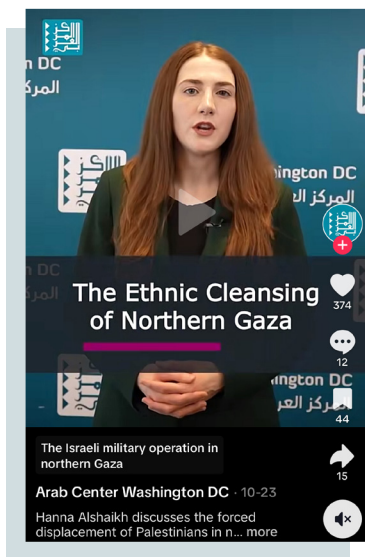
Social media followers



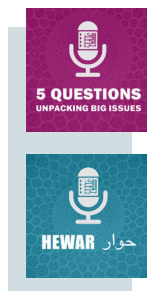
Event attendees



Newsletter subscribers



Social media videos



Podcasts





Connecting Academia and Policymaking

At ACW, we know the value of strong and reputable partners and work to build, strengthen, and expand relationships with like-minded research and academic institutions. These collaborations result in the merging of expertise and allow us to produce content that bridges the academic and policy worlds.

In 2024, we partnered with numerous think tanks and academic institutions in Washington DC and internationally on critical topics, including human rights and human security, the Gaza war and shifts in the global order, the future of US policy in Palestine/Israel, climate justice, the threats of AI and disinformation, and military expenditure and the global arms trade.

12

Academic and think tank partnerships

Hundreds

Outreach to Hundreds of Middle East centers and scholars at US universities



Serving as a Trusted Resource in the Media and Public Forums

In the face of mounting global challenges in 2024, ACW served as a trusted source for evidence-based and informative analysis on critical policy issues. ACW experts contributed innovative insights in top media outlets, thus shaping public and policy conversations.

ACW research fellows are regularly featured as expert speakers in the US and international media, at academic institutions and high-level conferences, with prominent US and global leaders, and in US government briefings, directly reaching hundreds of thousands of people world-wide.



Expert media interviews



Media mentions



Op-eds published in major US and global media outlets



External lectures, briefings, and conference presentations



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS
NEW CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE FOLLOWING KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER YAHYA SINWAR





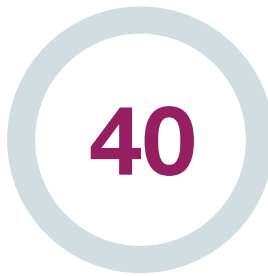
Providing Timely Analysis to Washington Decisionmakers

ACW has built a strong reputation in the Washington policy community, establishing ourselves as a go-to research center for timely, accurate, and insightful analysis of the MENA region. In 2024, our government outreach program strived to maximize its impact through more targeted engagement with policymakers, regularly providing educational materials and policy analyses to congressional and executive branch staff, and hosting informational briefings for US legislators.

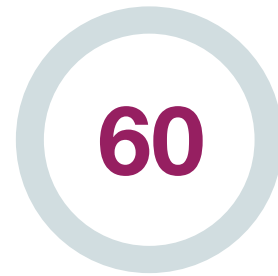
In 2024, ACW ensured its analyses and policy recommendations reached decisionmakers and played a key role in shaping foreign policy conversations in Washington DC.



of decisionmakers reached



Direct engagements with congressional offices



Washington Policy Weekly: 60 comprehensive weekly reports tracking and analyzing developments in US policy toward the Arab World

A Rights-Based Policy Agenda

In 2024, ACW increased its global footprint by convening authoritative international experts and engaging with senior officials and civil society alike to aid decision-making in the United States and around the world. ACW focused on offering policy recommendations that prioritize justice and human rights, advance democratic governance, and foster long-term sustainable development and peace.



2024 Thematic Highlights: Responding to Major Events and Challenges



Israel's War on Gaza: Explaining the Political, Economic, Legal, and Humanitarian Dimensions

Throughout 2024, ACW continued our extensive coverage and analysis of the war in Gaza and its implications for the future of Palestine/Israel, regional dynamics, US policy, and the global order. Our work filled a glaring gap in research that centers human rights and international law while charting policies that advance a lasting, just, and peaceful resolution.

Geopolitical Developments: Challenging the Threat of a Full-Scale War

ACW experts produced high-impact research and analysis of major events and regional developments especially in relation to the war in Gaza and the "Axis of Resistance." Throughout the year, our analysts provided a deep understanding of Hezbollah's political and military calculations, Iran's proxy and military operations, the impacts of the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, and Israel's regional posture and its attacks in Lebanon and Iran. ACW's research presented insights on the goals, leadership structures, and political shifts of different groups, and their impacts on justice and security efforts in the region.





Conflicts and Peacemaking Efforts: Amplifying the Voices of Human Rights Defenders

Our work in 2024 also focused on examining other conflicts in the region, such as in Sudan, Yemen, Syria, and Libya, highlighting humanitarian crises and the challenges to political resolution. Our experts offered recommendations to end the wars, employ international legal mechanisms, implement reconstruction efforts, and defend democratic principles, while amplifying the voices of civil society and human rights defenders.

Repressive Technologies and Human Security: Confronting Hyper- Securitization and the Arms Trade Industry

ACW's programs prioritized emerging challenges facing the region, navigating the complex and pressing issues presented by repressive technologies and ever-increasing militarization and securitization in MENA. Our research offered insights and policy recommendations that center human security and socio-economic development rather than regime security and militarism, in addition to exploring the impacts of digital technologies and autonomous weapon systems on human rights in the region.



The Threat of Climate Change: Promoting Alternative Energy and Environmental Justice

Addressing the climate crisis is one of the most critical tasks in the MENA today, as the region is among the most vulnerable areas in the world to climate change.

ACW's work sought to highlight the regional impacts of climate change compounded by the challenges of ongoing conflict, humanitarian needs, environmental injustice, and the enduring legacies of colonialism. Importantly, ACW contributed to shaping solutions for energy transitions and renewable energy sources, adaptation and mitigation strategies, and climate justice and resilience.



Syria after Assad: Securing a Peaceful and Democratic Transition

ACW responded to major critical events and developments that impacted the Arab world in 2024, including the sudden toppling of the Assad regime in Syria after 13 years. Our coverage of the rapidly evolving events in Syria provided critical updates and perspectives on the country's current state and uncertain future, and shared insights on the path toward democratic, transparent, and inclusive governance in Syria.





US Elections and the Middle East: Forging a Constructive US Foreign Policy in MENA

The presidential elections in the United States were a major issue shaping global affairs in 2024. Throughout the year, ACW experts tracked US election updates, examined the state and future of US democracy amidst the suppression of Palestine activism, and explored the impact of the election results on US foreign policy and human rights in MENA. Furthermore, our experts analyzed the potential changes in US global power and influence in light of US policy toward Israel's war on Gaza, offered critical insights on the impact of the Gaza war on the election results, and provided policy recommendations for a more constructive US policy in the region.



Invest in Rights-Based Policy Solutions

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 our important work, helping ACW attract and retain outstanding scholars to maintain our academically rigorous and independent research agenda. Arab Center Washington DC is extremely grateful to our community for engaging with us during 2024 through our events, publications, media channels, and other initiatives. As we work to expand and upgrade our programming, we increasingly rely on the commitment and support of private and institutional donors who share our vision.

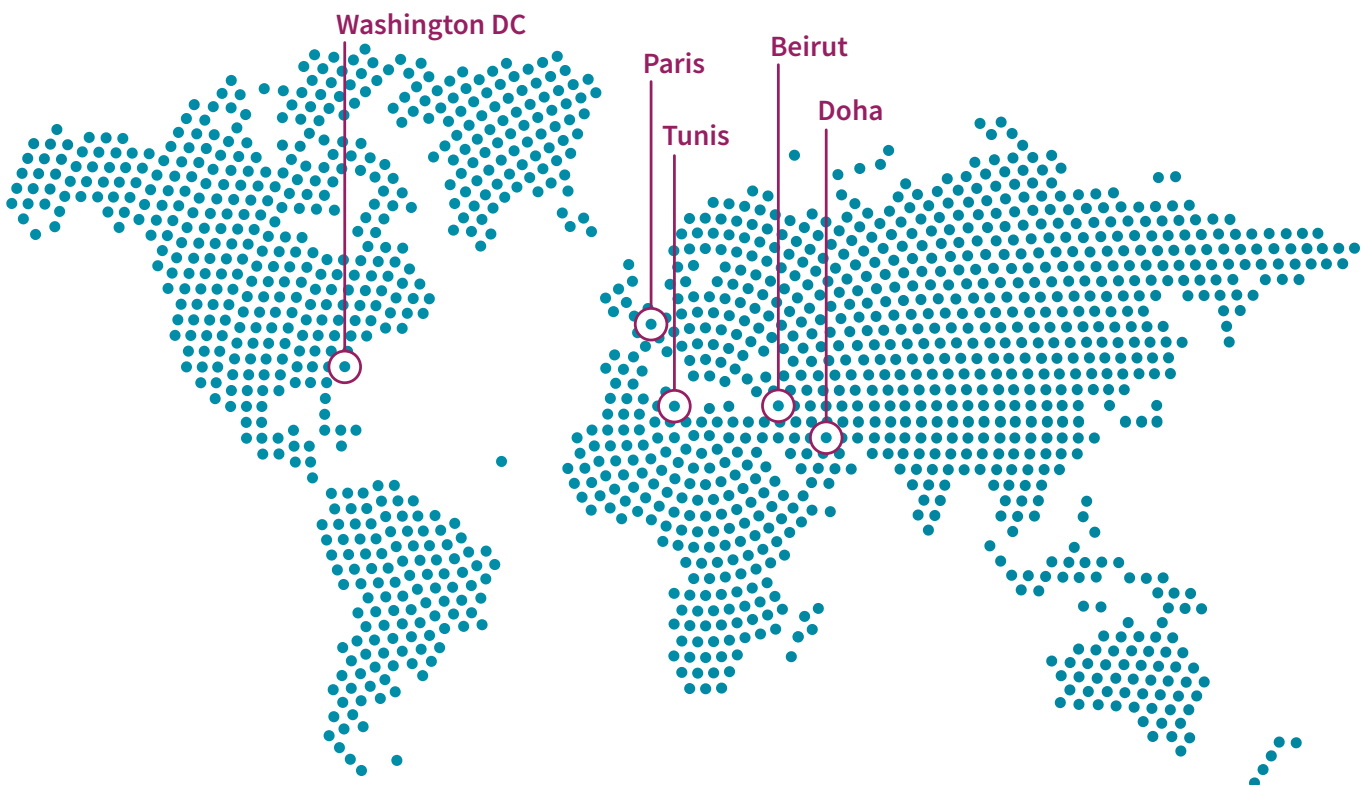
We hope that you will make ACW a priority and continue to engage with us and support our work in 2025 and beyond.

Join our community of supporters:



Our Affiliates: A Global Research Network

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





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



A just and peaceful **resolution to conflict**



Underscoring **long-term US interests in MENA**

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