

THE LEVANT CRISIS: SYRIA, IRAQ AND THE REGION

Friday, 11 December 2015

9–9.30am	Opening and welcome Professor Ian Young Vice-Chancellor, ANU	12.45–13.30pm	Lunch
9.30–11am	Session 1 The Dynamics of the Conflict: religion, politics and strategy Dr Haroro Ingram Research Fellow, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU Ms Katja Theodorakis Research Scholar, CAIS, ANU Dr Raihan Ismail Associate Lecturer, CAIS, ANU Chair: A/Professor Greg Fealy Bell School, ANU	1.30–3pm	Session 3 Outside Powers Prof. Michael Wesley Director, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU Dr John Blaxland Senior Fellow, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU Mr Kyle Wilson Visiting Fellow, Centre for European Studies, ANU Chair: Prof. Amin Saikal
11–11.20am	Morning Tea	3–3.15pm	Afternoon break
11.20–12.45pm	Session 2 Regional Actors Prof. Amin Saikal Director, CAIS, ANU Mr Ian Parmeter Research Scholar, CAIS, ANU, and former Assistant Secretary, Office of National Assessments Mr Bob Tyson Former ambassador to Iraq and Saudi Arabia Chair: Dr Jeremy Farrall Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU	3.15pm	Session 4 The Future Trajectories Prof. Amin Saikal Director, CAIS, ANU Prof. Michael Wesley Director, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU Dr Vanessa Newby Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU Chair: Prof. Catherine Waldby Director, RISS, ANU
		4.30pm	Drinks



Australian
National
University

The Levant Crisis: Syria, Iraq and the Region

Opening

Prof. Ian Young

Vice-Chancellor, ANU

Date

Friday 11 December 2015

9am-4pm

Location

Hedley Bull Building

Lecture Theatre 1

130 Garran Road, ANU

Registration

E bellschool@anu.edu.au

T 02 6125 2167

Presented by

**Coral Bell School of
Asia Pacific Affairs**

**ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific**

**The Centre for Arab &
Islamic Studies (The
Middle East & Central Asia)**

**ANU College of
Arts & Social Sciences**



Source: UNHCR/G. Gubaeva

The Syrian civil war has killed thousands and displaced millions, with dire economic, social and political implications not just for Syrians, but neighbouring countries, the region, and wider international community.

But what has caused the worst humanitarian disaster of our time? What do we need to know about the conflict's dynamics? Who are the main actors and players? Where is it headed? Where to in the wake of the Paris attacks? And what should be Australia's role be in all of this?

The one-day conference, *The Levant Crisis: Syria, Iraq and the Region*, tackles these essential questions and other critical aspects of the conflict.

Speakers include Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs Director and Professor of International Relations, Michael Wesley, and Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies Director and Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Amin Saikal.

They will be joined by former Middle East ambassador and specialist, Mr Bob Tyson; expert on sectarianism, political Islam and studies of religious institutions, Dr Raihan Ismail; intelligence and security expert Dr John Blaxland; and Dr Haroro Ingram, an expert on insurgent 'information operations' and movements.

The conference is jointly presented by two of The Australian National University's leading institution in these fields – Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australia's leading centre for international, political, societal, diplomatic and strategic affairs of our region, and the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, Australia's premier location for studies of the Arab and Muslim world, as well as in North America and Europe.

The Levant Crisis: Syria, Iraq, and the Region is a free and accessible event for media, the government and policy community, diplomatic core, students and graduates, and the general public who seek a deeper understanding and insight into the complexity of the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts, and the regional situation.