



IFI NEWSLETTER

May - June 2025

NEWS



INSTITUTE INSIGHTS: NORA BOUSTANY

In the 9th episode of our series Institute Insights, Award-winning correspondent, columnist, and AUB media instructor Nora Boustany answers three questions on Gaza and media war coverage: how local journalists shape mainstream narratives, holding governments accountable for violence and targeting, and whether war journalism has truly changed or just the tools have improved.

[Watch Here](#)

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Institute launched its Summer Internship Program with 17 interns, starting with an orientation whereby they met the team and learned about IFI and its activities.

Besides their work in their respective units, interns will attend a series of training workshops throughout the program.

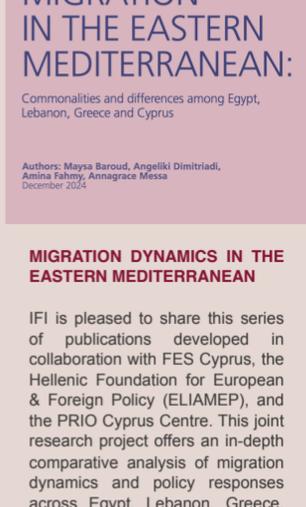
[Read More](#)



SHAPEDEM COUNTRY REPORTS EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

As part of the Institute's ongoing SHAPEDEM-EU project, you can access the executive summaries of the country case studies detailing local democratic politics in [Lebanon](#), [Palestine](#), and [Tunisia](#), on our website.

[Read More](#)

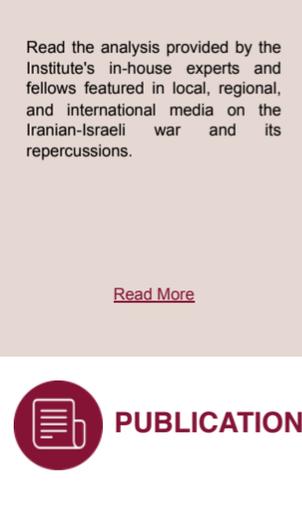


EXPERT OPINION SERIES

Read the latest in our Snapshot Expert Opinion series, from IFI Fellows: [Mona Sukkarieh](#), [Jihad Yazigi](#), and [Maysa Baroud](#).

Visit our social media platforms regularly to read the latest in the series.

[Read More](#)



IFI IN THE MEDIA

Read the analysis provided by the Institute's in-house experts and fellows featured in local, regional, and international media on the Iranian-Israeli war and its repercussions.

[Read More](#)



MIGRATION DYNAMICS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

IFI is pleased to share this series of publications developed in collaboration with FES Cyprus, the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), and the PRIO Cyprus Centre. This joint research project offers an in-depth comparative analysis of migration dynamics and policy responses across Egypt, Lebanon, Greece, and Cyprus.

[Read More](#)

PUBLICATIONS

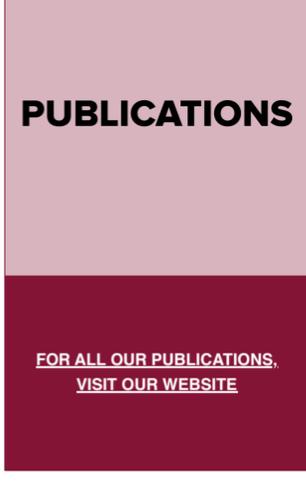


SNAPSHOT OF MIGRATION TO AND FROM LEBANON IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS¹

Maysa Baroud, Joint Visiting Fellow Middle East Council on Global Affairs & Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
December 2024

[SNAPSHOT OF MIGRATION TO AND FROM LEBANON IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS](#)

MAYSA BAROUD

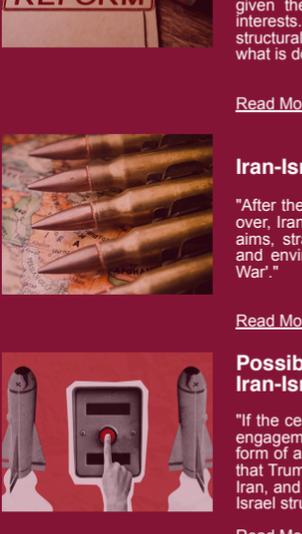


COUNTRY REPORT AND MIGRATION PROFILE FOR LEBANON

Maysa Baroud, Joint Visiting Fellow, Middle East Council on Global Affairs & Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
December 2024

[COUNTRY REPORT AND MIGRATION PROFILE FOR LEBANON](#)

MAYSA BAROUD



TOWARDS A PRODUCTIVE "NEW" LEBANON (ARABIC)

AMER BISAT ISHAC DIWAN



FROM EXILE TO UNCERTAINTY: SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON CONSIDER RETURNING HOME

MAYSA BAROUD



A NEW ERA? SCENARIOS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

8-9 APRIL 2025

[BSD 2025 CONFERENCE REPORT](#)



PUBLICATIONS

[FOR ALL OUR PUBLICATIONS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

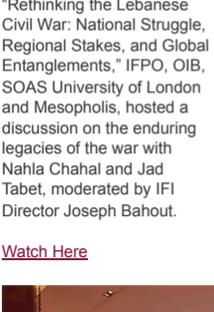
POLICY BLOG



No 'low-hanging fruits' for economic policy reform

"However, after decades of stymied reform, chronic corruption, a severe economic and financial crisis, and a war, it is not clear that there are any low-hanging fruits given the entrenched opposition to reforms by vested interests. There must be a focus on fundamental and structural reforms immediately. It almost does not matter what is done first."

[Read More](#)



Iran-Israel War: After the Dust Settles

"After the dust settles and all the chest-beating rhetoric is over, Iran, Israel, and the US will get back to their original aims, strategies, and tactics, within the new constraints and environment produced by this very strange '12-day War'."

[Read More](#)

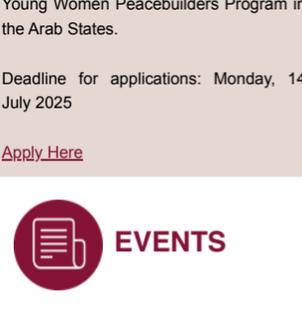


Iran-Israel Ceasefire of the US-Brokered

"If the ceasefire were to hold, however, further diplomatic engagement between Iran and the US would follow in the form of a possible US-Iran nuclear deal. It is worth noting that Trump was previously negotiating a nuclear deal with Iran, and it was in the context of the deal's stagnation that Israel struck on June 13."

[Read More](#)

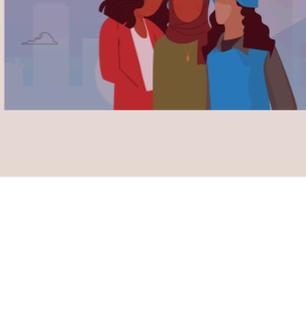
ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW UNIVERSITY FELLOW FADI EL-JARDALI

Our Institute is pleased to welcome Fadi El-Jardali as a University Fellow, joining as an expert on Public Policy, health and social policy, evidence to policy, knowledge translation, and government engagement.

[Read More](#)



2025 INSTITUTE RETREAT

Our 2025 Institute Retreat gathered our dedicated in-house team and fellows for two days of reflection, dialogue, and collaboration in the serene setting of the Chouf mountains.

[Watch Here](#)

YOUNG WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

IFI in partnership with the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS), is pleased to announce the call for applications for the third cohort of the Young Women Peacebuilders Program in the Arab States.

Deadline for applications: Monday, 14 July 2025

[Apply Here](#)



EVENTS

06/19/2025 THE MANIFOLD LEBANESE CIVIL WAR

To mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War, our Institute in collaboration with the organizers of the workshop "Rethinking the Lebanese Civil War: National Struggle, Regional Stakes, and Global Entanglements," IFPO, OIB, SOAS University of London and Mesopolis, hosted a discussion on the enduring legacies of the war with Nahla Chahal and Jad Tabet, moderated by IFI Director Joseph Bahout.

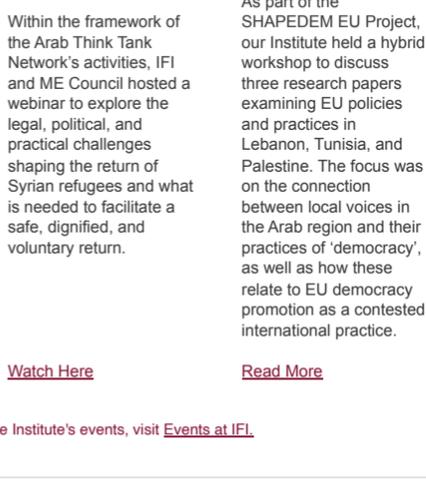
[Watch Here](#)



05/15/2025 EU IN LEBANON: POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Our Institute hosted a talk on "EU in Lebanon: Policies and Programs" with the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon Sami Saadi, moderated by IFI Director Joseph Bahout.

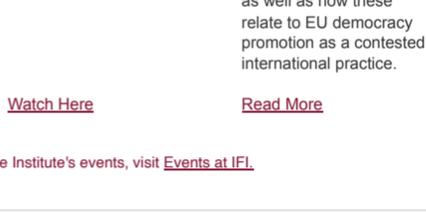
[Watch Here](#)



06/05/2025 EXPERT WORKSHOP: "CHINA'S ROLE IN LEBANON AND SYRIA"

Our Institute and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Security Project held a workshop on "Which Role for China in Lebanon and Syria?" The workshop addressed China's growing role and influence in Lebanon and Syria.

[Read Here](#)



05/14/2024 MIGRATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Our Institute in collaboration with FES Cyprus, the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), and the PRIO Cyprus Centre, held a webinar to launch the policy briefs and country reports on Egypt, Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus, in addition to the synthesis report: "Migration in the Eastern Mediterranean."

[Read More](#)

05/07/2024 THE QUESTION OF SYRIAN REFUGEE RETURN

Within the framework of the Arab Think Tank Network's activities, IFI and ME Council hosted a webinar to explore the legal, political, and practical challenges shaping the return of Syrian refugees and what is needed to facilitate a safe, dignified, and voluntary return.

[Watch Here](#)

06/26/2024 SHAPEDEM WORKSHOP

As part of the SHAPEDEM EU Project, our Institute held a hybrid workshop to discuss three research papers examining EU policies and practices in Lebanon, Tunisia, and Palestine. The focus was on the connection between local voices in the Arab region and their practices of 'democracy', as well as how these relate to EU democracy promotion as a contested international practice.

[Read More](#)

Webinar Migration in the Eastern Mediterranean Country Reports on Egypt, Lebanon, Greece and Cyprus

Webinar The Question of Syrian Refugee Return Arab Think Tank Network Series

For a roundup and summary of the Institute's events, visit [Events at IFI](#).