



Arab Center Washington DC
المركز العربي واشنطن دي سي

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2023

Delivering Human Rights-Centered Research



In 2023, ACW's work has been pivotal in filling a glaring gap in policy research that centers human rights, democracy, international law, and just and peaceful resolution to conflict.

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Dear Friends,

Providing credible and timely analysis on US foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa has never been more critical than in the last three months of 2023 during Israel's war on Gaza. Our team at Arab Center Washington DC (ACW) has worked tirelessly to highlight voices on the ground and bring you up to date information and unmatched evidence-based analysis of the events, their political context, and their impacts on the region and the world. Our work has been pivotal in filling a glaring gap in research that centers human rights, democracy, international law, and just and peaceful resolution to conflict.

At Arab Center Washington DC, we are firmly committed to providing factual, objective, and relevant policy analysis that is viewed by millions of people around the world. With the dedication of ACW's creative and skilled staff and fellows and the invaluable guidance of our executive and academic advisory board members and constituents, we managed to respond to several major critical events and developments in 2023 and we persisted in being an authoritative research center on Middle East politics and US policies and interests throughout the MENA 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 that you will consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help us advance this critical work.

We look forward to continuing to provide valuable contributions to the public debate and engaging with you in 2024.

Sincerely,



Khalil E. Jahshan
Executive Director



Championing Justice, Peace, and Democracy

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.

**IMPACTFUL
ANALYSIS**



**INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH**



**DIVERSE
EXPERTISE**



Bringing Arab perspectives to US policy conversations since 2015

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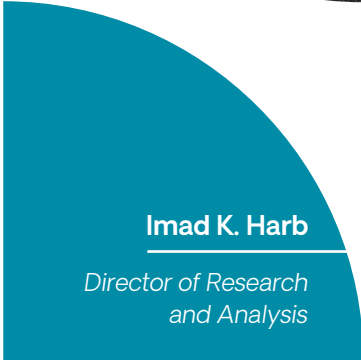
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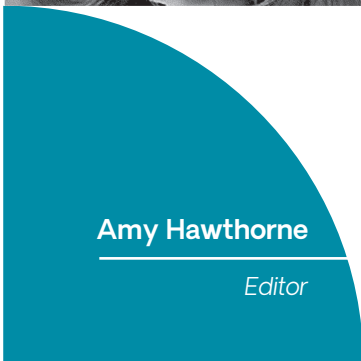
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Our Work

Independent, Timely, and Evidence-Based Research

In 2023, Arab Center Washington DC continued to produce timely and incisive analysis of important issues in the Middle East and North Africa and pertaining to US relations and policies in the region. While maintaining our excellent reputation for independent factual research and discussion, our work covered political, economic, social, environmental, and other pressing issues of concern, and contributed to shaping the global agenda and charting a path forward for the MENA region.

250

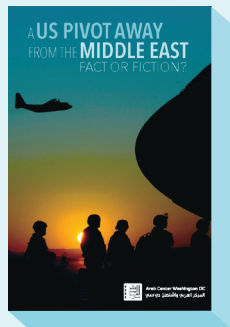
Original Publications

100

Audiovisual Analyses

1

Book “A US Pivot Away from the Middle East: Fact or Fiction?”



27

Events and Webinars

3

Conferences

“The ‘Abraham Accords’: Implications for Human Rights, a Just Peace, and US Policy”

“A US Pivot Away from the Middle East: Fact or Fiction?”

8th Annual Conference, “Democracy in Crisis: Geopolitical Shifts and US Challenges in MENA”



Establishing the Palestine/Israel Program

This year, we established the Palestine/Israel program, marking the first area-specific program at Arab Center Washington DC. The program, which is focused on a key issue in the Arab world, produces numerous publications and events to further the understanding of Palestine/Israel and US policy, and to respond to current events. In response to the war on Gaza, the program helped produce several important papers, events, videos, placements in mainstream publications and broadcast interviews responding to the crisis and providing necessary fact-based resources and analyses.



Arab Perspectives, Inclusive Discussions, and Diverse Expertise

In 2023, ACW continued to prioritize diversity in our programming, ensuring the inclusion of women experts and indigenous voices in all activities, and elevating expertise from the Global South.

35

Research Fellows and Academic Board Members

Over **350**

Scholars contributing content

71%

Native Contributors

51%

Women Experts

30%

Academic Scholars

Our Reach

Over **1 Million**

Website Visits

Over **2 Million**

Reached on Social Media

70%

Increase in Web Traffic

Over **15,000**

Event Attendees

40,000

YouTube Views

8,500

Newsletter Subscribers

Academic Outreach

In 2023, ACW continued its efforts to build and maintain strategic relationships with like-minded think tanks and academic institutions in Washington DC and throughout the United States. These relations helped foster collaboration and merge expertise, bridge the gap between academic research and the policy world, and reach a greater audience and increase our overall impact.

10

Academic Partnerships Established

Completed outreach to **hundreds** of Middle East centers at US universities

Our Impact

Informing, Educating, Influencing

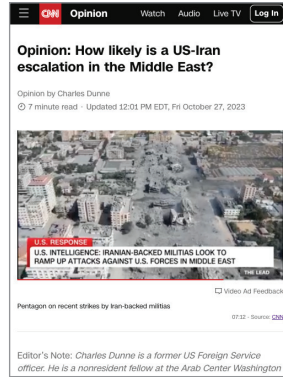
In 2023, ACW served as a trusted resource and provided fact-based analysis in the media and public forums, generating critical insights on key events shaping the world and reaching hundreds of millions of people.

20

Op-eds
Published in
US and Global
Media Outlets

Over
250

Expert Media
Interviews



ACW increased its global footprint by convening authoritative international experts and engaging with senior officials and civil society alike in order to aid decision-making in the United States and around the world and to inform policy choices that prioritize justice, democratic governance, and long-term sustainable development.

Presented lectures to academic classrooms, seminars, and community groups

ACW experts spoke at **several conferences** around the world

Hosted prominent leaders, UN officials, US State Department representatives, former diplomats, and distinguished scholars from academic institutions in the US and the MENA region



US Government Outreach

Having been sought out by congressional offices for our insights on issues concerning US foreign policy, ACW continues to make an impact on US policymaking.

Thousands of decisionmakers reached including in the executive and legislative branches of the US government, policy establishments, Arab and European officialdom, diplomatic missions, and UN agencies.

Engaging policymakers

In 2023, ACW instituted the US government outreach program in order to establish connections and provide informational material and policy analyses to congressional and executive branch staff working on Middle East policy issues. Throughout the year, Arab Center Washington DC briefed a number of congressional offices on foreign policy issues, cementing itself as a trusted resource for analysis and insight on the Arab world.

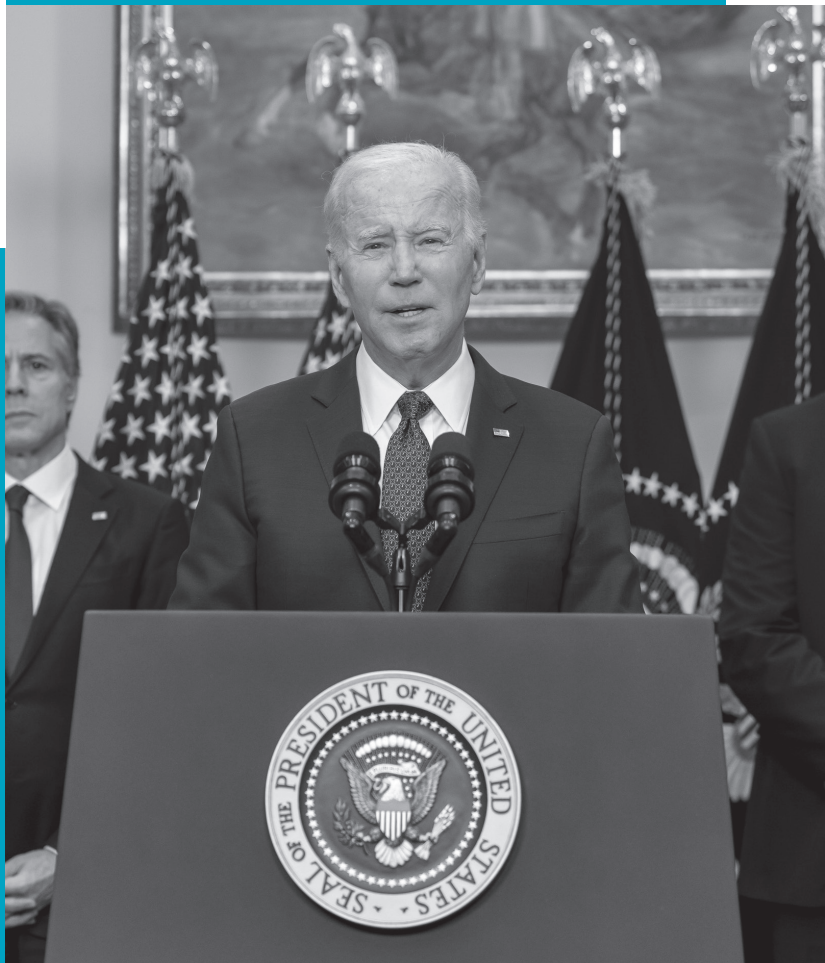
Held **20** informational meetings with congressional offices

Sent **mailings** and relevant policy papers to US government offices, ensuring that ACW's analysis gets in front of decisionmakers in Washington

Participated in **several meetings** with the White House and US Department of State

Washington Policy Weekly

Arab Center Washington DC produces a comprehensive weekly report outlining and analyzing developments in US policy related to the Middle East and covering activities in all three branches of the US government.



Responding to Major Events and Challenges

ACW responded to major critical events and developments that impacted that Arab world in 2023. We expanded our areas of focus and identified new thematic priorities covering a range of emerging issues and threats facing the Middle East and North Africa and provided a deep and nuanced understanding of the unique contexts and ever-evolving conditions shaping the region.

2023 Thematic Overview

1 Assessing the Impacts of Geopolitical Shifts and Emerging Alliances

In the Spotlight:

- › “The Global Significance of the China-Brokered Saudi-Iran Deal”
- › “What Does Normalization with Assad Mean for Accountability and a Political Resolution?”
- › “Morocco’s Concerning Domestic and Foreign Policies”



2 Addressing Challenges to Inclusive and Democratic Governance

In the Spotlight:

- › “Egypt’s National Dialogue: A Lost Opportunity for National Salvage”
- › “Despite Libya’s Progress on Election Laws, Deep Divisions Remain”
- › “Assessing the Reform Process in Jordan”



3 Informing Peacemaking Efforts and Regional Conflicts

In the Spotlight:

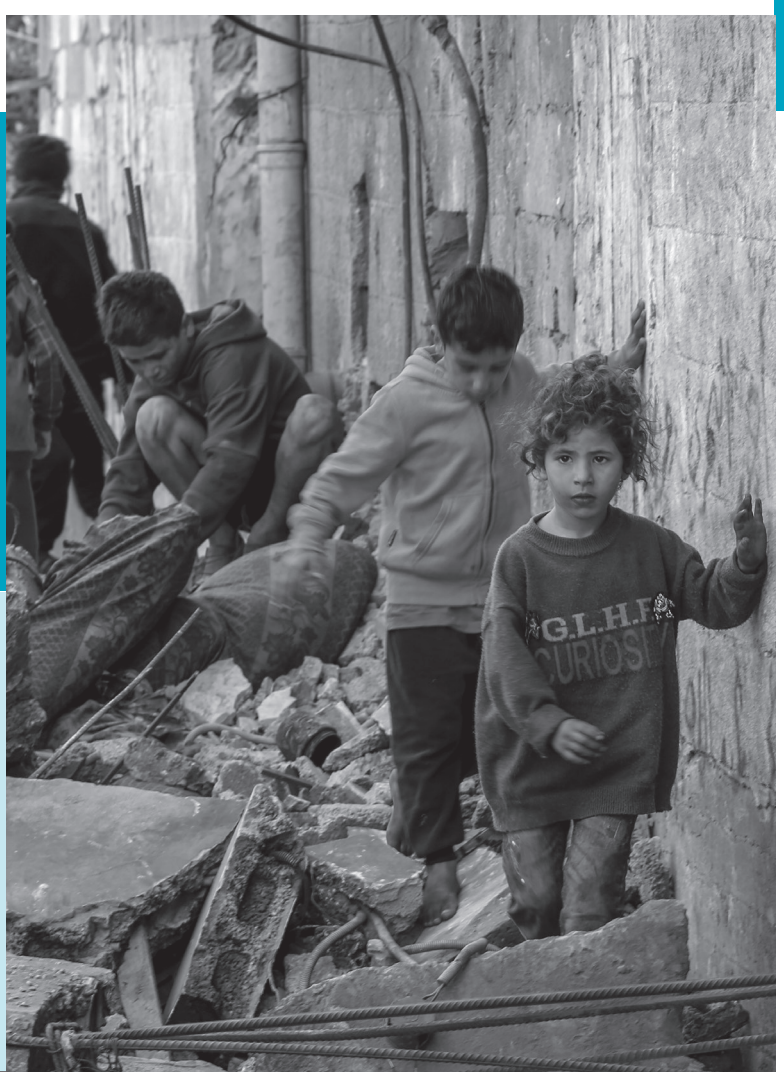
- › “The Conflict in Sudan: Will the Humanitarian Ceasefire Translate to a Political Resolution?”
- › “The Plight and Politics of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon”
- › “The Thorny Relationship between Yemen’s Government and the Southern Transitional Council”



4 Advancing a Just and Peaceful Resolution in Palestine/Israel

In the Spotlight:

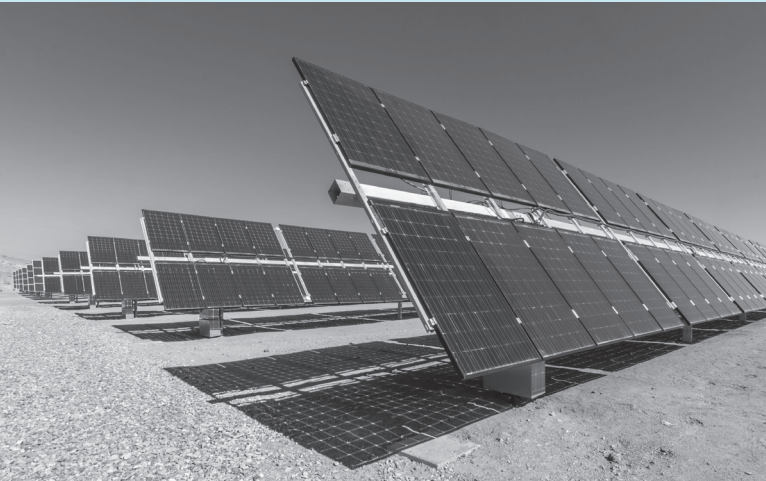
- › “International Law and War in Palestine/Israel”
- › “Assessing America’s Response to the Gaza Crisis”
- › “Seventy-Five Years after the Nakba: What Does the Future Hold?”



5 Centering Human Security, Rights, and Health

In the Spotlight:

- › “The Unfolding Health Catastrophe in the Gaza Strip”
- › “The Harrowing State of Women’s Rights in Lebanon”
- › “The Humanitarian Crises of the Syria-Turkey Earthquake”



6 Exploring the Future of Energy, Technology, and Economic Development

In the Spotlight:

- › “The Costs and Benefits of Water Desalination in the Gulf”
- › “Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights”
- › “MENA Economies in Crisis: Global Shocks and Structural Challenges”



7 Forging a Constructive US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

In the Spotlight:

- › “Assessing the Abraham Accords, Three Years On”
- › “Ending Military Aid to Israel: The Death of a Taboo?”
- › “Twenty Years after ‘Mission Accomplished’ in Iraq: A Critical Assessment”

Support Justice-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 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 each of you for engaging with us this past year through our events, publications, podcasts, 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 that you will continue to engage with us and support our work in 2024 and beyond.

Join our
community of
supporters

Donate Now



**ARABCENTERDC.
ORG/SUPPORT-ACW**

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 the MENA region



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