

Biographies of experts

Ms Claudia Gazzini - Senior analyst, Libya - International Crisis Group



As Crisis Group's senior analyst for Libya, Claudia Gazzini works with other members of the Middle East & North Africa team to research and produce reports on security, conflict, politics, governance, and social issues of Libya. She also briefs members of the international community on the situation inside Libya and offers policy recommendations. Her areas of expertise cover: Libyan history and politics, Islamist movements, oil and gas in Libya and colonialism.

Before joining Crisis Group in 2012, Claudia worked for the Associated Press in Rome and for Reuters in Jakarta. She was Max Weber fellow at that European University Institute in Fiesole (Florence) and visiting fellow at the Program of African Studies at Northern Western University (IL). She did her M.A. and PhD in Middle Eastern History respectively at Princeton University and Oxford University.

Dr Omar Ashour - Senior Lecturer in Middle East Politics and Security Studies - University of Exeter



Dr Ashour research interests are: asymmetric warfare, insurgency and counterinsurgency, Islamist movements and ideologies, democratization (with focus on security sector reform and civil-military relations), security, terrorism, and strategic military studies.

His published works cover the Middle East, North Africa, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Arab and Muslim Communities in the West. His publications appeared in *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *International Affairs*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Middle East Journal*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Conflict Studies*, and others.

Dr Ashour previously served as a senior consultant for the United Nations on security sector reform, counter-terrorism, and de-radicalization issues. He co-authored the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for West Asia's (UN-ESCWA) document on security sector reform during the transitional periods of the "Arab Spring." It was the first UN document on that subject-matter in the Arab-majority world.

Dr Ashour is currently an Associate Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London. Previously, he served as a Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution for five years.