James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies

Challenges to Creating a Middle East WMD-Free Zone

A briefing featuring presentations by Nonproliferation Review *authors Douglas Shaw and Emily Landau was held on November 29, 2012 in Washington, DC.*

CNS, *The Nonproliferation Review*, and The Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University (GWU) held a breakfast briefing featuring presentations by *Nonproliferation Review* authors **Douglas B. Shaw**, Associate Dean for Planning, Research, and External Relations, Elliott School of International Affairs, and **Dr. Emily B. Landau**, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University. Both authors were featured in the recent Special Section of the *NPR* that focused on **challenges to creating a Middle East WMD-Free Zone**, which itself was a culmination of several joint discussions and events co-sponsored by GWU and INSS.



Douglas B. Shaw

Middle East Nonproliferation: Toward a Zone of Inclusion

The Middle East is a crucial region for the global nonproliferation regime. In 2010, the state parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons proposed a conference on a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone. The nuclear weapon-free zone model, on which this idea builds, has achieved important results in other regions, but faces especially stark challenges in the Middle East. However, the attempt to apply the boldly imaginative zone approach to the Middle East holds promise for building a more inclusive dialogue on nonproliferation and regional security.

Emily B. Landau

The ACRS Experience and Its Relevance to the WMD Free-Zone Conference

The Arms Control and Regional Security (ACRS) working group—part of the multilateral track of the Madrid peace process in the early 1990s—is the only venue for regional arms control talks that have taken place in the Middle East to date. Assessing the successes and major constraints of the ACRS talks reveals what might be relevant to the WMDfree zone conference originally planned for December 2012. In addition to the basic arms control dilemmas that will continue to challenge this conference—as they did ACRS—current conditions in the Middle East are even less conducive to regional dialogue than they were in the 1990s, due to the internal upheavals in several key Arab states and the specific challenge of Iran's efforts to develop a military nuclear capability.

Following the presentations—including the Skype presentation by Dr. Landau—the audience of arms control experts, advocates, and government officials, past and present, engaged with the panelists in a lively, productive discussion that further discussed the prospects for convening the conference in the future and what results, if any, might be expected, if it should happen.

http://cns.miis.edu/activities/121129_npr_mideast_wmdfz.htm