

GENEIVE ABDO

POLICY EXPERIENCE, ISLAMIC WORLD AND MIDDLE EAST

The Stimson Center

Fellow, Middle East program

October 2012 - present

- Director of Iran-U.S Advisory Group
- Organized conferences, such as the state of civil society in Iran and the US-Iran relationship; participants included policymakers, analysts, NGOs and other non-profit organizations.
- Published reports, editorials and essays on politics in Iran, the Middle East, Islamic political movements, and Muslim integration in Western societies
- Author of monograph on Sunni-Shia relations, published by the Brookings Institution

The Century Foundation

July 2007 – April 2012

Director, Iran Program

- Creator and editor of www.insideiran.org
- Director of Iran--U.S. Advisory Group
- Organized conferences, such as the state of civil society in Iran and the US-Iran relationship; participants included policymakers, analysts, NGOs and other non-profit organizations.
- Published reports, editorials and essays on politics in Iran, the Middle East, Islamic political movements, and Muslim integration in Western societies.
- Established as expert on Iran, the Middle East and Islam-related issues through public speaking, television appearances, including CNN, and speaking engagements at influential think tanks.

Homeland Security Policy Institute, George Washington University

July 2007

Fellow

- Served as consultant to research on homeland security

National Democratic Institute

February 2009 - June 2009

Consultant

- Author of by-weekly bulletin sent to Congress and the U.S. State Department providing a policy Analysis of internal political developments inside Iran

The United Nations

January 2006 - October 2006

Liaison Officer of the Alliance of Civilizations

- Supervised researchers for one-year project aimed at combating Islamic extremism, established under former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.
- Hired and supervised consultants commissioned to conduct research and write reports through the duration of project.
- Edited draft reports submitted by consultants in conformity with project's goals and UN expectations.
- Negotiated contracts between consultants and UN Human Resources.
- Identified and commissioned scholars to write papers related to the project's research, and drafted deadline schedules to meet the project's timetable.
- Served as director of entire staff and project when the appointed director was absent, working directly with the Secretary General's representative.
- Delivered presentations within the UN explaining the project and its objectives.
- Worked with director to draft final document, distributed by the UN in 2006, which identified major causes for the divide between Islamic and Western societies and policy recommendations for the future.

- Conducted interviews with NGOs in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, and members of Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt for project.

Chicago Council on Global Affairs

2006 - 2007

Task Force Member

- Served on a committee of thirty-six experts and scholars.
- Participated in regular conferences with committee on the state of Muslims in America, post 9/11.
- Contributed to final report, "Strengthening America: The Civic and Political Integration of Muslim Americans."

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

CNN Consultant

2007

Documentary, "God's Warriors."

- Worked with CNN crew to identify Muslim activists for two-hour documentary; provided content and analysis regarding the causes for increased religiosity among Muslims.

The Chicago Tribune

2003 - 2004

Religion Editor/Reporter

- Directed newspaper's coverage of all religion stories, making important decisions on trends, events, and personalities deserving media attention.
- Assigned stories to reporters.
- Conducted research on book about Muslims in America, post 9/11.

The Guardian

1998-2001

Foreign Correspondent (Iran)

- Established Guardian office in Tehran, hiring staff including translators and researchers.
- Worked closely with Iranian NGOs and other actors in civil society, including student organizations on college campuses, women's groups and clerical groups to develop articles regarding opposition to the regime.
- Hired and supervised researchers for book on Iran's political dysfunction.
- Regular contributor to The Economist magazine

The Dallas Morning News

1993 - 1996

Foreign Correspondent (Middle East)

- Established office in Cairo and hired staff, including researchers, translators and driver.
- Worked closely with NGOs and other actors in civil society, including Islamists, human rights advocates, women's groups, independent lawyers' associations, journalists, and activists in Islamic student organizations.
- Traveled regularly on assignments throughout the region to countries including Algeria, Kuwait, Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Libya.
- Conducted research for book on Egypt's Islamic revival.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

***The New Sectarianism: The Arab Uprisings and the Rebirth of the Shia-Sunni Divide* (The Saban Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institution, April 2013)**

The monograph documents the causes for sectarianism in the Middle East, with particular focus on Lebanon and Bahrain.

***No God But God: Egypt and the Triumph of Islam, 1994-1998* (Oxford University Press, 2000)**

First significant book to provide detailed documentation of the Islamic revival in Egypt, which has transformed society. This work also offered deep insight into the workings and ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood.

***Answering Only to God: Faith and Freedom in Twenty-First Century Iran, 1999-2002* (Henry Holt, 2003)**

This book foreshadowed the hard-liners' takeover of the Iranian government. It detailed the evolution of theological interpretation since the 1979 Islamic revolution and how this interpretation has caused the current dysfunctional political system.

***Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America After 9/11, 2004-2006*, (Oxford University Press, 2006)**

This book makes the argument that Muslims in the United States are becoming less integrated and more alienated from mainstream American society after 9/11.

Rethinking the Islamic Republic: A conversation with Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, Middle East Journal (Winter, 2001). Interview with Montazeri, an architect of the Islamic revolution, while he was under house arrest. This interview gained worldwide recognition.

The Frailty of Khatami's Revolution: The Washington Quarterly, Autumn, 2000. Essay predicted the collapse of Khatami's reform movement three to four years before analysts and policymakers in Washington noticed its failure.

Iran's Generation of Outsiders. The Washington Quarterly, Autumn 2001

Days of Rage in Tehran. Middle East Policy Journal, October 1999

Numerous essays and commentaries on the Middle East and Islam have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, and *The Nation*, *Foreign Policy Magazine*, and *Newsweek*.

SELECTED AWARDS

- **John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship**, 2001-2002
- **Nieman Fellow, Harvard University**. Prestigious award given annually for study at Harvard, 2001-2002
- **Ford Foundation** grant for research in Iran, 2000-2001
- **United States Institute of Peace** grant for research in Egypt, 1997-1998
- **Earhart Foundation** grant for research in Iran, 2001
- **Earhart Foundation** grant for research on Muslim-Americans, 2005
- **University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute**, Fellowship, Fall semester, 2005
- **Rockefeller Brothers Fund**, grant for research on Iran, 2009
- **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**, grant for research on Iran, 2009

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Since 2000, a regular speaker at universities, international institutions, and think tanks including, Oxford University, Harvard University, Princeton University, Williams College, the OSCE, United Nations, the German parliament, The Atlantic Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, World Affairs Council, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Carnegie Corporation

EDUCATION

Nieman Fellow, Harvard University. Prestigious award given annually for study at Harvard, 2001-2002
Princeton University, Fellow MA program, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 1992-1993
Middlebury College, Intensive Arabic program, Summer 1993
University of Texas, Austin. BA, Political Science and Middle East Studies, 1982
American University in Cairo, Arabic program, 1987