

Public Event on Iraq's Political and Energy Outlook

IRAQ INITIATIVE

Friday, November 1, 2019

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, 12th floor

Speaker Bios



Ambassador Rend al-Rahim

Co-founder and President, Iraq Foundation

Rend al-Rahim is co-founder and president of the Iraq Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to the support and promotion of democracy, human rights and civil society in Iraq. From 2003 to 2004, she served as Iraq's ambassador to the United States. In 2007, Ambassador al-Rahim was awarded a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship at the United States Institute for Peace. Ambassador al-Rahim is the co-author with Graham Fuller of *The Arab Shia: Forgotten Muslims*. She currently serves on the Advisory Committee of the Atlantic Council's Iraq Initiative. Ambassador al-Rahim was educated in Iraq, the United Kingdom,

and France. She holds a BA and MA from the University of Cambridge and an MA from the University of the Sorbonne.



Mr. Joey Hood

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, US Department of State

Joey Hood is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. Mr. Hood has spent much of his career working in the Middle East, and particularly on the Arabian Peninsula. He has served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Iraq and in Kuwait, as well as Consul General and Principal Officer in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Prior to these assignments, Mr. Hood was Acting Director of the

Office of Iranian Affairs at the US Department of State. Mr. Hood has also served in Riyadh, where he coordinated US-Saudi military cooperation, and in Asmara, where he was a liaison to rebel leaders from Sudan's Darfur region. He has also been assigned to US embassies in Yemen and Qatar. Prior to the Foreign Service, Mr. Hood was a Fulbright scholar in Burkina Faso and worked at a bank in Vermont. He earned a Master's degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College.



Mr. Majid Jafar
CEO, Crescent Petroleum

Majid Jafar is the CEO of Crescent Petroleum, the Middle East's oldest private oil & gas company, and vice-chairman of the Crescent Group of companies which includes interests in port management, logistics, contracting, private equity and real estate. He is also managing director of the board of publicly-listed Dana Gas. In addition to his professional commitments, Majid Jafar serves on the board of trustees of Queen Rania Foundation, Kalimat Foundation, the Arab Forum for Environment and Development, and the Iraq Energy Institute. He also sits on the board of fellows of Harvard Medical School and the international advisory board of the Prince's Trust International and the Atlantic Council. Majid Jafar attended Eton College and graduated from Cambridge University (Churchill College) with bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering (fluid mechanics and thermodynamics). He also holds an MA (with distinction) in international studies and diplomacy from the University of London's School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), and an MBA (with distinction) from the Harvard Business School. He has been named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Moderator Bio



Dr. Abbas Kadhim
Director, Iraq Initiative, Atlantic Council

Abbas Kadhim is director of the Atlantic Council Iraq Initiative. He is an Iraq expert and author of *Reclaiming Iraq: The 1920 Revolution and the Founding of the Modern State*. Most recently, he was a senior foreign policy fellow at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He was formerly an assistant professor of national security affairs and Middle East studies at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and a visiting assistant professor at Stanford University. He also previously held a senior government affairs position at the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, DC. His books include *Governance in the Middle East and North Africa* and *The Hawza Under Siege: Studies in the Ba'ath Party Archive*. He earned a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Welcome Remarks By



Mr. Frederick Kempe
President and CEO, Atlantic Council

Fred Kempe is the president and chief executive officer of the Atlantic Council. Before joining the Council, Kempe was a prize-winning editor and reporter at the *Wall Street Journal* for more than twenty-five years. At the *Wall Street Journal*, he served as a roving correspondent based out of London; as a Vienna Bureau chief covering Eastern Europe and East-West Affairs; as chief diplomatic correspondent in Washington, DC; and as the paper's first Berlin Bureau chief following the unification of Germany and collapse of the Soviet Union. He is the author of four books. The most recent, *Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth*, was a *New York Times* Best Seller and a National Best Seller. Published in 2011, it has subsequently been translated into thirteen different languages. Kempe is a graduate of the University of Utah and has a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where he was a member of the International Fellows program in the School of International Affairs. He won the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism's top alumni achievement award and the University of Utah's Distinguished Alumnus Award. For his commitment to strengthening the transatlantic alliance, Kempe has been decorated by the Presidents of Poland and Germany and by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.