

TALKING FOR PEACE – A KARL KAHANE LECTURE SERIES

The Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue in co-operation with the Karl Kahane Foundation and the European Union Institute for Security Studies
kindly invites to a panel discussion

NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Welcome address:

Patricia Kahane

President of the Karl Kahane Foundation, Member of the Board of the Bruno Kreisky Forum

Panellists:

Yossi Beilin

Bassma Kodmani

Walter Posch

Tuesday | April 15, 2008 | 19.00 hours

Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue
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Yossi Beilin

Yossi Beilin is currently a member of Knesset and was, over the past four years, chairman of the Meretz-Yachad party. Meretz-Yachad has five seats in the current Knesset. Beilin's lengthy career of public service makes him one of the most experienced politicians in Israel. Beilin has held ministerial positions in the governments of Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak.

Yossi Beilin is a leading proponent of the peace process with Israel's neighbors and especially the Palestinians, identifying Israel's national interest as being best served by achieving a fair, just, and comprehensive peace in the region. In July 2001 he led a group of Israeli intellectuals and academics in signing a Joint Declaration with Palestinian peers, headed by Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. In parallel, Beilin and Abed Rabbo, initiated talks aimed at reaching a detailed permanent status agreement. This effort culminated in the Geneva Accord, which was launched in Geneva, on 1st December 2003.

Over the years, Dr. Beilin has established himself as one of Israel's foremost thinkers on the issue of Jewish continuity and relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. He was an innovator of the "Birthright" program, which has brought over the years tens of thousands of Jews to Israel. Other recent initiatives include successfully sponsoring legislation to guarantee equal representation for the Israeli Arab minority in the public administration, government-owned companies, and public authorities.

Bassma Kodmani

is the Executive Director of the Arab Reform Initiative, a consortium of Arab policy research institutes with partners in Europe and the US, working collaboratively on reforms and democratic transitions in the Arab world. She is also associate research fellow at the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche Internationale (CERI) at Sciences-Po, Paris, and senior adviser on international cooperation to the French National Research Council (CNRS).

From 1999 to 2005 she headed the Governance and International Cooperation program at the Ford Foundation office for the Middle East and North Africa, based in Cairo, where she had overall responsibility for support to key research institutions, NGOs and public agencies, and special responsibility for initiating and supporting joint Israeli-Palestinian projects, including track II meetings.

Prior to moving to Cairo, she established and directed the Middle East Program at the *Institut Français des Relations Internationales* (IFRI) in Paris from 1981 to 1998 and was Associate Professor of International Relations at Paris University.

She holds a PhD in Political Science from Sciences-Po in Paris.

Her latest book *Abattre les murs* (Breaking Walls) was published in February 2008.

Walter Posch

holds a Doctorate in Iranian history from Bamberg University (Germany) and M.Phil. in Turkish Studies, University of Vienna. He has lectured on Islamic fundamentalism and extremism as a regional expert for Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan at the National Defence Academy (LVAK) of the Austrian Army in Vienna. He is a research fellow at the European Union Institute for Security Studies since 2004, and deals with Turkey, Iran, terrorism and Middle Eastern security issues.