



مؤسسة الدراسات الفلسطينية Institute for Palestine Studies

**News Release
For Immediate Release**

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“The Future of Bipartisanship on Israel”
Panel presented by the Institute for Palestine Studies, Oct. 15th
Featuring: Paul Pillar, Maya Berry, Yousef Munayyer and Nihad Awad
Moderated by Rashid Khalidi

Washington DC, September 14, 2015 – The Institute for Palestine Studies is pleased to present [“The Future of Bipartisanship on Israel”](#), a panel discussion on October 15th from 12pm to 2.30pm at the SEIU building in Dupont Circle, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC. The panel will be moderated by *Journal of Palestine Studies* Editor, **Rashid Khalidi**, and feature a distinguished group of expert speakers including, **Paul Pillar**, non-resident Senior Fellow at the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University and former CIA analyst; **Maya Berry**, Executive Director of the Arab American Institute; **Yousef Munayyer**, Executive Director of the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation; and **Nihad Awad** Executive Director and Founder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

This important discussion comes at a time when US relations with Israel, a longstanding ally, are in flux. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s controversial and divisive address to Congress last year marked a partisan shift in Congressional dealings with Israel. Tensions have arisen over policy disagreements (including the Iran nuclear deal), and politicians who have historically sided with Israel are lining up along party lines, many in opposition to the demands of the pro-Israel Lobby.

This expert panel will explore the evolution of Republican and Democratic Party positions on Israel and Palestine, discuss Congress as an actor in shaping U.S. foreign policy, and evaluate the influence of Islamophobia and the role of the Evangelical community in influencing politicians and policy. How U.S. policy toward Israel and the Palestine question impacts broader U.S. national interests will also be discussed in-depth.

As the 2016 presidential election race ramps up, this panel will be present the latest issues related to American policy on Israel and Palestine and reveal what changes we might expect to see in future American policy towards Israel.

“The Future of Bipartisanship on Israel” is a free panel discussion hosted by the Institute for Palestine Studies located at SEIU building in Dupont Circle, 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC on November 21, 2014 from 12pm to 2.30pm. **To learn more and [reserve your ticket](#), please visit www.palestine-studies.org**

Please direct all media, sponsorship or interview requests to Paige Brownlow at 202-342-3990 ext. 13 or paigeb@palestine-studies.org.

About the Speakers

Rashid Khalidi is the editor of the *Journal of Palestine Studies* and the Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University. He was also President of the Middle East Studies Association and an advisor to the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington Arab-Israeli peace negotiations from October 1991 until June 1993. He is author of many books on Palestine, Israel and US foreign policy.

Paul Pillar is Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Center for Security Studies of Georgetown University. He is also a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and an Associate Fellow of the Geneva Center for Security Policy. He retired in 2005 from a 28-year career in the U.S. intelligence community, after which he was visiting professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University. His senior government positions included National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia, Deputy Chief of the DCI Counterterrorist Center, and Executive Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence. He is a Vietnam War veteran and a retired officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. Dr. Pillar received an M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton University. His most recent book is *Why America Misunderstands the World: National Experience and Roots of Misperception* (forthcoming in 2016).

Maya Berry is Executive Director of the Arab American Institute, steering the Institute's policy agenda. In 1996 she established AAI's first Government Relations department, which she led for 5 years before becoming Legislative Director for House Minority Whip David Bonior, where she developed policies on international relations, human rights, trade, and immigration. Berry started her career in public service working for ACCESS, the nation's oldest and largest Arab American human services non-profit. Berry is also the founder of MidAmr Group, a private consulting firm dedicated to enhancing US-Arab economic, political and cultural cooperation.

Yousef Munayyer is Executive Director of the US Campaign to End Israeli Occupation, a diverse coalition of hundreds of groups working to end Israeli abuses of Palestinian rights. He also serves as a Policy Analyst for the Arab Research Center in Washington DC, an affiliate of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha. He holds a Ph.D. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and is widely published in the mainstream press on Israel, Palestine and the broader Middle East.

Nihad Awad is the National Executive Director and cofounder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the largest non-profit Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. As a national leader in the civil rights movement, his work includes interfacing with the U.S. government, facilitating interfaith dialogue, and appearing in national and international media to discuss Islam and American Muslims. Awad has been variously recognized by the *National Journal* as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the U.S." whose ideas help shape the debate over public policy issues, by Georgetown University's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talaal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding in its *500 Most Influential Muslims*, and by *Arabian Business* in the "Power 100" listing of the most influential Arabs.

About the Institute for Palestine Studies

The Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS) is the oldest institute in the world exclusively devoted to documentation, research and publication on Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. IPS is entirely independent and committed to preserving the collective memory of Palestine and educating the public on the realities of Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict. To learn more about the institute, visit www.palestine-studies.org