



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

ENHANCING MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY IN AFRICA: WHOLE-OF-AFRICA MARITIME DIALOGUE 2021

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE July 27-28, 2021

BIOGRAPHIES

LEADERSHIP

Ms. Kate Almquist Knopf has served as director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the U.S. Department of Defense since July 2014. Established by the U.S. Congress for the study of security issues relating to Africa, the Center serves as a forum for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, and the exchange of ideas. It aims to be an objective source of strategic analysis on contemporary and over-the-horizon security issues for African security sector professionals, policymakers, scholars, media, and civil society, as well as international partners.

Ms. Knopf has spent most of her career focused on the intersection of security and development in Africa. From 2001 to 2009, she held several senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including as assistant administrator for Africa, Sudan mission director, deputy assistant administrator for Africa, and special assistant and senior policy advisor to the administrator.

Ms. Knopf has also been a senior advisor for the Crisis Management Initiative, a conflict mediation organization founded by former Finnish President and Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, and a visiting policy fellow at the Center for Global Development. Prior to federal service, she was chief of staff for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She began her career at World Vision, an international nongovernmental organization.

Ms. Knopf holds an M.A. in international relations with concentrations in African studies and conflict management from Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, and a B.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Luka Kuol is the Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. As the dean, Dr. Luka Kuol directs the Africa Center's academic programs, linking them with Center's Research, Outreach, and Alumni initiatives. In addition, he is the faculty lead of three academic programs: National Security Strategy Development, Managing Security Resources, and Emerging Security Sector Leaders. His work focuses on national security strategy, security sector budgets, social contracts, food security and resilience, and the security-development-governance nexus. Dr. Kuol

is also a Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo, a Fellow at the Rift Valley Institute, and an Associate Professor of Economics (on leave) at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He also sits on the editorial board of the Disasters Journal, published by the Overseas Development Institute.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kuol served as director of the Centre for Peace and Development Studies and Associate Professor of Economics at the College of Social and Economic Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was also on the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. He served as Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as National Minister of Cabinet Affairs for the Republic of Sudan. He has also worked as a senior economist for the World Bank in Southern Sudan.

He received his Bachelor of Science with honors from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies at the University of Khartoum, an M.A. in Economics, an M.B.A. from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Ian Ralby is Adjunct Professor of Maritime Law and Security at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, as well as an expert advisor to the United Nations and NATO on security matters, a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and CEO of his own consultancy, I.R. Consilium. He has substantial expertise in international and maritime law, international relations, and transnational security issues. In particular, he is a recognized expert on maritime law enforcement; matters relating to the regulation, governance and oversight of both land-based and maritime private security companies; and the global issue of downstream oil theft. His practice centers on advising and assisting governments and organizations with developing and implementing legally-grounded policy, often pertaining to matters of security and stability. He has worked with clients around the globe on complex problem-solving including: extensive work on maritime domain issues in Africa, the Caribbean, and South East Asia; troubleshooting complex littoral problems in the Middle East; horizon scanning for future security concerns; and drafting and implementing legislation with security implications. Dr. Ralby has also spent time embedded as an international law advisor to a government in the Balkans, served as an advisor on the development of various national and international codes, standards and oversight mechanisms for the private security industry, and provided support to the Iraqi Judges on the trials of Saddam Hussein and his top lieutenants. He remains an active advisor to several allied Western Governments on matters relating to both private security and maritime affairs and is considered a 'Key Opinion Former' on maritime security in NATO. He also speaks and publishes widely on topics relating to international affairs and law. Dr. Ralby earned a B.A. in Modern Languages and Linguistics and an M.A. in Intercultural Communication at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; a J.D. at the College of William and Mary; and an M.Phil. in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Politics and International Studies at St. John's College of the University of Cambridge.

SPEAKERS (in alphabetical order)

Ms. Lucia Bird Ruiz-Benitez de Lugo is a Senior Analyst at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. Lucia researches and writes on a broad range of organised crime types internationally, however her focus to date has been on human smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking and policy, and cyber crime. Previously, Lucia worked as legal and policy adviser to the Planning and Development Department of the Punjab Government, Pakistan, and before that held the same role at the Ministry of Finance, Ghana. During this time Lucia was affiliated with Oxford Policy Management, a development consultancy headquartered in the UK. Prior to this Lucia worked as a corporate lawyer in London, where she is currently based.

Dr Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood is a lecturer in Sustainable Development at the School of Geography and Sustainable Development, University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Her research to-date has generated critical insights on the blue economy, environmental justice, human security, maritime governance and security. She's continuing to advance the understanding of sustainability as a question of resource management, and the disproportionate effects of depleting resources on security, poverty, and inequality.

Captain Samuel Lynch is a Port Security & Maritime Law Enforcement Expert with the Global Maritime Crime Program, Indian Ocean of the UNODC. He is a result oriented Maritime Professional, with a proven leadership record. He has worked in the industry for the past 24 years, with 13 years sailing as a Professional Merchant Mariner at sea. He started from the bottom as an ordinary seaman and moved up the hawse- pipe by way of merit, from sailing as an unlicensed sea-man to a Limited Licensed Officer authorized to operate small coastal crafts including tug-boats, crew-boats, and offshore supply vessels to name a few, as Master or Mate within the near coastal trade.

During The last 11 years, the captain has served with the Liberian Maritime Authority in a number of different capacities. Firstly, as The Chief Safety and Navigation Officer; with such assignments as Head of vessel Inspection Services (Port State Control, Small Watercraft, and Domestic Registered Fleet), and Head of the Monrovia Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Center. He is also a flag state designated Lead Auditor and Nautical Safety Inspector for the Republic of Liberia.

In his final assignment with the Authority, Captain Lynch served as the Director for Maritime Security and Chief ISPS Compliance Officer where he lead all national efforts towards Liberia transitioning from being listed on the U.S. Coast Guard International shipping Black List; to the Port Security Advisory List; and subsequently in a five year period, to being White Listed.

Under his belt are a number of other notable achievements including generating Liberia's first ever National Maritime Security Strategy Document and Chairing the drafting group that generated Liberia's spill contingency plan for oil and other hazardous materials. The Captain holds Post Graduate credentials from the World Maritime University (WMU) for studies in Maritime Safety and Security and currently works with the United Nations Office on Drugs &

Crime (UNODC) as an expert consultant with the (EU) Port Security and Safety of Navigation Program in East Africa.

Ambassador Dr. Namira Nabil Negm is the Legal Counsel and Director of Department of Legal Affairs of the African Union. (2017-now). Prior to the assumption of this position, she served as Ambassador of Egypt to Rwanda (2014-2017). Amb. Negm is a seasoned diplomat that occupied several diplomatic positions during her career. She was the Head of the AntiCorruption Unit, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt (2013 - 2014), she was the Legal Advisor and Counter Terrorism Expert of the Egyptian Mission to the United Nations, New York (2006-2010). She has also served as the Legal and Political Officer in the Embassy of Egypt to the Netherlands (1999-2003). During her diplomatic career, she served in several positions in the Department of Legal Affairs and International Conventions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.