



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## ENHANCING SECURITY-JUSTICE COORDINATION TO COUNTER TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

October 17 - November 10, 2021  
VIRTUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### 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 Dean of Academic Affairs, in which capacity he 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. Catherine Lena Kelly** is Associate Professor of Justice and Rule of Law. She is responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's portfolio on justice, rule of law, and governance and integrating these considerations into academic programming, research, and outreach. Her work focuses on citizen security, party politics and democratization, the rule of law and stabilization, and transnational organized crime.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kelly was an advisor at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work took her to Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. She designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa and democracy as a postdoctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis. At the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, Dr. Kelly taught the West Africa course and co-taught the governance and religion modules in the Area Studies course. She has been awarded numerous fellowships and grants, including a Fulbright Fellowship, a Mellon/ American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellowship, a West Africa Research Association grant, several Harvard University grants, and two U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship for the Wolof language and doctoral research in Senegal. Her work has been published extensively in policy and academic journals.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics (Europe, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding) from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis.

## **FACILITATORS (in alphabetical order)**

**Dr. Nathaniel Allen** is an Assistant Professor for Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on cybersecurity and peace support operations and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach. His work focuses on civil-military relations, regional security partnerships, counterinsurgency efforts, and nonconventional warfare.

Prior to the joining the Africa Center, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, for the Foreign Affairs and the Armed Services Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and with NORC at the University of Chicago's International Projects Department. Dr. Allen's research has been published in leading policy journals and newspapers. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he was a 2016-2017 Williams Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar.

Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. in international relations and African studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, an M.A. in development studies from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College.

**Dr. Anouar Boukhars** is professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Boukhars works closely with African government and nongovernmental security sector leaders on developing and implementing activities and programs relating to counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. His research focuses on the dynamics of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Boukhars was a nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of international relations at McDaniel College. He has served on several advisory boards and committees on the Sahel and North Africa, including at the African Peacebuilding Network at the Social Science Research Council. From August 2015 to July 2017, Dr. Boukhars served at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as lead facilitator of its flagship program, the Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. His research has been published in numerous leading policy publications and academic journals. He routinely conducts fieldwork in Africa and consults frequently for the African Union, World Bank, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and European governments.

Dr. Boukhars holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; an M.A. in applied humanities from Al Akhaweyn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.

**Mr. Martin Ewi** is Technical Coordinator of the ENACT (Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organized Crime) Project at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, South Africa. In this capacity, he conducts research and analysis; coordinates and manages the

five regional organised crime observatories in Africa; monitors trends, issues recommendations, and provides training and technical assistance. Previously, he served as a senior researcher at the ISS on terrorism, counter-terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism in Africa. Prior to joining the ISS in 2010, Martin also served as Political Affairs Officer at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague and as the officer in charge of the African Union strategic security unit and counter-terrorism analysis.

**Dr Mehari Taddele Maru** is currently Part-time Professor Migration Policy Centre and Academic Coordinator of the Young African Leaders Programme at the School of Transnational Governance and at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He is also a senior expert at Mercator Dialogue on Asylum and Migration.

Prof Mehari is also a Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), Bruges, Belgium. A graduate of Harvard and Oxford universities, Prof Mehari holds a DLS/PhD in Legal Sciences from J.L. Giessen University, Germany, an MPA from Harvard, an MSc from the University of Oxford and an LLB from Addis Ababa University.

With more than 20 years of management and professional working experience in multilateral bodies, he combines research excellence with a deep knowledge of multilateral systems. Until recently, Dr Mehari was a member of the Technical Committee of the Tana High-Level Security Forum (modelled on, and uniquely related to the Munich Security Forum for Africa), and he worked as Programme Coordinator for the AU Migration Programme and Legal Expert at the African Union Commission (AUC). Dr Mehari also served as Chief Strategist, Legal Drafter, and Lead Migration Expert in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). He served as Programme Head for Conflict Prevention and Risk Analysis at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and as Director for University Reform at Addis Ababa University, in addition to serving as a member of the university's Senate and Policy Committee.

**Dr. Martha Mutisi** is Senior Programme Officer at International Development Research Centre (IDRC) at the Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa (ROSSA), in Nairobi, Kenya. Her role is to support and undertake evidence-based research that helps citizens and public authorities address the sources of violent conflict, insecurity, fragility and poor governance, while acknowledging the imperative for a gender-transformative approach to solutions.

Previously, she was the Manager of the Interventions Department at ACCORD. In this position, Martha coordinated strategic and operational plans of the department, apart from providing substantive and technical inputs. Dr. Martha Mutisi provided oversight towards activities within Peacebuilding, Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Training Units as well as within ACCORD's Country Programmes. Furthermore, she had worked in various capacities and with many organisations on critical issues at the intersections of peace, conflict and development. Her assignments included working with the University for Peace (UPEACE, Africa Program), the University of Zimbabwe-Center for Defence Studies, the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD), among others. Martha's areas of research interests include

Peace Agreements, Gender and Peace Processes, Security Sector Reform, Endogenous Methods for Conflict Resolution, Institutions of Peacemaking, Democratisation and Transitional justice.

### **PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)**

**Mr. Raouf Farrah** is a senior analyst at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. He focuses on migration and illicit economies in North Africa and the Sahel. Raouf has published extensively on various topics related to the Sahara-Sahel region, including human smuggling and trafficking, security and conflict, and transnational organized crime. His recent publications include "Algeria's migration dilemma: human smuggling and trafficking in southern Algeria" (2020) and "After the Storm: Organized crime across the Sahel-Sahara following the upheaval in Libya and Mali" (2019). He currently works on human trafficking dynamics inside Libya's detention centres.

Raouf regularly intervenes in international fora and engaged in collaborative projects with international organizations such as the UNDP, African Union, OECD, Institute of Security Studies and the World Bank. Before joining the Global Initiative, Raouf was the Lead Africa Analyst at the SecDev Group, a geopolitical and digital risk consultancy company based in Canada. He worked as a senior risk analyst for Marsh and McLennan, a worldwide business consulting and strategy group.

Raouf holds a bachelor in Mathematics (actuarial science), a second bachelor in philosophy and politics from the University of Montreal, and a Master in Globalization and International Development from Ottawa. Raouf was born and raised in Algeria and lived on three continents, and he is based in Tunis.

**Ms. Samira Gaid** is Hiraal Institute's Executive Director. Samira is a Regional and Security Analyst with extensive experience in Somalia and the Horn of Africa. She served as the former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E Hassan Ali Khaire, from May 2017 to July 2020. She led the extensive transformation and reform efforts of the Somali Security Sector, one of the key priorities for Somalia.

During her time, Samira oversaw the payroll reform for all Somali National Security Forces, which enhanced the accountability and performance of the forces. Other reform initiatives that Samira spearheaded focused on the leadership of the security forces and the financial management procedures. Samira has extensive experience working both in the public sector and international organizations and has been an instrumental figure in security and economic reforms implemented by the then Prime Minister.

Prior to her appointment as Principal Security Advisor to Somalia's Prime Minister in 2017, Samira worked with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as a Special Advisor to the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission in a similar capacity. She is a recent distinguished graduate from the National Defense University in the United States with an MA in Strategic Security Studies with an irregular warfare concentration.

**Commander Abebe Muluneh** is the Director of the IGAD Security Sector Program. He used to be a seasoned Police Officer in the Federal Democratic Republic of the Ethiopian Police Service between 1989 and 2006. He served at Ethiopian Police College with different capacities... instructor, middle-level management, and senior management. He has been trained in policing in Ethiopia, Germany, the USA (FBI National Academy), and Turkey.

He has been awarded BA Degree in Political Science and International Relation (PSIR) from Addis Ababa University (AAU), MA degree in International Relations (AAU), MA Degree in Managing Peace and Security in Africa (AAU), and Post Graduate Diploma on Peace and Security in Africa (Uppsala, Sweden).

Since February 2006, he Joined IGAD as Senior training coordinator to counter-terrorism and Director of IGAD Security Sector Program (IGAD SSP), which is responsible for Counter-Terrorism, Maritime Security, Containment of Transnational Organized Crime and Security Institutions Capacity Building. He researched "Impacts of terrorism on Ethiopia's relation towards neighboring countries", published a book entitled "The proliferation of Illicit small arms and light weapons in the Horn of Africa" at Lambert Academic Publishing in Germany, and designed and published IGAD Counter Terrorism training manual. Besides, he has rich diplomatic experience with Regional and International Organizations. He reported twice at UNSC Sanctions Committee on Eritrea and Somalia.

**Dr. Mutoy Mubiala** is an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Kinshasa who spent much of his career (1994-2019) working as a human rights specialist with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. At OHCHR, he has held various positions of responsibility and has contributed, in particular, to the establishment of the UN Center for Human Rights and Democracy based in Central Africa, for which he was the first director from March 2001 to March 2002. He has served in several UN Commissions of Inquiry, and has more than 25 years of experience in multiple jurisdictions in relation to capacity building and technical assistance programs at the practitioner, strategic and policy levels.

Dr. Mubiala continues to teach international law, international civil service law, as well as human rights in prestigious programs and schools, such as the International Institute for Human Rights (Strasbourg) and the École nationale d'administration (Paris). Dr. Mubiala is also the author of five books and over one hundred and fifty articles, including several publications on arms trafficking in West and Central Africa and regional responses. His expertise is in public international law, international human rights, and international criminal and humanitarian law.

He holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

**Mr. Brice Severin Pongui** is a lawyer at the Brazzaville Bar and Ombudsman at the Centre for Mediation and Arbitration of Congo (Republic of Congo) as well as consultant for the International Programme of the US Forest Service in the Republic of Congo, on a project on countering illegal logging in the Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Gabon. He has been a lawyer (counsel and advocate) and a consultant and trainer in many areas of law since 2009,

including environmental law, marine law, contract law, administrative law, intellectual property law, land law, land and planning law, criminal law, real estate law, legal feasibility of investment projects. He is also the honorary president of the Green Brain Institute 2063, an NGO that works to help implement the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Mr. Pongui holds a Master's degree in Environment and Territory in the Field of Environmental Law, Economics and Management, International Law and Environmental Comparative Specialty from the University of Limoges in 2007. He is also a graduate of the Public University of Congo and the National School of Administration and Judiciary (ENAM). Several certificates obtained from institutions such as UNITAR, IUCN and the French Petroleum Institute in the field of environment and natural resources have enabled him to forge the capacity for analysis, planning, implementation, communication, monitoring and evaluation and continuous improvement.

Since 2009, he has been a consultant in environmental and sustainable development law and policy. He has worked as a consultant or associate expert in several legal, communication, training and strategic planning missions for several organizations in the United Nations system, the Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, research centres, training institutions, design offices including those specializing in environmental assessments.

He is also a member of the Environmental Law Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the French Society for Environmental Law and the French-speaking African Network of Environmental Lawyers.

**Dr. Tarek Sharif** is currently the Executive Director of AFRIPOL. He is a specialist in International Relations dynamics and conflict resolutions. He worked with for the past twenty-two years with international organizations on issues related to defense, disarmament and transnational security threats. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Reading, United Kingdom.