



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

ASSESSING JAMA'AT NASR AL-ISLAM WAL MUSLIMIN (JNIM) COALITION IN THE SAHEL April 7, 2022

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

H.E. Kamissa Camara is a senior visiting expert for the Sahel at the U.S. Institute of Peace. She is a sub-Saharan Africa policy analyst and practitioner with 15 years of professional experience. She has served as Mali's minister of foreign affairs, minister of digital economy and planning, and most recently, as chief of staff to the president of Mali. Previous to that, she served as senior foreign policy advisor to the president.

Prior to working with the Malian government, Camara held leadership positions in Washington, D.C. with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Partners Global. At NED, Camara co-founded and co-chaired the Sahel Strategy Forum. She also spearheaded a multi-million-dollar program supporting civil society initiatives in West and Central Africa, with a particular focus on the Sahel. From 2015 until 2018, she was the Sahel and sub-Saharan Africa instructor at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute where she trained U.S. diplomats before their postings in the region. A well-published political commentator and television pundit, Camara has been featured, heard, and seen on CNN, Aljazeera, Voice of America, The Washington Post, France24, and RFI, among others. Camara holds a master's in international economics and development from Université Grenoble Alpes and a bachelor's in international relations from Université de Paris.

Mr. Rida Lyammouri is a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South and Senior Sahel Advisor at Navanti Group. His research activities focus on geopolitics and international relations in the West African Sahel, a region he has worked on for about a decade. He has extensive experience supporting both governmental and non-governmental organizations in the areas of international aid, development, and security. Some of the topics he covers include countering violent extremism (CVE), conflict prevention and conflict sensitivity, humanitarian access, and migration. Mr. Lyammouri has contributed to numerous in-depth research and analysis reports aiming at building deeper understanding of regional and domestic challenges. He is often solicited by various stakeholders to provide policy recommendations on how to address various security, economic and political challenges related to West African Sahel. Mr. Lyammouri has also been presented as an expert at various conferences in the US, Europe, and Africa and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy with an emphasis on National Security from the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs at George Mason University.

Mr. Héni Nsaibia is the director of Menastream a risk consultancy providing intelligence analysis and bespoke services. He is also a senior researcher at the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), where his work is focused on political violence in the Sahel, including the collection and analysis of conflict data.

Nsaibia's research interests center around insurgencies and their various dimensions, particularly social dynamics of insurgencies and inter-armed group relations in Sahelian countries. In addition to his research, Nsaibia has consulted a wide range of organizations on issues related to security in the Sahel and North Africa. He is the co-author of *The Islamic State in Africa: The Emergence, Evolution, and Future of the Next Jihadist Battlefield*.

MODERATOR

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 Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.