



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

SIZING UP THE ISLAMIC STATE IN THE GREATER SAHARA (ISGS)

June 2, 2022

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Dr. Ibrahim Yahaya Ibrahim a senior Sahel analyst with the International Crisis Group. He gained a PhD in Political Sciences from the University of Florida where he is also a co-founder and research associate with the Sahel Research Group. He worked with NGOs in Niger, including as the Executive Director of the Niger-office of Albasar International Foundation. He has a background in Sociology, Islamic Jurisprudence, and Management.

Dr. Ibrahim is an alumnus of the Fulbright Program and an analyst for Freedom in the World, as a Niger and Mauritania expert. He worked for four years with Islamic NGOs in Niger, including two years as the Executive Director of the Niger-office of Albasar International Foundation. He has a background in Sociology, Islamic Jurisprudence, and Management, with degrees from the Islamic University of Say and Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey.

Mr. Hassane Koné is a Senior Researcher at the Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). He is a Mauritanian national and a retired colonel of the national gendarmerie, with 34 years of experience in the various fields of security. During his career, he served for 20 years in the intelligence service and 04 years in the office in charge of the judicial police of his country's force.

He also served between 2012 and 2016 as military attaché at the Mauritanian embassy in Mali with accreditation to Niger in Burkina Faso. In this capacity, he served as liaison officer with the commands of the French operation Serval, the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (MISMA) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

As part of his duties, he has been involved in numerous investigations into terrorism or drug trafficking that took place in Mauritania, several think tanks or conferences on the security situation in the Sahel, as well as activities within the framework of the management of the Malian crisis, taking part in the negotiations and implementation of the Ouagadougou agreements of June 2013, the Kidal ceasefire of May 23, 2014, and Algiers of May 2015. In 2016, he had been appointed Inspector General of the Armed and Security Forces of Mauritania.

Having retired in August 2019, he entered ISS in September 2019. Then, from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, he was part of the team of the SSR Support Program, Defense Component

(PROGRESS) in the DRC, as the lead expert in charge of the Reform and Training component. He is a graduate of the Gendarmerie Staff Training Program and is a holder of certificates as a trainer in Security Sector Reform and in the Protection of Civilians in PKOs.

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.