



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

LESSONS LEARNED FROM CVE IN CENTRAL AFRICA
May 18, 2023

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Mr. Dino Mahtani is an independent researcher and writer, who works primarily on issues related to the growth of Islamic State in Africa. He has just finished a short stint in the DRC where he has developed new research for the Social Science Research Council, which has been circulated to a number of UN Security Council members states. Prior to this he was the acting Africa Director at ICG, where he oversaw and edited the program's publications from across the continent as well as personally developing new research on the jihadist rebellion in Mozambique and its regional connections. Dino started his career as a journalist for Reuters, working on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria. He subsequently reported as West Africa correspondent and then as Energy correspondent for the Financial Times. After retiring as a journalist, he was appointed to UN Security Council sanctions monitoring panels on DRC and Somalia. Prior to joining Crisis Group he served as a senior political advisor in the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC.

Dr. Anneli Botha is an independent consultant on radicalisation, deradicalisation, reintegration and terrorism in Africa and worked on several projects with different UN agencies, including the UNODC and previously in the UNDP's Journey to Extremism in Africa: Drivers, Incentives and the Tipping Point for Recruitment project. In addition to research and policy advice, she has been at the forefront in developing and delivering capacity building initiatives to criminal justice actors on preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism in especially Eastern Africa. Between 2017 and 2022 she was associated with the Department of Political Studies and Governance at the University of the Free State in South Africa. During the period 2003 to 2016, she worked as a senior researcher on terrorism at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, South Africa.

After completing an honours degree in International Politics she joined the South African Police Service, Crime Intelligence in 1993 during which she focused on terrorism and religious extremism. She holds a MA (Political Studies) degree at the Rand-Afrikaans University obtained in 1999 that focused on the historical development of terrorism, religious extremism and PAGAD. She completed her PhD at the University of the Free State, reading radicalisation and terrorism; resulting in the dissertation titled "Radicalisation to commit terrorism from a political socialisation perspective in Kenya and Uganda" that received the Terrorism Research Initiative (TRI) Award for the "Best PhD Thesis on Terrorism and Counterterrorism".

Anneli has travelled extensively throughout Africa where she conducted research on terrorism and delivered specialized training on various aspects of the threat of terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and counterterrorism to law enforcement and criminal justice officials on the continent.

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.