

Speaker Biographies

Moderation by:

Mr Paulo Casaca

South Asia Democratic Forum and former MEP, Belgium

Founder and executive director of the “South Asia Democratic Forum”; founder of the international co-operation association registered in Brussels, ARC Humankind; “Alliance to Renew Co-operation among Humankind”, of the consultancy company on sustainable development registered in Brussels; Lessmeansmore, Land and Energy Sustainable Systems; Fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the US in the first semester of 2010; team leader of a report commissioned by the US based NGO Committee to Study the Organization of Peace “A Green Ray over Iraq” presented to the UN in 2012. Moreover, he was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2009, in the socialist group. As a MEP, he was President of the delegation of the European Parliament for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly from 2004 to 2007.

Mr Burzine Waghmar

Senior Teaching Fellow and Academic Member, South Asia Institute and Centre for the Study of Pakistan, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), United Kingdom

Mr. Waghmar is a member of the Centre for the Study of Pakistan, Centre for Iranian Studies and SOAS South Asia Institute (University of London). His academic research focuses on greater Iran, Indo-Iranian dialectology, the ethnology of Balochistan, counterterrorism and *dhimmi* (Muslim-non-Muslim relations) studies. Mr. Waghmar holds a masters degree in International Relations (Islamic Studies) from Boston University. Mr Waghmar is completing his doctorate in Indo-Iranian philology. He reads Balochi, French, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Kashmiri, Marathi, Russian, Pashto, Persian and Urdu.

Mr T. Kumar

Director, International Advocacy for Amnesty International, USA

Originally from Sri Lanka and member of the Tamils ethnic group, Mr. T. Kumar undertook at the age of 17 the struggle for the respect of human rights and against the discrimination of Tamils. While participating in several pacific demonstrations, he was arrested and sentenced to

jail, the first time for six months, and the second time for more than five and a half years, during which he focused on studying. He then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and obtained a Masters degree in Law, and became a lawyer in Sri Lanka. Mr. T. Kumar served as a human rights monitor in many Asian countries as well as in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Guatemala, and South Africa. He currently holds the position of International Advocacy Director for Amnesty International, pursuing the fight against global injustice.

Mr Abubakar Siddique

Senior Correspondent, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Czech Republic

Mr. Siddique is a senior correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) central newsroom in Prague covering the Middle East, South Asia, and Central Asia, with a particular focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan. He has spent the past decade and a half researching and writing about terrorism, security, political and humanitarian issues in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Pashtun heartland, close to the region where he was born. He has extensive knowledge of the complex politics, social fabric, and the fraught security situation on the ground. Mr. Siddique regularly speaks at think-thanks such as Chatham House in London and the United States Institute of Peace in Washington D.C. and participates in panel discussions on the regions he covers in Europe and North America. His work has appeared in the New York Times and Foreign Policy magazine, as well as eurasianet.org, Pakistan's The Friday Times, and Newsline magazines. His book "The Pashtun Question: The Unresolved Key to the Future of Afghanistan and Pakistan," was published in 2013.

Mr Prof. Athar Hussain

Director of the Asia Research Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

Mr. Athar Hussain was a member of the 'International Committee for Economics Education and Research in Vietnam' and served as a consultant for a study on the 'Pakistan Planning Commission'. He is the author of numerous books and papers including "Pakistani Nationalism", "Demographic Transition in Asia and Its Consequences", "Chinese Economic Reforms from a Comparative Perspective" and "Social Welfare in China in the Context of Three Transitions". The books authored or edited by him include "The Chinese Economic Reforms", "Transforming China's Economy" and "Political Economy of Hunger". He was educated at the universities of Karachi (Pakistan), Dijon (France) and Oxford (UK). He has been at the London School of Economics since 1987 and has taught at various British universities, as well as at Zhongshan University Guangzhou (China), Stockholm University (Sweden), Namur University (Belgium).

Mr Russ Hiebert

Lawyer, businessman and Canadian Member of Parliament for South Surrey - White Rock - Cloverdale, a federal electoral district in British Columbia, Canada

Former practicing lawyer and businessman, Mr. Russ Hiebert was first elected to Parliament in June of 2004, re-elected for a second term in January 2006, for a third term in October 2008 and for a fourth term in May 2011. In his second term, he was appointed to the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Gordon O'Connor, the Minister of National Defense, by the Prime Minister Stephen Harper. In his third term, he served on the House of Commons Finance Committee and the International Human Rights Sub-Committee. Since his re-election at the 41st Canadian general election of 2011, Mr Hiebert has been on the Standing Committee on International Trade Committee within the Canadian Parliament. He is currently a member of several Parliamentary Associations such as Canada-Africa, Canada-United States and Canada-China.

Mr Peter Chalk

Senior Political Scientist, RAND Cooperation, USA

Peter Chalk is a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation. He has analyzed topics such as unconventional security threats in Southeast and South Asia; new strategic challenges for the U.S. Air Force in Latin America, Africa, and South Asia; evolving trends in national and international terrorism; Australian defense and foreign policy; international organized crime; and U.S. military links in the Asia-Pacific region. He is a correspondent for *Jane's Intelligence Review* and associate editor of *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, one of the foremost journals in the international security field. Chalk has regularly testified before the U.S. Senate on issues pertaining to national and international terrorism and is author of numerous publications on various aspects of low-intensity conflict in the contemporary world. Chalk is also an adjunct professor at the Postgraduate Naval School in Monterey, California, and contractor for the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C.

Mr Karlos Zurutuza

Freelance Journalist for Al Jazeera, Deutsche Welle, Vice, The Middle East Eye, Spain

Mr Karlos Zurutuza is a freelance reporter and a regular contributor to Al Jazeera, IPS and Deutsche Welle, but he also wrote for the Middle East Eye and The Diplomat, among others. His work has been recognized by three journalism awards, such as the Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti Reporting Award. Mr Zurutuza is among the very few foreign journalists who have reported from all three parts of Balochistan (Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan).