



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Ryan McKenna

Phone: (202) 691-4217

ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org

February 23, 2017

Wilson Center’s Middle East Program to Form Strategic Partnership with Safadi Foundation USA

WASHINGTON – The Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Safadi Foundation USA announce a new initiative on Lebanon. Part of this partnership includes the launch of the Lebanon Ideas Forum—an assemblage of scholars, journalists, policymakers, and diplomats whose aim it will be to discuss the issues concerning Lebanon, its wider region, and relations with the United States and Europe.

“The decision to jointly reconstitute what used to be the Lebanon Working Group, a project which had much success in its earlier formats at other institutions is an opportunity to address the changing dynamics in the region. Specifically, how they impact Lebanon,” said Henri Barkey, Director of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center.

“It is our hope that the Lebanon Ideas Forum will bring a diverse network of people together and constructively contributes to inform policies regarding Lebanon,” said Lara Alameh, President of Safadi Foundation USA.

The Middle East Program at the Wilson Center looks forward to enhancing its publications and events on Lebanon and incorporating issues that bear relevance to Lebanon in its own publications, such as the *MENA Women News Brief*, *Viewpoints*, and *Occasional Paper Series*.

Notes to Editors:

1. [The Wilson Center](#) was chartered by Congress as the nation’s living memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. Through the work of its staff and fellows, it connects deep scholarship to urgent policy questions.