

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
American University of Beirut

cordially invites you to the second event of

The Bill and Sally Hambrecht Distinguished Peacemakers Lectures at AUB

bringing ten prominent international mediators to AUB and Beirut over the coming two years to share their experiences with the AUB community and conflict-resolution practitioners and scholars in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Alastair Crooke

Talking with Islamists

An overdue task or an exercise in appeasement?

Lessons learnt from 30 years of working in conflicts

4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, January 17, 2008
Auditorium B, West Hall, AUB

Alastair Crooke is the founder and co-director of Conflicts Forum, a Beirut, London and Washington-based organization established in 2004.

Conflicts Forum works to end the isolation of mainstream Islamists, by promoting dialogue and challenging entrenched views in both the Western and Arab media. It initiates political processes – designed to bring demonised and marginalised groups into some form of political systems; to convince these movements of the possibilities to act politically, even when sanctioned - in order to pull the debate in the West from the sphere of military conflict to an understanding of the political struggle of identity being waged at the global level.

With 30 years of direct experience of conflict, including working with the EU and the British government, in the Middle East, Ireland, South Africa, Namibia, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Colombia, Crooke's last post was as former Mid-East special adviser to the European Union High Representative, Javier Solana, and Adviser to the International Quartet. In this position during 2001-2003, he mediated negotiations that led to the ceasefire declared by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, was involved in hostage negotiations leading to the ending of the siege of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and facilitated various other Palestinian-Israeli ceasefires.