



## UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

### **Trauma Resilience as a Keystone for Building Rule of Law in Conflict-Affected Societies** **May 18, 2012** **Speakers' Biographical Notes**

Trauma—brought about as a result of conflict or from living under an oppressive regime—affects a significant portion of the population in states in transition. Yet, the stress and trauma on individuals, their communities and practitioners, and its potentially negative impacts, are often ignored or misunderstood. The United States Institute of Peace believes that it is only by empowering post-conflict communities and practitioners in the field with the knowledge to diffuse the legacy of trauma will we be able to break the cycle of violence and build a better path to justice and security.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) welcomes you to a public event on "Trauma Resilience as a Keystone to Building the Rule of Law in Conflict-Affected Societies." Today's, first panel will examine the phenomenon of trauma from the panelists' experiences in post-conflict zones and the ways in which it affects initiatives to promote justice, security, and the rule of law. The panelists will also share how their experiences became an impetus for the development of new and innovative approaches to building trauma resilience—the finding of pre-existing points of local resilience and building on those to ensure culturally and contextually appropriate responses to trauma.

The second panel will focus on Libya as a case study for trauma issues and will examine the phenomenon among the general population as well as those who actively participated in the recent revolution. It will also look at the direct impact of trauma on current and future efforts to build justice, security, and the rule of law and what is needed to build trauma resilience in the Libyan context.

#### **Panel 1: Understanding Trauma and its Impacts on Building the Rule of Law in Transitional States & Innovative Approaches to Fostering Trauma Resilience – 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

##### **Elaine Zook Barge**



Elaine Zook Barge is the Director of STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience), an evidence-based training for those whose work brings them in contact with populations dealing with historic or current trauma. During the 80s and 90s, she worked in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala with Mennonite Central Committee. She currently facilitates the interactive and interdisciplinary STAR trainings at EMU, throughout the U.S. and in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Elaine holds a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation (2003) and a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition/Community Development (1984) from Eastern Mennonite University. STAR is a program of the Conflict Transformation Program at Eastern Mennonite University.

##### **Dr. Louise Diamond**



Louise Diamond, Ph.D., founder and director of Global Systems Initiatives, has been a systems thinker for 35 years. Louise has brought this approach to the international conflict resolution community through the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, which she co-founded with Ambassador John McDonald in 1992.

A global peacebuilder, author, consultant, and trainer, Louise has collaborated with and inspired official and grassroots leaders around the world to make a difference in their communities. She is known for her creative vision and her transformative action to create positive systems change.

## **COL (Promotable) Walter E. Piatt**



Colonel Walter Piatt is responsible for the training Infantry forces and ensuring a relevant force for the future security needs of the United States. He served in Afghanistan from 2001-2002 as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Coalition Joint Task Force Mountain and from 2004- 2005 as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment. Colonel Piatt has also deployed twice to Iraq: from 2006- 2007 as the operations officer (G3) for 25th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division-North and from October 2008 to October 2009 as commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

During his most recent deployment in the Salah ad Din province of northern Iraq, Colonel Piatt commanded more than 4,500 Soldiers who partnered with local and provincial government leaders and the Iraqi Army and Police. The brigade was responsible for bringing stability to the heartland of the Sunni insurgency. The brigade focused its efforts on building relationships with the Iraqi people and on non-lethal operations to facilitate good governance, to transfer responsibility for security to the Iraqi government, and to support Iraqi plans for reconstruction of the provincial infrastructure. Colonel Piatt's next assignment is Deputy Commanding General (Support), 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light), Fort Drum, New York.

## **Dr. Béatrice Pouligny**



Béatrice Pouligny is an independent researcher and adjunct professor at Georgetown University. She is a former senior researcher at the CERI/Sciences-Po in Paris, France. She holds a Ph.D. in political studies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and has taught in universities in different parts of the world.

Beyond her academic credentials, Dr. Pouligny has 25 years of field experience as an activist and a practitioner with the UN, NGOs, and local communities in over 30 countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and the Balkans. Both her research and her practice have been geared towards providing support to local capacities and a more productive interaction between local and international initiatives in violent and post-violent contexts. She is the author of two books: *Peace Operations Seen from Below: UN Missions and Local People* and *After Mass Crime: Rebuilding States and Communities*, that she has co-edited with Simon Chesterman and Albrecht Schnabel.

## **Dr. Elizabeth Stanley**



Elizabeth A. Stanley, Ph.D., is an associate professor of security studies at Georgetown University and the founder of the Mind Fitness Training Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching skills for enhancing performance and building resilience to stress. Drawing on her military experience, research expertise, and mindfulness training, Liz created Mindfulness-based Mind Fitness Training (MMFT) and has taught it to U. S. Army and U. S. Marine Corps troops before deployment to combat. Liz served as a U. S. Army military intelligence officer in Korea, Germany, and on deployments in the Balkans, leaving service with the rank of Captain. She has extensive experience with mind fitness techniques, including long-term periods of intensive practice in the United States and Burma (Myanmar). Liz has completed teacher training in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and has co-taught with MBSR's creator, Jon Kabat-Zinn.

## **Colette Rausch**



Colette Rausch is the director of the Institute's Rule of Law Center of Innovation. Her focus is on criminal justice and police reform initiatives that have included missions and projects in Afghanistan, Guatemala, Kosovo, Liberia, Nicaragua, Peru, Nepal, Burma, Libya, Iraq, and Yemen. Before joining the Institute, she worked at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission in Kosovo, serving first as head of the Rule of Law Division and then as director of the Department of Human Rights and Rule of Law.

Previously, Rausch was with the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ), serving as the DOJ's resident legal adviser in Hungary and later in Bosnia. In Hungary, she worked on the development of a crime task force. She also served as the DOJ program manager for Central and East Europe, establishing criminal justice development and training projects in Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

## **John A. Lancaster**



John Lancaster serves on the Board of Directors at USIP, as the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for Handicap International Federation (HI), and serves on the Board of Directors of Handicap International, USA. Mr. Lancaster serves on the Board of the Global Universal Design Commission and the Potsdam (New York) Humane Society.

He served in the Federal Government as Executive Director on the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities from 1995-2000 and had been a member of that committee since 1991. From 1981-1987, Mr. Lancaster was the Director of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities for Governor Harry Hughes of Maryland. Mr. Lancaster received his J.D. and B.A. from the University of Notre Dame. As a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, he commanded an infantry platoon in combat during the Vietnam War, earning a Purple Heart and Bronze Star in 1968.



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#### Panel 2: Trauma and its Impacts on Building the Rule of Law in Libya – 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

##### Wail A. Y. Nagem



Mr. Wail Nagem is the Deputy Minister of Justice of Libya. He is Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice and the founder of the Commission for Economic Protection. In addition, Mr. Nagem is a member of the Anti-Money Laundering Group, the Commission to Document Crimes against Humanity and the February 17 Revolution Protection Council. At the beginning of the Revolution, he was head of the public prosecution team in North Benghazi. Prior to the revolution, Mr. Nagem worked at the Office of the Prosecutor in Benghazi and Al Hezam. Recently, Deputy Minister Nagem led the Libyan delegation at the Human Rights Council session in Geneva. Mr. Nagem is a lawyer by training and studied for two years at the Higher Institute for Law in Libya.

##### Essam Gheriani



Essam Gheriani is Mental Health Coordinator in Benghazi, Libya. Among his many responsibilities, he coordinates all mental health services provided by NGO's and other outside resources to provide psychological and psychosocial services as well as training programs in Benghazi. From 1987-1995, he lectured at the University of Benghazi and at the High Institute of Social Work. He initially worked as a psychologist in the old Ministry of Social Welfare from 1986-2006 and was later appointed Director of the Institute of the Mentally Disadvantaged. In 2005, he was also appointed as the head of the Department of Disability Affairs.

At the beginning of the recent revolution, he volunteered his support and was one of the first revolutionaries who initiated the first stand in front of the courthouse. He became a field member of the Crisis Management Committee, which is currently known as the Coalition of the February 17<sup>th</sup> revolution. During the revolution, he coordinated humanitarian aid and training with NGOs. He also put together teams of psychologists and social workers to provide psychosocial support. He is also currently a member of the National Committee Against Violence, which was formed after revolution by the Minister of Health.

##### Najla Elmangoush



Ms. Najla Elmangoush joined the United States Institute of Peace as a Program Specialist in 2011. Prior to this, she worked as an independent lawyer in Libya and as a civil society activist. Ms. Elmangoush has also held positions as a lecturer at Garyounis University in Benghazi and at Tripoli University Law Faculty, where she taught criminal law.

During the crisis in Libya, she participated as a volunteer in the Public Engagement Unit where she acted as a liaison between the National Transitional Council and the general public and was head of the Media Committee.

### **Dr. Matthew Stanford**



Dr. Matthew S. Stanford is professor of psychology, neuroscience, and biomedical studies at Baylor University. Dr. Stanford oversees two independent lines of research: one investigates the biological basis of impulsive and aggressive behavior, while the second focuses on psychology and issues of faith. Professionally he has worked with a variety of mentally disordered and brain-injured populations including those with aggression, schizophrenia, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, stroke, substance dependence and traumatic brain injury. A fellow of the Association for Psychology Science (APS) his research on the interplay between psychology and faith has been featured nationally on radio talk shows, TV, and publications such as *USA Today* and *The New York Times*, as well as news Web sites including Fox, MSNBC, Yahoo, and US News & World Report. As the Director of Mental Health Services for Acts of Mercy International (a faith-based relief organization), he is presently involved in the implementation of a community-based intervention for post-traumatic stress disorder in Libya.

### **Dr. Vivienne O'Connor**



Vivienne O'Connor, Ph.D. is a senior program officer who joined the Rule of Law Program in 2007. Her focus is on criminal justice reform and rule of law training. She co-directs the Model Codes for Post-Conflict Criminal Justice Project and directs the Rule of Law Training Project. She also works on a project providing technical support and assistance to the criminal law reform process in Haiti. Before joining USIP, she worked at the Irish Centre for Human Rights as its Rule of Law Project Officer. In 2005, she has taught international human rights law at the National University of Ireland. She has also taught a course on criminal law and development at the University of Melbourne Law School, where she was a senior fellow from 2006-2007. Vivienne has worked as a consultant for the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the UN Officer on Drugs and Crime.