

Public Event / Panel Discussion

War in Lebanon: What is at Stake?

Berlin, Germany, 18th March 2026

Panelists



Nadim Houry is a human rights lawyer with extensive experience working in the Middle East and North Africa region. He is currently the executive director of the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), a leading regional think tank with offices in Paris, Beirut and Tunis, working for social justice, democratic reforms, and accountable institutions. Prior to ARI, Houry was at Human Rights Watch (HRW) for 13 years, where he started and ran HRW's Beirut office for a decade before taking on the role of director of HRW's Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism Program.



Léa Choueifaty is the Programme Coordinator for the MENA region at Democracy Reporting International (DRI), based in Berlin. Her work focuses on governance, rule of law, and democratic development initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa. She holds a B.A. in Lebanese Law and a Master's degree in Public Law with a focus on human rights, and is a certified mediator with the Lebanese Association for Mediation and Conciliation. On this panel, she speaks in her capacity as a Human Rights and Public Affairs Advocate, sharing insights on humanitarian and civic initiatives.



Dr Sarah El Richani is Visiting Fellow at the Freie Universität in Berlin. She served as Assistant Professor of Mass Communications at The American University in Cairo from 2018-2024 and as visiting fellow at the Centre for Lebanese Studies at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford 2016-2017. She has studied in Beirut, London and Erfurt where she completed her PhD. Her monograph on the Lebanese media was published in 2016 by Palgrave Macmillan and her co-edited book entitled Lebanon Anatomy of a Collapse is to be published in July 2026 by Hurst Publishers.



Robert Chatterjee studied Islamic Studies and History and has worked at the Middle East magazine *zenith* since 2009, serving as deputy editor-in-chief since 2016. In 2022, the magazine published a special feature on climate change in the Middle East. As project manager at the Candid Foundation, he led the “Candid Media & Science” project, which brought together specialist journalists and climate scientists from the Arab world.



Merin Abbass is resident representative of Friedrich-Ebert- Stiftung (FES) in Beirut/Lebanon. He holds a M.A. in International Relations and Political Science. He began his career with the FES in 2008 as project Assistant in the Leadership Development Program in Berlin and Rabat. Between 2014-2020 he served as country director for Algeria, Libya and the MENA regional trade union program based in Tunis, Tunisia. Since October 2023 he represents FES in Lebanon and act as project director for political Feminism, based in Beirut.