



**Group of 78 Luncheon Speaker Series**  
**Rolf Holmboe**  
**Syria, ISIS and the Prospects**  
**for Sustainable Peace**



**Tuesday February 28st, 2017**  
**12:00 p.m.**

**Palais Imperial Restaurant,**  
**311- 313 Dalhousie St., Ottawa**

**RESERVATIONS: [Group78@group78.org](mailto:Group78@group78.org) 613-565-9449 ext. 22 by Friday February 24, 2017 by 12:00 pm**

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Approaching its sixth year, the Syria War has evolved from a brutal repression of an uprising to an even worse sectarian bloodletting and extremist anarchy. The gut reaction of the West has been not to get involved, allowing Assad and his Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah allies to continue unimpeded the “Siege, Starve and Shell” tactics aimed at the civilian population in the rebel held areas.

Skillfully usurping ungoverned spaces in Syria and Iraq, ISIS has emerged as arguably the most extreme of all extremist movements in the Middle East. It has attracted at its height as many as two thousand foreign recruits each month.

Where does this leave Syria after the defeat of the moderate rebels in Aleppo in December 2016 and the impending defeat of ISIS in Raqqah and Mosul? What happens to the challenge of ISIS and extremism? And how will the transfer of power in the US to President Trump affect Western policies? The talk will explore these questions, along with emerging perspectives for peace, and elements necessary for a sustainable political solution.

**Rolf M. Hay Pereira Holmboe**, Research Fellow, Canadian Global Affairs Institute, is on temporary leave from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, living in Ottawa, Canada. He served as Ambassador of Denmark to Lebanon (2013-2015), and as Ambassador to Syria and Jordan (2012-2015). Previously he served as Director of Strategy and Policy Planning at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has dealt extensively with combined military, political and development interventions in fragile states, which included Denmark's engagement in Helmand (Afghanistan). Previously, he served for four years as Denmark's representative to the Palestinian Authority as well as to UNRWA - the UN Organisation for Palestine Refugees - with overall responsibility for political relations as well as for Danish development and other interventions in the West Bank and Gaza. As an army reserve officer, he has participated in several missions in conflict zones as well as an arms control inspector. Until 2016, he served as commander of a reserve specialist corps providing linguistic and area knowledge expertise to Danish military missions abroad. As an external lecturer, he has taught conflict studies in fragile states at the Institute of Political Science, Copenhagen University, and he has written several articles on that subject. He holds a Master's Degree in Political Science and a Supplementary Degree in Arabic Studies from Aarhus University.

**\$30 for luncheon and presentation (12:00 p.m.)**

**\$5 for presentation only (arrive 12:45 p.m. coffee and tea will be available)**

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Late registrations are welcome for presentation only.

Individuals who do not cancel their reservations at least 24 hours before the luncheon will be billed \$30.