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# Fifty Years and Counting: Is the Israeli Occupation Sustainable?

Featuring: Michael Lynk and Nadia Abu-Zahra

The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory is currently the longest in the world, at 50 years and counting. The Israeli settlement population continues to grow faster than the Israeli population, annexation legislation is being debated in the Israeli Knesset, and the peace process that ended in April 2014 shows no sign of revival. Gaza has become a serious humanitarian crisis, the Palestinian economy is flat-lining and the predominant mood in the occupied territory is despair. Amidst this gloom, is there any room for optimism for a sustainable and just peace accord between Israel and Palestine?

**Moderator:** Michael Atallah, Senior Middle East Analyst at the Privy Council Office

**Speaker:** Michael Lynk, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Western University

Nadia Abu-Zahra, Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa



**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., June 13, 2018

**Location:** Knox Presbyterian Church

**Tickets:** \$5 - \$20

\* special pricing for Early Bird RSVP  
& Students/Unwaged  
Online through Eventbrite

## Speakers:



**Michael Lynk** is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Western University, in London, Ontario, Canada. He joined the Faculty in 1999, and has taught courses in labour, human rights, disability, constitutional and administrative law. He served as Associate Dean of the Faculty between 2008-11. Professor Lynk is co-editor, (with Susan Akram, Michael Dumper and Iain Scobbie), of *International Law and the Middle East Conflict: A Rights-Based Approach* (Routledge, 2011). In January 2015,

Professor Lynk was named to the Mayor of London's Honours List for his work on humanitarian issues. In March 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Professor Lynk as the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Rapporteur for the human rights situation in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967. In this capacity, he delivers regular reports to the UN General Assembly in New York and the Human Rights Council in Geneva on human rights trends in the OPT.



**Nadia Abu-Zahra** has broad interests in health, environmental issues, human rights, and education. Working with Oxfam-Quebec, and on other projects sponsored by UNICEF, the EU, and CIDA, she explored the possibilities of raising awareness of these issues. As a result of these projects, as well as academic work, she continues to think about the ethics of research and international development. Her writings are generally within these subject fields, with a recent focus on how states - and particularly their policies of identity documentation (passports, IDs, databases, etc.) - affect individuals and groups at personal levels.

## Moderator:

Michael Atallah is a Senior Middle East Analyst at the Privy Council Office with a specialization on the Levant and the Persian Gulf. Atallah also worked on the Middle East Peace Process at the International Development Research Centre on the Palestinian refugee issue where he facilitated track II diplomacy between Israel and the Palestinians. While at the UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), Atallah worked on sustainable human development in Arab countries. Atallah holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and an MA from the University of London, King's College in the Department of War Studies. He is also a graduate of McGill University in Montreal. Atallah has extensively travelled throughout the Middle East and frequently lectures on history and politics of the region.