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International Institute for Middle East and Balkan Studies

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Former Director of Germany’s “Federal Armed Forces Intelligence Office”  
Brig. General (ret) of the German Army*

**Crisis prevention – still an illusion ?**

**Expect the unexpected?**

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Unfortunately, no significant progress has been achieved.

The world still has to live with surprises – crises and conflicts emerge without early warnings.

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Is this cycle a natural law ? Are those political crises – like Tsunami – a fact of life we have to live with fatalistically ?

Are we not capable with all our instruments of world-wide access to information, communications, computers, exchange of knowledge within a nation, between nations and alliances, state and non-state organisations to net a safer world ?

Are we not willing to spend some money to prevent crises and conflicts ? Is there no political resolve to - at least - reduce the number of surprises ?

**How should “crisis prevention” work ?**

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Governments of nation states should feel the obligation to develop an “early warning system” – at home and abroad.

The governments should define their vital national interests : What do we need to know from selected countries and regions ?

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- Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- International terrorism combined with organised crime
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## ***INFORMATIONS ABOUT THE INSTITUTE***

IFIMES - International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan studies, based in Ljubljana - Slovenia, gathers and selects various information and sources on key conflict areas in the world. Based on the selected information, the Institute analyses mutual relations among parties with an aim to promote the importance of global conflict resolution of the existing conflicts and the role of preventive actions against new global disputes.

Idea to establish IFIMES Institute is a reflection of our common reality and the needs of the world to reach for common solutions - now more than ever in the past. Common interests and bonds among different policies, nations, religions, world regions and diverse interest parties in the unipolar world are essential. Constant search for differences and rejections is like searching for a needle in a pack of hay, while insisting on cooperation and respect for diversity provides a chance to create a better world.

The area of research and work of IFIMES Institute is the Middle East (Gulf states) and the Balkans (South-Eastern Europe), where relations among different entities are based on religious, ethnic, national and racial grounds. Associates of the Institute are respected experts, scientists, managers, journalists and researchers, who are introducing younger colleagues from all over the world to work, with a purpose of additional education, promotion of knowledge and scientific achievements with an emphasis on the political and economic connections within the region, among the regions and on the global level.

The IFIMES Institute is through organizing seminars, symposiums, conferences, round tables, (with participants from various interest groups: scientists, politicians, managers, representatives of religious institutions, journalists, artists and others), performing analyses, studies and projects, as well as through its own publications presenting the results of its work and achievements, also targeting leading international media.

IFIMES will in the future cooperate with relevant institutions from the USA, EU, Gulf states and countries from South-Eastern Europe on projects, studies and analyses prepared individually or based on specific demands from a known party. The activities of IFIMES are especially directed towards the areas of international (foreign) politics and economy, international relations, counselling the state institutions, companies and individuals and more.

IFIMES is searching for and recommending political solutions to the govern-

ments of the world, especially and foremost for the regions of the Balkans and the Middle East.

The International Institute IFIMES is a partner of:

- World Security Network, New York
- Globalvision News Network, New York
- Mejdunarodniyi obchestveniyi fond »Eksperimentalniyi tvorcheskiyi centr«, Kurginyana Center, Moscow

The International Institute IFIMES is a co-founder of the International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC), Herzliya, Israel.

The Global Development Network from Washington has marked the relevancy of the researches performed by the International Institute IFIMES with the relevancy rate of 93,00%.

## ***FOUNDERS OF ICTAC - INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM ACADEMIC COMMUNITY***

The International Counter-Terrorism Academic Community (ICTAC), was established at ICT's third international conference in September 2003. The ICTAC's members include leading counter-terrorism researchers and research institutes from countries around the globe. Among ICTAC's goals: developing and expanding academic cooperation in counter-terrorism; conducting research that will lead to more efficient decision-making in counter-terrorism; promoting new policies and initiatives to fight terrorism:

- International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), Israel
- International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), Slovenia
- Unconventional Concepts, Inc., USA
- Georgia International Law Enforcement, Exchange-Dept of Criminal Justice, Georgia State University, USA
- Center for Tactical Counter-Terrorism for the NYPD Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), Singapore
- International Foundation Experimental Creativity Center, Russia
- Center for High Studies on Counter-Terrorism and Political Violence (Ce.A.S.), Italy
- Oklahoma Regional Community Policing Institute, USA
- National Center for Emergency Preparedness at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, USA
- Environmental Planning Specialists, Inc-and-Georgia State University, USA
- Counter-Terrorism Research Center of Georgia, Georgia
- Center of Security & Terrorism Research, Institute of Political Studies, SCG
- Center for Globalization Studies, SCG

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