

PAKISTAN AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RISE OF ISLAMIC MILITANCY

On Tuesday 15 May 2018, at 10:00–12:00
In the Auditorium of the Annex Building of the Parliament
Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki

As the Western allies in Afghanistan try desperately to come up with a solution to the ongoing war, the best-case scenario may be a less stable and more corrupt version of Pakistan. Pakistan is considered to be one of the most fragile places in the world, vulnerable to terrorist violence, political upheavals and huge economic challenges. Pakistan is also very much plagued by Islamic militancy that not only threatens Pakistan itself, but has broad ramifications in the South Asian neighbourhood and beyond.

This seminar addresses the current situation in Pakistan with these themes in mind. In what direction will the situation in Pakistan most likely develop? What do the developments in Pakistan mean for the neighbours and beyond?

Programme:

Opening remarks: **Teija Tiilikainen**, Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Keynote: **Ahmed Rashid**, Journalist and Author

Comments: **Atte Kaleva**, Researcher and Author

Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland to Afghanistan

Chair: **Olli Ruohomäki**, Visiting Senior Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Biographies



Ahmed Rashid is a journalist and author based in Lahore who writes extensively on Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central Asia and accompanying US and NATO policies in the region. He is a regular contributor to the Financial Times, the New York Review of Books, BBC Online and many other journals. He travels extensively lecturing and is a regular commentator on the BBC and CNN. He is the author of five books including the best selling ‘Taliban’ and ‘Descent into Chaos’. He has also published ‘The Resurgence of Central Asia – Islam or Nationalism,’ and ‘Jihad – the rise of militant Islam in Central Asia. His most recent book is ‘Pakistan on the Brink – The Future of Pakistan, Afghanistan and America.’ His books have been translated into over 40 languages and are course books at over 200 universities and defence colleges. He has won numerous awards and been appointed to many international committees and boards dealing with human rights, media freedom and the South Asia region.



Atte Kaleva served with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) as an observer in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan regions from early December 2015 to late February 2017. During his time he served also in the Indian-administered Kashmir and operated as the mission liaison officer in New Delhi. He served also as a staff officer in the mission headquarters. Atte Kaleva’s research interest focuses on violent extremism, most notably salafi jihadism. He recently published a book on the history, evolution and possible future of jihadi ideology. Atte Kaleva has a background in the military, he holds the rank of captain (non-active duty) as well as a Master’s Degree in Military Sciences.



Hannu Ripatti took up his position as head of Finland’s Mission to Kabul in September 2017. He transferred to Kabul from Finland’s Embassy Office in Bogota, Colombia, where he served as Chargé d’Affaires since 2013. In the Diplomatic Service, Ripatti has served in Finland’s Embassies in Mexico City, Copenhagen and Lagos and worked as Deputy Head of Mission in Finland’s Embassies in Beijing and Madrid. Ripatti joined the Foreign Ministry of Finland in 1987, where he has worked in the Department for the Americas and Asia.



Olli Ruohomäki was previously the Deputy Director for South Asia at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. He has worked on the topics of violent conflict, crisis management and reconstruction for over two decades and has field experience from a variety of settings including Afghanistan and Kosovo. He has also served as the Deputy Representative of Finland to the Palestinian Authority and with the United Nations in war-torn Cambodia in the 1990s. His research interests include political economy of war, terrorism, insurgency, fragile states, and the nexus between development and security.



Teija Tiilikainen is the Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Previously, Dr. Tiilikainen was the Director of the Network of European Studies at the University of Helsinki (2003-2009). She has also served as Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland from 2007 to 2008. Dr. Tiilikainen was the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Finland in the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002-2003. Currently, she is also Editor-in-Chief of *Ulkopolitiikka* – the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs.