Chastain-Johnston Middle East Studies Program Presents

The War and Peace in Syria: An Insider Perspective

A lecture by

Mr. Bassam Ishak
President, Syriac National Council of Syria

Bassam Ishak was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1959. His father was a member of the Syrian Parliament from 1932 to 1954. When the Syrian Regional Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba’ath Party seized power in 1963, they nationalized the family’s property, and Bassam’s father became persona non grata. In 1981, the family emigrated to the United States. Bassam worked for a number of years in the United States as a civil engineer but then returned to Syria in order to work for democratic reforms. He served as the executive director of the Syrian Human Rights Organization and became a well-known dissident under the Assad regime. He is a member of the Syrian Democratic Council political committee and the president of the Syriac National Council of Syria.

The Syriac National Council of Syria seeks to promote and defend the rights of the Syriac Christians and all Syrian minorities in a post-Assad regime. The Council is working to build a new Syria that is democratic, secular, and pluralist, in the recognition that only with equal rights for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion or race, can Syria be a stable and prosperous democracy.

When: November 8, 2018; Where: Boca Raton Campus, GS 118; Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public. For more, please contact Dr. Mehmet Gurses at gurses@fau.edu or 561 297 3213.