



Mrs Astrid BOELAERT (FPS Interior)

Prof Dr Paul GILL (University College London)

Prof Dr Anne SPECKHARD (International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism)

Evening conference

23 November 2023

17:00 - 18:30

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Thursday 23 November 2023** from **17:00 until 18:30** by the **Royal Higher Institute for Defence (RHID)** and the **Coordination Unit for Threat Analysis (CUTA)**.

Until recently, the 2020s had been marked by security challenges that had a kind of a 'new' taste (i.e., the coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine or unprecedented tensions in the South China Sea). However, on 7 October 2023, the Gaza-based Hamas movement inflicted its own version of 9/11 to Israel, bringing back the 75-year-old Palestinian question to the forefront of international affairs.

In addition, in the context of worldwide polarisation triggered by this development, Belgium has been struck by a jihadi terrorist attack and finds itself – again – struggling with 'old' demons from the 2010s: Islamist radicalisation and violent extremism.

While early approaches to these phenomena have generated shallow perceptions ('bad' – ideologically indoctrinated – versus 'mad' – psychologically disturbed – persons), a more recent literature has highlighted the complexity of radicalisation processes. It seems timely to explore one of the most promising avenues of this multidisciplinary: the contribution of forensic psychology to the matter.

To address this topic in the light of different (clinical) fieldworks, we will have the pleasure to welcome Mrs Astrid Boelaert (FPS Interior), Prof Dr Paul Gill (University College London) and Prof Dr Anne Speckhard (International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism).

This conference will take place **in English** on **Thursday 23 November 2023 at 17:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). A simultaneous interpretation in Dutch and French will be provided in the conference room. It will not be possible to follow the conference online. However, subject to the consent of the speakers, recordings of their presentations will be made available afterwards on our website.

We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: www.defence-institute.be. **Registration by Monday 20 November 2023 at the latest is compulsory.**

(Signed)

Gert VERCAUTEREN

Director ad interim

Coordination Unit for Threat Analysis

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng

Air Force Major General

Director-General

Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16:30	Welcome
17:00	Conference and Q&A
18:30 – 19:30	Reception