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Mona Yacoubian is a Senior Advisor on Syria, the Middle East and North Africa at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Her research focuses on conflict analysis and prevention in the Middle East, with a specific focus on Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. She also served as the Executive Director of the Congressionally-mandated Syria Study Group from 2019-2020.

Ms. Yacoubian previously served as deputy assistant administrator in the Middle East Bureau at USAID from 2014-2017 where she had responsibility for Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Ms. Yacoubian was a senior advisor at the Stimson Center where her work focused on the Arab uprisings with an emphasis on Syria. Prior to joining the Stimson Center, she was a special advisor on the Middle East at USIP where she focused on Lebanon, Syria and democratization in the Arab world. Ms. Yacoubian served as the North Africa analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the U.S. Department of State from 1990-1998.

Ms. Yacoubian was a Fulbright scholar in Syria where she studied Arabic at the University of Damascus from 1985 to 1986. She has held an international affairs fellowship with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and is currently a CFR member. She earned a Master's degree in Public Affairs from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's degree from Duke University.