

# Charles Lister

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Charles Lister is a Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute and an internationally recognized expert on the Syrian conflict, particularly on the Syrian armed opposition and on both Al-Qaeda and ISIS's roles in Syria. Since September 2016, Lister has managed the Middle East Institute's Countering Terrorism project and prior to that, Lister coordinated nearly three years of intensive face-to-face engagement with the leaderships of over 100 Syrian armed opposition groups, on behalf of the Syria Track II Dialogue Initiative. Given his extensive contacts on the ground in Syria, Lister is a frequent source of briefings on the Syrian insurgency to the political, military and intelligence leaderships of the United States and its allies.

Lister has previously held positions as a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Doha Center and as head of MENA at IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center in London. Lister's critically-acclaimed book, "*The Syrian Jihad: Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and the Evolution of an Insurgency*," was published in February 2016 by Oxford University Press and was described by the *New York Times* as "indispensable." He has also published "*The Islamic State: A Brief Introduction*" (Brookings Press, 2015) and he is now working on a third book on Syria, commissioned by Oxford University Press. He has also published extensive profiles of ISIS, the al-Nusra Front and the Free Syrian Army for the Brookings Institution, based in part on interviews with members of those respective movements.