

Hedieh Mirahmadi, J.D.



Dr. Hedieh Mirahmadi, JD is a world renowned expert in community based programming that promotes social cohesion and builds resilience against the ideology, infrastructure recruiting tactics of extremist movements. She recently established the International Cultural Center, the first community center in the US specifically focused on preventing radicalization through educational programming, community service, and civic engagement.

Her current acclaim centers on the creation of the “Montgomery County Model” for the intervention and prevention of violence, which she designed in partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department and the MC County Executive’s Office of Community Partnerships. The Model has been recognized by the White House as a “best practice” in countering violent extremism domestically.

An authority in the field for almost two decades, Dr. Mirahmadi has briefed countless policymakers both in the US and abroad, and has presented at conferences organized by the US Department of Defense, US Congressional Anti-Terrorism Caucus, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Public Safety Canada, Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, the US National Fusion Center, and the US Director of National Intelligence. She currently serves on the LAPD’s Community Police Advisory Board, the Director of National Intelligence’s Heritage Council, and she was recently appointed to Co-Chair the Montgomery County Executive’s Faith Community Working Group and the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families. In recognition of her expertise, she was also appointed to the US Embassy in Afghanistan as Senior Advisor for Civil Society Infrastructure in 2004.

Dr Mirahmadi is the co-author of the monographs “Afghanistan 2014 and Beyond: The Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding and Countering Violent Extremism”, “From Community Building to Countering Extremism: A Guide to Afghanistan’s Civil Society” (2014), “Pakistan’s Civil Society: Alternative Channels to Countering Violent Extremism” (2012), “From Community Building to Countering Extremism: An A-to-Z Guide to Pakistan’s Civil Society” (2012), and “Traditional Muslim Networks: Pakistan’s Untapped Resource in the Fight against Terrorism” (2010).

Her articles include “Addressing the Homegrown Terrorism Threat” in CQ Roll Call, “An Innovative Approach to Countering Violent Extremism,” The Washington Institute Policy Brief 2152, October 9, 2013, “Salafist Movements threaten World Cultural Heritage,” Al-Monitor, November 15, 2012 “After Osama bin Laden’s Death, Time for a New Poster Child for Islam”

Hedieh Mirahmadi, J.D. (continued)

and “How to Fight Jihad in America” in the Christian Science Monitor; “Our Nation’s Religious Quandary,” “The Global Village of Terrorism,” “How Obama Can Split the Taliban,” and “Picking and Choosing Enemies in Afghanistan” in the Huffington Post; “A Lebanon Freedom Foundation” in the NY Sun; and “The Sunni Disposition” and “Jihadi Tomb Raiders” in the National Review Online.

She is also a contributor to the books: Abraham’s Children: Liberty and Tolerance in an Age of Religious Conflict, (Yale University Press), Islam and Civil Society, (Ingram Publications); and The Other Muslims: Moderate and Secular, (Palgrave Publications).

Dr. Mirahmadi earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Southern California [USC], her B.A. in History from UCLA, and her degree in Islamic doctrine from the As-Sunnah Foundation.