

# MEIWeekly.



The International Criminal Court ruled on Thursday that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant bore criminal responsibility as co-perpetrators for "the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare; and crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts". Photo: AFP

## WHAT'S HOT: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS, & MORE

**READ:** The second edition to MEI's *Insights* series on climate-induced security challenges unpacks how environmental aggressors are exacerbating the conflict in war-torn Sudan. Read the article [here](#).

**READ:** In her book review, MEI Research Associate Evangeline Cheng evaluates the author's assessment of the differing responses to Covid-19 by the Lebanese government and Hezbollah in their battle for legitimacy, and how the public perceived these efforts. Read the article [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### ICC Issues Arrest Warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant

The warrants put Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gallant at risk of arrest if they travel abroad. As the Israeli premier's office denounced the decision as "antisemitic", the International Criminal Court said that Tel Aviv's acceptance of the chamber's jurisdiction was not required.

### Lebanon and Hezbollah Agree to US Ceasefire Proposal

A top Lebanese official said the success of the initiative now depended on Israel, saying if Tel Aviv did not want a solution, "it could make 100 problems". He also described this Washington-led ceasefire initiative as the most serious attempt yet to end the fighting.



Mr Ali Hassan Khalil (pictured), an aide to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, stated that Lebanon delivered its written response to the US ambassador to its nation on 18 November and that White House envoy Amos Hochstein was traveling to Beirut to continue talks. He also added that Israel was attempting to negotiate "under fire". Photo: AFP

### Saudi Arabia Fights to Derail Climate Pledge

Despite endorsing a transition away from fossil fuels last year, Saudi officials have since worked to undermine it in at least five UN forums, diplomats said. Negotiators said it's part of a yearlong campaign by Riyadh to thwart an agreement made last year by 200 nations.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### MEI Round-Up 2024

Former US Army combat commander in Iraq and CIA Director, General David Petraeus, is set to be the guest speaker at MEI's upcoming event on 11 December, 3pm (SGT), at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom. Together with MEI Honorary Fellow Bilahari Kausikan, he will discuss the prospects of a second year of war in the Middle East, what the regional landscape might look like when the long-anticipated "Day After" arrives, and how the Iran-Israel shadow war could pan out in the coming months. To sign up for this event, [click here](#).



General Petraeus was the guest speaker at MEI's S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture last year. Photo: AFP

### The Story of America's Intervention in Afghanistan

RSIS Adjunct Senior Fellow Amin Saikal and MEI will explore the critical reasons behind the US' failures in Afghanistan. Drawing insights from his book, *How to Lose a War*, Professor Saikal will narrate the important lessons learned from America's Afghanistan experience. This book launch will be conducted both in person and online via Zoom, on 27 November 2024, 3.00pm to 4.30pm (SGT). To sign up for this event, [click here](#).



The causes of America's failure in Afghanistan, and where the US and its allies went wrong, have been widely debated from varying perspectives. Photo: RSIS

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### British PM Starmer to Visit Saudi Arabia, UAE

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is set to visit Riyadh and Abu Dhabi next month, with plans to strengthen ties with the wealthy Gulf states. Sources indicate that London aims to attract investments, including energy projects from the UAE. During his visit, Mr Starmer is also expected to address regional issues, including the ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Israel, and Lebanon.



This visit would be the first to the Gulf by Mr Keir Starmer since the Labour party was elected in July. Photo: AFP

### Qatar Emir To Pay State Visit To London

Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, will make a state visit to the United Kingdom in December, Buckingham Palace announced on Thursday. King Charles III and Queen Camilla will host the Emir and his consort, Sheikha Jawaher bint Hamad Al-Thani, during their visit on 3-4 December.



The King (centre) and the 44-year-old Emir's most recent meeting was in December 2023 at the UN COP28 summit in Dubai. Photo: AFP

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