

Unpacking UNRWA:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency

It's History and Funding, Anti-Israel Bias in Education, and the Palestinian Perspective

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Asaf Romirowsky is also a senior non-resident research fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA) and a Professor [Affiliate] at the University of Haifa. Trained as a Middle East historian he holds a PhD in Middle East and Mediterranean Studies from King's College London, UK and has published widely on various aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and American foreign policy in the Middle East, as well as on Israeli and Zionist history.

Romirowsky is co-author of Religion, Politics, and the Origins of Palestine Refugee Relief and author or co-author of many journal articles and book chapters on topics related to international relations, the Middle East, and Arab-Palestinian refugees. He recently co-edited Word Crimes: Reclaiming the Language of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, a special issue of the journal Israel Studies.

Romirowsky's publicly-engaged scholarship has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, The National Interest, The American Interest, The New Republic, The Times of Israel, Jerusalem Post, Ynet and Tablet among other online and print media outlets.

Bassem Eid is a Jerusalem-based political analyst, and commentator on Arab and Palestinian affairs. He was born in the Jordanian-occupied Old City in East Jerusalem; whose place of residence became the United Nations Refugee Works Agency (UNRWA) refugee camp of Shuafat. He rose to prominence during the first Intifada (Palestinian uprising) and was a senior field researcher for B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. In 1996, he founded the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. In 2016, Eid assumed the role of chairman of the Center for Near East Policy Research.

He publicly condemned the widespread murder of Palestinian dissidents, often for reasons unrelated to the Intifada. In 1995, following his report about the Palestinian Preventive Security Service (PSF), he came under attack by some Palestinian leaders for revealing human rights violations committed by the Palestinian Authority (PA). Arrested by Arafats' Presidential Guard (Force 17), he was released after 25 hours following widespread international condemnation.

Bassem Eid has spent 26 years researching UNRWA policies and has written extensively on the subject of UNRWA reform and is an outspoken critic of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Marcus Sheff is CEO of IMPACT-se, a research and policy non-profit that analyzes textbooks, employing standards on peace and tolerance as derived from international declarations and resolutions.

He has briefed at the White House, National Security Council, US State Department, Congress, the United Nations, European Parliament and Commission, at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and British Parliament, the German Federal Foreign Office and Bundestag, the Norwegian and Finnish governments and parliaments and other institutions around the world. He has appeared on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, BBC and many other networks and has been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post and other print media.

A national student leader in the UK, he worked as a political reporter at The Nation, an editor at The Jerusalem Post and as a foreign correspondent. Following that, he was an executive for global communications firms Dow Jones International and Advanstar Inc. and established The Word Shop Ltd., a communications firm that became the leader in its field. He was the Executive Director at The Israel Project from 2007-2014.