

## **Magnus Ranstorp**

As Research Director at the Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS) at the Swedish National Defence College, he has directed major research projects over the last decade mainly funded by Civil Contingency Agency. These have ranged from conducting one of the earliest major research inventories in field of terrorism/counterterrorism; countering violent extremism; how terrorists innovate in their targetting process; CBRN threat convergence and other projects that relate to terrorism developments.

Dr. Ranstorp have also led several Cabinet and government agency assignments: on on radicalisation in Malmö (2008/9); a Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)-funded project on counter-radicalisation efforts in Indonesia (2009); a Armed Forces HQ study on forecasting terrorism in 2018 (2008); on countering violent extremism and foreign fighters (2013); on countering terror finance for Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority (2015) and others.

Prior to CATS, Dr Ranstorp was the Deputy and later Director of the world-renowned Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews. Since 1994 he was largely responsible with other colleagues for the unparalleled reputation CSTPV gained worldwide before and after 9/11.

Dr Ranstorp is the author of Hizballah in Lebanon (Macmillan, 1997) and editor of Mapping Terrorism Research (Routledge, 2006); International Terrorism and Unconventional Weapons (Routledge, 2009); and Understanding Violent Radicalisation (Routledge, 2010). He has also published peer-reviewed chapters as well as articles in Colombia Journal of International Affairs, Mediterrean Politics, RUSI Journal and many other academic journals.

Dr Ranstorp is on the advisory board of several peer-reviewed international academic journals, most notably Studies in Conflict and Terrorism; Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict; and Civil Wars.

Dr Magnus Ranstorp is internationally recognised as a leading expert on Hizballah, Hamas, al-Qaeda and other militant Islamic movements. During the course of his field research since the early 1990s Dr Ranstorp interviewed most of the senior leadership as well as the rank-and-file of Palestinian Hamas in Gaza, West Bank, Amman and Beirut and the Lebanese Hizballah movement in Beirut, Bekka valley and in southern Lebanon. His work on the behaviour of the Hizballah movement was recognized by Israeli media in March 2000 as among the contributing factors leading to the decision by the Israeli government to withdraw from southern Lebanon. It was preceded by a 3 year secret back channel between Hizballah and Israel (publicly revealed in 2000).

Dr Ranstorp have briefed many senior government and security officials from around the world and lectures regularly to most major universities, think tanks and intergovernmental organisations. In 2003, he was invited to testify before the 9-11 Commission in its first hearing. Both before and after 9/11, he was a consultant on terrorism issues to CNN and its investigative unit assisting on stories in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America. On 12 September 2001 Dr. Ranstorp briefed CNN's Chief International Correspondent Christiana Amanpour on terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and the link between Pakistani ISI and al-Qaeda.

In the Middle East and North Africa, Dr Ranstorp have made briefings to several Middle Eastern governments, military and civilian agencies in: Lebanon; Jordan; Israel; Egypt; Libya; Bahrain; Saudi Arabia, UAE. In 2008 he visited the Saudi rehabilitation prisons where he met and interviewed al-Qaeda members caught in Iraq on suicide-missions as well as Saudi

Guantanamo detainees. In 2007 he was also the only European and civilian invited to lecture in a high-level CENTCOM conference held in Abu Dhabi on the role of special operations (SOC) before several Gulf states royal families and SOC representatives from across the Middle East and the United States. He has also taught at the Special Operations University at Fort Hulburt in the United States.

In 2006 Dr Ranstorp was invited to join the European Commission Expert Group on Violent Radicalisation, an official advisory body on all matters relating to violent radicalisation and recruitment of extremists within the EU. In 2007 he was invited to join the European Network of Experts on Radicalisation and he is an invited member of the BKA-led initiative European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues. Since 2009 he has been a Senior Fellow at the Homeland Security Policy Institute at the George Washington University.

Dr Ranstorp is on the Steering Committee of the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and is Working Group Leader of EU RAN INT/EXT (on foreign fighters). He is now appointed as the EU RAN Centre of Excellence Quality Manager which provides support to European Commission on countering violent extremism issues. This network contains over 2,500 practitioners across EU Member States.

In 2015 Dr Ranstorp was the Chairman of the Expert Group on Prevention of Violent Extremism in Copenhagen Municipality which provided a 50-page Action Plan countering violent extremism. He has subsequently provided advice to Stockholm Municipality as well as the Nordic Council Safe Cities initiative.

He was also a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Terrorism during 2011-2014 and is currently on the Global Agenda Council on Conflict, Fragility and Violence.

He is an elected Fellow of The Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences.