

A Forum on the Political and Humanitarian Crisis in Syria and Iraq



Photos by Youssef Boudlal, Reuters



- **A Reporter's First Hand Observations**
- **Globalization**
- **US Foreign Policy**
- **Islamic State Terrorism**
- **Beyond Kurdish Nationalism**
- **Northern Iraq and the Kurdish Yazidi Genocide**
- **Kobani**

PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS

Amir Sharifi, CSULB Department of Linguistics

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Reese Erlich: "A Reporter's First Hand Report: Assad, ISIS, Obama and US Middle East Policy"

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Gerard Russell: Researcher, author of *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms: Yazidis and survival* (via Skype)

James Gelvin: UCLA History: Social and cultural history of the modern Middle East, particularly Greater Syria

Sophia Pandya: CSULB Religious Studies: Religious change among educated women, and the implications of modernity, globalization, and education on their practice

Yousef Baker: CSULB International Studies: Globalization and development, social movements, nationalism, and migration in the modern Middle East and North Africa.

Charlie Mahoney: CSULB Political Science: US foreign policy, terrorism, and counter-insurgency

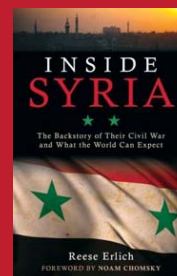
Danny Paskin: CSULB Journalism and Mass Communication: International news coverage

Larry N. George: CSULB Political Science: international relations

Haider Helias: Yazidi Association president and representative

Nazand Begikhani: University of Bristol - Senior Research Fellow, Senior International Adviser on Higher Education & Gender/KRG, Editor-in-chief of *Le Monde Diplomatique*/Kurdish edition: The cases of Kurdish Yazidi women

Amir Sharifi: CSULB Linguistics: Kurdish diaspora and socio-linguistic identity. The struggle for Political, cultural and linguistic autonomy



Reese Erlich



Gerard Russell

OVERVIEW

The Syrian-Iraqi crises are deepening everyday as the Islamic State continues to expand its reign of terror in the changing political landscape of the Middle East, threatening ancient Mesopotamian religious and ethnic minorities with extinction. Humanitarian tragedies like that of the Kurdish Yazidis have led to the influx of millions of refugees with grave implications for regional and global peace and security. The forum will bring together leading experts including journalists, academicians, and scholars for lively discussions about the pressing historical, political, ethno-religious, cultural, issues, movements, and changes in Syria and Iraq.

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December 3, 2014 - 12:00 NOON to 3:00 PM

CSULB University, Student Union, Beach Auditorium

For further details, please contact: Amir Sharifi (818) 635-7317 or Amir.sharifi@csulb.edu