



**Iraq's Elections:  
Prelude to Dissolution or Last Chance at Nationbuilding?  
Panel Discussion with Yahia Said, Morton Halperin and Eleana Gordon  
November 16, 2005  
2:00 p.m.**

Despite overwhelming rejection by Sunni Arabs, Iraqi voters recently approved a new constitution which paves the way for parliamentary elections this December. To discuss the implications of the upcoming Iraqi elections, CSIS and the Open Society Institute will host a panel presentation entitled **"Iraq's Elections: Prelude to Dissolution or Last Chance at Nationbuilding?"** **Yahia Said, Morton Halperin and Eleana Gordon** will serve as panelists, with **Jon Alterman** acting as moderator. **The presentation will take place from 2:00p.m.-3:30p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, in the fourth floor conference room at our offices at 1800 K St., NW.** The discussion will be on the record.

**Mr. Yahia Said** is Director of the Open Society Institute's Iraq Revenue Watch and a Research Fellow at the London School of Economics' Centre for the Study of Global Governance. The son of an Iraqi journalist and leading Iraqi feminist—who was imprisoned by Saddam Hussein—Said left Iraq in 1979. He specializes on issues of post-totalitarian and post-conflict transition, and is starting a research project at LSE analyzing the post-Saddam transition in Iraq. He travels to Iraq regularly to meet activists, intellectuals, political and spiritual leaders and ordinary citizens.

**Dr. Morton Halperin** is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Director of its Security and Peace Initiative. He is also Executive Director of the Open Society Policy Center and Director of U.S. Advocacy for the Open Society Institute. Dr. Halperin served in the Clinton, Nixon and Johnson administrations, most recently from 1998 to 2001 as Director of the Policy Planning Staff at the Department of State. In the Clinton administration, he was also Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Democracy at the National Security Council.

**Ms. Eleana Gordon** oversees democracy programs and communications at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, promoting pro-democracy activists from the Islamic world. These projects include the *Women for Free Iraq*, a campaign in 2003 by Iraqi women to advocate for democracy in Iraq and the *Iraq Democracy Information Center*, which publishes writings on democracy. She organized two major conferences on democracy for Iraqi women activists, in Hilla in October 2003 and in Amman in April 2004, and continues to work closely with Iraqi women groups to strengthen the protection of individual rights in the new Constitution.

Space for this event limited. If you plan to attend, please contact Michael Balz at the CSIS Middle East Program at (202) 775-3179 or by email at [mbalz@csis.org](mailto:mbalz@csis.org) no later than Tuesday, November 15.