

Middle East Study Group

Research Seminar

**Wednesday 4 December 2019, 4.00pm – 6.00pm**

**Lecture Room 09, Wilberforce Building**

**Understanding Libya’s Political and Armed Crisis - Its Regional and International Ramifications**

**Dr Bashir Alzawawi**

**PhD Graduate in the Business School**

**University of Hull, UK**

**Abstract**

The Aim of this presentation is to explain the current situation of the armed and political crisis in Libya. Libya has been the theatre of a political and armed crisis since the fall of Gaddafi’s regime in 2011. Unlike its neighbouring states, Egypt and Tunisia, the Libyan version of the Arab Spring was violent. It turned the country to a failed state. Continued use of violence led to the collapse of state’s power and to a dysfunctional, corrupt economy and fragmented sovereign institutions. In 2014, the Islamic State took advantage of the fragmented environment to establish its largest stronghold outside Syria and Iraq. Furthermore, Libya became the largest hub for trafficking illegal migrants.

This talk sheds light on the current situation, and on how political violence was fuelled and deepened by regional and international rivalry between various international powers. The paper calls for swift, transparent and decisive international action to prevent further collapse of Libya. Abandoning this struggling country can create a space for others to exploit the situation and, more importantly, might undermine the shared European interests in Libya.

**Biography**

Dr Bashir Alzawawi, a recent PhD graduate with a PhD in Management from the University of Hull Business School. His PhD title is: Organisational Change from the perspectives of translation: A case study of transformation in the Libyan Banking System. Prior to obtaining a doctoral degree, Bashir worked as a banker in Libya for 8 years. Between 2003-2005 he studied Master in Business Management at the University of Misurata in Libya. Two years later was appointed as an assistant lecturer in the Faculty of Politics and Economic Sciences. The uprising in 2011 was a turning point in his interest in Libya’s and also international politics. He became a political analyst, contributing to local and international discussion about Libya’s socio-political and economic affairs. His comments incorporated into some media discussion platforms including the BBC Humber on illegal migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe. Dr Alzawawi is frequently invited to provide media commentary on Libya’s political and armed conflict, and on Libya’s religious groups.

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All are welcome to attend.