

## EGYPT: PROSPECTS & CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST RADICAL ISLAMISM WITH SPECIAL GUEST AMBASSADOR ALBERTO FERNANDEZ

AMBASSADOR ALBERTO FERNANDEZ is the president of the Broadcasting Board of Governors' Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), overseeing MBN's multimedia operations in the U.S. and across the Middle East, including its digital properties, Alhurra Television networks and Radio Sawa. MBN is a private, not for profit, multimedia corporation funded by the BBG that provides news and information to the 22 Arabic speaking countries across the Middle East and North Africa. With a weekly audience of more than 27.5 million people, MBN supports democratic values by expanding the spectrum of ideas in the region and producing accurate, professional and independent news and information on all media platforms; and is a trailblazer in audience engagement.



Prior to joining MBN, Ambassador Fernandez served as the Vice President of the Middle East Research Institute (MEMRI), in addition a distinguished career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Ambassador Fernandez also held numerous roles at the U.S. Department of State, including the Department's Coordinator for the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Chief of Mission in Sudan, Director for Near East Public Diplomacy and Director for Iraq Public Diplomacy. He was a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor and was a recipient of a 2008 Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the 2006 Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy, and a 2003 Superior Honor Award for his work in Afghanistan, among other awards. He also served as a Foreign Service Officer in Iraq, Kuwait, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and the United Arab Emirates, and as USIA desk officer for Egypt, Yemen, and Sudan.

Ambassador Fernandez is a graduate of the University of Arizona and the Defense Language Institute. Ambassador Fernandez has also lectured and debated on U.S. foreign policy in numerous public venues, and has published in several publications, including Brookings Institution publications, the *Foreign Service Journal*, *Journal of International Security Affairs*, *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Cipher Brief*, *Providence*, the *Harvard Review of Latin America*, *Middle East Quarterly* and the *Journal of the Assyrian Academic Society* (JAAS). He is also a Non-Resident Fellow in Middle East Media and Politics at the TRENDS Foundation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.