



## ICRD Monthly Update

### October 31, 2016

#### Longer Term Impact

Our Center's program in Yemen, which trains and empowers religious, tribal and community leaders in addressing violent extremism, is already bearing significant fruit as graduates of the program have begun launching initiatives of their own. For example, one group of graduates organized a three-day, community-funded training for 30 imams, who subsequently incorporated what they learned in their Friday sermons, emphasizing the role that civil society can play in addressing violent extremism. As captured in the comments of one of the graduates: "I'm so glad that this training will not stop here, that we will continue by going back to train others and working in the community." Including these local initiatives, the total number of local leaders engaged in this effort is now close to 300.



#### ICRD in the News

Last month, ICRD was interviewed by i24news, an international Israeli TV channel that currently reaches more than 70 million households in Europe and the United States (and much of Africa as well). The focus of the interview, which you can watch by [linking here](#), was our Center's work on educational reform in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Please click on "Mideast Focus 09/15/2016" and give it a couple minutes to load.

#### ICRD in the Literature

ICRD's approach to countering religious extremism was also singled out in a new book titled, *Undertaking Apocalyptic Terrorism: Countering the Radical Mindset*, as "an exemplary model to emulate". You can access the full excerpt [here](#), but the text below provides a bit of the flavor.

*One example of an NGO doing stellar work in preventing extremism, even though they do not necessarily think of it in that way, is the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD). Based in Washington DC, the ICRD understands that facilitating a better understanding of religion lies at the heart of resolving many conflicts around the world... The value of the peacebuilding that results from their innovative programs in the most challenging regions is patently obvious... Yet when I asked him [ICRD's President Douglas Johnston] to name their greatest challenge in trying to implement programs around the world, he simply replied, "securing the necessary resources to support our efforts".*

With best wishes,

Douglas Johnston  
President, ICRD

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