



BEGIN-SADAT CENTER RECOGNIZED AS GLOBAL “GO-TO” THINK TANK

Bar-Ilan University’s Strategic Studies Center
Cracks Top-200 Policy Advisors World-Wide

Montreal, QC. - In the vast sea of more than 5000 public policy institutions world-wide, Bar-Ilan University’s Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA) has been recognized among the leaders in the field by the prestigious Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI) of Philadelphia, PA.

The report, a compilation of nominations made by an international group of executives, policymakers, public and private donors, and scholars who study public policy institutes, identifies BESA as one of the top 228 global “Think Tanks”.

The panel of experts was asked to develop a list of high performance think tanks that were either domestic- or international-oriented and had a regional or global reach, meaning that their programs, scholars and publications were read and utilized by decision-makers around the world.

“Today, think tanks must be lean, mean, policy machines,” explains Professor James McGann, FPRI Director, as well as Professor of Political Science at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, and author of the report. “The Economist described “good think tanks” as those organizations that are able to combine “intellectual depth, political influence, and flair for publicity, comfortable surroundings, and a streak of eccentricity.”

Founded in 1993 by Dr. Thomas O. Hecht, a prominent Canadian Jewish community leader and a close associate for thirty years of the late Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the Center was dedicated to the memory of Begin and the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat -- who together concluded the first Arab-Israeli peace treaty. Since then, the BESA Center has developed cooperative relationships with strategic study centers and government defense agencies throughout the world, from Ankara to Washington and from London to New Delhi.

“Israeli decision-makers in military and civilian life, diplomats and academics worldwide, the press and the broader Israeli public have all come to count on BESA’s expertise when considering the opportunities for peace and the problems of war in the Middle East,” said Dr. Hecht.

The BESA Center has published more than 90 original research papers, eight books, and run more than 225 symposia, research seminars, conferences and international conferences on issues that include relations with the Palestinians, nuclear deterrence, and strategic relations in the eastern Mediterranean. BESA associates have spoken at conferences and symposia in more than 30 countries. Its experts have been interviewed thousands of times in more than 120 newspapers and quality defense publications, from The New York Times and The Washington Post, to The Times of London and Jane’s Defense Weekly. Three Center associates are regular columnists for The Jerusalem Post. The Center has conducted specialized research on contract from the Israeli government and international organizations.

Bar-Ilan University is the world’s leading institute of higher learning, which provides an environment for academic excellence to Jews of every level of observance, as well as the community at large. Firmly committed to the Jewish people, studies and culture, the University has also achieved an international reputation in the sciences and humanities. Bar-Ilan is fast becoming one of Israel’s scientific incubators, and is actively involved in technology transfer and commercialization.

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