



Jennifer Cafarella

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& *Syria Analyst*

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Jennifer Cafarella is the Evans Hanson Fellow and a Syria Analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, where she focuses on Syrian Al Qaeda affiliate Jabhat Al-Nusra and opposition groups. At ISW, she has written on ISIS in both Syria and Iraq, tracking their efforts to consolidate power in eastern Syria, while at the same time connecting their Syrian-Iraqi northern fronts. Ms. Cafarella served as a co-author on ISW's new report series: *U.S. Grand Strategy: Destroying ISIS and Al Qaeda*, including: *Al Qaeda and ISIS: Existential Threats to the U.S. and Europe*; *Competing Visions for Iraq and Syria: The Myth of an Anti-ISIS Grand Coalition*; and *Jabhat al Nusra and ISIS: Sources of Strength*.

Ms. Cafarella's essays have appeared in *The Hill*, Fox News, and The Cipher Brief. One particular focus of her research has been the al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra and their military capabilities, modes of governance, and long-term strategic vision. Ms. Cafarella is the author of the report *Jabhat al-Nusra in Syria: An Islamic Emirate for al-Qaeda* and *Likely Courses of Action in the Syrian Civil War: June-December 2015*. Ms. Cafarella has dealt extensively with the media acting as a resource for NPR's "All Things Considered," Voice of America, the BBC, *The New York Times*, CNN, *Time*, *USA Today*, and others. She has also briefed Members of Congress, senior military personnel, and Administration officials.

She is a graduate of ISW's [Hertog War Studies](#) Program and is the Institute's first Evans Hanson Fellow. This Fellowship is for outstanding alumni of the War Studies Program and seeks to help build the next generation of national security leaders. Ms. Cafarella received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in Global Studies with a focus on the Middle East. Ms. Cafarella is proficient in Arabic and Spanish.

Find all of Ms. Cafarella's publications [here](#).

Selected Media

**Links Below*

CNN (3/15/2016)
Fox News (2/23/2016)
Chicago Tribune (2/8/2015)
The Economist (12/2/2015)
The Daily Beast (12/1/2015)
Al Jazeera America (11/14/2015)
International Business Times (11/12/2015)

Selected Publications

**Links Below*

ISIS Forecast: Ramadan 2016 (May 2016)
Syrian Armed Opposition Powerbrokers (March 2016)
Jabhat Al Nusra and ISIS: Sources of Strength (February 2016)
Syrian Armed Opposition Forces in Aleppo (2/13/2016)
The Threat of New Al Qaeda Leadership: The Case of Syria's Abu Mohammed Al-Joulani (6/30/2015)