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Ambassador C. Steven McGann Speaks at Pacific Council on Boko Haram Threat

On October 18th, 2014, Ambassador C. Steven McGann, CISA Adjunct Professor and former Vice Chancellor, spoke at the Pacific Council on International Policy's Annual Members Weekend in Santa Monica, California. The event, which is the West Coast's premier forum for global affairs, convened 300 dynamic business, civic, government, and academic leaders to exchange ideas and collaborate on pressing global issues.

As a panelist for the "Beyond al-Qaeda: Responding to the Threat of Armed Non-State Actors", McGann argued that Boko Haram is a non-state actor that operates at the tactical, operational, and strategic level to accomplish its objectives. In his speech, McGann emphasized that Boko Haram has "achieved the support of the local population by exploiting longstanding political and economic grievances" which, like other non-state actors, has made it "difficult to dislodge from ungoverned spaces."

In light of this, Ambassador McGann recommended that U.S. and African leaders: reframe the narrative as an effort to improve the political and economic conditions of the region not as a culture war against Islam, identify civil society groups and community leaders as partners to implement necessary political reforms, improve the ability of domestic institutions to provide essential civil services and address socio-economic concerns, build capacity of regional security forces and local law enforcement to restrict the ability of non-state actors to operate in ungoverned spaces, establish a framework for cross-border operations between international security forces and regional governments.

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