Middle East Forum

MIDDLE EAST FORUM · NOVEMBER 2026

# From Research to Results

## The Middle East Forum's 2026 Engagement Report

**2,171**
outside bylines, quotes, interviews, and citations

**1,906**
congressional staffers briefed every week

**27,114**
constituent messages to elected officials

**92M**
appearances in Google search results

Covers January 1 to November 9, 2026, unless a section states otherwise.

IF YOU READ ONE PAGE

# The One-Page Briefing

## THE PROBLEM

The regimes, terror networks, and Islamist movements of the Middle East now reach directly into American institutions. In 2026 the regime in Tehran killed thousands of its own citizens and kept attacking shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Hamas networks raised money through charities. Islamist organizations drew federal grants, and foreign governments paid billions to American universities. Officials need findings they can act on, with the sources attached.

## KEY FINDINGS

1. **Federal agencies acted on MEF research.**
HHS opened a review of CAIR in June after MEF brought the evidence to HHS officials and Congress. On October 13, nine House members cited MEF's *Hidden Handouts*, which traced $79 million in HHS-originated grants to 14 Islamist organizations, and asked HHS to suspend the active awards.[1, 2, 3]

2. **Treasury designated a Hamas charity MEF exposed.**
On January 21, the Treasury Department designated the Gaza charity Qawafil al-Khair, which MEF had exposed as a Hamas institution raising money in the United Kingdom.[4, 5]

3. **MEF opened a line into Iran.**
MEF's Iran Freedom Project has placed more than 470 Starlink terminals inside Iran. MEF helped convene the Iran Freedom Congress, and published *Blood Money* and the Iran Ledger, which name more than 1,000 regime officials, forces, banks, and companies.[6, 7, 8]

4. **Congress and statehouses used MEF evidence.**
Two House Judiciary subcommittee hearings cited MEF data. MEF scholars testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the Texas House, and a Knesset assembly of Israeli, Greek, Cypriot, and American officials met in cooperation with MEF.[9, 10, 11, 12, 13]

5. **MEF reached policymakers directly and at scale.**
2,171 outside bylines, quotes, interviews, and citations in 696 outlets; 8,782 Hill Desk briefs to congressional staff; 27,114 constituent messages through MEF Action; and 91.6 million appearances in Google search results.[14, 15, 16, 17]

6. **MEF led its peers in search and AI answers.**
meforum.org draws more search traffic than FDD, the Washington Institute, or the Middle East Institute, and AI platforms named MEF more often than any peer organization.[18, 19]

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Use suspension and debarment.**
Every grant-making agency should screen recipients for ties to designated terrorist organizations and use its existing suspension and debarment authority where the evidence meets the standard. HHS should complete its CAIR review and examine the other awards named in *Hidden Handouts*.

2. **Keep designating the charities that fund Hamas.**
Treasury should continue to designate charities, at home and abroad, that raise money for Hamas, as it did with Qawafil al-Khair.

3. **Enforce foreign-gift disclosure.**
The Education and State Departments should enforce Section 117 reporting and publish what they find, starting with the largest Gulf partnerships, such as Qatar's Education City campuses.

4. **Keep Iranians connected and name the perpetrators.**
Washington and its allies should sustain satellite internet and broadcasting into Iran and sanction the officials, forces, banks, and companies documented in the Iran Ledger.

5. **Back the Eastern Mediterranean partners.**
The United States should deepen its coordination with Israel, Greece, and Cyprus against Turkish pressure in the region.

## 2026 AT A GLANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| **2,171** | outside bylines, quotes, interviews, and citations |
| **472** | appearances on television, radio, podcasts, and online shows |
| **1,906** | congressional staffers briefed every week |
| **No. 1** | in search traffic among Middle East research organizations |

SECTION 1

# Results Abroad

MEF's international work in 2026 centered on Iran's uprising, Israel's security, and the Eastern Mediterranean.

## Breaking Tehran's Blackout

When the regime cut the internet during the uprising that began December 28, 2025, Iranians kept talking to each other and the world through satellite links. MEF's Iran Freedom Project has placed more than 470 Starlink terminals inside the country.[20]

In February and March, MEF helped convene the Iran Freedom Congress in London, the broadest assembly of Iran's opposition since 1979. Its steering committee adopted common principles: a democratic and secular order, human rights, territorial integrity, and the rejection of revenge.[21]

> "For forty-five years, the Iranian opposition's great tragedy has not been a lack of courage or legitimacy. It has been the absence of an architecture that allows diverse forces to work together."
>
> Gregg Roman, Executive Director, Middle East Forum[22]

## Naming Those Responsible

On October 7, MEF published *Blood Money: Crimes against Humanity in Iran* with the Iran Ledger, a public database of the regime's officials, forces, banks, and companies. Together they name more than 1,000 of them and show which governments have sanctioned each one.[23]

In June, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee advanced the Iran Human Rights, Internet Freedom, and Accountability Act (S. 3900), which MEF backs.[24]

## Securing Israel

Meir Ben-Shabbat, Israel's former national security adviser, set out his strategy for victory in an MEF report published October 19. It argues that Israel must bring about the cognitive defeat of the Palestinian national movement, the idea at the heart of MEF's Israel Victory Project.[25]

## Holding the Line in the Eastern Mediterranean

On February 11, Israeli, Greek, Cypriot, and American officials met at the Knesset in cooperation with MEF to coordinate against Turkish pressure.[26]

In June, MEF's director of policy analysis, Michael Rubin, told the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission that northern Cyprus "remains under Turkish occupation" and urged Washington to say so plainly.[27]

CASE STUDY

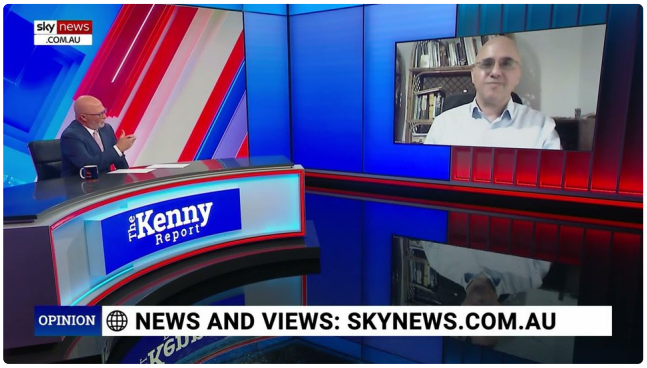
## The 3+1 Format at the Knesset

The February 11 assembly brought members of the Knesset, MEF's Alex Selsky and Gregg Roman, and security experts together with Greek, Cypriot, and American officials. Its subject was Turkey's military posture and how the four partners can answer it together.[28]

### MEF SCHOLARS ON AIR ABROAD




**Mehrdad Marty Youssefiani** Channel 14 (Israel), March 13



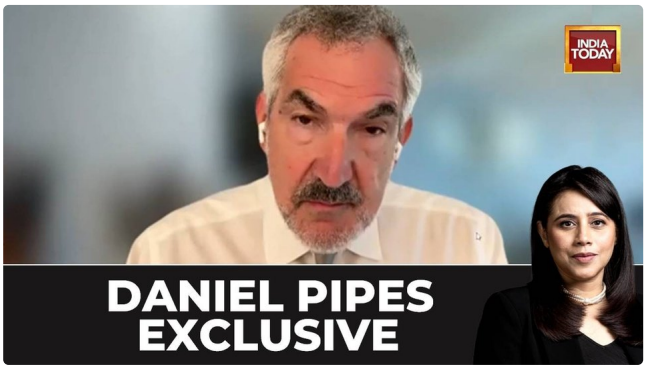

**Jonathan Spyer** Sky News Australia, June 15




**Giulio Meotti** Il Foglio On Air, October 29




**Sirwan Kajjo** i24NEWS, January 11




**Daniel Pipes** India Today, March 2




**Yossi Kuperwasser** TV7 Israel News, February 16

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 2

# Results in Washington

At home, MEF's research moved federal agencies, Congress, and state governments.

## Stopping Taxpayer Money to Islamists

MEF's July report *Health and Human Services Hidden Handouts*, by MEF Action director Benjamin Baird, documented $79 million in HHS-originated grants to 14 Islamist organizations.[29]

HHS opened a review of CAIR in June, after MEF brought the allegations and a recommendation of suspension and debarment to HHS officials and members of Congress. Secretary Kennedy confirmed the review.[30]

On October 13, Rep. Chip Roy and eight House colleagues asked HHS to widen the probe to the other recipients, basing their letter on MEF's report.[31]

> "HHS funding of terrorist-linked organizations was much more widespread than previously understood."
>
> Letter from nine members of the House to HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., October 13, 2026[32]

LEGAL DEFINITION

### Suspension and Debarment

An administrative remedy that lets a federal agency exclude a person or organization from grants and contracts across the government when it lacks present responsibility. Debarment must rest on a preponderance of the evidence (2 CFR 180.850; FAR 9.406-3).[33]

## Shutting Down Terror Finance

MEF exposed the Gaza charity Qawafil al-Khair as a Hamas institution raising money through British organizations. On January 21, Treasury designated it.[34, 35]

## Shaping the Law

MEF Action helped conceptualize H.R. 8236, the Designating Hamas Affiliates in America Act, introduced by Rep. Chip Roy on April 9. In June, MEF assembled a coalition of diaspora, faith-based, Muslim reform, and legal organizations behind it.[36, 37]

> "The Middle East Forum is proud to have helped build the evidentiary foundation for this bill."
>
> Gregg Roman, quoted in Rep. Chip Roy's release introducing H.R. 8236, April 9, 2026[38]

COUNTER-ARGUMENT

### “This Targets Lawful Speech.”

It does not. Designation and debarment act on conduct: material support, fundraising, and ties to groups the government has already designated. Speech stays protected; federal money and licenses are not an entitlement for organizations that aid terrorists.

## Defending American Campuses

In January, Campus Watch published *Qatar's Multidimensional Takeover of Georgetown University*, which estimates that Georgetown received more than $971 million from Qatar over 20 years.[39]

In February, the Education and State Departments announced a partnership to scrutinize the foreign gifts and contracts universities report under Section 117.[40]

## Opening the Evidence to Researchers

On September 10, MEF opened its Counter-Islamism Research Clearinghouse to vetted researchers: more than four million data points drawn from tax filings, corporate registrations, property files, and public statements.[41]

MEF SCHOLARS BEFORE LAWMAKERS AND ON AIR



**Michael Rubin** Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, June 30



**Sam Westrop** Texas House Committee on Homeland Security, July 30




**Gregg Roman** Real America’s Voice, October 30



**Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh** The Beltway & Beyond, April 13

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 3

# Officials Cite MEF

Members of Congress, committees, and state legislators used MEF research in 2026. This section grows as new citations appear.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

**House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government**

Hearing, “Sharia-Free America”: a member cited MEF data that about 650 of the country's 8,000-plus Islamic nonprofits are based in Texas.[42]

**FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

**Knesset, Jerusalem**

Israeli, Greek, Cypriot, and American officials met in cooperation with MEF to coordinate against Turkish pressure.[43]

**APRIL 9, 2026**

**Office of Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX)**

The release introducing H.R. 8236 quotes MEF's executive director on the evidence behind the bill.[44]

**MAY 13, 2026**

**House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government**

Hearing, “Sharia-Free America, Part II”: a member cited “a 2026 report by the Middle East Forum” on Islamic nonprofits in Texas.[45]

**JUNE 9, 2026**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

HHS opened a review of CAIR and its affiliates after MEF's campaign; Secretary Kennedy confirmed it.[46]

**JUNE 2026**

**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, U.S. House**

Michael Rubin testified on Turkey and the occupation of northern Cyprus.[47]

**JULY 2026**

**Texas House Committee on Homeland Security**

Sam Westrop testified on foreign governments' money and Islamist networks in Texas.[48]

**OCTOBER 13, 2026**

**Rep. Chip Roy and eight House colleagues**

Letter to HHS based on MEF's *Hidden Handouts*, asking HHS to suspend active awards to the groups it names.[49]

SECTION 4

# Reaching Policymakers

**1,906**

congressional staffers receive the weekly Hill Desk brief

**8,782**

briefs delivered, October 1 to November 2

**27,114**

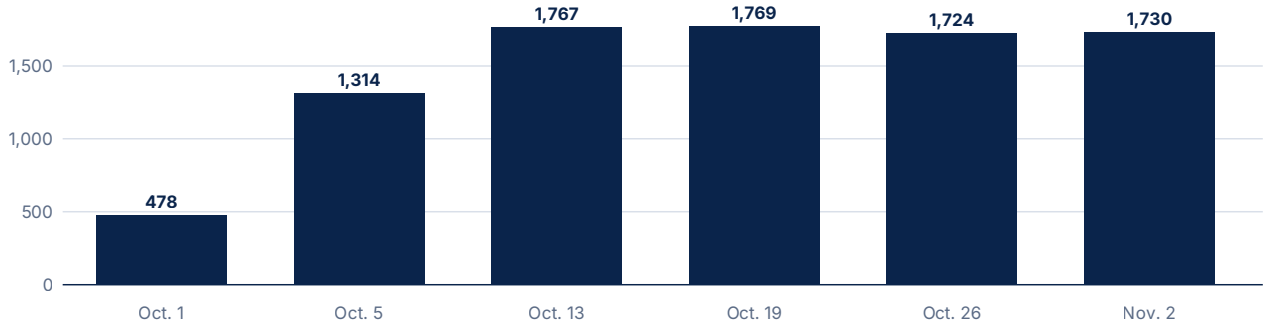
messages to elected officials through MEF Action

Since late September, MEF's Hill Desk has sent a weekly brief to 1,906 congressional staffers in 317 member offices and on the committees that handle foreign affairs, defense, intelligence, homeland security, the judiciary, education, and appropriations.[50]

Each brief matches new MEF research to the staffer's committee, portfolio, and the hearings on the calendar, and names the MEF scholar who can brief the office. From October 1 to November 2, 8,782 briefs reached staff inboxes in six weekly editions.[51]

MEF Action supporters sent 27,114 messages to their elected officials from January 1 to October 27, from 38 states.[52]

### Hill Desk Briefs Delivered, by Edition




Source: MEF Hill Desk and HubSpot delivery reports. The October 1 edition went to committee staff only.

## MEF SCHOLARS BEFORE LAWMAKERS AND ON AIR




**Jim Hanson** Fox News, Hannity, June 12




**Craig Considine** Fox News, Fox & Friends, October 29

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 5

# Public Reach

MEF scholars write and speak where policymakers, journalists, and voters already read.

**2,171**
outside bylines, quotes, interviews, and citations by 75 MEF scholars

**696**
outlets carried MEF scholars

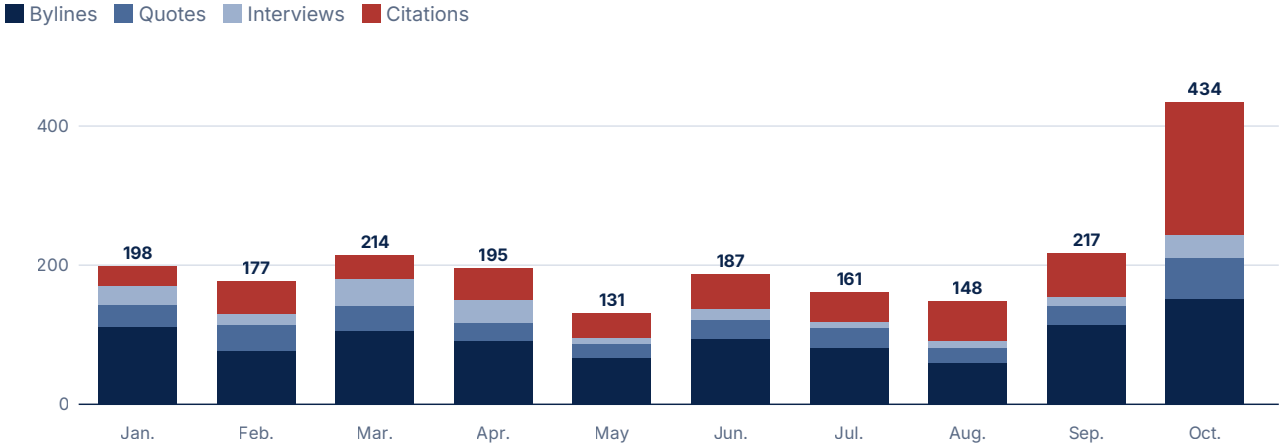
**91.6M**
appearances in Google search results

From January 1 to November 9, MEF scholars appeared 2,171 times in outside media: 1,005 bylines, 323 quotes, 207 interviews, and 636 citations, in 696 outlets.[53]

Iran drew the most coverage, followed by Israel and Gaza. Readers in the West grew too: in the 10 Western countries shown here, readers of meforum.org rose 20 percent over the same months of 2025.[54, 55]

MEF pages appeared 91.6 million times in Google search results from January through October, and U.S. readers viewed 2.7 million pages, up 14 percent on 2025.[56, 57]

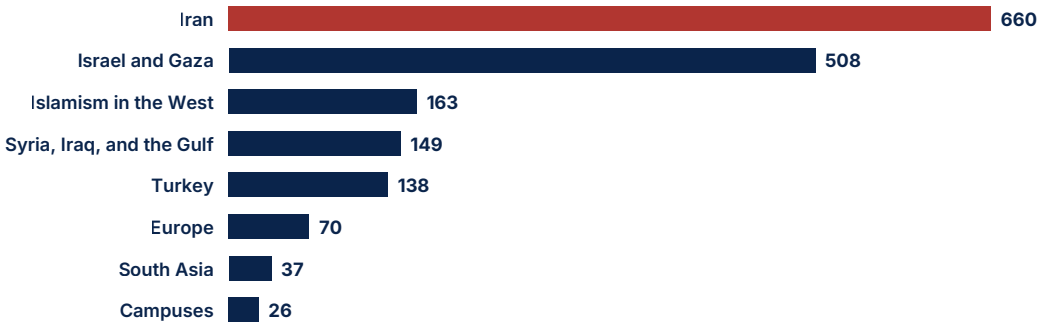
## MEF Scholars in Outside Media, by Month



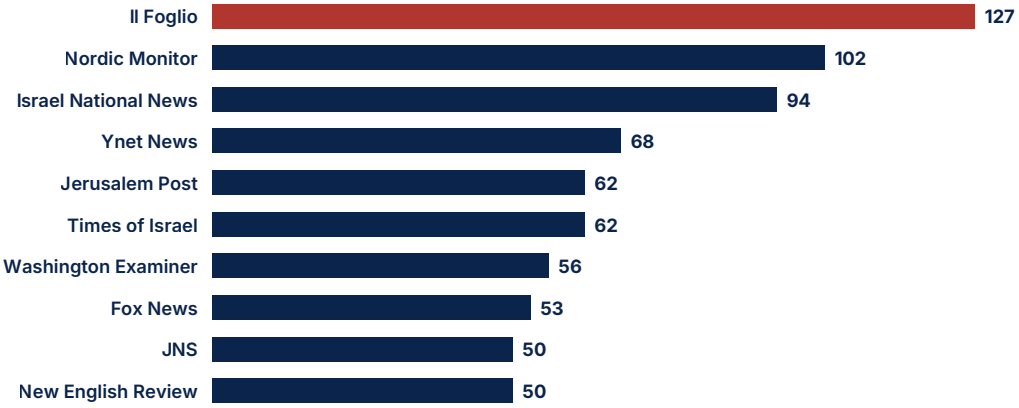

Source: MEF media-hits database, January to October 2026.

## What MEF Scholars Covered

Outside media items by main topic, January 1 to November 9, 2026.

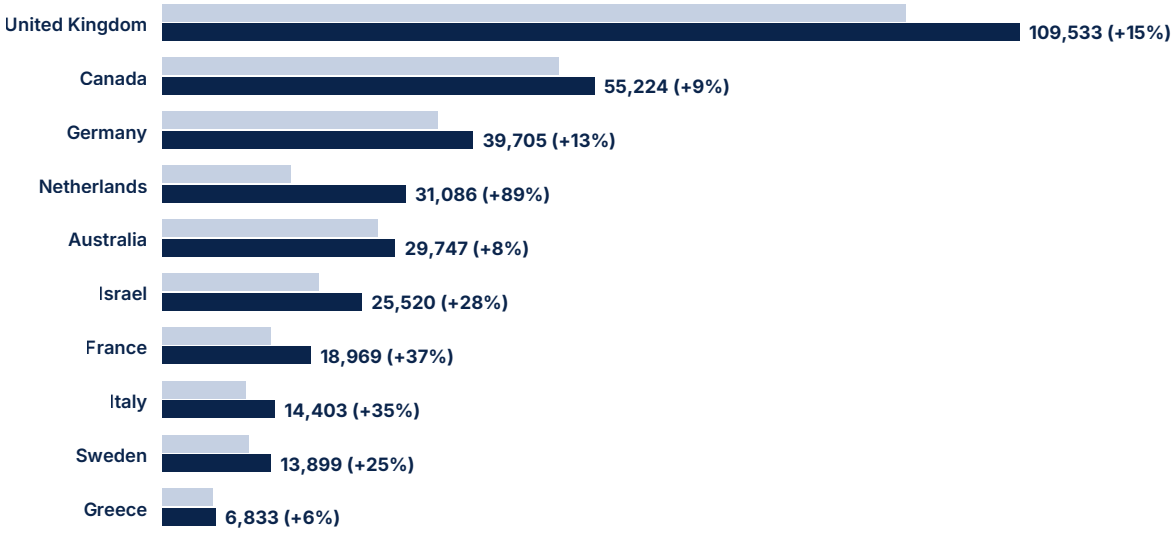


### The Outlets That Ran MEF Scholars Most




### Readers in the West Grew

Readers of meforum.org, January to October, 2025 (light) and 2026 (dark).




Source: Google Analytics 4.

## One Project, One Week

On October 27, MEF launched *In Their Own Words*, its Michigan project, with a public site of statements by Michigan Islamist institutions. In its first week the project drew 2,662 articles and 5,814 mentions, led by a syndicated *New York Post* story that Sen. Mike Lee, Laura Ingraham, and Ari Fleischer shared on X.[58]

SECTION 6

# In the World's Leading Outlets

MEF scholars wrote for, and were quoted by, the papers and networks that set the agenda in Washington, London, and Jerusalem.

**581**
appearances in 35 leading news outlets

**174**
in 18 leading American and British outlets

**64**
items on Fox News, in print, online, and on air

From January 1 to November 9, MEF scholars appeared 581 times in 35 of the world's leading news outlets, including 174 times in 18 leading American and British outlets.[59]

*The Wall Street Journal* ran three op-eds by MEF scholars. *The New York Times*, Reuters, the *Financial Times*, *The Times*, and *The Guardian* quoted or interviewed them on Iran, and Saeid Golkar wrote four times for *The Telegraph* on the regime's inner workings.[60]

**Il Foglio** **Ynet** **The Jerusalem Post** **Fox News** **Washington Examiner** **The Times of Israel** **The Spectator** **Israel Hayom** **The Times of India** **New York Post** **Newsweek** **Deutsche Welle** Firstpost The National (UAE) The Washington Times Iran International The Australian The Telegraph The Wall Street Journal The Times (London) ABC (Australia) The New York Times National Review Newsmax Financial Times The Free Press Sky News Australia Reuters Daily Mail The Guardian i24NEWS The Hill Corriere della Sera Neue Zürcher Zeitung The Independent

## Selected Placements

### The Wall Street Journal
Jonathan Spyer, "Israel's Buffer-Zone Military Strategy" and "ISIS May Prosper From Syria's Dangerous Turn"; Zvi Hauser, "Japan Should Join the Abraham Accords"
JANUARY TO JULY

### Reuters
Jonathan Spyer quoted on Israel and Iran's Kurdish opposition
MARCH 6

### The Telegraph
Four op-eds by Saeid Golkar on Iran's regime; Michael Rubin quoted on Kharg Island
MARCH TO AUGUST

### The New York Times
Saeid Golkar quoted on Iran's hard-liners and on the supreme leader's office
MARCH 10 AND JULY 12

### Financial Times
Gregg Roman quoted on Iran
MARCH 1

### The Times
Gregg Roman quoted on Iran's internet shutdown
FEBRUARY 1

### The Guardian
Mehrdad Youssefiani interviewed on the Iran Freedom Congress
APRIL 29

### Fox News
64 items, including 37 television appearances on *Hannity*, *Jesse Watters Primetime*, and *Fox & Friends*
ALL YEAR

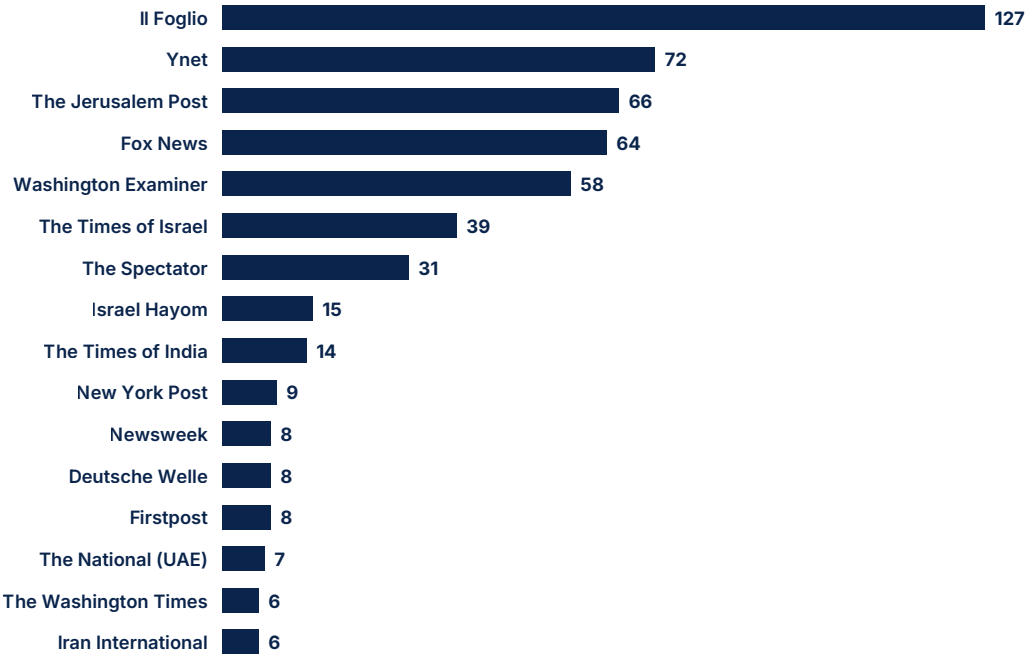
### New York Post
Seven reports by Benjamin Weinthal and an op-ed by Phyllis Chesler
JANUARY TO OCTOBER

### Newsweek
Gregg Roman quoted on Iran four times and a byline; Michael Rubin quoted
JANUARY TO JUNE

### National Review
Op-eds by Michael Rubin and Hussein Aboubakr Mansour
JANUARY AND MAY

### The Independent
Gregg Roman quoted on the end of U.S. military aid to Israel
NOVEMBER 8

## MEF Scholars in the Leading Outlets
Items per outlet, January 1 to November 9, 2026.




Source: MEF media-hits database and outlet pages.

## MEF SCHOLARS ON AIR




**Alex Selsky** Newsmax2, October 29




**Karys Rhea** Hold These Truths with Dan Crenshaw, January 15



**Todd Bensman** NTD, October 21

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 7

# On Air: Television, Radio, and Podcasts

MEF scholars explained the Iran war and its aftermath to television, radio, and podcast audiences in America and abroad.

**472**
on-air appearances, January 1 to November 8

**162**
television appearances, 37 of them on Fox News

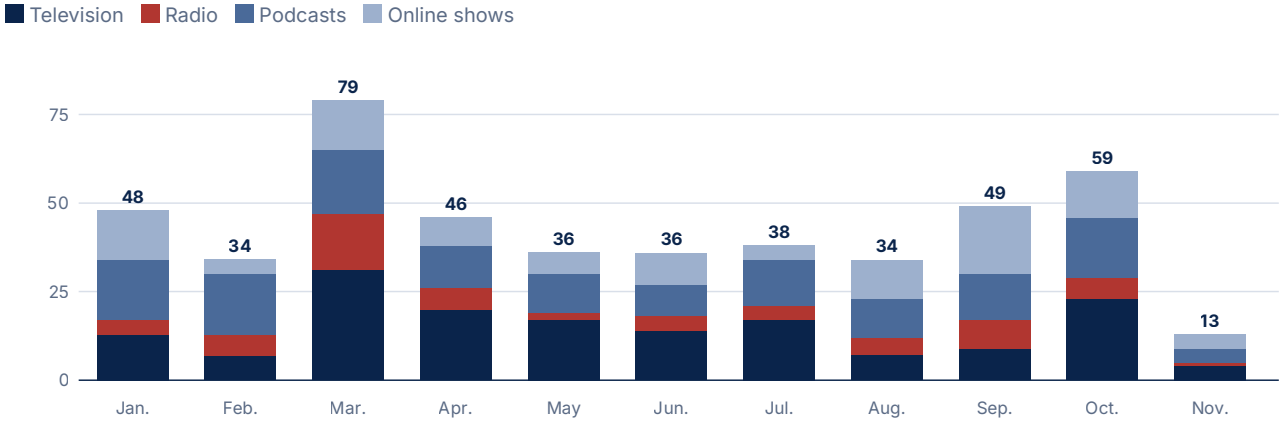
**204**
radio and podcast appearances

MEF scholars made at least 472 on-air appearances from January 1 to November 8: 162 on television, 62 on radio, 142 on podcasts, and 106 on online news shows, across 261 networks and programs.[61]

Fox News led with 37 television appearances, most by Jim Hanson on *Hannity*, *Jesse Watters Primetime*, and *Fox & Friends*; Hanson made 15 more on Fox Business. Michael Rubin appeared on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, and Gregg Roman and Michael Rubin were regular guests on *Washington Watch with Tony Perkins*; Roman also joined *The Sean Hannity Show* and the *Bobby Gunther Walsh Morning Show* on radio and was interviewed on Newsmax, Real America's Voice, CBN News, and Victory News. Abroad, MEF scholars spoke on the BBC, VOA Persian, Iran International, i24NEWS, TV7 Israel News, India Today, ABC News Australia, Sky News Australia, TVP World, Brazil's TV Globo, and Israel's C14, and Roman appeared on Kan 11's documentary series *Enemies*.[62]

Radio and podcasts carried MEF research to new audiences. Hussein Aboubakr Mansour discussed Palestinian politics on *EconTalk* and was a frequent guest on *The Tikvah Podcast*. Karys Rhea joined Dan Crenshaw on *Hold These Truths*, Yossi Kuperwasser analyzed Iran on JNS TV's *Think Twice*, and Michael Rubin spoke on *Times Radio* and *Chicago's Morning Answer*.[63]

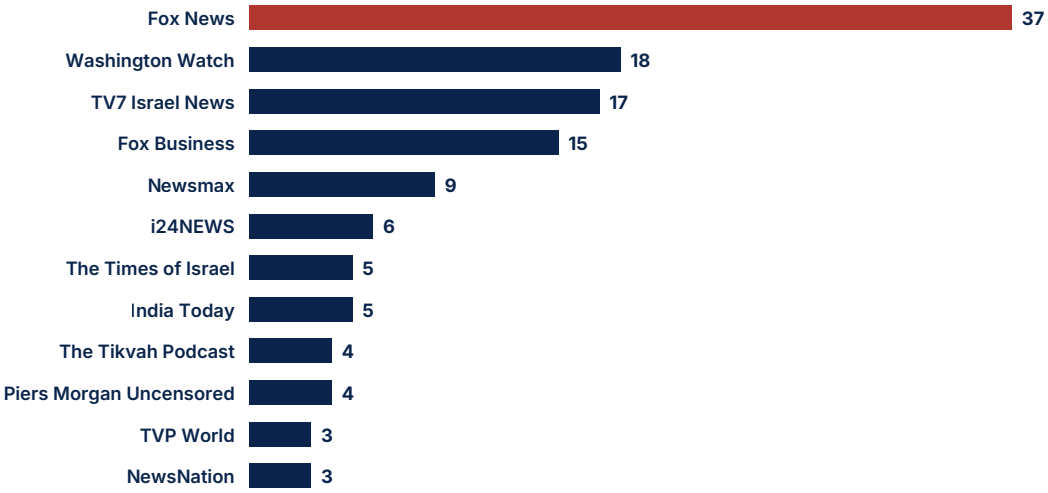
## On-Air Appearances by Month




Source: MEF media-hits database, meforum.org, MEF video archive, network and podcast pages.

## Where MEF Scholars Went on Air

Appearances by network or program, 2026.




### MEF SCHOLARS ON AIR




**Hussein Aboubakr Mansour** The Tikvah Podcast, January 22




**Jose Lev Alvarez** Telemundo, October 9




**Yuval David** Mary Walter Radio, July 29




**Arun Anand** BLiTZ, August 17

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 8

# Search, Web, and Newsletter

More readers found MEF research through search, AI answers, and email than in 2025.

**9.5M**
page views on meforum.org, up 112 percent on 2025

**650,484**
visits from Google search, January to October

**604,185**
appearances in Google AI answers in 28 days

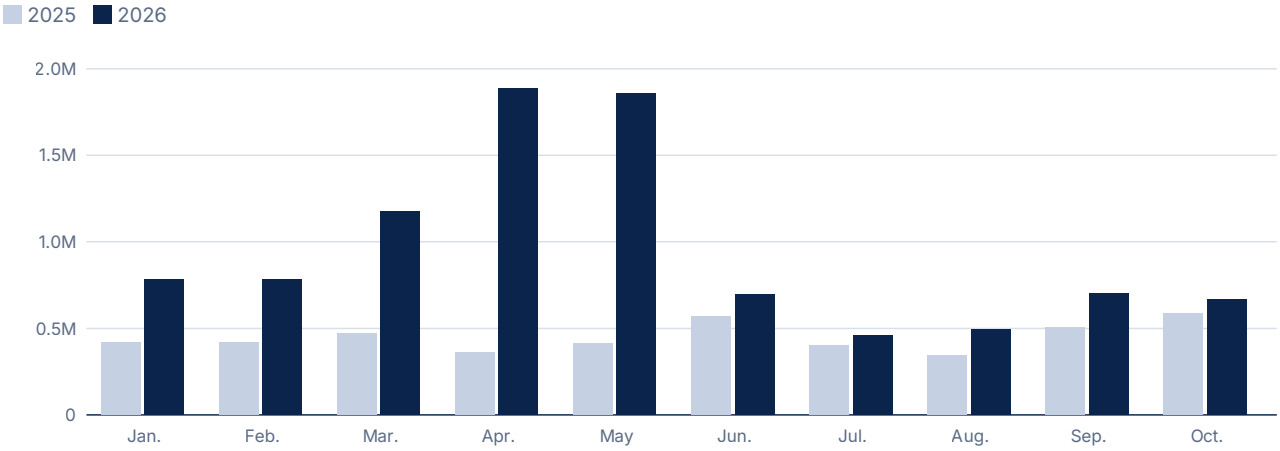
**125,332**
Middle East Insider subscribers

From January through October, meforum.org drew 9.5 million page views from 3.9 million readers, up 112 and 125 percent on the same months of 2025. Engaged visits rose to 86.6 percent of all visits, from 76.9 percent.[64]

Google sent 650,484 visits from search, and MEF pages appeared 91.6 million times in Google results. In the last 28 days of October alone, MEF pages appeared 604,185 times inside Google's AI Overviews and AI Mode answers.[65, 66]

The *Middle East Insider* newsletter reaches 125,332 subscribers, who open it at an average rate of 32.2 percent. It has delivered 6.9 million emails since its 2023 launch.[67]

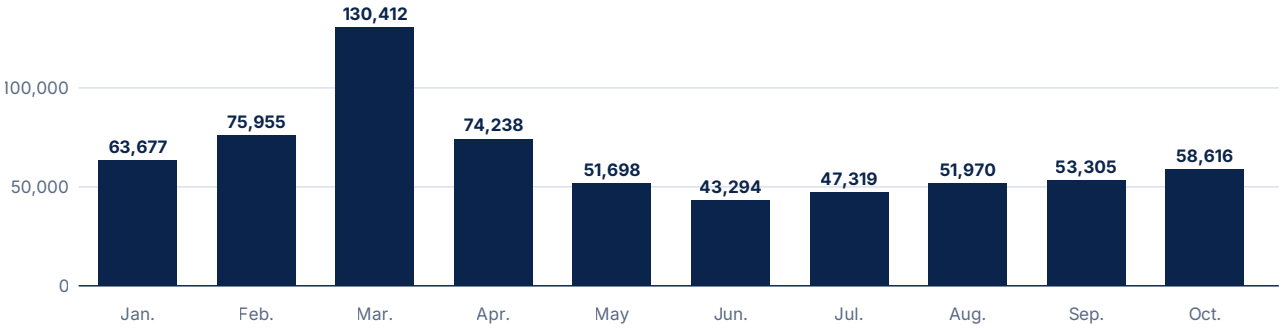
### Page Views on meforum.org, 2025 and 2026




Source: Google Analytics 4.

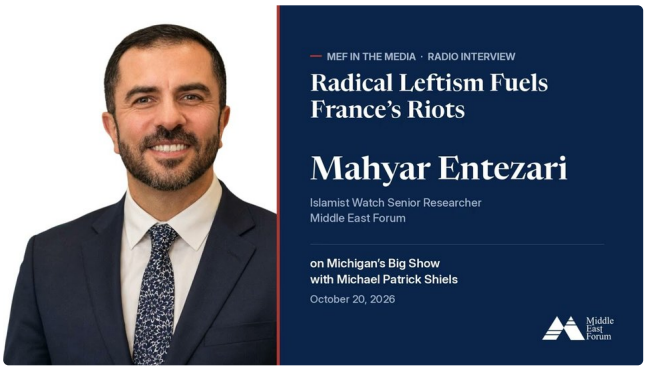
## Visits from Google Search, 2026

Clicks from Google search results to MEF pages, by month.




Source: Google Search Console.

### MEF SCHOLARS ON AIR




**Mahyar Entezari** Michigan's Big Show, October 20




**Rafael Bardaji** TV7 Israel News, February 20




**Michael Rubin** Fox News, Brian Kilmeade, July 10




**Jim Hanson** Piers Morgan Uncensored, October 22

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 9

# MEF Leads Its Peers

On the measures that decide who gets found online, MEF outpaces the leading Middle East and counterterrorism research organizations.

**No. 1**

in organic search traffic among 11 Middle East research organizations

**No. 1**

in AI-answer mentions among 10 organizations

**No. 1**

in live links and Perplexity citations

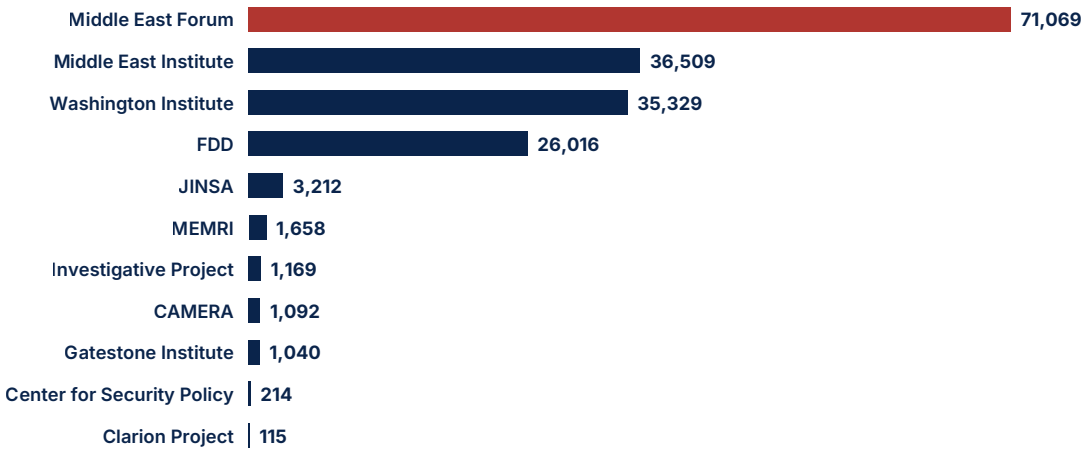
Ahrefs estimates that meforum.org draws 71,069 visits a month from organic search, nearly double the Middle East Institute (36,509) and the Washington Institute (35,329), and almost three times FDD (26,016).[68]

MEF also leads on links. 11.3 million live links point to meforum.org, more than 12 times the next site in the group.[69]

In AI answers, MEF is the name given most often. Across 25 questions on MEF's subjects, asked of ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Perplexity, Google AI Overviews, and Google AI Mode, MEF was named 46 times, ahead of FDD (27) and the Middle East Institute (26). It led on ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, and Google AI Mode.[70] Perplexity answers cited meforum.org pages 79 times, more than any other site in the group.[71]

### Monthly Visits from Organic Search

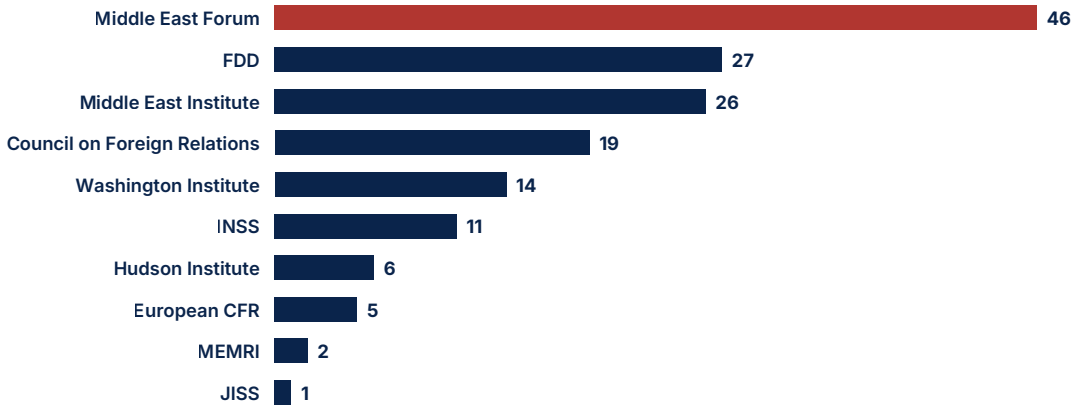
Ahrefs estimate by domain, November 7, 2026.




Source: Ahrefs Site Explorer.

## Mentions in AI Answers

Times each organization was named in answers to 25 questions on six AI platforms.




Source: Ahrefs Brand Radar, November 7, 2026.

THE PEER GROUPS

### Who MEF Was Measured Against

Search and links: FDD, the Washington Institute, the Middle East Institute, MEMRI, CAMERA, the Clarion Project, the Investigative Project on Terrorism, the Gatestone Institute, JINSA, and the Center for Security Policy. AI answers: FDD, the Washington Institute, the Middle East Institute, MEMRI, the Council on Foreign Relations, the European Council on Foreign Relations, the Hudson Institute, the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, and INSS.

## MEF SCHOLARS ON AIR




**Mehrdad Marty Youssefiani** Ringside Politics, July 28




**Sam Westrop** Texas Public Policy Foundation podcast, February 27




**Jonathan Spyer** ILTV, March 9




**Sirwan Kajjo** i24NEWS French, La Grande Édition, June 18




**Karys Rhea** Israel Now News, February 22




**Gregg Roman** Washington Watch with Tony Perkins, June 30

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 10

# Engagement by State

Choose a state to see MEF's engagement there: the congressional offices that receive the Hill Desk brief, messages MEF Action supporters sent, and the foreign money that colleges in the state have reported to the Education Department.

**Texas.** Two House Judiciary hearings cited MEF data on Texas's Islamic nonprofits, and Sam Westrop testified before the Texas House.

**Michigan.** MEF's Michigan project, *In Their Own Words*, launched October 27.

**District of Columbia.** Campus Watch's Georgetown report estimates more than $971 million from Qatar over 20 years.

**California.** HHS's review of CAIR began with sub-grants to CAIR-California through the state's Department of Social Services.

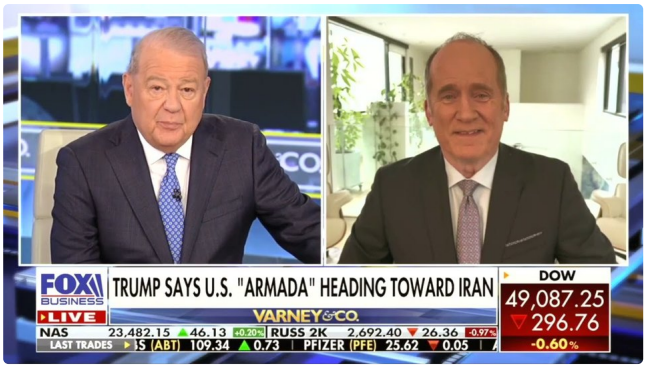
**Pennsylvania.** MEF's headquarters is in Philadelphia.

| State | Hill offices | Hill staffers | MEF Action messages | Foreign money, colleges | Of which Qatar |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | 6 | 27 | 57 | $336.9M | $0.0M |
| Alaska | 2 | 13 | n/a | $4.9M | $0.0M |
| Arizona | 9 | 41 | 250 | $1,494.0M | $6.2M |
| Arkansas | 5 | 21 | n/a | $170.3M | $0.0M |
| California | 29 | 129 | 4,421 | $9,983.4M | $5.8M |
| Colorado | 6 | 23 | 288 | $1,702.9M | $17.7M |
| Connecticut | 6 | 32 | 492 | $1,732.2M | $0.3M |
| Delaware | 3 | 20 | 17 | $149.4M | $0.0M |
| District of Columbia | 0 | 0 | 14 | $2,158.3M | $1,067.7M |
| Florida | 15 | 68 | 2,446 | $1,395.1M | $1.7M |
| Georgia | 6 | 27 | 393 | $519.0M | $0.5M |
| Hawaii | 4 | 20 | n/a | $275.7M | $0.0M |
| Idaho | 1 | 3 | 81 | $853.0M | $0.0M |
| Illinois | 11 | 46 | 981 | $3,261.1M | $799.7M |
| Indiana | 5 | 26 | 74 | $1,105.9M | $3.4M |
| Iowa | 2 | 10 | n/a | $479.1M | $0.3M |
| Kansas | 3 | 15 | 109 | $236.7M | $0.0M |
| Kentucky | 6 | 23 | 24 | $231.9M | $0.0M |
| Louisiana | 5 | 18 | n/a | $121.7M | $34.5M |
| Maine | 3 | 13 | 54 | $12.8M | $0.0M |
| Maryland | 6 | 34 | 866 | $1,999.9M | $4.0M |
| Massachusetts | 4 | 28 | 978 | $10,093.5M | $46.1M |
| Michigan | 9 | 44 | 448 | $1,436.7M | $9.2M |
| Minnesota | 4 | 17 | 63 | $750.8M | $0.0M |

| State | Hill offices | Hill staffers | MEF Action messages | Foreign money, colleges | Of which Qatar |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mississippi | 5 | 18 | n/a | $6.2M | $0.0M |
| Missouri | 7 | 35 | 61 | $474.8M | $1.1M |
| Montana | 3 | 14 | n/a | $12.3M | $0.0M |
| Nebraska | 3 | 13 | n/a | $62.8M | $0.0M |
| Nevada | 3 | 11 | 130 | $36.2M | $0.0M |
| New Hampshire | 3 | 17 | 82 | $169.1M | $0.0M |
| New Jersey | 11 | 41 | 2,804 | $1,093.6M | $0.3M |
| New Mexico | 2 | 11 | 61 | $32.2M | $0.0M |
| New York | 16 | 67 | 8,193 | $8,959.8M | $3,382.0M |
| North Carolina | 10 | 33 | 179 | $1,605.7M | $4.5M |
| North Dakota | 2 | 10 | n/a | $142.3M | $0.0M |
| Ohio | 9 | 37 | 329 | $1,187.3M | $0.0M |
| Oklahoma | 3 | 12 | n/a | $234.0M | $0.5M |
| Oregon | 3 | 12 | 147 | $522.8M | $3.8M |
| Pennsylvania | 12 | 49 | 1,029 | $8,222.2M | $1,984.4M |
| Rhode Island | 4 | 13 | 63 | $418.5M | $0.0M |
| South Carolina | 5 | 22 | 155 | $185.3M | $4.7M |
| South Dakota | 2 | 23 | 27 | $3.7M | $0.0M |
| Tennessee | 8 | 34 | 142 | $348.7M | $0.0M |
| Texas | 22 | 72 | 712 | $4,007.1M | $1,058.4M |
| Utah | 3 | 11 | n/a | $826.2M | $0.0M |
| Vermont | 3 | 13 | n/a | $51.2M | $0.0M |
| Virginia | 9 | 35 | 326 | $1,443.9M | $395.7M |
| Washington | 5 | 27 | 284 | $658.5M | $0.9M |
| West Virginia | 1 | 6 | 36 | $155.5M | $0.0M |
| Wisconsin | 7 | 28 | 109 | $408.0M | $0.0M |
| Wyoming | 2 | 8 | n/a | $24.2M | $0.0M |

Committee staff (523) are not assigned to a state. MEF Action figures appear only where five or more supporters took part. Foreign money: Education Department Section 117 disclosures, all years, snapshot of September 30, 2026.

## MEF SCHOLARS ON AIR




**Jim Hanson** Fox Business, January 23



**Mehrdad Marty Youssefiani** Battlefront Frontline, October 29

Stills from 2026 broadcasts and hearings, as captioned; MEF video archive.

SECTION 11

# MEF Scholars

The MEF scholars most active in outside media this year.



**Michael Rubin**
Director of Policy Analysis
203 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/mrubin1971



**Giulio Meotti**
Writing Fellow
191 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/giuliomeotti



**Amine Ayoub**
Writing Fellow
168 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/amineayoubx



**Gregg Roman**
Executive Director
132 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/greggroman



**Jonathan Spyer**
Director of Research & MEQ Editor
131 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/jonathan_spyer



**Abdullah Bozkurt**
Milstein Writing Fellow
117 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/abdbozkurt



**Saeid Golkar**
Writing Fellow
115 outside media items in 2026



**Benjamin Weinthal**
Milstein Writing Fellow
107 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/benweinthal

YK

**Yossi Kuperwasser**
Writing Fellow
80 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/yossikup



**Daniel Pipes**
Founder
77 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/danielpipes



**Phyllis Chesler**
Writing Fellow
69 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/Phyllischesler



**Sam Westrop**
Director, Islamist Watch
69 outside media items in 2026 · x.com/samwestrop

Photographs: Middle East Forum.

## As Seen In: Latest Outside Work

| Date | Scholar | Title | Outlet |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. 9 | Abdullah Bozkurt | Turkey's Somalia spaceport linked to military ambitions and long-range missile development | Nordic Monitor |
| Nov. 9 | Gregg Roman | Trump is ending military aid to Israel: what difference will it make? - Newswav | newswav.com |
| Nov. 9 | Jonathan Spyer | Warning: Fighting ISIS Could Strengthen Iran | CBN |
| Nov. 8 | Michael Rubin | India should replace the United Kingdom on UN Security Council | The Sunday Guardian |
| Nov. 8 | Benjamin Weinthal | Trump 'holds all the cards' in war against Iran's regime, White House says | Fox News |
| Nov. 8 | Gregg Roman | Trump is ending military aid to Israel - what difference will it make? | khanlist.com |
| Nov. 8 | Sirwan Kajjo | Where are Syria's democratic forces? | theamargi.net |
| Nov. 8 | Giulio Meotti | The pyromaniac intellectuals. The nasty little schoolmasters who fan the flames | Il Foglio |
| Nov. 8 | Benjamin Weinthal | Iran's Khamenei taunts Trump after midterms amid Operation Epic Fury | Fox News |
| Nov. 8 | Benjamin Weinthal | Iran's Khamenei taunts Trump after midterms amid Operation Epic Fury: Cuba Americana - Notic | noticias.cuba-americana.org |
| Nov. 7 | Amine Ayoub | Egypt's gold war on Sudan's border could become Israel's problem | Ynet News |

| Date | Scholar | Title | Outlet |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. 7 | Giulio Meotti | Another Holocaust survivor has been killed. Are these the side effects of the ‘globalised | Il Foglio |
| Nov. 6 | Amine Ayoub | As Iran Chokes Hormuz, Egypt’s Energy Crisis Could Become Israel’s Problem | Ynet News |
| Nov. 6 | Abdullah Bozkurt | Le procès pour espionnage suisse s’effondre, mais les allégations de surveillance des rens | bosphorama.fr |
| Nov. 6 | Giulio Meotti | Rod Dreher: “Temo una Weimar per l’America. Vance usa gli ebrei come capro espiatorio, se | Il Foglio |
| Nov. 5 | Giulio Meotti | Three Key Areas of Concern Emerge for an Increasingly Isolated Israel | Il Foglio |
| Nov. 5 | Michael Rubin | India Should Be Wary of Turkey’s Bid for the Next U.N. Chief | Firstpost |
| Nov. 5 | Abdullah Bozkurt | Erdogan’s ties to Turkey’s stock market scandal raise prospect of lawsuits in US | Nordic Monitor |
| Nov. 5 | Yuval David | Inside Republican watch parties, some blame midterm failure on Trump's unkept promises: in | The Kyiv Independent |
| Nov. 5 | Yuval David | Inside Washington watch parties, Republicans blame midterm losses on Trump's unkept promis | bullsource.com |
| Nov. 4 | Amine Ayoub | From Western Sahara to Lebanon: The Hidden Dangers of Relying on U.N. Peacekeepers | Ynet News |
| Nov. 4 | Ashley Perry | Could Any of Israel’s Many Coalition Options Succeed? | The Jewish Chronicle |
| Nov. 4 | Abdullah Bozkurt | Swiss spy trial collapses, but allegations of Turkish intelligence surveillance persist | Nordic Monitor |
| Nov. 4 | Abdullah Bozkurt | Les liens d’Erdogan avec le scandale boursier turc soulèvent la perspective de poursuites | bosphorama.fr |
| Nov. 4 | Giulio Meotti | The democratic tsunami, Trump’s defeat and the uncertainties facing America. Insights from | Il Foglio |
| Nov. 3 | Michael Rubin | Ending UNRWA, Human Rights Council Should Be Litmus Test for New U.N. Secretary-General | Washington Examiner |
| Nov. 3 | Giulio Meotti | Israel Remains the Most Hated: and the Most Optimistic: Country in the World | Il Foglio |
| Nov. 3 | Amine Ayoub | The Doha Trap: How Iran Is Using Hormuz to Extort the West | Algemeiner |
| Nov. 2 | Abdullah Bozkurt | Turkey shields Algerian fugitive wanted by France for drug trafficking, money laundering, | Nordic Monitor |
| Nov. 2 | Giulio Meotti | Israel has learned not to confuse unpopularity with defeat | Israel National News |

The full, filterable feed is on the report web page.

IMPLEMENTATION APPENDIX

# Appendix

## Method

### Media

MEF's media-hits database, compiled weekly from news searches, Google Alerts, staff reports, and the "originally published in" field on meforum.org. It covers January 1 to November 9, 2026. Bylines, quotes, interviews, citations, and translations are included; self-published posts and hostile coverage are not part of the totals. 97 percent of items were opened and confirmed on the source page. Topics are assigned by keyword, so each item has one topic.

### Hill Desk

Delivered counts reported by HubSpot for each weekly edition, October 1 to November 2, 2026. Staffer and office totals come from the Hill Desk distribution list, built from Quorum's congressional staff directory.

### MEF Action

Messages to elected officials sent through MEF Action's Quorum account, January 1 to October 27, 2026. State figures appear only where five or more supporters took part.

### Readership

Google Analytics 4 for meforum.org, January 1 to October 31 in 2026 and 2025. Countries shown are the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, Israel, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden, and Greece. Search figures come from Google Search Console.

### Foreign Money

The Education Department's Section 117 foreign gift and contract disclosures, snapshot of September 30, 2026, all years on file, by the state of the reporting institution. Institutions report these figures themselves; the department does not verify them.

### Leading Outlets

Items from MEF's media-hits database whose page sits on the outlet's own site, plus pages found by searching each outlet's site whose text names the Middle East Forum, January 1 to November 9, 2026. Self-published blog posts and hostile coverage are left out.

### On Air

Television, radio, podcast, and online-show appearances by MEF staff and fellows, January 1 to November 8, 2026, from MEF's media-hits database, the "MEF in the Media" section of meforum.org, MEF's video archive, network video pages, the Internet Archive TV News Archive (broadcast captions), YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Podcast Index, X, producer booking records, PR-agency reports, and staff reports. Each appearance was checked against its published page or, where no clip is online, against the producer's booking, a PR-agency report, a network promotion, or the guest, and matched to remove duplicates; lectures, conference talks, and reposted clips are left out. The figure is a minimum.

### Peers

Ahrefs estimates of monthly organic search visits, live backlinks, and AI citations for each domain, November 7, 2026. AI mentions come from Ahrefs Brand Radar's weekly runs of 25 questions on MEF's subjects. Peer groups: Search and links: FDD, the Washington Institute, the Middle East Institute, MEMRI, CAMERA, the Clarion Project, the Investigative Project on Terrorism, the Gatestone Institute, JINSA, and the Center for Security Policy. AI answers: FDD, the Washington Institute, the Middle East Institute, MEMRI, the Council on Foreign Relations, the European Council on Foreign Relations, the Hudson Institute, the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, and INSS.

### Citations

GovInfo full-text search of the Congressional Record, hearings, and committee reports, plus the statements and releases linked here. GovInfo publishes hearing transcripts weeks to months after a hearing.

# Data Tables

## Outside Media by Month, 2026

| Month | Bylines | Quotes | Interviews | Citations | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 112 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 198 |
| February | 77 | 38 | 16 | 46 | 177 |
| March | 105 | 37 | 38 | 34 | 214 |
| April | 91 | 27 | 32 | 45 | 195 |
| May | 67 | 19 | 10 | 35 | 131 |
| June | 95 | 26 | 17 | 49 | 187 |
| July | 81 | 29 | 8 | 43 | 161 |
| August | 59 | 23 | 9 | 57 | 148 |
| September | 115 | 26 | 14 | 62 | 217 |
| October | 152 | 59 | 32 | 191 | 434 |

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## Request a private briefing on these findings for your staff or agency.

Benjamin Baird, Director, MEF Action · baird@meforum.org

The Middle East Forum, founded in 1994, is an applied policy research organization that promotes American interests in the Middle East and protects the West from Middle Eastern threats through research, publications, policy initiatives, and engagement with policymakers. 1650 Market Street, Suite 3600, Philadelphia, PA 19103.