Making Sense of the Crises in Gaza

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James A. Toronto

James A. Toronto, associate professor of Arabic and Islamic studies, was formerly a faculty member in the Department of Church History and Doctrine for eight years, teaching courses in comparative world religions. Toronto teaches courses in Islamic religion and humanities. His research and publications are in Islamic education, immigration and integration of Muslim minorities, and the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Italy and the Middle East. He has lived for five years in Italy and ten years in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan. For four years, he served as assistant director of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU before accepting a three-year assignment as director of BYU’s Center for Cultural and Educational Affairs in Amman, Jordan. Toronto received a BA in English with minors in history and Italian from Brigham Young University and an MA and PhD in Islamic and Arabic studies from Harvard University.

R. Quinn Mecham

R. Quinn Mecham, an assistant professor of political science at BYU, teaches courses in comparative politics, including courses on Middle Eastern politics, civil conflict, and political Islam. Mecham’s research focuses on religion and politics in the Muslim world, and he has written on Islamist movements and political parties in Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Senegal, Iraq, Bahrain, and Indonesia. His publications include being co-editor of a forthcoming research volume titled Islamist Parties and Political Normalization in the Muslim World. He has served as a fellow in the Office of Policy Planning at the U.S. Department of State, where he focused on the Arab Gulf, political Islam, and global religious affairs. Previously, he taught at Middlebury College and George Washington University and was an academy scholar at Harvard University. Mecham has worked or traveled in more than fifty countries and was a Fulbright Scholar in Turkey. He received an MA and a PhD in political science from Stanford University.

Joshua Gubler

Joshua Gubler is an assistant professor of political science at BYU where he teaches courses on the Middle East, research methods, and other topics. Gubler’s research focuses on intergroup cooperation and conflict, with particular emphasis on conflict in the Middle East. Prior to coming to BYU, he was a visiting research fellow at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and has consulted for the World Bank. He has lived and researched in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia. Gubler received a PhD from the University of Michigan.