



Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs

معهد عصام فارس للسياسات العامة والشؤون الدولية

## The Bill and Sally Hambrecht Distinguished Peacemakers Lectures at AUB with The United Nations in the Arab World Program

# THE UNITED NATIONS AFTER THE IRAQ WAR & THE ARAB AWAKENING

## Richard Falk

Monday, April 29, 2013 | 6:00 pm | College Hall B1 | AUB

**Richard Falk** is Albert G. Milbank Professor of International Law Emeritus at Princeton University, where he taught for forty years (1961- 2001). He is currently Research Professor with the Global & International Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Falk has been the Special Rapporteur on occupied Palestine for the United Nations Human Rights Council since 2008. He has published more than 50 books in the fields of international law, politics, and UN affairs. His most recent books are, *Achieving Human Rights* (2009); a co-edited volume entitled *Legality and Legitimacy in Global Affairs* (2012); *Global Parliament* (with Andrew Strauss, 2011); *Path to Zero: Dialogues on Nuclear Dangers* (2012).

This talk critically analyzes the role and performance of the United Nations in the Arab region over the past decade, situating it within the larger geopolitical context from the “war on terror” and the 2003 Iraq war to the ongoing Arab uprisings. Despite the United Nations Security Council’s initial resistance to authorize the 2003 attack on Iraq, it ultimately cooperated with post-invasion occupation and thus exhibited its limited ability to offset strong geopolitical pressure. In its opposite role, the UN authorized a no-fly zone to protect the civilian population in Benghazi from feared crimes against humanity; but this was part of a larger regime change plan. This perceived deception in Libya rendered its role in Syria and other sites of uprisings, deeply ambivalent.