For Immediate Release

Brandeis University Crown Center hosts event debating the futures of Israel and Palestine

WALTHAM, Mass (Sept. 1) – The Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University will host an event entitled “Looking Back, Looking Forward: 100 Years of the Arab-Israeli Conflict” on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. In 1917, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, a landmark document that called for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people. This event marks the centenary of the Balfour Declaration by asking: what are the futures of Israel and Palestine?

This half-day gathering will feature top scholars and public figures who will ascertain the evolution of Zionism and the Arab world’s response, debate what kind of states Israelis and Palestinians should seek, and how these competing visions inform their approach to the conflict.

“In what I am sure will be a very lively exchange, speakers across a wide spectrum of thought will make their case as to why their preferred approach would be better, less risky, and less costly than competing approaches,” says Shai Feldman, the Judith and Sidney Swartz Director of the Crown Center.

The event will take place in Schwartz Auditorium at Brandeis University from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm on Sept. 10.

Speakers include:

- **Ziad Asali**, President and Founder of the American Task Force on Palestine
- **Jehuda Reinharz**, PhD ’72, Brandeis President Emeritus and Richard Koret Professor of Modern Jewish History
- **Abdel Monem Said Aly**, chair of Al-Masry Al-Youm, a leading Arabic language daily newspaper in Egypt, and senior fellow at the Crown Center
- **George Bisharat**, professor at Hastings College of Law, University of California, San Francisco
- **Asher Susser**, professor at Tel Aviv University
- **Martin Kramer**, founding president of Shalem College in Jerusalem and visiting fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy
- **Shai Feldman**, Judy and Sidney Swartz Director, Crown Center for Middle East Studies and Professor of Politics at Brandeis University
- **Nadim Shehadi**, current director of The Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University

The event is free and open to the public. Live streaming will begin at 12:00 pm EST.
Join the conversation on Twitter: #LBLF100

Co-sponsored with Tufts University's Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies, The University of Arizona's Center for Judaic Studies, UCLA's Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, and The American Interest. The event is held with generous support from the Neubauer Family Foundation.

###

**About Brandeis University:**
Brandeis University is a highly-competitive private research university with a focus on undergraduate education. Founded in 1948 by the American Jewish community and named for Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, Brandeis embraces the values of academic excellence, critical thinking, openness to all, and making the world a better place. Brandeis is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), which represents the 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada. Located just west of Boston in Waltham, Massachusetts, Brandeis’ distinguished faculty are dedicated to the education and support of 3,600 undergraduates and more than 2,000 graduate students.

**Media Contacts:**

Karen Spira, Event Coordinator, (karens1@brandeis.edu); 781-736-5339  
Julie Jette, Director of Media Relations, (jjette@brandeis.edu); 781-736-4202  
Julian Cardillo, News and Communications Specialist, (jcard14@brandeis.edu); 781-736-4210