

Biography Kassim Bouhou

Kassim is an international affairs expert with focus on Middle East, North Africa and Africa. He has held high level public assignments for the French Government and the United Nations for 20 years.

From 2005 to 2010, as the manager of security cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa at the Ministry of Defence, Kassim managed a network of French military experts operating in 14 countries under co-development cooperation agreements. His role was to assess and control their missions spanning from the implementation of training contracts for Special Forces in Jordan to Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs in Lebanon, water management in Mauritania, rehabilitation of desert areas and the fight against the effects of global warming in Tunisia.

Kassim was appointed Head of Partnerships and Liaison Officer for the French military base in Abu Dhabi from 2010 to 2013. He oversaw a wide network of key interlocutors within the UAE armed forces and coordinated the strategic regional assessments between UAE and France with a special attention on Arab Spring impact in Syria, Libya, Egypt and the surveillance of the Iranian regime. In the UAE, Kassim organized and coordinated the training of Afghan National Army soldiers by French mentors under NATO supervision.

Back to France, Kassim was positioned at the Joint Staff Command in Paris, to lead the relationship with the Gulf countries and Iraq. In the aftermath of the Islamic State terrorist attacks in Europe, he briefed the Joint Operation Centre about the political and security evolution in Syria and Iraq. He contributed to coordinate the operational support to the Kurds in the war against the Islamic State in Northern Iraq and Syria.

In 2016, he joined the United Nations as an armed groups and migration expert of the Panel on Libya. The Panel of Experts' mandate is to report to the Security Council the violations of the UN Sanctions in Libya - adopted in 2011 right after the fall of Qaddafi regime - through investigation and corroborated pieces of evidence. Kassim worked on armed groups influence in Libyan politics and economy as well as the smuggling of migrants from Africa to Europe via Libya.

Willing to understand and raise climate change and tech industry challenges, Kassim turned to private enterprise and worked as Head of Global Affairs for ChangeNOW in 2019, a yearly International Summit promoting worldwide impact startups, investors, cities, international organizations, NGOs and committed industries.

Kassim has been Head of Strategic Projects since March 2021 for Quantmetry, an Artificial Intelligence Consulting Company. He is the CEO's advisor for partnerships, European regulation on AI, Defence affairs and Education.

Kassim graduated in American History and Literature at the University of Paris Diderot and a postgraduate in International Relations at the Sorbonne University.

He holds a PhD from the Sorbonne University. His thesis discussed the American Foreign Policy in North Africa after the Cold War with a focus on the 1989-2001 period. He published several articles on US-Maghreb relations, Algeria economic turmoil and NATO strategy in the Arab world.

Kassim, 43, lives in Paris, he is married and father of 2 boys aged 14 and 11.