

Stephanie Turco Williams

Experience

Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General on Libya (December 2021-July 2022)

Called back to duty by the Secretary General to support the Libyan people's demand for national elections. Led mediation efforts between the Libyan parties, notably members of the House of Representatives and High Council of State, to establish a constitutional framework for elections. Supported the maintenance of the 2020 Ceasefire Agreement and led efforts to assert calm following Libya's return to institutional division.

Acting Special Representative of the Secretary General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) (March 2020-February 2021)

Led the international mediation under the umbrella of UNSCR 2510 (2020) and the Berlin Conference (January 2020) process which resulted in the signing of a nationwide ceasefire in Libya in October 2020 and the first unified executive in the country since the outbreak of conflict in 2014. Served as the head of UNSMIL overseeing the political mission during a period marked by COVID and conflict.

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Political Affairs of UNSMIL (July 2018-March 2020)

As the first incumbent of this position, managed UNSMIL's substantive sections in support of the mediation efforts put forward by then Special Representative Dr. Ghassan Salamé and established the Mission's Economic Policy Unit directly under my office to tackle the economic drivers of the conflict in Libya.

Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Libya (January 2018-June 2018)

Served as chief of mission for the Libya External Office based in Tunisia. Brokered and signed major memoranda of understanding with the UN-recognized Government of National Accord, supported UN efforts, and led the Libyan economic dialogue which resulted in agreement on needed reforms.

Senior Representative to the Syrian Opposition (September 2017-December 2017)

Led U.S. efforts to reach out to the Syrian opposition and advance a just and equitable political solution to the Syrian crisis. Represented the U.S. at the Riyadh II meeting aimed at unifying the opposition.

Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq
(July 2016-July 2017)

Managed on a day-to-day basis the largest U.S. mission in the world during a critical period during which the international coalition partnered with Iraqi forces to oust Da'esh from Anbar and Mosul. Oversaw U.S. stabilization efforts, working closely with international partners and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator.

Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Jordan
(January 2013-July 2015)

Managed this major regional hub for U.S. Middle East operations during a period marked by the massive inflow of Syrian refugees to Jordan, requiring quick action to assist Jordanian authorities and to ensure assistance reached needy communities in southern Syria. This period witnessed substantial U.S. bilateral engagement with Jordan, including a Presidential visit and at least fifteen visits by the Secretary of State.

Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Bahrain
(May 2010-January 2013)

Served as Chargé from January 2011-October 2011 leading U.S. efforts on the ground during and in the aftermath of the uprising in Bahrain. Coordinated the U.S. response to support the recommendations of the groundbreaking Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry led by the late Dr. Cherif Bassiouni.

Office Director, Maghreb Affairs, U.S. Department of State
(July 2008-July 2009)

Led the policy office dedicated to U.S. bilateral relations with Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya during a period which witnessed the return for the first time in over 35 years of a U.S. ambassador to Libya and increased U.S. engagement on the Western Sahara crisis, as well as focus on human rights abuses in the region.

Deputy Office Director, Egypt and Levant Affairs, U.S. Department of State
(July 2005-July 2007)

Managed this busy office which handled U.S. policy towards Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan during a period which witnessed the 2006 war between Israel and Hizballah, the massive evacuation of American citizens from Lebanon, the establishment of the UN tribunal into the killing of Prime Minister Rafiq Al-Hariri and elections in Egypt.

Jordan Desk Officer, U.S. Department of State
(August 2003-July 2005)

Served as the primary focal point on U.S. policy towards Jordan in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the subsequent damage to Jordan's economy. Was double-hatted on the Iraq desk for a period during the transition from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Head of the Political Section, U.S. Embassy, Abu Dhabi, UAE
(July 2000-July 2003)

Led the Embassy's political section and served as the primary political advisor to the Ambassador during a period marked a substantial increase in U.S.-UAE bilateral relations due to the liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban and the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Junior Officer Assignments
(August 1994-June 1999)

Served in a variety of entry level Foreign Service positions including General Services Officer, Consular Officer, Political Officer and Staff Assistant in Pakistan (1994-1996); Kuwait (1996-1998); and, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (1998-1999).

Other Experience

Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1994, worked in Public Relations at Fortune Promoseven, a major regional advertising and PR firm based in Manama, Bahrain and Dubai, UAE.

Awards and accomplishments

Achieved the rank of Minister Counselor and was the recipient of numerous individual and group Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards when serving in the U.S. Department of State.

Received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for contribution to making peace in Libya, October 2021.

Recent works

"Is Hezbollah Overplaying its Hand Inside Lebanon?" *Brookings Institution*, November 19, 2021, published online on <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/11/19/is-hezbollah-overplaying-its-hand-inside-lebanon/>

“Why There’s Hope for Libya,” *Newsline*, April 22, 2021, published online on <https://newlinesmag.com/argument/why-theres-hope-for-libya/>. Co-authored with Dr. Ghassan Salamé.

“Raise the Voice of Libyan Women,” *Asharq Al-Awsat*, March 8, 2021, published in Arabic online on <https://aawsat.com/home/article/2846536/%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%88%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B2/%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%B9-%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9>.

“Can a Political Breakthrough Mend a Broken Libya?” *Brookings Institution*, February 17, 2021, published online on <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/02/17/can-a-political-breakthrough-mend-a-broken-libya/>. Co-authored with Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman.

Education

Master of Science in National Security Studies, National War College (June 2008, Distinguished Graduate)

Master of Arts in Arab Studies, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University (May 1989)

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Arts in Government Relations, University of Maryland (May 1987 with Honors, Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa)

Personal

Born in Maryland, raised overseas (primarily in South Asia), residing in France, married to Tom Williams, also a retired Foreign Service Officer. Mother of two college-age children.