THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS AND THE VERA AND DONALD BLINKEN OPEN SOCIETY ARCHIVES CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE **WORKSHOP**

The Soviet Invasion and its Aftermath
the Afghan tragedy

DATE / **Tuesday** / **June 20, 2017**   TIME / **5:00 p.m.**

PLACE / **Blinken OSA Archívum**, 1051 Budapest Arany János u. 32 / Research Room

SPEAKERS /

András Mink, Historian (Blinken OSA Archivum)

Anthony Richter, Regional Director (MENASWA)

Orzala Ashraf Nemat, Director (Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit); senior teaching fellow (the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London)

Rangina Hamidi, Founder and President of Kandahar Treasure

Ghizaal Haress, Assistant Professor (the American University of Afghanistan)

Almaz Saifutdinov, the Chairman of the Board of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation in Tajikistan

War has devastated much of Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion in 1979. The Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives are opening an exhibit that depicts the war from multiple perspectives, from the story of the Afghan communist movement to the anti-Soviet rebellion. The exhibit ends with the regaining of state sovereignty but the beginning of an even bloodier civil war, international incursion and present-day conflagration with the National Unity government controlling only slightly more than half the national territory. To open the exhibit, the Archives and Open Society Foundations are hosting a roundtable discussion on **June 20th at 5pm** to put Afghanistan's history of conflict in a more contemporary context. Three prominent Afghan educators and civil society leaders will reflect on the Soviet invasion from their personal experiences as refugees as well as its consequences for the future of Afghanistan. Additionally, a representative from Tajikistan will speak to the war's regional repercussions, both past and present.

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