

Bio Martine van Bijlert

Focus on Afghanistan

Martine van Bijlert is co-founder of the Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) and has closely followed Afghanistan since the 1990s. She has published widely, travelled extensively and is fluent in Dari.

Martine worked as an aid worker in Grozny (1995) and Taliban-ruled Kabul (1996), as political secretary at the Netherlands Embassy in Tehran in the aftermath of 9/11 (2001-4), political adviser to the EU Special Representative in Kabul (2004-7) and independent adviser on Uruzgan to the Netherlands Embassy in Kabul (2008-9). She co-founded the Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) in Kabul in 2009 where she served as co-director until 2017. After a break, during which she wrote a novel among other things, Martine is back with AAN as senior analyst.

Focus on literary work

Martine van Bijlert is a poet, novelist and non-fiction writer who grew up in Iran, lives in the Netherlands and, in between, worked as an aid worker, researcher and diplomat, mostly in Afghanistan—a country she still closely follows from afar. She is a co-founder of the Afghanistan Analysts Network.

Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *kerning* / *a space for words*, *Otis Nebula*, *Hole in the Head Review*, *Olney Magazine*, *Pangyrus Lit Mag*, *Consequence Forum*, *NonBinary Review*, *Tiny Spoon*, *Right Hand Pointing*, *The Dewdrop* and other places.