



## Peace Talks Media Kit



**The Israel Project**  
Jerusalem Office  
Tel: 972 2 623-6427  
Fax: 972 2 623-6439  
[www.theisraelproject.org](http://www.theisraelproject.org)

Twitter: @israelproject  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/theisraelproject](http://www.facebook.com/theisraelproject)  
Youtube: [www.youtube.com/tipinfo](http://www.youtube.com/tipinfo)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>About TIP</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Timeline of the Middle East Peace Process</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Main Negotiating Points between Israel and the Palestinian Authority</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Peace Negotiations: Key Points since 2000</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Palestinians Push for Unilateral Declaration of Statehood</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Economic Progress in the West Bank</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>West Bank Economy by Numbers</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Israeli-Palestinian Security Cooperation: A Success Story</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Beginning of the Relationship</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Post-Intifada Successes</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Useful Contacts</b>	<b>15</b>

## About TIP

The Israel Project (TIP) is a non-profit educational organization that gets facts about Israel and the Middle East to press, public officials and the public. The Israel Project is not affiliated with any government.

Our team of trusted multi-lingual experts and former reporters provides journalists and leaders with fact sheets, backgrounders and sources. TIP regularly hosts press briefings featuring leading Israeli spokespeople and analysts who give journalists an opportunity to get face-to-face information and answers to their questions. By ensuring journalists have the facts, context and visuals they need, TIP causes hundreds of millions of people around the world to see a more positive public face of Israel. This helps protect Israel, reduce anti-Semitism and increase pride in Israel.

## The Jerusalem Office

The Israel Project's Jerusalem Office is a non-governmental resource that works with foreign journalists and leaders based in Israel, providing them facts and information before they file their stories/reports. TIP's Jerusalem team features former journalists and Middle East experts fluent in English, Hebrew, Arabic, French, German, Farsi and Russian.

## Contacts

Marcus Sheff  
Executive Director  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-807-9177  
E-mail: [marcuss@theisraelproject.org](mailto:marcuss@theisraelproject.org)

David Harris  
Director of Research and Content  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-807-9498  
E-mail: [davidh@theisraelproject.org](mailto:davidh@theisraelproject.org)

Eli Ovits  
Director of Communications  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-807-9093  
E-mail: [elio@theisraelproject.org](mailto:elio@theisraelproject.org)

Shimrit Meir-Gilboa  
Director of Arabic Media Program  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-801-5982  
Email: [shimritm@theisraelproject.org](mailto:shimritm@theisraelproject.org)

Ronit Shebson  
Senior Communications Associate  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-807-9065  
Email: [ronits@theisraelproject.org](mailto:ronits@theisraelproject.org)

Sharon Segel  
Communications Associate  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-807-9078  
E-mail: [sharons@theisraelproject.org](mailto:sharons@theisraelproject.org)

Shai Oseran  
Media Tours Coordinator  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-803-3471  
E-mail: [shaio@theisraelproject.org](mailto:shaio@theisraelproject.org)

Michal Shmulovich  
Research and Content Associate  
Tel: 02-623-6427  
Cell: 054-807-9522  
E-mail: [michals@theisraelproject.org](mailto:michals@theisraelproject.org)

## Visit TIP

Twitter: [@israelproject](https://twitter.com/israelproject)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/theisraelproject](https://www.facebook.com/theisraelproject)  
Youtube: [www.youtube.com/tipinfo](https://www.youtube.com/tipinfo)

## Timeline of the Middle East Peace Process

- Israel signed peace agreements with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994
- Peace negotiations with the Palestinians have at times achieved important progress but have been set back often by military hostilities and terrorism
- Israel has consistently affirmed its willingness to give up land for peace and security and proved this with its withdrawal from Sinai and unilateral military redeployments from Gaza and South Lebanon

**May 2011:** The Palestinian Authority (PA) and Iran-backed Hamas announce a unification deal, brokered by Egypt and signed on May 4 in Cairo. PA President Mahmoud Abbas met with his counterpart in Hamas, Khaled Mashaal, for the first time since 2006. Israel worried that the reconciliation could mean a blow to the peace process.

**April 2011:** An Israeli school bus is hit by an anti-tank missile, injuring three people and narrowly missing some 40 children that had just disembarked. A young boy of 16, Daniel Viflic, dies from critical injuries to his head after fighting for his life for 10 days. A conditional ceasefire is declared between Hamas and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

**March 2011:** Since the start of 2011, a staggering increase in rocket fire from Hamas is seen, terrorizing Israeli citizens in the Negev and surrounding areas. On March 23, a bomb explodes at the Jerusalem central bus station, killing one and injuring dozens more.

**December 2010:** Israel and the PA, under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu and Mahmoud Abbas, resume American-led indirect talks. Israel reiterates its position that construction in East Jerusalem and the West Bank is one of several core issues that the parties must agree on.

**November 2010:** The Knesset (Israel's parliament) debate an American-backed proposal that exchanges security guarantees for a 3-month building freeze in the West Bank. The initiative gets stuck in the Knesset and the PA voices disapproval because the building freeze does not include East Jerusalem.

**October 2010:** The Israeli 10-month construction freeze expires and the PA walks out of the peace talks – citing Israel's construction policies in the territories and East Jerusalem as the reason.

**September 2010:** Israel and Palestinians resume direct peace talks for the first time in nearly two years. Netanyahu and Abbas agree to meet every second week.

**2009/2010:** Israel undertakes series of actions to improve conditions on West Bank and help spur economic activity. These include opening highways, dismantling 60 security checkpoints, facilitating travel for Palestinian businessmen through security crossings and allowing Arab-Israeli civilians to visit the West Bank through all crossings along the security fence. 2009 marks the first year since the second intifada began in September 2000 that no suicide bombings were carried out. This is attributed to Israeli security measures as well as cooperation with the PA's security forces.

**November 2009:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced 10 month construction freeze in West Bank settlements.

**December 2008:** Israel launches three-week "Operation Cast Lead" to suppress constant Hamas rocket fire against civilians in southern Israel.

**July 2006:** Second Lebanon War erupts after Hezbollah kidnaps two Israeli soldiers across border.

**August 2005:** In Gaza Disengagement, Israel unilaterally pulls all of its citizens out of the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank. This dramatic move costs Israel approximately \$2 billion, and includes the evacuation of all of the roughly 9,000 Israelis living in the affected area. Hamas, armed and financed by Iran, takes control of Gaza and uses the territory to launch rockets against Israeli towns and villages.

**2000-2004:** Second Intifada marked by many suicide attacks against Israeli civilians and retaliatory actions.

**June 2003:** The Quartet on the Middle East - comprised of the United States, Russia, the United Nations and the EU - issue a "road map" for peace including the establishment of a Palestinian state.

**January 2001:** At the Taba Conference, Israel offers even more of the West Bank: territory equivalent to 97 percent of the total land area requested by the Palestinians, including swaps from within pre-1967 Israel. Arafat again rejects the deal and a day later delivers accusing the Israeli government of a "*barbarian and cruel war using fascist methods...*"

**July 2000:** At the Camp David Summit, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offers the Palestinians more than 90 percent of the West Bank, which would mean the uprooting of about 40,000 Israeli settlers. The deal would also include Palestinian control over the Christian and Muslim quarters of Jerusalem's old city and other East Jerusalem neighborhoods, as well as religious sovereignty over the Temple Mount, considered Judaism's holiest site and known to Muslims as *Haram al Sharif* (the Noble Sanctuary). Yasser Arafat turns down the deal.

**June 2000:** Israel withdraws its forces from southern Lebanon. Hezbollah, armed and financed by Iran and Syria, takes control of the region.

**1998/99:** The Wye and Sharm-el-Sheikh agreements of the late 1990s lead to further Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

**January 1997:** In the Hebron Agreement, the Israeli military redeploys from 80 percent of Hebron.

**October 1994:** Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty and establish diplomatic relations.

**1992/93:** Secret talks between Israeli and Palestinian officials lead to Oslo Accords signed at a White House ceremony in September 1993. Israel recognizes the Palestine Liberation Organization and allows Yasser Arafat to return to the West Bank and establish a Palestinian Authority (PA). It also accepts the eventual goal of a Palestinian state. The PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism.

**October 1991:** The United States hosts the first Arab-Israeli peace conference in Madrid, followed by Israeli-Syrian, Israeli-Jordanian, Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Washington.

**1987:** The first Palestinian intifada launches six years of violence and civil unrest.

**June 1982:** Israel occupies southern Lebanon to suppress PLO rocket fire and terrorist incursions. Over the next three years, Israeli troops withdraw to a narrow border zone.

**March 1979:** Israel and Egypt sign a peace treaty. Israel fulfills its agreement by withdrawing all forces from the Sinai Peninsula, giving up access to valuable oil wells and evacuating towns and villages.

**November 1977:** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat becomes the first Arab leader to make an official visit to Israel.

**1974/75:** Israel signs disengagement agreements with Egypt and Syria and withdraws from strategic territory it had occupied in the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

## 2010-2011 Main Negotiating Points between Israel and the Palestinian Authority

- **Recognition of Israel as a Jewish State**  
The PA and its leaders have not recognized Israel as a Jewish state. Doing so would serve as an important confidence-building measure and would help to end the culture of hate toward Israel that is promoted in the West Bank and Gaza.
- **Security and final borders**  
Israel is calling for the demilitarization of a future Palestinian state as well as the possible deployment of the IDF in the Jordan Valley to prevent weapons smuggling into the West Bank.<sup>1</sup> PA President Mahmoud Abbas has called for a return to pre-1967 borders as preconditions for talks.<sup>2</sup>
- **Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements in the West Bank**  
The PA insists that Israel halt all construction in most East Jerusalem suburbs and the West Bank.<sup>3</sup> Israel says the future of these communities should be discussed as one of the elements of a final-status agreement.<sup>4</sup>
- **Resolution of Palestinian refugee issues**  
The Palestinians continue to demand that all members of the Palestinian diaspora should be able to resettle in Israel. The Israeli position is that those who wish to should seek their future in the proposed Palestinian state.<sup>5</sup>
- **Access to crucial resources including water**  
Both sides suffer from the regional water scarcity and must work together to provide mutually-fair access to all sources including desalination plants on the Mediterranean coast, the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel and aquifers in the West Bank.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Benn, Aluf, "Netanyahu must be a latter-day Gorbachev," *Haaretz*, Aug. 27, 2010, <http://www.haaretz.com/magazine/week-s-end/netanyahu-may-be-a-latter-day-gorbachev-1.310509>

<sup>2</sup> Koutsoukis, Jason, "Israel, Palestinians set to agree to peace talks," *The Sydney morning Herald*, Aug. 21, 2010, <http://www.smh.com.au/world/israel-palestinians-set-to-agree-to-peace-talks-20100820-138xd.html>

<sup>3</sup> Waked, Ali, "Abbas: Obama knows West Bank building will ruin talks," *YnetNews*, Aug. 30, 2010, <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3945664,00.html>

<sup>4</sup> Ravid, Barak, "Netanyahu: I never promised to extend West Bank settlement construction freeze," *Haaretz*, Aug. 30, 2010, <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/netanyahu-i-never-promised-to-extend-west-bank-settlement-construction-freeze-1.310937>

<sup>5</sup> "Refugees," Anti-Defamation League Web site, accessed Aug. 20, 2010, [http://www.adl.org/israel/final\\_status/refugees\\_3.asp](http://www.adl.org/israel/final_status/refugees_3.asp)

<sup>6</sup> Dinar, Shlomi, "Is Water a Key to Middle East Peace?", *inFocus Quarterly*, Vol II, No. 3, Fall 2008, <http://www.jewishpolicycenter.org/329/is-water-a-key-to-middle-east-peace>

## Peace Negotiations: the Key Points Since 2000

### FORMER PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLMERT'S COMMENTS ON GENEVA INITIATIVE CONFERENCE (SEPTEMBER 2010)

A solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be based on 1967 borders with Jerusalem managed by international trustees including Israel and a Palestinian state. The refugee issue should be resolved in the framework on the Arab Peace Initiative, and with reference to the Road Map.

### "EIGHT-POINT DOCUMENT" (2007)<sup>7</sup>

This document outlines eight points agreed upon by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's government. It called for "Palestine to be declared a national homeland for the Palestinian people and Israel to be declared a national homeland for the Jewish people." Israel would withdraw and destroy its Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria in stages to establish an "unarmed Palestinian state within the 1967 borders." Jerusalem would be divided into two capitals and Israel would relinquish sovereignty to a committee to oversee Old City and holy sites. The document also dealt with finding a just solution for the Palestinian refugee problem.

### ANNAPOLIS AGREEMENT (NOVEMBER 2007)<sup>8</sup>

The Annapolis Conference marked the first time Israel and Palestine entered a conference with a common understanding that a two-state solution is the outline for addressing the conflict. The goal is for Israel and Palestine to be two states, living side by side in peace and security. It called to end bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict. The agreement confronted terrorism, incitement, and propagated a culture of peace and nonviolence.

### ROAD MAP TO PEACE (APRIL 2003)<sup>9</sup>

The principles of the plan were first outlined by U.S. president George W. Bush in a speech on June 4, 2002 to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace. The plan was split into three phases:

#### **Phase I** (as early as May 2003):

- End Palestinian violence and reform the Palestinian political system in preparation for statehood
- Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas occupied from September 2000, and freeze settlement expansion

#### **Phase II** (as early as June-Dec 2003):

- International Conference, convened by the Quartet, to support Palestinian economic recovery
- Launch a process leading to establishment of an independent Palestinian state with provisional borders
- Revival of multilateral engagement on issues including water resources, environment, economic development, refugees, and arms control issues
- Arab states to restore pre-intifada links to Israel
- Promotion by Quartet of international recognition of Palestine, including possible U.N. membership

<sup>7</sup> "PA Leaks 8-Point Agreement Made With Olmert," *Arutz Sheva*, Sep. 17, 2007, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/133157>

<sup>8</sup> "Annapolis agreement: full text," *Guardian*, Nov. 27, 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/nov/27/israel.usa1>

<sup>9</sup> "Bush Says He Will Help Israelis, Palestinians Work Toward Peace," *Global Security*, April 30, 2003, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2003/04/mil-030430-usia02.htm>

**Phase III** (as early as 2004-2005):

- Second international conference
- Permanent status agreement and end of conflict
- Agreement on final borders
- Clarification of the fate of Jerusalem, refugees, and settlements
- Arab states to agree to peace deals with Israel

ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE (2002, re-endorsed 2007)<sup>10</sup>

- Complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights, to the 4 June 1967 line and the territories still occupied in southern Lebanon
- Attain a solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees to be agreed upon in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 194
- Accept the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the Palestinian territories occupied since June 4, 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital
- In return, the Arab states will consider the Arab-Israeli conflict over, sign a peace agreement with Israel and establish normal relations with Israel within the framework of this comprehensive peace

CAMP DAVID SUMMIT 2000<sup>11</sup>

**Territory**

*Palestinian position;*

- Demanded return to 1967 Green Line borders, immediate withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

*Israeli position;*

- Palestinian state on 73 percent of the West Bank, and 100 percent of the Gaza Strip. In 10-25 years, the Palestinian state would expand to 90-91 percent of the West Bank (94 percent excluding greater Jerusalem)
- Israel would have to withdraw from 63 settlements, keeping only those close to the Green Line, with the exception of Kiryat Arba (to be an Israeli enclave, linked by a bypass road)
- 1% of the Negev to be ceded to the Palestinians
- Israel recognized the need for a contiguous Palestinian state, proposed that the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be linked by an elevated highway and elevated railroad, running through the Negev

**Jerusalem and the Temple Mount**

*Palestinian position;*

- All of East Jerusalem should be returned to Palestinian sovereignty with the Jewish Quarter and Western Wall placed under Israeli authority, not sovereignty. Jerusalem to be an open city with cooperation on municipal services.

*Israeli position;*

- Palestinians would be granted “custodianship”, not sovereignty, on the Temple Mount, with Israel retaining sovereignty over the Western Wall. The Jewish Quarter will remain in Israeli hands. Palestinians would be granted the rest of the Old City and control of Islamic and Christian holy sites.

<sup>10</sup> “The Arab Peace Initiative, March 28, 2002,” MidEast Web, <http://www.mideastweb.org/saudipeace.htm> (accessed Jan. 13, 2011)

<sup>11</sup> “The Middle East Peace Summit at Camp David-July 2000”, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 11, 2000, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern%20History/Historic%20Events/The%20Middle%20East%20Peace%20Summit%20at%20Camp%20David-%20July%202002> (accessed Jan. 13, 2011)

- Settlements beyond the Green Line such as Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev and Gush Etzion would be annexed to Jerusalem, while the Palestinians would be given sovereignty over villages and cities such as Abu Dis, Alezariya, and eastern Sawahre.
- East Jerusalem would be run by Palestinian civilian administration, with the possibility of merging it to Israeli East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem.

### **Refugees and the right of return**

#### *Palestinian position;*

- Refugees from Israel's first defensive war against Arab countries, comprising some four million (about half of the Palestinian people) should be given full right of return, including the restoration of property or compensatory payment.

#### *Israeli position;*

- A maximum of 100,000 refugees would be allowed to return to Israel, on the basis of humanitarian considerations or family reunification.
- All other people classified as Palestinian refugees would be settled in their present place of inhabitation, the Palestinian state, or third-party countries.
- Israel would fund their resettlement and absorption, contributing a total of \$30 billion.

### **Israeli security concerns**

- Israel would be allowed to set up early warning stations inside the Palestinian state.
- Israel would be able to use airspace, and have the right to deploy troops on Palestinian territory in the event of an emergency.
- An international force would be stationed in the Jordan Valley.
- Palestinian authorities would maintain control of border crossings, under temporary Israeli observation.
- Israel demanded that the Palestinian state be demilitarized with the exception of its paramilitary security forces, that it would not make alliances without Israeli approval or allow the introduction of foreign forces east of the Jordan River, and that it dismantle terrorist groups.

### **Palestinians Push for Unilateral Declaration of Statehood**

The Palestinian Authority (PA) has embarked on a campaign to seek international support for a unilateral declaration of independence of a Palestinian state. The Palestinian leadership is aiming to bring the idea to the United Nations (U.N.) in September. The implications are very serious for the entire Middle East peace process.

According to the Palestinian plans, it would mean;

- a) borders based on the 1949 armistice demarcation lines (often referred to as "the 1967 borders") without territory swaps (something both sides have accepted are needed in previous negotiations)
- b) affirmation of the "right of return" for the Arab 1948 refugees and their descendants, which would both swamp Israel demographically and not take into account the "right of return" for the approximate same number of Jewish refugees who were pushed out of Arab countries
- c) no arrangements that would help provide Israel with security against attack from the areas of withdrawal (a presence along the Jordan river, demilitarization of the Palestinian state)

Since the UN General Assembly can only make recommendations, rather than imposing a mandate, it is likely that supporters of the PA will bring their proposal to the UN Security Council, which has the power to mandate the result they seek.

Should the Palestinians go the unilateral statehood route, a majority in the General Assembly seems guaranteed, and recognition by the Security Council – whose decisions are legally binding, unlike the GA – could face an American veto. Thus, the recognition drive at the UN will not necessarily bring about a Palestinian state. This step would widen the gap between Israelis and Palestinians, hamper negotiations and make a negotiated peace almost impossible.

In assessing the Palestinian’s Plan B, governments around the world should keep the following facts in mind:

- A unilateral declaration of independence violates the prevailing Oslo Accords. It would relieve Israel of all obligations towards the Palestinians and have unpredictable consequences for the economy, freedom of movement and other areas such as water and electricity supply to the Palestinians
- In the 18 years since the Oslo Accords, Palestinians have not made a settlement freeze a precondition to negotiations. Abbas himself negotiated with seven previous Israeli Prime Ministers without such a demand
- Abbas’ refusal to meet with Israel is a violation of a pledge he himself made at the Annapolis conference in November 2007: “We agree to immediately launch good-faith bilateral negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty, resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues without exception, as specified in previous agreements. We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations.”
- Abbas is also rejecting the imperative laid down by the Quartet in March 2010, demanding “the resumption, without preconditions, of direct, bilateral negotiations that resolve all final status issues as previously agreed by the parties.”

Lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians can only come through negotiations that settle all core issues. Furthermore, unilateral steps could diminish the likelihood that the Palestinians create a state that exists alongside Israel in peace and security – a goal that Israel shares.

## Economic Progress in the West Bank

During the past three years, terrorism and violence emanating from the West Bank has decreased significantly due to improved coordination with the PA's security forces, the security fence and Israeli military operations targeting terrorist infrastructure.<sup>12</sup>

This has allowed Israel to ease security restrictions, in turn boosting the Palestinian economy. Checkpoints and roadblocks have been removed, stimulating trade and economic productivity.<sup>13</sup> Gross Domestic Product in the West Bank grew by 8.5 percent in 2009.

Several Palestinian companies have thrived in the improved economic climate, including Palestine Telecommunications which reported first-quarter profits of \$23.2 million, followed by Palestine Development and Investment at \$10.9 million, Bank of Palestine at \$8.8 million, Palestine Electric Company at \$3.8 million and Al Quds Bank at \$1.9 million.<sup>14</sup>



Building Boom: The West Bank, pictured here, has experience a large growth rate in construction of private and public properties.

## West Bank Economy by the Numbers

- **60 percent:** projected growth in the West Bank's economy by 2013 as compared to 1994 levels<sup>15</sup>
- **48 percent:** increase in imports to the West Bank from May 2009 to May 2010
- **50 percent:** increase in Palestinian bank profits in the first quarter of 2010 compared to the first quarter of 2009<sup>16</sup>
- **\$858 million:** approximate value of exports from the West Bank in 2010<sup>17</sup>
- **\$3.4 million:** approximate value of imports to the West Bank in 2010
- **\$1.2 billion:** expected international aid for PA budget support for 2010<sup>18</sup>
- **9 percent:** growth in the West Bank's economy in the first half of 2010<sup>19</sup>
- **8 percent:** annual growth rate in 2010, up from 7.2 percent in 2009<sup>20</sup>

<sup>12</sup> "Palestinian Terror in 2008: Statistics and Trends - December 2008," *Israel Security Agency*, <http://www.shabak.gov.il/SiteCollectionImages/english/TerrorInfo/2008-sum-english.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> "The economic situation in the Palestinian Authority and Israeli relief measures: Periodic update," *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Dec. 6, 2009, <http://ocha-gwapps1.unog.ch/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/JBRN-7YHG2P?OpenDocument>

<sup>14</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, May 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin%20Issue%2044%20-%20May%202010.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> "Program Note: West Bank and Gaza," *International Monetary Fund*, updated Sept. 17, 2010, <http://www.imf.org/external/np/country/notes/wbg.htm>

<sup>16</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, May 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue43-A4-2.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin%20Issue%2044%20-%20May%202010.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, April 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue43-A4-2.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Odenheimer, Alisa, "West Bank Economy Grows 9% in First Half While Gaza Expands 16%, IMF Says," *Bloomberg Business Week*, Sept. 14, 2010, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-14/west-bank-economy-grows-9-in-first-half-while-gaza-expands-16-imf-says.html>

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

- **12 percent:** the Industrial Production Index for the West Bank for January 2010 showed that industrial production was up 12 percent over the past year<sup>21</sup>
- **5 percent:** banking sector credit increase between January and May 2010<sup>22</sup>
- **30 percent:** rise in property prices in Ramallah over the past two years<sup>23</sup>
- **9 percent:** fall in unemployment in the West Bank, from 18.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009 to 16.5 percent in the first quarter of 2010<sup>24</sup>
- **6.8 percent:** increase in total Palestinian GDP in the West Bank and Gaza in 2009 (8.5 percent in the West Bank; 1 percent growth in Gaza)<sup>25</sup>
- **2.9 percent:** increase in GDP recorded in the first quarter of 2010 compared to the fourth quarter of 2009<sup>26</sup>
- **7 percent:** GDP growth of total Palestinian economy (West Bank and Gaza) in 2010, as predicted by the International Monetary Fund<sup>27</sup>
- **52 percent:** increase in number of trucks carrying exports from the West Bank from May 2009 to May 2010
- **150:** roadblocks in the West Bank removed during the past few years
- **60:** roadblocks the Israel Defense Forces stated would be removed in May 2010<sup>28</sup>
- **27:** checkpoints removed during the past two years<sup>29</sup>
- **22 percent:** increase in construction activity in the West Bank in 2009
- **12 percent:** increase in industrial production in the West Bank in 2009<sup>30</sup>
- **12.5 percent:** rise of the Palestinian stock market in 2009<sup>31</sup>
- **17 percent:** increase in total Palestinian trade in 2008 over 2007

### Israeli-Palestinian Security Cooperation: A Success Story

A moderate success that Israel and the PA share is their cooperation on security and counter-terrorism by their respective defense services. Lives have been saved and outbreaks of violence diminished as the two entities have worked together to protect Israelis and Palestinians from harm. Cooperation and capabilities have increased since the rapprochement that came after the Second Intifada ended. The success of this relationship can be cited as an example of the mutually beneficial relationship possible if Israel and the PA continue to work together toward peace.

### Beginning of the Relationship

Security arrangements made up a significant portion of the early agreements between the Israeli government and the Yasser Arafat-led PLO. The Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

<sup>21</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, March 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue43-A4-2.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, May 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue43-A4-2.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> "Ramallah building boom symbolizes West Bank growth," *Haaretz*, Aug. 2, 2010, <http://www.haaretz.com/business/ramallah-building-boom-symbolizes-west-bank-growth-1.305544>

<sup>24</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, July 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue%2046-July%202010.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, April 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue43-A4-2.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, July 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue%2046-July%202010.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, April 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin-Issue43-A4-2.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Laub, Karin, "Israel to ease travel limits in W. Bank," *The Associated Press*, May 25, 2010, [http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2010/05/25/israel\\_to\\_ease\\_limits\\_on\\_travel\\_in\\_w\\_bank/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2010/05/25/israel_to_ease_limits_on_travel_in_w_bank/)

<sup>29</sup> "The economic situation in the Palestinian Authority and Israeli relief measures: Periodic update," *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Dec. 6, 2009,

[http://www.theisraelproject.org/site/c.hsJPK0PIJpH/b.5657687/k.FFBD/The\\_economic\\_situation\\_in\\_the\\_Palestinian\\_Authority\\_and\\_Israeli\\_relief\\_measures\\_\\_periodic\\_update.htm](http://www.theisraelproject.org/site/c.hsJPK0PIJpH/b.5657687/k.FFBD/The_economic_situation_in_the_Palestinian_Authority_and_Israeli_relief_measures__periodic_update.htm)

<sup>30</sup> "Palestinian Economic Bulletin," *Portland Trust*, April-July 2010, <http://www.portlandtrust.org/Bulletin%20Issue%2044%20-%20May%202010.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> "The economic situation in the Palestinian Authority and Israeli relief measures: Periodic update," *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Dec. 6, 2009,

[http://www.theisraelproject.org/site/c.hsJPK0PIJpH/b.5657687/k.FFBD/The\\_economic\\_situation\\_in\\_the\\_Palestinian\\_Authority\\_and\\_Israeli\\_relief\\_measures\\_\\_periodic\\_update.htm](http://www.theisraelproject.org/site/c.hsJPK0PIJpH/b.5657687/k.FFBD/The_economic_situation_in_the_Palestinian_Authority_and_Israeli_relief_measures__periodic_update.htm)

of September 1995 stated: "The Palestinian police force established under the Gaza-Jericho Agreement will be fully integrated into the Palestinian Police and will be subject to the provisions of this Agreement. Except for the Palestinian Police and the Israeli military forces, no other armed forces shall be established or operate in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."<sup>32</sup>

From there the relationship between the security services of Israel and the PA began. Former PLO militiamen were integrated into the new paramilitary police forces of the PA. The arrangement created a broad mandate for cooperation, declaring the two sides would "cooperate in combating criminal activity which may affect both sides, including offenses related to trafficking in illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling, and offenses against property."<sup>33</sup>

A very early success was seen in Hebron after the signing of the Hebron Agreement in January of 1997 by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for Israel and Yasser Arafat for the PA. By the agreement, Israel withdrew from 80 percent of the city and much of the surrounding area, turning it over to the PA. A significant amount of security arrangements were made, most importantly perhaps being the protection of Jewish holy sites by Palestinian police officers.<sup>34</sup> It was an unprecedented success in terms of security cooperation. Until the outbreak of the second intifada in 2000, Hebron saw few major security incidents.

The next step in cementing the Israeli-Palestinian security relationship was October 1998's Wye River Memorandum, again signed by Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Arafat. Designed to facilitate the implementation of past agreements (such as Oslo) and pave the way for final status negotiations, the Memorandum had significant amounts of provisions on security, specifically on security cooperation.<sup>35</sup>

The two sides agreed to continuous and comprehensive bilateral cooperation, including an exchange of forensic expertise, training, and other assistance and the establishment of a trilateral high-ranking U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli committee that would meet no less than biweekly to assess threats and resolve impediments to effective security coordination. It also took steps to combat terror and terrorist organizations.<sup>36</sup> However, the majority of the Memorandum's goals and understandings remain unimplemented, mostly due to the outbreak of the second intifada in 2000.

The second intifada, also known as the Al-Aqsa intifada, saw a complete breakdown in the relationship between Israeli and Palestinian security services and in some clashes, Palestinian policemen faced off against the IDF. U.S. efforts to reconcile the two sides started paying off in 2005 in the run-up to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, and by the end of the year the U.N. was commending them for their cooperation.<sup>37</sup> By 2007, there was renewed security coordination and representatives of the IDF and Israeli security services met with their Palestinian counterparts.<sup>38</sup> Yuval Diskin, then head of Shin Bet, stated that he believed the two sides had "established a very good working relationship."<sup>39</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> "The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." *The Jewish Virtual Library*, <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/interim.html> (accessed Mar. 27, 2011)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> "The Hebron Agreement, 1997," *Palestine Facts*, [http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf\\_1991to\\_now\\_hebron\\_agreement\\_1997.php](http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_1991to_now_hebron_agreement_1997.php) (accessed Mar. 27, 2011)

<sup>35</sup> Aaronson, Geoffrey, "The Wye River Memorandum and Israeli Settlements." *The Jerusalem Fund*, Aug. 4, 1999, <http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/www.thejerusalemfund.org/carryover/pubs/19990804ib.html>

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> "Security Council Presidential Statement Welcomes Israeli-Palestinian Agreement on Rafah Crossing as "Important Step Forward", *The United Nations Information Service*, Dec. 1, 2005, <http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2005/sc8565.html> (accessed March 27, 2011).

<sup>38</sup> Waked, Ali, "Joint Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation." *YNet News*, Mar. 29, 2007, <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3382599,00.html>

<sup>39</sup> "WikiLeaks hints at Israeli-Palestinian cooperation," *Hurriyet Daily News and Economic Review*, Dec. 21, 2010, <http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/n.php?n=wikileaks-hints-at-israeli-palestinian-cooperation-2010-12-21>

## Post-Intifada Successes

Coordination and cooperation have increased since then, especially since the U.S. and EU started taking a more active role in training the Palestinian security services. Their efforts have created a motivated and highly effective security apparatus, one that has proven to be a valuable ally to Israel. Recent events have only affirmed this.

"Coordination is better ... there is an improvement," said Palestinian Gen. Radi Assidi in an interview with the *Christian Science Monitor*. Assidi also referred to Israeli army officers responsible for the Jenin region as "my counterparts."<sup>40</sup> A high level of professionalism exists between the security services. Responding to allegations that the Palestinian security services are tools of an Israeli occupation, PA Interior Minister Said Abu Ali enthusiastically stated that, "The security apparatus don't work to serve or perpetuate the occupation...They are part of the Palestinian institutions that represent our national aspiration to end the occupation and found the Palestinian state."<sup>41</sup>

A report from March 2011 stated that "686 meetings were held between Israeli and PA commanders in 2010, an increase of 26 percent from the previous year."<sup>42</sup> Cooperation is not just limited to terrorism, but basic law enforcement jobs, such as forgery, drugs, and even traffic regulations. Israeli and PA police were also said to have markedly increased their cooperation over the last year, with seminars on forensics, antiquity theft, car theft and community police operations.<sup>43</sup>

A report by the Israeli Coordinator for Activities in the Territories stated that "security coordination between Israel and the PA was broadened and the activities of the Palestinian security organizations in Judea and Samaria were expanded, leading to improved overall security and to an improved sense of security among Palestinians in Judea and Samaria."<sup>44</sup> It is important to note that this opinion was expressed after the murder of five members of the Fogel family in the settlement of Itamar in the West Bank this March.

Security coordination continues to be an area where Israel and the PA cooperate effectively and relatively amicably. The relationship remains important, effectual, and an example for the two sides to follow in areas outside of security. It is a promising basis for Israel and the PA to build on and proves their ability to work together, furthering the path to two states living in peace.

---

<sup>40</sup> Mitnick, Joshua, "From intifada hub to model Palestinian city: How Jenin turned around," *The Christian Science Monitor*, Aug. 5, 2010, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/0805/From-intifada-hub-to-model-Palestinian-city-How-Jenin-turned-around>

<sup>41</sup> Daraghmeh, Mohammed and Hubbard, Ben, "Israeli-Palestinian security coordinated," *The Washington Times*, Dec. 7, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/dec/7/israeli-palestinian-security-coordinated/?page=1>

<sup>42</sup> "Report: Palestinians stepping up cooperation," *The World Tribune*, Mar. 16, 2011, [http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2011/me\\_israel0294\\_03\\_16.asp](http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2011/me_israel0294_03_16.asp)

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

## Useful Contacts

### **Marcus Sheff**

**Affiliations:** Executive Director of The Israel Project's Israel Office  
Tel: 02 623 6427  
E-mail: [marcuss@theisraelproject.org](mailto:marcuss@theisraelproject.org)

### **Alan Baker**

**Affiliations:** Jerusalem Center of Public Affairs, former legal adviser to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Fields:** Israeli law, international law,  
Cell: 054 332 2643  
E-mail: [ambassador.alan@gmail.com](mailto:ambassador.alan@gmail.com)

### **Avi Nudelman**

**Affiliations:** CEO of the Israeli-Palestinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
**Fields:** Economy, Israeli-Palestinian relations  
Tel: 03-609-9901  
Cell: 054-254-5800  
E-mail: [avi.nudelman@ipcc.org.il](mailto:avi.nudelman@ipcc.org.il)

### **Jonathan Rynhold**

**Affiliations:** Bar-Ilan Univ.  
**Fields:** U.S.-Israel relations, peace process  
Tel: 03-531-8873  
Cell: 054-577-5817  
E-mail: [rynhold@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:rynhold@mail.biu.ac.il)

### **Yigal Palmor**

**Affiliations:** Spokesman, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tel: 02-530-3111, 02-530-3343  
Cell: 050-620-3277

### **Lt. Col. (Res.) David Benjamin**

**Affiliations:** Consultant & lecturer  
**Fields:** International law, law of armed conflict, counter-terrorism  
Cell: 052-564-7178  
E-mail: [davbenjn@gmail.com](mailto:davbenjn@gmail.com)

### **Dr. Yehuda Ben-Meir**

**Affiliations:** Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies  
**Fields:** Israeli public opinion and attitudes, Israel-U.S. relations, Israel-Palestinian conflict  
Cell: 050-380-8849

### **Gabriel Ben-Dor**

**Affiliations:** Dept. of Political Science, Director of the National Security Studies Center (Univ. of Haifa)  
**Fields:** Israeli-Palestinian relations, the Druze in Israel, miscommunication in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the peace process  
Office: 04-824-0050  
Cell: 052-866-6435  
Home: 04-825-5780  
E-mail: [bendor@poli.haifa.ac.il](mailto:bendor@poli.haifa.ac.il)

### **Mark Heller**

**Affiliations:** Dept. of International Relations (Tel Aviv Univ.)  
**Fields:** Israel-Palestinian peace process & relations, Israeli relations with Europe & NATO, U.S. & the peace process, U.S. Middle East policy, Israel-Egypt Relations, Egypt nuclear development, fundamentalist Islam  
Tel: 03-640-0407  
Cell: 054-480-0725  
E-mail: [jcssmh@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:jcssmh@post.tau.ac.il)

### **Itamar Rabinovich**

**Affiliations:** Former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, head of Israel's delegation to peace negotiations with Syria (1992-1996)  
**Fields:** Contemporary Middle East history, Israel's peace negotiations, Arab-Israeli peace process, inter-Arab relations  
Cell: 052-593-9111

### **Anat Kurtz**

**Affiliations:** Coordinator of the Project on Terrorism at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Institute for National Security Studies (Tel Aviv Univ.)  
**Fields:** Israel-Palestinian peace process & relations, Palestinian national movement, fundamentalist Islamic movements, low intensity conflicts, terror organizations & strategy, Islamic fundamentalism, Hezbollah & Iran  
Tel: 03-640-0409  
E-mail: [anatk@inss.org.il](mailto:anatk@inss.org.il)