

Palestine News Forum 18/5/16-24/5/16

1. Israeli ultra right-wing party emerge in power (24.5.16)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

The Israeli government formed the most extremist right-wing government in Israel's history including Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the hard-right, Yisrael Beitenu party. The Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Ya'alon, resigned as Netanyahu embraced Right-Wing extremism. Mr Ya'alon said that extremism, violence and racism were threatening Israeli society. The nationalist Avigdor Lieberman, with little military experience has advocated for policies including the bombing of Egypt's Aswan dam, the topping of Palestinian Authority, the introduction of the death penalty for terrorists as well as the transfer of Israeli Arabs into the Palestinian territories.

2. French PM visits Israel to advance France's plan for the Middle East (22.5.16)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

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French PM Manuel Valls visited Israel to promote French plan to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Valls met Netanyahu on Monday before traveling to Ramallah on Tuesday to hold talks with Palestinian Authority PM Rami Hamdallah. Valls said in his interview with Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam that Israeli expansion in the West Bank must stop. He also reiterated that his government would not automatically recognize a Palestinian state if the peace initiative failed. As he stated: “The objective is to arrive at the creation of a Palestinian state”.

3. New land seizure and demolitions by Israel in the West Bank (20.5.16)



Source: Al-Arabiya

The demolition of temporary shelters and confiscation of land were expanded in Jabal al-Baba, a Bedouin community. Those communities in the central West Bank have faced repeated Israeli confiscations in recent years. The EU is strongly opposed to Israel’s settlement policy and actions taken in this context, including the construction of the wall beyond the 1967 line, evictions and forced transfers. Such developments in the so-called E1 area call into question Israel’s commitment towards the two-state solution.

4. Palestinians demonstrate to mark “Nakba”. (18.5.16)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

Dozens of thousands of Palestinians took part in the demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza, demanding the return of Palestinians to their homelands, after Israel occupied their towns and cities in 1948, known as “Nakba” or Palestinian exodus. In Gaza, Hamas issued a statement calling for national unity on the occasion of Nakba, since the Palestinians are governed by two opposing authorities. The UN Relief and Works Agency says 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their lands 1948 and were scattered across refugee camps in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The number of refugees today is above 5,5 million.

5. Middle East Peace Conference postponed to June (18.5.16)



Source: Al-Arabiyah

French President Francois Hollande said the International conference to help re-launch peace talks between Palestinians and Israelis would be postponed to ensure the United States would attend. The reason was that Secretary of State John Kerry is not available on the date the conference would be held, May 30th. Hollande told Europe 1 radio “The initiative is important because if nothing happens, if there is no strong French initiative, then colonization, attacks, terrorist attack and several conflicts are going to continue”. Hollande also voiced regret about the UN resolution, passed by UNESCO, that failed to acknowledge Jewish ties to Jerusalem’s holiest site.

Η ομάδα ΒΕΠ: **Δρ. Ευάγγελος Ηλίας-Τέμπος** (Συντονιστής ΒΕΠ, Μέλος του ΕΠΜΑ), **Δρ. Ευάγγελος Βενέτης** (Συντονιστής ΕΠΜΑ), **η κα. Θεοδώρα Φαμπρικήζη** (Επιμελήτρια ΒΕΠ, Μέλος του ΕΠΜΑ). Ο **Δρ. Γεώργιος Τζογόπουλος** συμμετέχει ως αρχισυντάκτης της ιστοσελίδας του ΕΛΙΑΜΕΠ .



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