

**Palestine News Forum 25/5/16-31/5/16**

**1. Hamas executes three as death penalty resumes (31.5.16)**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

Three men convicted of murder were executed in the Gaza Strip. The move was condemned by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, since Hamas did not seek the approval of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, as required under Palestinian law. The fact also underlines the continuing divisions between the main Palestinian factions. The general prosecutor's office in Gaza said the men had been put to death "to achieve public deterrence and block crime". Human rights groups and the UN called on Hamas not to carry out the sentences.

**2. Netanyahu ready to negotiate with Palestinians but not stop illegal settlements (31.5.16)**



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

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Israeli PM held out the prospect of reviving a 2002 peace initiative that offers Israel diplomatic recognition from Arab countries in return for a statehood deal with the Palestinians. He also said “We are willing to negotiate with the Arab states revisions to that initiative so that it reflects the dramatic changes in the region since 2002 but maintains the agreed goal of two states for two peoples”. His comments were made in English and Hebrew- a device Netanyahu uses when he wants to make a statement to the international community.

### 3.Middle East Peace Conference set for June 3 (25.5.16)



*Source: Al-Arabiyah*

The Middle East Peace Conference will be held on June 3 in Paris with the attendance of John Kerry, as stated by Manuel Valls. More than 20 countries will be attending the international conference in Paris, which will be held in a Foreign Minister and international Organizations level. Israeli PM expressed his disapproval of the conference, saying that he is willing to arrange a bilateral meeting with Palestinian President, Mahmud Abbas, anytime and anyplace. Netanyahu believes that that a French rethink of the current initiative is still possible. Mahmud Abbas stated that time is precious at that point and the Israeli PM should not try to avoid the international community.

**4. Lieberman's entry to the Israeli government is a real threat. (25.5.16)**



*Source: Al-Arabiya*

Israel's new defense Minister, the extreme right-wing Avigdor Lieberman, is considered by most as a threat for the stability of the area. A member of the Organization for the freedom of Palestine stated that the government policy is a real threat of extremism and instability in the area. He also said, it will have effect as racism, apartheid, religion and political extremism. The leader of Hamas, who has been de facto ruling the Gaza Strip, stated that Liebermans entry represents escalation for racism and extremism.

**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 .