

After Gaza ceasefire, Egypt surges to the fore as regional player

In a nearly unprecedented public show of its Israeli ties, including a spy chief photo op with Netanyahu, Egypt seeks to dispel international human rights concerns

By Aaron Boxerman / 1 June 2021

The front-page photos from meetings between Egyptian and Israeli officials on both sides of the Suez on Sunday were unusual, not least in that they were released to the public.

[...]

“Egypt wants its presence as a regional leader to be felt. It wants to emphasize before the United States, the West, the European Union that it is a positive actor, a strategic asset — despite whatever pricklings of conscience they may have over human rights and democracy,” said **Ofir Winter**, who studies Egyptian-Israeli relations at the **Institute for National Security Studies**.

[...]

“Perhaps during other upheavals, such as during 2014 and 2015, when the regime had just been established, it would have been less comfortable for the regime... this could be a sign that the Sissi regime has stabilized its position,” said **Winter**.

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