

Historic Negev Summit unites Israel and four Arab states against Iran, ‘irritating’ US policies

The fact that Arab leaders are meeting at a kibbutz in the Negev is “an Israeli dream come true. Even 10-15 years ago, it would have been considered prophetic,” said Hillel Frisch, of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security.

By David Isaac

(March 27, 2022 / JNS) In a scene that was unimaginable over the first decades of Israel’s existence, six foreign ministers, including four from Arab states (Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates), the other two from the U.S. and Israel, arrived in the Jewish State Sunday for a historic two-day summit. The summit is taking place at Kibbutz Sde Boker in Israel’s southern Negev Desert, where Israel’s first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, spent his final years along with his wife, Paula.

[...]

“They see the upcoming agreement with Iran doesn’t serve their interests. And they are worried,” **Yoel Guzansky**, a senior research fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**, told JNS. “There is tension between some Arab capitals and the U.S. regarding all kinds of issues that they find irritating about U.S. Middle East policy. They see the U.S. as distancing itself from the region.”

Guzansky explained that in recent weeks, the Saudis and Emiratis reportedly declined to take calls from U.S. President Joe Biden as he has attempted to build international support for Ukraine and lobby the Gulf states to produce more oil to contain surging prices. “They didn’t play along because the Saudis and Emiratis have had a full stomach with the Americans,” he said.

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