

Israel and Jordan Tread Carefully Due to Mutual Strategic Need

Keren Setton / Jan. 26, 2023

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met with Jordanian King Abdullah II for the first time in four years in the wake of tension over the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu met with Jordanian King Abdullah II on Tuesday for the first time in four years, and the first time since Netanyahu took office again a month ago.

Even before leading Israel's most right-wing government ever, Netanyahu has had a tumultuous relationship with the Jordanian monarch.

"The timing of the meeting is surprising, so soon after the Israeli government was sworn in, when it is not yet clear the direction it will take," according to **Dr. Oded Eran**, a senior researcher at the **Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)** and Israel's former ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. "The king was likely asked to do so by both Israel and the United States."

The visit was not announced ahead of time. The meeting was made public only after Netanyahu returned to Jerusalem.

"The two leaders discussed regional issues, especially strategic, security and economic cooperation between Israel and Jordan, which contributes to regional stability," read the statement from Netanyahu's office.

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