

Long-lasting tensions: Still grappling with the 2nd Intifada's legacy

23 years since the Second Intifada, deep resentment still exists between Israelis and Arabs living in the Palestinian territories.

By Mohammad al-Kassim / The Media Line / Sep. 29, 2023

Twenty-three years after the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada, very little has changed.

The bloodiest, most violent period between Israelis and Palestinians erupted on Sept. 28, 2000, when then-Israeli Opposition Leader Ariel Sharon, surrounded by armed Israeli policemen and soldiers, paid a high-profile visit to Jerusalem's most fiercely contested holy site, the walled Old City compound known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary) and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

[...]

Brig. Gen. (ret.) **Dr. Meir Elran**, senior researcher and director of the domestic research cluster of the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, told The Media Line that the Second Intifada, as far as the Israelis are concerned, was a “game changer.”

“The notion of the Palestinians being a partner to a peace process ended following the Second Intifada,” says Elran.

“What triggered the intifada is less important, what happened after and the level of violence and scale of casualties on the Israeli side played a major role in the attitude of Israelis toward the Palestinians,” says Elran.

He argues that the high number of Israeli casualties at the end of the Second Intifada has “hardened” many Israelis’ positions toward Palestinians—even those who supported the Oslo Accords.

“It was a total disappointment. It gave credence to those within Israel who opposed the signing of the peace agreement,” says Elran, adding, “It was a major blow to those who were willing and looking forward to the political process.”

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