

Israel-Palestine, Quo Vadis?

Shlomo Brom and Zvi Magen / 26/07/2016

The United States was the dominant external actor in the Israeli-political process while the regional actors were less significant and reluctant. Recent developments indicate a change of role for these actors. The turbulence in the Middle East provides for a better atmosphere for Israeli-Arab cooperation. Israel and Arab governments face similar threats and have joint interests in fighting these threats.

While Israel is still focused on domestic political upheavals, the Israeli-Palestinian political process is getting renewed attention in the international arena and in the region. France is continuing to promote the French Initiative, which seeks to convene an international conference to jumpstart one more attempt to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through negotiations. For that purpose the French Foreign Minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, recently convened an international preparatory meeting on foreign minister level in Paris. At the same time Egyptian president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, announced his initiative of renewed Israel-Palestinian peace negotiations based on the Arab Peace Initiative (API). In addition former UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who also served as the Quartet's special envoy to the Middle East, was trying to promote a regional initiative for Peace talks based on the API probably in coordination with el-Sisi's initiative hoping also to affect the Israeli domestic political arena.

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