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CENTER FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel and Middle East News Update

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Jerusalem Post

Peace Treaties Between UAE, Bahrain & Israel Are Signed

Marking the "dawn of a new Middle East", Prime Minister Netanyahu signed on historic and groundbreaking agreements with the UAE and Bahrain, the third and fourth ever between Israel and Arab states. The text of the peace [Accord with the UAE](#) and [the declaration of peace with Bahrain](#) was not made available to the public before the signing. Among the details Israeli officials divulged before the ceremony were that the agreements would not go into effect until the Israeli cabinet ratified them, and UAE officials said there would be references to a two-state solution. Several diplomatic sources have hinted that [Oman](#) - which Netanyahu famously visited in 2018 - would be the next country to announce a normalization agreement with Israel. [See also "Two States, Settlements Not Part of Israel Deals With UAE, Bahrain" \(Jerusalem Post\)](#)

I24 News

Gantz Says Israel Must Resume Talks with Palestinians

Israel must resume talks with the Palestinians in order to bolster both its diplomatic efforts and security coordination, Defense Minister [Benny Gantz](#) said. "We have to resume talks with the Palestinians. They are not going anywhere, and we are not going anywhere. It is high time that we sit down and talk," he told reporters. Gantz, who was head of the central command at the start of the second intifada, said that while he hopes terrorism will not increase in the West Bank, tensions may escalate due to the territory's fragile economic situation and pressure from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. "Security coordination between Israel and the Palestinians, which was canceled in May by the President of the PA, must also be renewed," he said. Hundreds of demonstrators are protesting in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip against the normalization agreements [denouncing](#) them as a "betrayal" to the Palestinian cause. [See also "As Arab Gulf Starts Opening to Israel, Palestinians Face a Reckoning" \(Reuters\)](#)

Al-Monitor

At White House, Netanyahu Says More Arab Deals to Come

Warnings over rockets fired from Gaza toward the south of Israel appeared on TV screens minutes after Netanyahu finished his speech at the White House. Incoming rocket sirens sounded in the cities of Ashkelon and Ashdod, sending thousands of Israelis into bomb shelters. According to reports, at least 2 men were lightly injured and a few people suffered trauma. Hamas was criticized for [firing rockets](#) at Israel while its leader delivered a message of peace, though experts noted that the rockets probably came from other Gaza groups. Netanyahu did not refer to the Palestinians by name in his meeting in the Oval Office, nor in his speech later on from the balcony overlooking the White House lawn. "This peace will eventually expand to include other Arab states and ultimately help bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict once and for all," said Netanyahu, referring to Arab states, but not to Arab peoples.

Trump: Saudi Among 7 Countries to Make Peace with Israel

President Trump said he expected Saudi Arabia to normalize relations with Israel. Hours after saying some 5 or 6 countries were on the path to peace with Israel, Trump revised that number to up to 9 nations. Speaking to reporters after the signing ceremony of Israel's normalization agreements with the Abu Dhabi and Manama and asked if he expected Saudi Arabia to follow the UAE and Bahrain, Trump said: "I do. I spoke with the king of Saudi Arabia," adding it would come "at the right time." The Palestinians, he said, "will be a member at the right time... We are talking to the Palestinians. At the right time, they'll be joining too." The agreements do not address the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the UAE, Bahrain and other Arab countries support the Palestinians, the administration has persuaded the two countries not to let that conflict keep them from having normal relations with Israel. [See also "Pakistan Could Be Next to Normalize Ties with Israel" \(Israel Hayom\)](#)

Arutz Sheva

Smotrich: Netanyahu Hiding True Cost of Peace Deal

National Union chairman MK Bezalel Smotrich accused Netanyahu of hiding the true price Israel will have to pay for the signing of the Abraham Accords, the peace agreement between the Jewish State and the Gulf states of the UAE and Bahrain. He said, "Netanyahu is hiding it and that in itself is suspicious and worrying. And while he is hiding, the partners in the agreement, they explicitly say that a commitment has been made to stop the application of sovereignty and actually return to the leftist nonsense discourse on the Palestinian state." "No one has the right to give up the Land of Israel. The entire Land of Israel is ours. A withdrawal from the path of sovereignty and a return to the Oslo route in exchange for this agreement is a terrible mistake. Unfortunately, after years of right-wing efforts to remove this Palestinian state nonsense from the agenda, Netanyahu restored the 'land for peace' equation. It's neither right nor reliable," Smotrich attacked. [See also "Israel's Un Envoy Insists West Bank Annexation 'Not off the Table' \(Times of Israel\)](#)

Ynet News

Trump: I Would Have 'No Problem' Selling F-35s to UAE

President Trump said he would have "no problem" selling advanced fighter jets to the UAE, despite opposition from some quarters. The U.S. has long supported Israel's qualitative military edge in the region and has even enshrined the preservation of this defense superiority in law. Even so, Ynet revealed last month that the normalization agreement between Israel and the UAE set includes a secret deal for the U.S. to sell advanced F-35 fighter jets to Abu Dhabi. Trump also told Fox News that he would be willing to sell other countries in the Middle East the same weapons systems sold to Israel, noting the region's wealth and saying it would be good for the US and American jobs. Meanwhile, UAE Foreign Minister Anwar Gargash said on Tuesday that the Emirates wants to modernize its military and the request for U.S. F-35 warplanes has been on the table since before the normalization agreement with Israel. [See also "Noting 'Questions' Over F-35 Sale, Pelosi Vows to Ensure Israeli Military Edge" \(Times of Israel\)](#)

Joe Biden Campaign Welcomes Historic Abraham Accords

The campaign for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden said that it welcomes the historic peace treaty signed by Israel and its new Gulf partners, the UAE and Bahrain, adding that the development aids progress towards the two-state solution and stability in the Middle East. "I welcome the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain taking steps to normalize ties with Israel," the Biden campaign said in a statement posted to their website. "It is good to see others in the Middle East recognizing Israel and even welcoming it as a partner. A Biden-Harris administration will build on these steps, challenge other nations to keep pace, and work to leverage these growing ties into progress toward a two-state solution and a more stable, peaceful region." [See also "Netanyahu Heads Back to Israel Without Reaching Out to Biden" \(Jerusalem Post\)](#)

Reuters

Turkey Extends Operations of Energy Drill Ship off Cyprus

Turkey said it had extended the operations of its Yavuz energy drill ship in disputed Mediterranean waters off Cyprus until Oct. 12, in a move that could stir tension between the Greek Cypriot government and Ankara. Yavuz will be accompanied by three other Turkish ships, according to a maritime notice that added "all vessels are strongly advised not to enter" the area. Cyprus' internationally recognized Greek Cypriot government has long been at loggerheads with Turkey, which began drilling for oil and gas near Cyprus last year. The island was split after a 1974 Turkish invasion spurred by a brief coup engineered by the military then ruling Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in north Cyprus is recognized only by Ankara. Turkey questions Cyprus' right to explore in the seas around the island because it maintains that the Nicosia administration does not represent the interests of Turkish Cypriots. That argument is dismissed by Cyprus, which is legally recognized as representing the entire island. [See also "Cyprus Says Ready for a Dialogue with Turkey but Not Under Threats" \(Reuters\)](#)

For History's Sake

By Hamad Al Kaabi

- **Our region experienced a crucial moment yesterday with the signing of the peace treaty between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. This agreement symbolizes the start of a new path for promoting regional and world peace, a path on which the UAE constitutes a central pillar, with its strategic vision and steadfast faith that peace is the source of life, with the assumption that it is the divine heritage that envisages common sense, the path to prosperity and the foundation for establishing relationships between countries, even if they practice different religions, speak different languages and belong to different ethnic groups.**
- **Emirati diplomacy, whose powerful presence was seen yesterday on the international stage, clearly emphasizes the realistic call of the future and its security, in that international relations are one of the important components of revival and progress. It demonstrated its ability to make a positive impact on the Arab reality and lead it to better strategic, political and economic places, towards a quieter Middle East. It attests to the fact that the UAE's ties with Israel will not be a reenactment of previous experiences.**
- **On the other hand, there is growing noise and wailing from “businessmen and brokers of the issue” who have contributed nothing to themselves, their nation or their neighbors, and only contributed to widening the gaps, deepening the disputes and fueling conflicts, as can be seen in reality, with no need to elaborate. History will remember and judge them harshly. At the end of the day, peace between the United Arab Emirates and Israel has become a tangible reality, which has important geopolitical and economic benefits for both countries, as well as great potential in the spheres of trade, investments, transportation, technology, architecture, medicine, advanced agriculture and other fields in which cooperation will have a positive influence on both friendly peoples, and on the entire region.**
- **The UAE, in these decisive historic times, opened a new window for peace and sent a strong message to complement the humanitarian message, in order to move away from hatred and the cycles of violence. Such is its sovereign right, based on the complete faith that peace is the choice of those who recognize the value of the future and what all humanity has in common, and that the three monotheistic religions can strengthen the efforts to make peace, so that peoples can enjoy prosperity.**
- **For history's sake, it is incumbent upon the entire world to understand that “the Emirati character” believes that progress towards the future can only be made through brave decisions that turn challenges into opportunities. There is no room for dead ends. The future has only peace.**

Now He Has a Legacy

By Ben Caspit

- The historic agreements that were signed yesterday in Washington are registered in the name of three: President Donald Trump, who pulled out of the nuclear agreement with Iran and put it within two-to-three months of the bomb; the Iranians, who have become a yoke and a source of fear for the entire region; and Binyamin Netanyahu, who returned to his roots of “making a secure peace,” his campaign slogan from 1996, three years after the despised Oslo Accords were signed. Yesterday Netanyahu signed a follow-up accord to the Oslo Accords. He recognized (yet again) the two-state principle, backed down from his plans to annex portions of Judea and Samaria and suspended settlement [construction]. He didn't receive in exchange for that an end of war because we never were at war with the Persian Gulf, but he did poke his finger in the eye of the people who are never going to miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity, the annoying kids on the block who always come to ruin the party: the Palestinians. They upheld their reputation yesterday and fired rockets at Ashdod and Ashkelon in the middle of the festive ceremony at the White House, as if to say: you guys can celebrate on the South Lawn of the White House; we're going to send southern Israel into the bomb shelters.
- The last vestiges of the Israeli left and Netanyahu's opponents ought to embrace this agreement and praise the prime minister for going for it. Ultimately, the agreements were signed with the state, and not its ruler. We, our children and our grandchildren will benefit from them. Netanyahu was forced to give up on his messianic dreams, to cut short his flirtations with the radical right wing and to revert to being what he once promised to be: [the man who promised to deliver] a secure peace, endorsed the Oslo Accords, returned [to Palestinian control the majority of] Hebron, [signed] the Wye Memorandum, [gave] the Bar Ilan speech, [agreed to a] settlement construction freeze and to negotiations with the Palestinians in London and under John Kerry's mediation.
- All of the above were Netanyahu the statesman, who was forced to veer to the center and to accept the realities of the Middle East. In the past three years, as progress was made in the investigations into allegations against him, he began a passionate love affair with the extreme right wing in an attempt to secure for himself a fighting base and to build his famous bloc that would stand as a buffer between him and the law enforcement system. He abandoned the Bar Ilan speech, scrapped the two-state solution, suspended negotiations and threw the Palestinians under the bus.
- That only whetted his appetite further, and he announced that he would take the historic route of applying Israeli sovereignty to the settlements in the territories. But that failed to materialize. Yesterday it all fell to pieces. The peace agreement that was signed is a far cry from being “peace for peace,” and its governing principle is patently clear: there is to be no Israeli annexation, construction [in the settlements] is to be suspended in practice and Israel is to give its tacit consent to arms deals that include stealth bombers and other strategic weapons. Just imagine if a peace agreement of that kind were to be

signed by any leader other than Netanyahu. Think about what Netanyahu would do to him in the city squares, in the streets and from the Knesset podium.

- **Despite the fact that this isn't peace in the literal sense of the word, the agreements that were signed yesterday potentially will have tremendous historic impact. If this truly is the direction in which the moderate Arab world is headed, we need to hope that somewhere, somehow, the penny is also going to drop for the Palestinians as well. Regrettably, we can't exchange the Palestinians for the Emiratis, the Bahrainis or the Luxembourgers. We're stuck with them here, and yesterday the residents of Ashdod and Ashkelon learned that firsthand once again. The fact that the Arab wall has been cracked and that Israel has successfully undermined the paradigm as if the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will pave the way to normalization may help the next generation of the Palestinian leadership understand that the time has come to set their dreams aside and to be realistic.**
- **Who is the real Netanyahu? My guess is that the real Netanyahu would rather annex Judea and Samaria over opening an embassy in Abu Dhabi. But the real Netanyahu is also the Netanyahu who goes with the flow, makes the most out of any given situation and then clips the coupon all by himself. Either way, now he has a legacy. He has continued the tradition of previous generations and has continued the tradition of reaching agreements; he has abandoned messianic dreams and has extended his hand in peace. That is something that no one will ever be able to take away from him.**