



humanitarian news and analysis
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Advanced search

Sunday 02 December 2007

Latest reports: GUINEA-BISSAU-SENEGAL: Coming home from the street – Photo Essay

- Home
- Africa
- Asia
- Middle East
- Weekly reports
- Interviews
- In-Depth reports
- Country profiles
- Themes
- Maps
- IRIN jobs
- Most popular
- Feeds
- About IRIN
- Donors
- Subscriptions
- Contact IRIN

Print report E-mail report Send feedback

Countries
- Select a country -

FREE Subscriptions
Your e-mail address:

 Subscribe
 Unsubscribe
Submit your request

ISRAEL-OPT: A mixed bag on the Annapolis agenda



Photo: Briony Balsom/IRIN

The Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, known to Jews as Temple Mount, is crucially important to the two sides

JERUSALEM, 27 November 2007 (IRIN) - The following are some of the core issues to be negotiated by the Israelis and Palestinians after this week's international conference at Annapolis, Maryland, USA, according to analysts and politicians on both sides.

Refugees

Currently there are over 4.4 million registered Palestinian refugees, meaning those who fled Palestine in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and their descendants. This is the most volatile issue, as polls indicate that a majority of Palestinians want to see no less than a right of return to what is now Israel, while only a low percentage of Jewish Israelis are willing to allow in any Palestinian.

The Aix group, a working group of Israeli, Palestinian, and international economists, recently suggested that some US\$55-85 billion, along with the right to return to the new Palestinian state, would be needed to solve the issue so that both sides can be satisfied, although opinion polls indicate most Palestinians will not be satisfied by money.

Jerusalem

A cultural, religious and historical city, claimed by both sides as a capital. While the international community might like to see a divide, leaving East Jerusalem to the Palestinians and West Jerusalem to the Israelis, the issue of Israeli settlements in the parts occupied in 1967 remains a problem. Also, the two sides want control over religious sites, most notably the Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, known to Jews as Temple Mount.

Proposals have included a united city, open city, divided city and a semi open city, with varying degrees of sovereignty granted to each side.

Also, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in East Jerusalem were forced to take Israeli ID cards, and have been part of the Israeli workforce and social welfare system. Many would not want to lose benefits and employment.

Borders

The premise of the two state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is usually based around the 1949 armistice lines, which would leave what was Israel between 1949 and 1967 in Israeli hands, and place the West Bank and Gaza Strip under Palestinian sovereignty.

However, Israeli public opinion supports keeping many of the large settlement blocks in the West Bank under Israeli control, while Palestinians are saying that at most they would be prepared to conduct small scale land swaps to achieve that. Furthermore, the Israeli Barrier extends repeatedly into the West Bank, and Palestinians are worried it may serve as a de-facto border in the long run, although Israeli officials have said it can be moved.



Photo: Tom Spender/IRIN

The Israeli Barrier extends repeatedly into the West Bank, and Palestinians are worried it may serve as a de-facto border in the long run

Israel's mixed experience in evacuating its settlers from Gaza in 2005 may serve to make future evacuations a complex issue.

Security

Both Israelis and Palestinians want guarantees for their security following any final settlement. Israel wants Palestinian militants to cease all activity and for the Palestinian Authority to implement law and order throughout the territories it will control.

Palestinians want guarantees that any new state they form would not be under

More reports

- 30/Nov/2007
OPT-ISRAEL: Israeli High Court orders stay on Gaza power cuts
- 30/Nov/2007
OPT-ISRAEL: Israeli High Court orders stay on Gaza power cuts
- 27/Nov/2007
ISRAEL-OPT: The humanitarian impact of Annapolis
- 27/Nov/2007
ISRAEL-OPT: The humanitarian impact of Annapolis
- 26/Nov/2007
MIDDLE EAST: IRIN-ME Weekly round up 153 for 17 - 23 November 2007

[more news »](#)

More on Governance

- 28/Nov/2007
IRAQ-JORDAN: Iraq to give US\$8 million to Jordan for hosting refugees
- 27/Nov/2007
ISRAEL-OPT: The humanitarian impact of Annapolis
- 21/Nov/2007
SYRIA: Demand for health care soars as spending shrinks
- 20/Nov/2007
YEMEN: Top official issues bird flu warning
- 11/Nov/2007
YEMEN: Government assesses damage in Saada region

[more news »](#)

Israeli control - either through an Israeli say in their border crossings, sea and air spaces, or Israeli incursions into their territory.

Attacks against Israel and harsh Israeli responses, or pre-emptive actions, would harm any future peace.

Finally, Gaza remains for now in the hands of the Islamic group Hamas, which is not part of the negotiations. For a final settlement to work, all Palestinian territories would need to be connected and under one rule.

shg/ar/cb



Photo: Tom Spender/IRIN

Forces loyal to Fatah such as these troops have been unable to stop Hamas from taking control of Gaza. Hamas is not part of the negotiations

Theme(s): (IRIN) [Conflict](#), (IRIN) [Governance](#), (IRIN) [Refugees/IDPs](#)

[ENDS]

[This report does not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations]

 [Print report](#)

 [E-mail report](#)

 [Send feedback](#)

Share:  [BOOKMARK](#)    

[Back](#) | [Home page](#)

Services: [Africa](#) | [Asia](#) | [Middle East](#) | [PlusNews](#) | [Radio](#) | [Film & TV](#) | [Photo](#) | [E-mail subscription](#)

[Feedback](#) | [E-mail Webmaster](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) |  [News Feeds](#) | [About IRIN](#) | [Bookmark IRINnews](#) | [Donors](#)

Copyright © IRIN 2007. All rights reserved.

This material comes to you via IRIN, the humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or its Member States. Republication is subject to terms and conditions as set out in the [IRIN copyright page](#).