

“ISRAEL INSIDER”

REPORT # **72**

SUMMARY OF A ‘MIDDLE EAST FORUM’ WEBINAR

8TH JUNE 2022



In a brief ‘Webinar’ session organized by the Washington based MEF, Ashley Perry, an adviser to Israel's minister of foreign affairs and deputy prime minister in 2009-15, provides weekly updates on Israeli politics.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS BY ASHLEY PERRY

- Perry focussed his entire time on talking about the increasingly more fragile state of the current coalition which has now reached its 1-year mark since assuming office.
- Described as “*the big experiment of Israeli politics*”, the ruling coalition had managed to bring together a diverse group of people from various sectors of Israeli politics – i.e., – right to left along with the participation of an Israeli Arab party.
- Nonetheless, after a year in power, due to various desertions and other pressures, the general speculations regarding its survival range from months to weeks with ‘Aryeh Deri’, the leader of the Israeli Ultra-religious Shaas Party suggesting only days.
- Such speculations were ripened when on Monday 6 June, the Israeli Knesset failed to pass a law that is passed every 5 years with the overwhelming support of Knesset Members regarding issues having to do with the livelihood of Israelis residents in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria). This law not just provides voting rights to Israelis living in these areas but is crucial in ensuring their access to services such as education, health care and civil jurisdiction, etc.
- While this legislation needs to pass by the end of June, it can in theory be re-introduced at any time to the Knesset by the ruling government.
- In the course of the vote taken on Monday June 6, both dissenting members of the coalition (Idit Saliman and Zoabi) failed to vote with the government in the piece of legislation that was presented by the Justice Minister, Gidon Sa’ar.
- On Wednesday 8th of June, the Coalitions dilemmas were further aggravated by losses in three more pieces of legislation that were

presented to the Knesset (one seriously opposed by Naftali Bennet having to do with a triple rise in hourly payment to workers).

- Perry said that while Mahmoud Abbas was keen on getting the Coalition to remain in position, his task too was becoming harder and harder with increased pressures coming from within his own ranks over other issues.
- With Meretz and Yamina parties in great trouble as a result of increasing number of members becoming renegades, the possibility for the opposition to reach the '61 member' majority it needed was becoming higher and higher.
- With the possibility of a September election looming in the air, depending on how factors develop, it is however possible for both Naftali Bennet and Ya'ir Lapid to serve as interim Prime Minister until the appointment of a new PM (which could potentially be a long period).

