

“ISRAEL INSIDER”

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SUMMARY OF A ‘MIDDLE EAST FORUM’ WEBINAR

15TH 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 began his weekly briefing by focussing entirely on the dire situation confronting the ruling coalition in Israel which might face a serious defeat in the Knesset that is expected to happen in the coming week.
- Perry noted that the defeat was not being projected to come from a vote of no confidence but instead with the likely possibility that a law calling for the ‘dispersal of the Knesset’ will be passed on Wednesday 22 June.
- Perry was of the view that despite every effort on the part of the coalition to avert such an outcome, the opposition led by former PM, Benjamin Netanyahu was feeling most confident about it at this time.
- Perry noted that previous dissenters such as Michael Biton of the ‘Blue and White’ Party, Idit Saliman, Zoabi of Meretz Party and Nir Orbach of the Yamina Party along with a number of dissenters within Mansour Abbas’ Raam Party, were perhaps the key figures who were likely to vote with the opposition for having the Knesset dispersed, resulting in the fall of the current government.
- Nonetheless, both sides had their own reservations about an early election. Netanyahu’s Likud party was now projected by the most recent polls to possibly gain some 60 votes in a new Knesset – still short of an overall majority by 1 vote, though he was still hopeful of some kind of a more positive change.
- Perry was of the personal opinion that Netanyahu was most anxious not to wait in trying to end the reign of the current coalition because he was confident of victory.
- The only other subject Perry commented on (in the Q&A session), was a clear reference to the various attempts by the Iranian government to retaliate against Israel by taking out Israeli citizens (or prominent

Jewish figures) wherever they could find them and especially in countries like Turkey.

- Perry noted that some attempts had already been thwarted in Istanbul with the help of Turkish authorities, though the Turks were not at all happy about the effect of such incidents on their soil as well as the damage that this was incurring on their bustling tourist industry.
- At the same, Perry was of the view that Turkish participation in foiling such attacks was also taking a major toll on Iran-Turkish relations at this critical juncture for the region.

