

# “AN EXPERT VIEW FROM ISRAEL”

Series Report #98

Special election report

## SUMMARY OF A ‘MIDDLE EAST FORUM’ WEBINAR ENTITLED ‘ISRAEL UPDATE’ WITH NAVI DROMI



21 DECEMBER 2022

*The brief ‘Webinar’ session organized by the Washington based MEF, was presented this week by Nave Dromi, a former commander in the Israel Defense Forces who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day activities of MEF’s Israel Victory Project (IVP) in Israel, working closely with members of the Knesset, opinion-shapers, members of the defense establishment, and Israeli social sectors.*

### SUMMARY OF NAVI DROMI’S COMMENTS

- Navi Dromi (replacing Ashley Perry for this week’s briefing) in her presentation, focused her discussion entirely on the new government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu that had only hours before been announced by President Herzog.
- Navi Dromi said that after a period of almost 2 months from the November 1 election, Netanyahu had finally managed to agree on the formation of a new government that he was scheduled to announce very soon
- Navi Dromi said that voters and supporters of the new coalition were adamant that new legal laws should be passed as soon as possible in order to enable Itamar Ben Gvir to have control over the Police Force in his new position as National Security Minister.
- According to Navi Dromi, quite apart from the opposition, the legal advisers to the Knesset had not been convinced about the proposed legal changes that were planned for Israel incoming government which has been described as the most ‘right wing government in Israel’s history’.
- However, at the end of the day, the legal changes will become implemented much to the frustration of all its opponents.
- Navi Dromi ended her very brief presentation by saying that the opposition to the new government was now in total disarray and devoid of a particular leader.
- This was due to the fact that Lapid could not claim to speak on behalf of all the opposition parties to Netanyahu given his personal problems with other leaders and more specifically Benny Gantz.

- In an attempt to prop up his own political fortune in the coming months, Benny Gantz, who according to many pundits might at some point in the course of the next several months also join the Netanyahu coalition, prior to leaving his post at this time, had refused to release the body of a Palestinian prisoner who had died of cancer in an Israel jail.
- The prisoner had been responsible for a terrorist attack in which some 7 Israelis had been killed, and by refusing to release his body, Gantz prevented a burial service in which the dead man's family as well as other Palestinian groups and personalities might have honoured and given recognition to the dead convicted prisoner.

