

“AN EXPERT VIEW FROM ISRAEL”

Series Report #88

SUMMARY OF A ‘MIDDLE EAST FORUM’ WEBINAR ENTITLED ‘ISRAEL UPDATE’



28 SEPTEMBER 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 ASHLEY PERRY’S WEEKLY COMMENTS

- Perry started his weekly briefing by saying that due to various Jewish holidays that will be continuing well into the next 10-15 days, political activities and especially election campaigning had come to an almost stand-still in the past several days.
- According to Perry, once this period was over, there would perhaps be a period of 2 weeks that would be devoted in a serious way to the general election that is planned for November 1.
- The only significant political action that had taken place in the past week, had been the speech which the interim Israeli PM. Yair Lapid had delivered to the UN General Assembly.
- In his speech, Lapid had brought up the issue of resuming talks with the Palestinians and exploring the possibilities for a 2-state solution – a contentious issue without much support at this time with the Israeli public.
- While Lapid’s initiative has the backing of the ‘Left’ and the extreme Left in Israeli politics, it is a problematic issue with some of his allies such as Benny Gantz or Gidon Saar whose constituencies have no appetite for such considerations.
- Perry noted that the latest polls indicated that Netanyahu’s numbers for the next Knesset had fallen to 59 this week, leaving him 2 seats shy of an overall majority.
- Hence, Lapid’s latest stance could potentially lead to a resumption of cooperation between Netanyahu and Benny Gantz in the event that Netanyahu was unable to secure the majority he needed (this would be in the shape of a new rotational premiership with Gantz assuming the post of PM in the first instance).

