

# Security in Israel and Palestine from a Regional Perspective

Invitation for Conference - June 23rd & 24th, 2009 Location: Christus Triumfatorkerk

## Security in Israel and Palestine from a Regional Perspective

### Background Program Objectives

### Expert Conference 23 June

This conference will be held at **Christus Triumfatorkerk in The Hague**. The address is: **Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indie 143, The Hague**. The conference will be organized in partnership with the Palestine-Israel Journal and IKV Pax Christi. This meeting is a follow-up of a Round table discussion IDF organized last December on the question of what can be expected from the presidency of Barack Obama for the peace negotiating process in Israel and Palestine. Speakers at that meeting were Menachem Klein (Israel), Mouin Rabbani (Palestine) and Geoffrey Aronson (U.S.). At present, several of their conclusions seem to have been confirmed since Obama has become president. Such as Menachem Klein's conclusion that there is a tendency of ethnization of the conflict in Israel; and by Mouin Rabbani that the only condition for fruitful negotiations is that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas work on an agreement amongst each other. Aronson said that the tendency would be a shift of the emphasis of U.S. strategy to the East (Pakistan and Afghanistan), which will have consequences for its relationship with Iran and also his statement that in spite of their fighting and killing each other the negotiating process is going on between Israel and Hamas.

Developments like the participation of Iran at the conference in The Hague and the recent speech of Obama in Cairo, many feel the need for a discussion on how this new tendency in the U.S. policy can be supported. In this two-day conference on 23 June an expert meeting will take place in which the speakers of the December meeting will play a prominent role together with Anoush Ehteshami, made a speech for IDF on the changing power relations in the Middle East area with Israel and Iran being the dominant regional powers. In the four sessions of this meeting, they will play a prominent role as introducers of panel sessions on the following subjects:

#### Session I

Shifting power relations

#### Session II

Negotiating with Political Islam, the Palestinian Dilemma

#### Session III

Beyond Annapolis, Israeli Dilemma

#### Session IV

Challenges for transatlantic cooperation

*For the names of the Panel speakers and participants please refer to the following page.*

*On this day the International Student Coordinating Group will hold a meeting on the following program:*

### Students' day 24 June

#### Session I - Changing Generations, Changing Solutions

The students will be discussing the results of the research that has been conducted in the preparatory phase by ISCG. The intention of this discussion is to figure out what the opinions of the young generation and specifically the people on the ground are regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Based on this research, the students will further be talking about how to negotiate peace. They will be talking about new peace building measures that could look like a model of conflict resolution for the future generation.

#### Session II - Roundtable Discussion on the "Avrum Burg formula"

The students will have a Round table discussion following the "Burg formula". This refers to a suggestion which was made by a former speaker of the Israeli Knesset, Avrum Burg in an interview in the Volkskrant in January 2009, in which he called for the need of an international round table with the following parties: U.S., E.U., Egypt, Jordan, Israel, PLO and Hamas... yes, Hamas. ISCG decided that they will put his hypothesis to the test by playing it out in a simulation game.

#### Session III - Role of Civil Society

A number of NGOs will discuss what the role of civil societies should be in the. In the present situation in which initiatives should be expected from the civil society to promote the process of reorientation which is taking place in the policy of the United States and how the civil society in the countries concerned should react on it.

#### Session IV - Final Panel

The meeting will be concluded with a final panel consisting of Wim Deetman (former Mayor of The Hague), Chair; Jan Pronk (Former Minister of Development Cooperation and Laurens Jan Brinkhorst (Former vice Prime Minister).

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## 23 June - Experts' day

09.00

Registration of guests

09.30 – 09.40

Welcome by IDF chairman a.i. Gerben Meihuizen

09.40 - 09.55

Introduction by the chair of the conference: Wim van Eekelen

10.00 – 11.30

Session I

### Shifting Regional Power Relations

Panel chairman: Fred Grunfeld (NL)  
Introduction: Anoush Etheshami (UK)  
Panel: Walid Salem (Pa)  
Avi Primor (Isr)  
Samir Mutawi (Jordan)  
Bertus Hendriks (NL)

11.30 – 13.00

Session II

### Negotiating with Political Islam

Panel chairman: Paul Aarts (NL)  
Introduction: Mouin Rabbani (Pal)  
Panel :  
Moshe Ma'oz (IL)  
Ziad AbuZayyad (Pal)  
Geoffrey Aronson (US)  
Asef Bayat (Iran)

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Session III

### Beyond Annapolis

Panel chair: Hedy d'Ancona (NL)  
Introduction: Menachem Klein (Isr)  
Panel: Ziad AbuZayyad (Pal)  
Samir Mutawi (Jordan)  
Walid Salem (Pal)  
Avi Primor (Isr)

15.30 – 17.00

Session IV

### Challenges for Transatlantic Cooperations

Panel chairman: Peter van Ham (NL)

Introduction: Geoffrey Aronson (US)

Panel : Paul de Waart (NL)  
Wim van Eekelen (NL)  
Menachem Klein (Isr)  
Mouin Rabbani (Pal)

17.00

Conclusions of the day

by: Chair of the conference: Wim van Eekelen

## 24 June - Students' day

### Shared Responsibility

09.30 Registration of guests

10.00 – 10.15

Welcome by Tatiana Jacques, Chair ISCG

10.15 - 10.30

Speech by Rabin Baldewsingh, Alderman of The Hague Municipality

10.30 - 12.30

Session 1 Changing Generations, Changing Solutions

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 15.30

Session II

### Round table discussion: Avram Burg Formula

Chair: Tatiana Jacques  
Interventions by:  
Students representing: Israel, Palestine, Arabic countries, European countries and the U.S.

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee Break

16.00 - 17.15

Session III

Chair: Jan Pronk

### The role of civil society

Introducers: Walid Salem (Pa) & Hillel Schenker (Isr)

17.15 - 18.15

Session IV

### Final Panel

Chair: Wim Deetman

Conclusions and recommendations

Comments by: Jan Pronk & Laurens Jan Brinkhorst