



## Schlaglicht Israel Nr. 05/13

### Aktuelles aus israelischen Tageszeitungen

25. Februar – 10. März 2013

#### 1. Koalitionsverhandlungen

*Präsident Shimon Peres hat Premier Benjamin Netanyahu eine zweiwöchige Fristverlängerung zur Bildung einer neuen Regierung gewährt.*

*Die Koalitionsverhandlungen waren ins Stocken geraten, nachdem die nationalreligiöse Partei HaBayit HaYehudi und Yair Lapid's Zentrums-Partei Yesh Atid einen Pakt eingegangen waren, demzufolge sie nur gemeinsam einer Regierung betreten würden. Zentral in den Forderungen beider Parteien ist ein Programm zur Ausweitung des Wehrdienstes auf ultra-orthodoxe Männer. Da dies für die ultra-orthodoxen Parteien Shas und United Torah Judaism, die als Netanyahus natürliche Partner gelten, unakzeptabel ist, kann eine Koalition nur ohne sie ins Leben gerufen werden.*

*Nachdem Netanyahu zunächst versuchte, die Allianz der beiden Parteien aufzubrechen, scheint er sich schließlich mit einem Verzicht auf die ultra-orthodoxen Partner abgefunden zu haben.*

*Auch sein Wahlkampfversprechen von einem kleineren Kabinett hat Yair Lapid laut jüngsten Meldung durchsetzen können. Die Regierung wird neben Lapid, der Finanzminister werden soll, offenbar nur 19 weitere Minister haben. Im letzten Kabinett – dem größten in Israels Geschichte – hatten 30 Minister gesessen.*

#### A million Jews in the West Bank

*"When all the political spin had settled, the dice came out in Netanyahu's favor: Foreign and defense policy will remain in the hands of Likud-Yisrael Beitenu. [...]"*

*The coalition negotiations were characterized by an excessive preoccupation with minor distractions. [...] Substantive topics like foreign or defence policies were pushed aside. [...] Now the game has ended and real life will begin. The third Netanyahu government has one clear goal: enlarging the settlements. [...]"*

Lapid and Livni are supposed to represent the foreign policy moderates, but they will have a tough time competing to be heard. [...]

Lapid will be bought with trifles like the Sharing of the Civic Burden Law so that billions of shekels will continue to flow into the settlements, and Livni is too weak to have much influence."

Aluf Benn, HAA 11.03.13

#### Forced and divided government

"Lapid and Bennett are entering the political system with a passion to change it, each according to his beliefs and values. But all Netanyahu wants is to keep things exactly as they are. He views any proposal or initiative for diplomatic, economic or social change as a personal threat and a challenge to his leadership and status. [...]"

In my opinion, this is actually good news. The next government won't last more than Netanyahu's last government did. In the next elections, when Netanyahu will make the expected mistake and become the first prime minister in Israeli history to ask for the voters' trust a fourth time, the people will be even more fed up with him. [...]"

Only when the current era ends will Israel be able to begin functioning properly. But until that time comes, the next government will not be good for Israel."

Yakir Elkaviv, JED 07.03.13

#### Don't let the Right bring down the Right

"Habayit Hayehudi's voters have woken up to find that their party is changing direction and actually blocking the establishment of a nationalist government. [...]"

Bennett is wrong and misleading if he tries to persuade his voters that Lapid will stand by their side when they make decisions on difficult issues like the 'peace process' or religion and state. Lapid's voters will be the first to raise a glass in Tel Aviv pubs for every Jew evacuated from his home or every Jewish symbol erased from the Israeli public square.

Bennett says he will not enter a government without Lapid, and Lapid insists he will not enter a government with the haredi parties. Every political novice understands that a government without haredim means no government of the nationalist camp. A government that is hostage to the Center-Left."  
Haim Shine, IHY 03.03.13

### **Put your money where your mouth is**

"Lapid won't gain anything from joining Bibi's government. Netanyahu is conniving and manipulative. He will never let Lapid achieve any real results. Netanyahu won't make any progress in the political arena, he'll ignore the social issues [...]. Why would Lapid want to be a part of this? Instead, he could hold steadfastly to his demand for 18 ministers. If Naftali Bennett of Bayit Yehudi remains by his side, then new elections would have to be held. And if Bennett folds (which is the more likely scenario), then Netanyahu will form a government with the haredim, Bennett and Tzipi Livni of Hatnua. [...]  
Lapid will form a shadow government and will make Netanyahu's life an utter nightmare. I wouldn't reject this option outright."

Ben Caspit, JPO 07.03.13

### **The Lapid-Bennett alliance**

"The entry of the Tzipi Livni Party into Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition [...] as chief negotiator in the so-called peace process, has brought praise from the Palestinian Authority. [...]

Naftali Bennett's Bayit Yehudi [...] is faced with a serious dilemma: Does Bayit Yehudi enter the coalition as a token fig leaf for a left-of-center coalition that will destroy Jewish communities in Samaria and create a Palestinian state in Israel's biblical heartland? In exchange for Netanyahu's dangling carrot of desired government ministries, can the religious Zionist party forgo progress on issues such as [...] approving the Netanyahu authorized Levy Report that exposed the canard that Jews don't have the legal right to build and live in the communities of Judea and Samaria? While there is no question that there is influence to be gained by controlling government ministries, it's just not enough.

The rise of Bayit Yehudi from oblivion to a force in national politics as the fourth largest party in the Knesset was achieved because it's idealistic message has been clear from the start – that the old corrupt politics are behind us."

David Rubin, JPO 25.02.13

### **No more than 18**

"If Lapid [...] joins a cabinet with more than 17 other ministers, he will violate an explicit commitment. It would make him just like the old-style politicians he said he meant to uproot. [...]

The possibility that Netanyahu may have trouble dealing with a rebellion of disappointed members of his faction – especially former ministers left without a portfolio – is irrelevant when what's at stake is the state's welfare and the goal of setting up the best possible government. [...]

Netanyahu and his potential partners have been preparing the public for some time now for brutal economic cutbacks. Let them cut themselves back first. Lapid [...] must continue to insist on that, not as a bargaining ploy but as a way to achieve a fundamental improvement in the government's performance."

HAA 07.03.13 Editorial

## **2. Barack Obamas Israel-Besuch**

*US-Präsident Barack Obama wird am 20. März zu einem dreitägigen Besuch nach Israel und in die Palästinensischen Gebiete reisen – sein erster Besuch als Präsident. Im Vorfeld des Besuches wurde in den israelischen Medien darüber spekuliert, ob Obama den Konfliktparteien einen neuen Friedensplan vorlegen werde. Außenminister John Kerry dämpfte die Erwartungen jedoch und sagte, Obama komme in erster Linie um "zuzuhören".*

*Auf dem Reiseprogramm stehen eine gemeinsame Pressekonferenz mit Premier Netanyahu, eine Rede für die israelische Öffentlichkeit, Besichtigungen des Holocaust-Museums Yad Vashem sowie der Schriftrollen vom Toten Meer und ein Treffen mit der voraussichtlichen Oppositionsführerin der neugewählten Knesset Shelly Yacimovich, Vorsitzende der Arbeitspartei. Obama wird außerdem nach Ramallah und Bethlehem fahren und dort mit dem Präsidenten der Palästinensischen Autonomiebehörde Mahmoud Abbas zusammenkommen.*

### **A self-victimization extravaganza**

"Judging by the itinerary planned for him by his hosts [...] Obama will see a flat, one-dimensional place. [...]

Obama will lay a wreath at Mount Herzl; view the Dead Sea Scrolls; see a model of Jerusalem at the time of the Second Temple; visit an Iron Dome anti-missile battery; and breakfast with Netanyahu. On the table, according to official sources: 'Iran, Syria and Jonathan Pollard.' Bon Appetit. [...]

The Jewish past clearly plays a key role in understanding the complexity of Israel's existence, but is this the whole story? [...] Common sense says the US president's brief time here could be used much more effectively. We could show him, and remind ourselves [...] that there is more in Israel's horizon than ruin, Holocaust, nuclear nightmares and Iron Dome.

But in the prolonged Netanyahu Era, [...] the red carpet rolled out by the eternal victim is always stained with blood."

Uri Misgav, HAA 05.03.13

### **Progress or explosion**

"It is important to tell President Obama that if he plans to visit in 10 days in order to express support for Israeli society rather than launch and assertively advance a real diplomatic process – perhaps he should postpone the trip.

The Oslo process failed, but it remains the only way to end the conflict, which threatens us more than any Iranian missile [...].

In his first term Obama did nothing to rescue the peace talks from the quicksand. He grew tired of Abbas' apprehensiveness and Netanyahu's babble too quickly. He must change this attitude."

Emanuel Rosen, JED 10.03.13

### **Time for a change Mr. Obama**

"Sources say Obama will demand that Israel provide a timetable for a unilateral withdrawal from Judea and Samaria in order to bring about a Palestinian state by 2014. The report also indicates if Israel doesn't acquiesce Obama plans to 'act on his own.' [...] It seems Obama remains convinced the burden is on Israel to make unilateral sacrifices.

Why are there no demands from the other side? [...] Fatah's charter includes numerous statements requiring the destruction of Israel. Yet we hear nothing from Obama demanding the charter be amended. [...]

If Obama wants to make his mark on history, he'll need to sit eyeball to eyeball with Abbas and give him a list of demands, with a threat that if there is no action Obama will 'act on his own,' as he is apparently threatening to do with Israel. [...]

Thus far Obama has not proved himself to be a negotiator; he's shown himself to be the bidder of the Arabs. It's time for him to change."

Dan Calic, JED 05.03.13

### **Will the Palestinians get Obama's attention?**

"Obama may be going to Israel for nothing more than a great photo opportunity which will end the criticism that he never visited Israel [...]. The award that he will be presented by Israeli President Shimon Peres will be used to show how close U.S.-Israel relations remain. It is hard to imagine that, with his full plate in domestic matters, the president has a stomach or inclination for entering the no-win battle to get negotiations going between Israel and the Palestinians, or more miraculously, achieve a resolution of the conflict."

Richard Baehr, IHY 25.02.13

### **Will Bibi and Obama make history?**

"Despite John Kerry's claim that Obama will not bring a peace plan to Israel and the Palestinian territories next month, but rather intends to listen, an American president does not travel thousands of miles just to eat hummus [...] or lay a wreath at Yad Vashem. In his second and last term, Obama wants to leave his mark on history. And he will leave a mark on history if the path toward ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will begin during his term. [...]

They will begin with a small step and suggest to Netanyahu that Israel reduce or stop construction in communities outside the 'settlement blocs.' [...]

Netanyahu will object, cause a media uproar and maybe even shed a tear, but he will explain to us that there is no choice. And he will be right. Netanyahu knows that without America we have no life here."

Eitan Haber, JED 28.02.13

### **Will Obama speak at Rabin Square?**

"We also have a friendly word of advice for Obama: a new generation of leaders has been chosen to serve in the Knesset, one that is younger and more open-minded. Try to connect with them directly. [...] These young people are not opposed to peace, and therefore it is worthwhile to make an effort to reach out to them [...].

We know that you are human like we are, and that you will not be able to forget how our prime minister mistreated you before the recent US election [...]. You are known for being politically correct, but this time you'll need to take off your jacket and raise your voice."

Arik Henig, JPO 27.02.13

### 3. Unruhen in den Palästinensischen Gebieten

*Im Westjordanland ist es in den vergangenen Wochen immer wieder zu gewalttätigen Auseinandersetzungen zwischen der israelischen Armee und palästinensischen Demonstranten gekommen. Zunächst hatte es sich bei den Demonstrationen um Solidaritätsveranstaltungen mit vier palästinensischen Gefangenen in israelischen Gefängnissen gehandelt, die sich seit Wochen im Hungerstreik befinden. Dadurch sollte die Aufmerksamkeit auf die Haftbedingungen der 4600 Palästinenser gelenkt werden, die zurzeit in israelischen Gefängnissen inhaftiert sind. Darunter befinden sich 159 Gefangene, die ohne Gerichtsverfahren in Administrativhaft festgehalten werden und 123, die bereits seit vor 1993 einsitzen. Die Unruhen gewannen an Intensität, nachdem ein weiterer palästinensischer Gefangener, Arafat Jaradat, in Haft starb. Während die israelischen Behörden einen Herzanfall vermuteten und bei einer Autopsie keine Anzeichen für Gewaltewirkung fanden, sagte ein palästinensischer Arzt, welcher der Obduktion beigewohnt hatte, Jaradat sei gefoltert worden.*

#### The Jaradat Intifada

"By the time the facts emerge, it will no longer matter how Jaradat lost his life. Accusations of Israeli brutality always trump truth. [...] Abbas wasted no time in declaring that Israeli behavior was 'dragging' his people into another intifada, in spite of his 'serious efforts to avoid one.' [...] Discontent with his governing runs high in the PA, where unemployment is high [...]. The only time he manages to unite different factions around him is when he steps up his anti-Israel stance. [...] It is thus in his interest to rile up his populace against Israel. This gives him a better chance of reconciling with Hamas. It also gives him a guarantee of international support, since the Israeli army — in spite of taking great pains not to harm innocent Palestinians — looks bad on television. [...] There has been much speculation over whether a third intifada is imminent. From the look of things, Abbas wants to reap the benefits of a mass uprising without actually having to lead one." Ruthie Blum, IHY 26.02.13

#### Why hasn't a third intifada broken out yet?

"We should be flipping the question on its head: How is it that the third intifada has yet to erupt? [...] Even when the Palestinians are not seeking confrontation with IDF soldiers, quiet does not prevail.

[...] Even when there are no injuries or deaths, [...] [there are] IDF gunfire, harassment by settlers, army raids [...], home demolitions, [...] arrests [...] and blocked roads, [...] routine instances of humiliation [...], financial restrictions [...] or the wholesale convictions in Israeli military tribunals.

When the feelings of anger and frustration are taken into account, what's surprising is that these emotions don't erupt. [...] Past failure is not enough of a reason not to give a third intifada a try.

One major explanation for the fact that the Palestinians have yet to do so is a lack of confidence in the Palestinian leadership."

Amira Hass, HAA 28.02.13

#### Palestinians don't need an excuse

"Let's be honest; the Palestinians do not need any particular excuse to riot and attack Jews. The current wave of riots [...] did not begin as a result of the hunger strike launched by the four prisoners [...]. The strike is just another excuse. [...] The truth is that our neighbors simply do not want us. In other words, it's not that they want a country alongside Israel; they want a country instead of Israel.

There is no connection between any Israeli policy or decision and the Palestinians' desire, or lust rather, to attack Israel and its citizens. [...] And don't tell me that Israeli policy has driven the Palestinians to act in this manner. My uncle, Natan Klieger, was shot to death in 1939 in Haifa by Arab rioters. If I'm not mistaken, there was no occupation back then."

Noah Klieger, JED 26.02.13

#### Who's encouraging a 'third intifada'?

"If there is actual concern about renewed violence by the Palestinian Authority, the Israeli response should be one of a deterrence rather than conciliation; aggressive as opposed to soft.

Appointing Livni to lead the negotiating team with the PA send the wrong message and could arouse demands to provide 'goodwill gestures' to the aggressor from Ramallah."

Ron Breiman, IHY 26.02.13

#### Don't let violence pay

"Recent comments by [...] Palestinian officials outline what they expect will occur. They are counting on a split within the Israeli people, with the Left supporting the Palestinian 'popular struggle.' It is quite possible that soon the Palestinians will try to test the Israeli public's attitude toward attacks on settlers, based on the assumption that as long the attacks take place on the other side of the Green

Line, the Israeli public won't be perturbed. We must not fall into this trap. We cannot agree to this. The Palestinians could have come for talks with us long ago. They have now found an excuse [...] to ignite the area and try to cause us to give up on the few red lines we still have. This is a test that we must meet. We cannot let violence pay off for the Palestinians."

Nadav Shragai, IHY 25.02.13

#### **Abbas's gamble**

"Abbas has rightly perceived that the relative calm in the West Bank [...] has made the US, the Europeans and many Israelis complacent about the need for peace talks. Still, Abbas must realize the danger of fanning the flames of violence. [...]"

Perhaps the unrest on the West Bank will temporarily push the Palestinian issue higher up on the foreign policy agendas of the Americans and the Europeans. But the real obstacles to peace remain unchanged. Palestinian leadership remains divided between Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Fatah in the West Bank. [...] Abbas [...] has no mandate from his people to make concessions to Israel and Hamas would never dream of making concessions. [...]"

In the best scenario from Abbas's point of view, limited rioting could get the US and Europe to renew pressure on Israel. But if he plays his hand wrong and the unrest deteriorates into a third intifada, Abbas could lose control of the situation, lose the presidency and ruin any chances for peace for years to come."

JPO 25.02.13 Editorial

#### **Dragged into 3rd intifada**

"Should the fire erupt, the blame will eventually fall on Bibi, [...] and the ministers who did nothing; who did not offer our neighbors even a glimmer of hope and only sought ways to humiliate them. [...] The next inquiry commission, which will be set up after hundreds of people die, will point a finger at the complete lack of Israeli dialogue with Abbas during Netanyahu's era. [...] The current Israeli government [...] operated according to the edicts of a tiny settler minority [...]. It seems there is no responsible adult who will extinguish the fire and wisely cool the area. Soon the ground will burn, tourism will disappear, the economy will be hurt, security will collapse and the Israeli soul will go into hiding, as it does during every intifada, and try to find someone to blame. They are all here now, right before you."

Yigal Sarna, JED 27.02.13

#### **Last call before next intifada**

"After years of political stalemate [...] the Palestinians were left in their despair and suffering without any political horizon. Several developments have only deepened the despair: Israel's intention to build in Area E1; its repeat arrests of 14 prisoners released in the Gilad Shalit deal; the army's killing of nonviolent protesters [...]; the security forces' failure to do anything to thwart harassment of Palestinians by settlers. [...] Given this situation, another violent outbreak by Palestinians in the West Bank is just a matter of time and opportunity. [...] If the next government won't put the Palestinian issue at the top of its agenda, the demonstrations won't be suppressed. "

HAA 25.02.13

### **4. Medienquerschnitt**

*Die Vielfalt der in Israel relevanten Themen kann in einem Medienspiegel nicht umfassend wiedergegeben werden. Um den deutschen LeserInnen dennoch einen Einblick in das breite Themenspektrum, das in den Medien behandelt wird, zu gewähren, veröffentlichen wir in dieser Schlaglichtausgabe wieder eine kleine Auswahl an weiteren Themen, die in den vergangenen zwei Wochen die israelische Gesellschaft bewegten.*

**Über Vorwürfe des Stimmenkaufs in den Primaries der Arbeitspartei und HaBayit HaYehudi:**

#### **No more primaries**

"Habayit Hayehudi and Labor are now being questioned about claims of vote-buying [in their primaries]. The stink of 'deals' has spread far and wide and illustrates the cynicism and aggressive nature of the process in all the parties. [...] The political success of the candidates is measured by their ability to enroll new party members, who in many cases do not identify at all with the party they joined. [...] The nexus of power in the party moved from the leadership to vote contractors, organizers of transportation, heads of clans and donors who funded the candidates' primary campaigns. The primary was instituted as a substitute for the formulation of the list by a handful of senior politicians in a back room somewhere. But the expansion of the electoral body did not encourage wider political participation, and instead fostered mainly the proliferation of intrigues and quarrels."

HAA 08.03.13 Editorial

*Über den Kommentar des **türkischen Premierministers Recep Tayyip Erdogan**, dass Zionismus "ein Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit" sei:*

### **Time to teach Turkey a lesson**

"Erdogan has done it again. Despite his extensive efforts to masquerade as an enlightened and civilized statesman, his temper got the best of him last week, peeling away the veil to reveal for all to see his profound hatred of Israel and the Jewish people. [...] There are various political, economic and diplomatic levers that the US and European countries can use to bring about a change in Erdogan's conduct. But don't hold your breath waiting for that to happen. [...] Hence, Israel should consider withdrawing its ambassador from Ankara, downgrading relations with Turkey and cutting back on Israeli tourism and investment, until Erdogan apologizes for his slur. We need to make it clear that any assault on Zionism is an attack on the very conceptual foundation of the Jewish state and its right to exist." Michael Freund, JPO 04.03.13

### **Erdogan, this isn't Zionism**

"Erdogan [...] probably wanted to say that the Israeli occupation [...] and the inhumane blockade of the Gaza Strip [...] are similar to the cruel, abusive acts of fascist states toward their own citizen-subjects. One has to admit that there is more than a speck of truth in Erdogan's charges. [...] But what does all this have to do with Zionism? Since [...] the 19th century, Zionism strove to achieve self-determination for a persecuted, homeless people. [...] The State of Israel itself is directly responsible for creating the dubious and baseless equivalence between 'Zionism' and a [...] repressive civil and national one-nation policy that essentially negates the essential principles of Zionism and is instead characterized by the totalitarianism practices. [...] Thus, for all those who hold the future and dignity of Zionism close to their hearts it would be best that they not direct their protests toward Erdogan, but rather against the Israeli destruction of Zionist values."

*Über zwei **Oscar-nominierte Dokumentarfilme**, die Israels Besatzung der palästinensischen Gebiete kritisieren:*

### **Don't fund anti-Israel films**

"Over the past few years the State of Israel has invested tens of millions of shekels in Israeli cinema. The investment is aimed at encouraging the local film industry, a Zionist industry, which offers a differ-

ent perspective to life in Israel [...] and is meant to promote Israeli interests and make the citizens proud. The two documentaries which were nominated for an Oscar both received government funds. [...] The images and the commentary make '5 Broken Camera' a tool in the struggle against Israel, mainly in the eyes of its creators. It is part of the cultural war for the narrative. [...] [Such] films should not be made with Israeli money." Yoaz Hendel, JED 27.02.13

### **What do you know of Lincoln, Ms. Livnat?**

"After all", wrote the culture minister, 'Israel is a democracy that is on the defensive, because lined up against '5 Broken Cameras' are thousands of families that have been destroyed by Palestinian terror.'

No, a democracy doesn't get defensive about movies like 'The Gatekeepers' and '5 Broken Cameras.' A democracy learns from films like these about what's wrong with it and what can be fixed. [...]

In an interview [...] Livnat said [...] that she was 'anxious mainly because I wanted 'Lincoln' to win best director.' Livnat didn't even stop for a minute to think about who Abraham Lincoln was and his role in history. Livnat, culture minister of the State of Israel, can't see the parallels between Lincoln's story and contemporary Israel. So who is out of touch with reality here?"

Itamar Handelman-Smith, HAA 05.03.13

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