

# “AN EXPERT VIEW FROM ISRAEL”

Series Report #90

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



26 OCTOBER 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 said that with 6 days from the upcoming general election, President Herzog has been in Washington meeting with President Biden underlying the reality that no matter who wins in the Israeli elections or the US mid-term elections, the solid and unshakable relations between the US and Israel will remain unchanged.
- Perry noted that the upcoming election on 1<sup>st</sup> November will be the 5<sup>th</sup> in 2 years and the first election in which Netanyahu has not been the incumbent PM.
- Perry said that this election unlike others has been far less about ideology, bearing in mind that most people have already made-up which way they are going to vote. Hence, the priority for all the parties is to try and get their supporters to come out and vote.
- Perry noted that unlike the previous election in which the Left and Right were most anxious to get their supporters to help allied parties get over the threshold, this time the emphasis is getting as many votes for the Likud and ‘Yeh Shatid’ of the current PM Lapid. However, he noted that if parties like Yamina, Labour or the Arab Joint List currently struggling to meet the threshold of 3.25% should fail to meet the requirements set, then chances of Lapid forming another government will become almost impossible.
- Perry noted that there had also been rumbles and disagreement in the Right between Likud and the Orthodox Religious party with the latter’s leader having accused Netanyahu for having wanted to arrive at a kind of compromise with Arab Raam party before – something that has consistently been denied by Likud.
- Perry said that the top two issues of priority in the upcoming election are the economy and security and expressed the view that rising cost of living as well as escalating problems with Palestinians in Jenin and Nablus were issues of main concern for the Israeli electorate.

