UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL MEETING
IN SUPPORT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE

The two-State solution: a key prerequisite for achieving peace and stability in the Middle East

Moscow, 1 and 2 July 2015

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON EXPERTS

Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. Mr. Nickolay Mladenov of Bulgaria was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as his Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and his Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Palestinian Authority in February 2015. In this capacity, Mr. Mladenov is the Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Quartet. Mr. Mladenov brings with him extensive experience in public service and international affairs. In his last posting, he served as Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). He served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria from 2010 to 2013 and Minister of Defence of Bulgaria from 2009 to 2010. Previously, he was a Member of the European Parliament from 2007 to 2009 and a Member of the Parliament of Bulgaria from 2001 to 2005. Mr. Mladenov held several positions in the intergovernmental and non-governmental sectors, including at the World Bank and the European Institute in Sofia. Mr. Mladenov earned a Master of Arts in war studies at King’s College London, in the United Kingdom, and both a Master’s and a Bachelor’s degree in international relations at the University of National and World Economy of Sofia, in Bulgaria.

H.E. Mr Fode Seck, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in New York and Chairman, Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Fodé Seck, the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 19 September 2014. Since February 2014, Mr. Seck had served as his country’s Ambassador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. From November 2007 to September 2010, he was Senegal’s Ambassador to Brazil. From December 2006 to September 2007, he was Charge d’affaires at the Senegalese Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. From March 2002 to December 2006, he was Chief Technical Adviser to the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, after serving in several other posts in the Ministry since 1986. From 1981 to 1986, he was a First Counsellor at the Senegalese Embassy in Nigeria, following a stint from 1978 to 1981 in the same capacity at his country’s Embassy in the Soviet Union. Mr. Seck has a Master of Arts degree in English from the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar.

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H.E. Mr. Riad Malki has served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine since 2007. From 2007 to 2009, he served also as Minister of Information and Official Spokesperson of the Government. From June to August 2007, he also served as Minister of Justice. Previously, from 1991-2007, he was the General Director and the founder of the Panorama Centre for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development in Palestine, a non-governmental organization. He was a professor at Bir Zeit University from 1981 to 1996. He was also a member of the Steering Committee of the Orient House in Jerusalem. He has been active in track-two diplomacy and was coordinator of the Arab Program for Democracy Promotion and Development. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy; a Council member of the Pugwash Conference for Sciences and World Affairs. He is also a member of many other regional and international networks and organizations. Mr. Malki was awarded the European Peace Prize in 2000 in Copenhagen, the Democracy Courage Award in 2004 in South Africa and the Italian Peace Prize of the Lombardy region in 2005. He was the author of a weekly article in the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam for many years and he has authored chapters of several books. Mr. Malki was a visiting professor at different European Universities. He holds a Ph.D. in engineering.

Dr. Nabil Elaraby, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. On 15 May 2011, the League of Arab States (LAS) members unanimously elected Dr. Elaraby as the organization’s new Secretary General. Dr. Elaraby, Egypt’s Foreign Minister since March 2011, officially took up his appointment on 1 July 2011. Born in 1935, Dr. Elaraby is a respected veteran diplomat. Dr. Elaraby graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Cairo in 1955. He then received a Master's degree in International Law and a PhD in Juridical Science from New York University. Shortly after graduating, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As a junior diplomat he was part of the Egyptian team who negotiated the Camp David peace accords in 1978 between Egypt and Israel. He was Egypt’s Permanent Representative to New York from 1991 to 1999. He also worked at the International Court of Justice from 2001 to 2006. He was an adviser to the Sudanese Government in the arbitration of the border area of Abyei between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Mr. Ayman Odeh is the head of the Joint List- the Alliance for Peace and Equality. While a practicing lawyer, Ayman Odeh began his political career in 1998 when he joined the Hadash party (the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) and represented it in the Haifa City Council until 2005. MK Odeh was elected as the party’s new leader in the buildup of the 2015 Knesset elections when Hadash joined the Joint List as the largest party in the alliance. MK Odeh proposed the Joint List’s social agenda including a 10-year plan to target equal rights including women’s rights, rehabilitation of regional councils, the recognition of unrecognized Bedouin communities in the Negev, and improvement of public services in Arab towns. Moreover, MK Odeh has taken a large step in the advancement of culture rights of the Arab community in Israel. In addition, MK Odeh declared his support of a Palestinian State and self-determination of the Palestinian nation alongside the state of Israel.
Professor Vitaly Naumkin, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences graduated from Moscow State University, and studied also at Cairo University and the American University in Cairo. He received his Ph.D. in 1972, and doctorate of Science in 1981. He has been the President of the Center for Strategic and Political Studies since 1991 and Editor-in-Chief of “Vostok-ORIENS” Journal of the Russian Academy of Science since 1998. He is Professor and Chair of the Faculty of World Politics of Moscow State University. In 1991, he was visiting Professor at the American University in Cairo. In 2003, he was Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of about 500 publications – books, chapters and articles in Russian, English, French, Arabic, Italian, German and other languages. He received a number of national and foreign awards and decorations, including Order of Friendship from the President of Russia, Order of Friendship from the President of Tajikistan, Order of Honour from the Council of Muftis of Russia, etc. He is a Member of the Consultative Board under the Security Council of Russia. He is also Member of the Consultative Council under the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was also a member of the High-level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations run by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2005-2006 and UN Good Will Ambassador for the Alliance of Civilizations.

Mr. Ahmad Tibi, Member of the Knesset, Head of the Arab Movement for Change, was elected to the Knesset in 1999, representing the Arab Movement for Change, a national political party that he helped establish. Since then, he has been consistently elected to the Knesset in every election. During his parliamentary career, Mr. Tibi has served on a number of committees, including those dealing with the interior, finance, women’s issues, violence in sports, drugs, law and the Constitution, as well as the environment. He also serves as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee on the Integration of Arab Employees in the Public Sector. He was selected by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz as one of the 50 most influential figures in the last decade. Born in Tayibe, he speaks Arabic, English and Hebrew.

Mr. Nidal Foqaha is the Director General of the Palestinian Peace Coalition-Geneva Initiative in Ramallah, a non-profit Palestinian organization that works on promoting the concept of a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian–Israeli conflict based on Geneva Accord parameters. Mr. Foqaha holds an M.A. in Regional Studies and a B.A. in English Literature and previously served as media director for the Palestine Media Centre (2001-2004) as well as a team member in the Palestinian–Israeli Joint Economic Committee (1999-2000). Mr. Foqaha has participated in many track-two dialogue sessions, and is a Council Member of the International Peace Research Association, and a steering committee member of the Madrid Coalition. He is the head of the Palestinian-Israeli Peace NGO Forum’s Political Commission, as well as the Deputy Chairman and founder of the Freedom Forum Palestine, an organization that promotes civil liberties in Palestine.

Mr. Gadi Baltiansky is the Director General of “Geneva Initiative – Israel” - an NGO that deals with the Middle East peace process, focusing on advocacy, research and public education. He previously served as the Press Secretary for former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and was an official member of the Israeli negotiation teams with Syria and the Palestinians. He served in senior positions at the Israeli Foreign Ministry and lectured and wrote for various academic institutions. Mr. Baltiansky holds a M.A. in Public
Administration from Harvard University and a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from the Hebrew University.

Ambassador Samir Bakr Diab has been Assistant Secretary General for Palestine and Al-Quds Affairs at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation since 2006. He has received a B. Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the NED University in Karachi (1978) and a M. Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore (1984). He held the positions of Chargé d’ Affairs of Palestine Embassy in Islamabad (1979-1981), Counsellor in the Embassy of Palestine in Islamabad (1981-1984) and Ambassador of Palestine to Nigeria.1984-2005.

Mr. Gilbert Roger is a French Senator. He was Mayor of the town of Bondy from 1995 until 2011. Mr. Roger was a Parliamentary assistant to the Socialist Group of the French Senate from 1988 until 1994. Mr. Roger has been Senator of Seine-Saint-Denis since 2011, Secretary of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces from 2011 until 2014, Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces since 2014 and President of France-Palestine Amity Group. He was a member of the Socialist Party of France if Europe from 2008 until 2015.

Ms. Galina Prozorova graduated from the Faculty of International Relations, Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1967. She received her Ph.D in History in 1979 from the Institute of Social Science. Since 1997, she is a leading researcher at the Diplomatic Academy, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Center for Eurasian Studies. From 1991 until 1997, she was researcher at the Department of History and Archives at the Gorbachev Foundation. From 1967 until 1991, she was lecturer at the Institute of Social Science.

Ms. Alla Shainskaya, Member of the Executive Committee and Presidium of the Congress of Meretz is a social and political activist. She is a Member of International Committee of New Israeli Fund, Former Member of the Board of B’Tselem (2005-2011), Member of Peace NGOs Political Committee, Member of the Public Board of Geneva Accord, Member of the Public Board of Israeli Peace Initiative and Arab League Peace Initiative. She is the founder and Chairwoman of the Board of “Our Heritage – Charter for democracy” NGO established to bring democracy, social justice and peace values to the Russian Speaking Israeli community, to develop a dialogue between this group of people and other communities, to introduce them to the socioeconomic justice, human rights and peace NGOs in Israel. She is Member of the Editorial Board of Internet analytical portal in Russian language "ReLevant". She participated in a number of International Conferences and meetings on Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Until 2013, she was the Head of the Biological Mass Spectrometry Unit at the Department of Biological Services of The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

Mr. Alexander Vavilov, Professor, Department of Diplomatic and Consular Service, Diplomatic Academy, Moscow, has the diplomatic rank of Envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Since 1970, he has engaged in theoretical and practical research in the area of Middle Eastern studies. He has penned 10 books and over 200 articles in Russian, Arabic and other foreign languages. His main areas of research include the relations between the US and the MENA region, the politics and economics of the Arab world, and international terrorism.
Mr. Bassam A.O. Salhi, is the Secretary-General of the Palestinian People's Party (PPP) and a Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). He was the Chairman of the Student Council of Birzeit University (1979) and a student movement representative for the National Guidance Committee. Mr. al-Salhi led the underground movement of the PPP in the Gaza Strip. After the imposition of the closure of the Gaza Strip in 1988, he returned to the West Bank where he worked with the Unified National Leadership of the Intifada until his imprisonment in 1990 for 3 years. Mr. al-Salhi was elected Secretary-General of the PPP in 2003. He was a member of the 2004 Palestinian delegation to the International Court of Justice in The Hague and participated in different local and international events concerning the question of Palestine. He ran for the Palestinian Authority Presidency during the 2005 elections and was the Minister of Culture in the Palestinian National Unity Government. He recently acted as the Palestinian President's Special Envoy to China. Mr. al-Salhi holds an MA in International Studies (Bir Zeit University).

Mr. Henry Siegman is President of the U.S./Middle East Project (USMEP), an initiative focused on U.S.-Middle East policy and the Israel-Palestine conflict. The USMEP was launched by the Council on Foreign Relations in 1994, and it was established as an independent policy institute in 2006 under the chairmanship of General (Ret.) Brent Scowcroft. Mr. Siegman is a former non-resident visiting research professor at the Sir Joseph Hotung Middle East Program of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and is a former national director of the American Jewish Congress. Mr. Siegman has published extensively on the Middle East peace process and has been consulted by governments, international agencies and non-governmental organizations. He has authored several hundred articles and op-ed pieces in various newspapers, journals and books, including the New York Times, Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, Haaretz, Al Hayat, Le Monde, Financial Times, Foreign Affairs and the New York Review of Books. He served as General Secretary of the American Association for Middle East Studies and was awarded the Bronze Star for military service in the Korean War.

Mr. Makarim Wibisono, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Jakarta assumed the mandate in June 2014. Mr. Wibisono has served in various capacities in the course of his diplomatic career, including as the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva (2004-2007) and in New York (1997-2000). Mr. Wibisono has also served on a number of United Nations bodies including: Chairperson of the 61st United Nations Commission on Human Rights (2005); President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (2000); Vice-President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (1999); and Chairperson of the Group 77 and China at the United Nations in New York (1998). He recently served as Chairperson to the 2nd Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, Geneva (2013). Mr. Wibisono has also served as Director of the ASEAN Foundation Executive in Jakarta (2011-2014) and Chairperson of the APEC Counter Terrorism Task Force (2003-2004). He has been an Advisor to Indonesian National Human Rights Commission in Jakarta since 2009. Mr. Wibisono holds a PhD in Political Science and a Masters degree in International Political Economy, both from the Ohio State University. He holds a Masters degree in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctorate in International Relations from the Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia.
Mr. Omar Abdul-Monem Rifai, Director, External Relations Department, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), holds a B.A in Government, Harvard University (with honours), a M.A in Liberal Studies and History, Georgetown University (with distinction) and a Ph.D. in International Relations, American University. He was the Director of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy from 2014 to 2015, the Executive Director of the West-Asia North-Africa (WANA) Forum (2011-2013), Director of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy (2009-2011), Director-General of the Jordan Media Institute (2008-2009), Secretary-General of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry (2008), Head of the Jordanian Delegation to the Arab Summit Conference in Damascus (March 2008). Mr. Rifai was Ambassador of Jordan to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the Arab League in Cairo (2005-2008), Secretary-General of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry (2003-2005), Ambassador of Jordan to Italy and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the UN Agencies in Rome (2000-2003), Ambassador of Jordan (non-resident) to: Bosnia-Herzegovina, San Marino, Croatia (2001-2003), Ambassador of Jordan to Israel (1996-2000), Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Director of the Special Bureau at the Foreign Ministry in Amman (1994-1996) and Member of the Delegation to the Jordan-Israel Peace Talks (1994). He attended a number of International Conferences and Meetings in diplomacy, peace and conflict prevention in the Middle East. He was awarded the Jordanian Al-Istiklal Medal of the First Order, Al- kawkab Medal of the Second Order, Al-Istiklal Medal of the Third Order and the Italian Cavaliere di Gran Croce dell’ Ordine al Merito Della Repubblica. He speaks Arabic, English and French.

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