



# THE 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HERZLIYA CONFERENCE

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## SIMULATION SCENARIO: The Middle East after the territorial elimination of the Islamic state in Iraq and Syria

During the year 2016 two battles led to the territorial elimination of the Islamic state in Iraq and Syria.

### **The battle for a Raqqa**

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In Syria, forces of the coalition led by the US conquered its North Eastern areas (near its border with turkey) and the city of a Raqqa, The capital of the Islamic state. In the ground offensive took part Kurdish, Turkish, Saudi and special American forces. The ground forces were aided by massive aerial support of the US, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

The forces of the coalition refrained from attacking or striking forces loyal to Assad which are now besieged in enclaves within the coalition controlled zone.

Assad demands immediate withdrawal of the foreign forces from Syria's territory, a demand which is granted a Russian backing.

In the course of battle at a Raqqa and Northeastern Syria over 2000 ISIS fighters have been killed and hundreds of its members have been captured but its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi hasn't been captured and it is estimated that he managed to escape. (There is unverified information about his whereabouts in Libya).

### **The battle for Mosul**

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Kurdish Peshmerga forces, Turkish forces, the Iraqi army, pro-Iranian shiite militias and forces of the Iranian Revolutionary guard with massive aerial support of the US have managed to take the city of Mosul out of the Islamic state's Hands. Islamic State's casualties in Mosul and its surroundings are estimated at 3000 fighters.

The control over the city of Mosul is divided between Kurdish forces which control the northern parts of the city, Turkish forces in the western suburbs and the Iraqi army with Shiite militias in the greater part of the city.

The Iraqi government demands that the Kurds leave the areas they captured in the city and the Turkish take their forces out of Iraq's territory.

## **The great world powers**

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President Obama announced in a special address to the nation that the US achieved an important victory in the war against terror and expressed hope that after the elimination of the Islamic state peace and stability will return to the region.

United States, the European Union and Russia are in close contact regarding an international convention sponsored by the UN to reach political agreements in Syria and Iraq.

## **The Kurds**

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Secret talks are being held between the Kurdish leaders in Iraq, Syria and representatives from the PKK with the purpose of announcing the establishment of a Kurdish state.

## **The Islamic state**

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Thousands of the Islamic state's members went underground and some are trying to flee Iraq and Syria. Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia intensified inspections along their borders to prevent penetration of Islamic state's members into their Territory.

In response to the defeats it suffered in Iraq and Syria, the Islamic state carried out a series of attacks around the world:

- A suicide attack in London in which 30 people were killed and over hundred injured.
- A shooting attack and a suicide attack in Paris in which 12 people were killed and 32 injured.
- A car bomb exploded near the US Embassy in Ankara. 8 embassy employees and 30 Turkish civilians were killed in the attack.
- Six cars exploded in Baghdad caused 160 deaths and over 300 people injured.
- Terrorists of the Islamic state have taken control over an office building in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, and hold Americans, British and Australian nationals hostage.

## **The war in Yemen**

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Peace talks in Kuwait between the coalition led by Saudi Arabia, the Yemeni president Hadi and the Houthi rebels resulted in an agreement to desist the fighting and establish a national reconciliation government led by President Hadi. President Hadi returned to the capital Sanaa and established a new government.

## **Saudi Arabia**

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In a speech King Salman delivered he emphasized the contribution of his country to the victory over the Islamic state and to the achievement of a peace agreement in Yemen. Finally, he declared that conditions are set for the return of peace and stability to the region.

## **Humanitarian crisis in the Middle East**

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As a result of the fighting against the Islamic state in a Raqqa and Mosul the refugee problem in Syria and Iraq have worsened. There was a sharp rise in the number of refugees and a severe shortage of food, drinking water and medicine which endangers the lives of millions.

**The Secretary-General of the UN** calls for an immediate convening of an international convention for the resolution of the refugee crisis and to bring order and security to the region.

## **The Palestinian Authority**

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The president of the Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu-Mazen) declared he intends to demand that the international convention sponsored by the UN to discuss the future of the Middle East will discuss the solution for the Palestinian problem as part of the solutions to resolve the crises in the Middle East. Abu-Mazen also called Hamas to join a national unity government.

## **Israel**

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As a result of the Islamic state's overthrow and the defeats which the forces of the opposition in Syria suffered, forces loyal to Assad, forces of Hezbollah and elements of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard have taken control over the Syrian Golan Heights - from Mount Hermon's lower parts to the area of Quneitra. These forces started building fortifications and transferring weapons to the area in which rocket launchers and anti-tank weapons are located. Hezbollah reinforced its forces in southern Lebanon using units of the organization that returned from Syria to Lebanon.