



# Press Release

## 13<sup>th</sup> Herzliya Conference

Mr. Avi Hasson, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor: In tackling cyber security “the bad news is we are not there yet”

The Middle East's leading security & policy gathering takes place March 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dan Accadia Hotel in Herzliya

“Cyber security is not information security, said Mr. Avi Hasson, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor speaking on the topic of “Cyber security in a borderless global arena” at the 13th annual Herzliya Conference.

Hasson noted that the topic of cyber security involves challenges in four different areas: technology, procedures, education and regulations and as such, we need an “integration of many different operations to deal with cyber security ... If one wants to deal with this very meaningful threat, each challenge needs to be dealt with ... Cyber security and dealing with it is not only about securing information ... it’s something completely different and complex...”

In tackling these issues, he said, “the bad news is we are not there yet,” explaining that “we are missing integrative solutions ... we are missing analytical and proactive dimensions... There are technological gaps which are very significant.”

Adv. Yoram Hacohen, Head, Law, Information and Technology Authority, Ministry of Justice noted that it is “not always clear that cyber matters are translated into the real world ... The borders are open. We have no real borders ... There’s a lot of information that is passed online ... A lot of it is legitimized but without borders it is hard to impose limitations.” He stressed, “As much as we hear of Israel being a cyber security super power, we are not succeeding,” adding that it’s a “terrible phenomenon when systems with very sensitive information have no security ... it’s like having a business in a building without strong walls.”

On a positive note, referring to the very low level of password protection, Dr. Dorit Dor, VP of Products, CheckPoint said “90% of the attacks are very basic ... The starting point is so basic that if we can maintain even a few basic principles we can strengthen our natural security greatly.” She added that the nature of the attacks constantly change and that the “basic defense infrastructure needs to know how to link with different

sources ... we have to adapt as well and change from defense to defense ... Our role as cyber protectors is to create a multi-dimensional level of defense.”

Identifying a different cyber threat, Mr. Adi Sharabani, CEO & Co- Founder Skycure, noted that a big problem in the cyber and mobile world today is “profiling,” “Only accept profiles from trusted providers,” he said.

“We hear about significant attacks that happen everywhere in the world” said Dr. Eviatar Matania, Head, Israel National Cyber Bureau, Prime Minister’s Office, “This topic is very, very global. The whole world basically uses the same operating system, the same computer systems ... When there is a breach, it has an effect on the whole world ... We need to create a whole cyber ecosystem in Israel and this should take Israel robustly into the future.”

## Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, Chief of the General Staff, IDF: “The chances of war against us in the visible future are low but there is a high probability of deterioration”

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Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, Chief of the General Staff, IDF provided his audience at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Herzliya Conference with a briefing on the “Challenges to Israel’s National Security.” “In the past 2 years we’ve learned that if there’s one constant, It’s that there are no constants” said Gantz.

He said, “we have a multi-arena challenge with different features ... The influence appears different in operational form. The chances of war against us in the visible future are low but there is a high probability of deterioration ... Not a week goes by, not to say hardly a day, when I don’t have to deal with an issue that you didn’t even hear about, that could have resulted in a strategic threat. He said that Syria is one type of threat, Lebanon another, Sinai a third and Gaza “has always been there and always will.”

Looking ahead to future battles, Gantz said, “We will need to go into “the tunnels of Gaza, into the fox holes and the villages ... We can’t only play video games ... it requires physical presence on the ground and that’s what we need to prepare our forces for ... We need to make sure we are flexible enough and are able to adapt ourselves to the new situation.”

Touching on the topic of the size of the army, Gantz said that the army would be streamlined and made smaller and stronger. “It’s not a question of the size of the army but the size of the challenge. We need to adapt the organization to the challenges that faces it. We need a “Faster army, a quicker army, a more lethal army, better equipped, better trained and more suitable in size.” The most important principle, he said, was not to have a “hollow army.”

Gantz noted that career soldiers and officers would be dropped by “tens of thousands.” He said that including the ultra-Orthodox needed to be a slow and gradual process. He believed that the recruitment of the ultra-Orthodox had “been good” and that those recruited had contributed a great deal to the army and “come in “ultra-Orthodox and leave ultra-Orthodox.”

“We have to ensure that the right people are in the right places at the right times,” he stressed.

Gantz broke down into regions the threats facing Israel:

- Egypt, Syria

“These changes [in these regions] are constant, they’re happening all the time and we must be alert ... The characteristics of these changes are intensifying ... The future is here and we must be ready for it” said Gantz of the region. Gantz noted that in the past Israel had seen Lebanon and Syria as “one arena, two fronts,” and

followed the idea of “why fight with each of the terrorists when you can impact them” via Assad. But today Syria is “liquid, unstable, dangerous.”

- Syria

“The Syrian army is attacking itself in huge numbers ... at the same time we see the terror organizations which are gaining footholds in the territory.” He noted that these organizations are currently fighting against Assad but “Guess what, we are the next inline ... We are liable to be the next challenge of those organizations” ... Amazing strategic capabilities in the hands of Syria can end up in the hands of the terror organizations” and if they have these capabilities, there is a “a very big chance they can use them against us in the future.”

Gantz added that although the Golan Heights remains the same beautiful place it always has been, “it is not the same place ... security challenges await us there.”

- Lebanon

Speaking about Israel’s neighbors to the left, Gantz said that after leaving Lebanon in 2000, “We said the threat might scratch Haifa; and look where we are today.” He added that with the tens of thousands of munitions of all ranges deployed all over Lebanon, they had begun to use the urban expanse. “There is the same instability there that was there all along.” He added “The state responsibility that Hezbollah has taken upon itself is not something I’d dismiss lightly... It’s still not a state there. There’s internal tension there. We’ve seen what happened with Hezbollah and the rest of Lebanon and Syria is deeply involved in Lebanon ... The past seven years have been pretty quiet but if not, we are prepared and we will know how to respond at the right range and pace ... I’d rather be an Israeli citizen than a Lebanese one.”

- Egypt

After 40 years of quiet, Gantz said that Egypt was a “situation in the making ... Sinai is fertile ground for activities against us ... Fertile ground for terrorists.” He said that a future danger of a military threat can gain momentum at any moment. “We didn’t fall asleep on the job, we have prepared the infrastructures.” Gantz stressed, “Egypt has an interest to maintain security in the Sinai ... Not for us, for them ... We will do whatever we can to maintain quiet in the area but we must understand that area in a state of flux.”

- Gaza

“We have to distinguish very, very clearly between the inflammatory declarations and what it’s actually doing,” said Gantz. He said that following an intolerable prior situations, four months after Operation Pillar of Defense it was clear that “the goal of that operation was completely achieved” as could be seen from the absolute quiet in the south, save for one incident which was under investigation. “We are prepared just as we were to act should it become necessary.”

## Amb. Raphael Barak, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Israel using new media to create virtual embassies

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“We are exploring government, people and societies GPS ... Trying to skip over the borders and using the new media to create virtual embassies” which speak directly to those in the Arab world said Amb. Raphael Barak, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 13th annual Herzliya Conference, on the topic of “Israel's Foreign Relations Assessment.”

Addressing the regional trends impacting Israel, Amb. Barak noted, “We live in a region in a state of constant instability and it is our assessment that this instability will continue for many more years.” He said the Foreign

Ministry was always looking at whom their friends in the region were, while trying to find “frenemies” among their enemies and exploring how different governments related to one another.

“We must contend with the people around us,” looking at the new strategic threats, including the large concentration of chemical weapons in Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas activity, as well as “Kurdish populations and other minorities looking for our friendship and trying to draw close to Israel.”

Regionally, “the characteristics of peace have almost disappeared” said Barak, stressing though that the situation with Jordan was better adding that they have an embassy there and are “doing a lot of things with visibility... and under the radar.”

“We always look for opportunities [in the region] ... We hope an opportunity will come from Syria,” but they were still looking at “who are the good guys and the bad guys ... We are trying to open doors wherever possible and provide humanitarian assistance wherever possible.”

Barak mentioned Israel’s “strategic silence” with regard to events in the region. “What happens in the region are the result of what is happening in each of the Arab countries” and by not openly getting involved, they are able to quietly review the situation.

Touching on the situation in Egypt, Barak stressed the necessity for Israel to “Maintain peace agreements with Egypt in light of the instability and internal situation.” He said that the Foreign Ministry was maintaining a “mobile ministry” which travelled to and from Egypt weekly, rather than maintaining a set embassy in an instable and unsafe area.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Barak said “the Palestinians are looking for the international stage and we are being challenged there ... we are preparing for the future.” He added that the ministry was “active in international forums so that the world will receive our activities with understanding ... We’re trying to prevent flotillas and flightillas.”

Moving slightly further afield, Barak said the Foreign Ministry had set its agenda on the Iranian issue, which is the “the number one issue in the context of national security” and “denies our right to exist.” He added that in the past year there had been 24 separate terror attempts on Israeli delegations around the world. “Our diplomats are under threat.” He also said that the “force of political Iran is filling a governmental vacuum that is completely changing the situation beyond our borders.” There are “far reaching changes occurring” which have an impact on us too.

## MK Tzipi Livni: Obama’s visit a “wonderful opportunity for the new government of Israel”

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Touching on next week’s visit of US President, Barack Obama, MK Tzipi Livni, speaking at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Herzliya Conference said it was a “wonderful opportunity for the new government of the State of Israel ... to create that crucial dialogue between Israel and the United states. We have to create that anew ... I believe that next week there’s going to be a new opportunity to create a dialogue on a matter of principles and to mold a mutual understanding that these are Israel’s interests.”

She said that while everyone was talking about this visit being a one-off event, “let’s not forget this is a global village ... even when he is there, there are various channels of communications.”

Opening the panel on “Is the Israeli-Palestinian impasse breakable?” Livni dedicated much of her address to stressing the need for “two states for two peoples,” explaining that it is “critical for us to reach a final status agreement” with the Palestinians. It has “Been an open wound since 1867 ... has to be healed ... Having two

states for two nations is the most basic and only interest of the Jewish people.” It’s the “only way we can preserve the existence of a democratic Jewish state.”

She said “there are only two options between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan, or two separate states or one state ... just as the Palestinians need to know that there are Jews between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea, we need to know that there are Palestinians in the same place.”

Livni said, “In the negotiation room we need to stop talking about who has the greater right to be here ... We have to see how we can create more than just a shared life ... we need to see whether we can live together, even though I don’t want to live together, I want a divorce.”

## Highlights of the “Is the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse Breakable” panel at the annual 13<sup>th</sup> annual Herzliya Conference

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**The following are highlights of the panel discussing the Israeli Palestinian Peace Process which took place tonight at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Herzliya Conference:**

**Dr. Robert Danin**, Eni Enrico Mattie Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies, Council on Foreign Relations:

“In order to break the impasse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, “a conceptual shift is required”. “It is important that parties understand that change is possible.”

Danin stressed the importance of the leadership: “If leaders will tell their public that there is no partner – they’ll believe it, that’s what we have today.”

**Prof. Shlomo Avineri**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Former Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

“The reason Olmert was unable to achieve a peace agreement with the Palestinians, was that “beyond goodwill, it turned out that there were big gaps between the most moderate Israeli and most moderate Palestinians in core issues: borders & settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, and Israel’s security.”

Avineri concluded that a peace agreement is “unattainable at the moment.” He argued: “we have to go for pro-active conflict management. Not as a substitute for an agreement, but as a dramatic step forward, so that at the end of the road we might have a final status agreement.”

**Brig. Gen. (Res.) Michael Herzog**, Milton Fine International Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy:

“It would be very difficult to bridge the differences on core issues. These issues touch the core of the national narrative. I am very skeptical that the two current leaderships can achieve agreement on core issues.”

**Dr. Yoaz Hendel**, Chairman, Institute for Zionist Strategy:

Handel argued that a peace agreement on the lines of the two-state solution is impossible to achieve at this time. “There are fundamental problems that can’t be solved. Both sides cannot agree on the refugee issue, Jerusalem, or the settlements.”

“We should strive for an interim agreement. If we do not want to continue the status quo, we should create an Israeli initiative and define the limits of the Israeli consensus.”

“I think that Obama is coming to Israel in order to talk to the Israeli people. The Americans understand that after 46 years, new out of the box ideas must be found.”

**Maj. Gen. (res.) Nati Sharoni**, President of the Council for Peace and Security “The ‘67 borders are

defendable. Any border that the state of Israel will determine will be defendable. The strategy may be different, but it would be defendable. The threats we envision are threats that can be protected against in the 67 borders – with or without settlement blocks.”

“The only thing that determines a political possibility for peace is leadership. Leadership is the key, and it could bring the public to believe that peace is possible.”

**Mr. Dani Dayan**, Former Chairman of the Yesha Council:

“We are at an impasse because we said that the aim of the peace process is the two state solution, which does not exist. The problem is not technical. It is that you cannot reconcile the national aspirations of the Zionist movement and those of the Palestinians. There is no theoretical point where the minimal aspirations of the Jewish people and the minimal aspirations of the Palestinian people could meet. The proof is very simple: Ehud Olmert. He is almost religiously believes in the two-state solution and he failed. If Olmert couldn't achieve it – no one can.”

## Italian Foreign Minister tells the Herzliya Conference: “With a nuclear Iran, the rules of the Middle Eastern game would ... change irreversibly.”

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Speaking at the 2013 Herzliya Conference, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, told a packed Herzliya Conference auditorium that even if Iran acted rationally with nuclear weapons they would pose an unacceptable global threat, stating that: “Under its own nuclear umbrella, Teheran would be free to raise and lower the volume of regional tension as best suits its national interest... “With a nuclear Iran, the rules of the Middle Eastern game would not only change overnight; they would change irreversibly.”

The Italian Foreign Minister went on to suggest that: “In the end, however “regional” the trigger, a nuclear crisis will always have a global impact...Should Teheran acquire nuclear capabilities, others would follow and the Middle East - the very doorstep of Europe - would enter this new regional nuclear race.”

Addressing the ongoing bloodshed in Syria he told Herzliya Conference participants: “We can no longer afford delays in our action. No example is better than Syria to remind us that the Assad regime and its allies do not necessarily act under similar constraints. We are witnessing the emergence of fast-rising economic and military powers, in different regions, which pursue their interest with the power of a State and the flexibility of a non-state actor. These are decades of asymmetric diplomacy.”

He concluded by pointing to Israel as a regional stabilizer stating that “Israel not only lies at their geographical center. It is also at their frontline. As the dust settles, and room grows for new ideas, Israel will be the first and foremost engine of a new path towards a more secure and peaceful Middle East.”

# "Israel is the number one job creator in the Western World, MK Dr. Yuval Steinitz"

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Minister of Finance, Yuval Steinitz addresses the Herzliya Conference about Israel's economic state in his last few days as an active governmental official.

By creating a bi-annual budget at the height of the crisis, Israel has been able to gradually decrease the unemployment rate, whereas Europe's keeps increasing. In times of crisis, a bi-annual budget shows long term planning and not just short term solutions.

"Israel has the largest drop rate (of debt product ratio) from all the countries in the west." Although Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland have managed to decrease their debt product ratio as well, Israel's ratio dropped over 6%.

In regards to the new government, Steinitz said, "Look back proudly but look forward with concern." The economy is in a good state but the budget is complex. "I am not underestimating the deficit in any way. It is still too high and we need to lower it." He continued by saying, "The government has been impregnated and needs to go through labor." Which is to say, it is not an easy task to keep the economy growing but it is possible. There is a difference between the economic budget and the governmental budget. "When the government has it easy, it means the economy has it hard."

# Prof. Stanley Fischer: "We can't allow the interest rates gaps to get too large"

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Our interest rates are very heavily affected by what happens around the world," said Prof. Stanley Fischer, Governor of the Bank of Israel, at the 13th annual Herzliya Conference. One has to look at the "relationship between what's happening in the global economy and its impact on Israel ... One has to do that because we are a small economy ... We talk about our mutual economic relations but mutual does not mean equal."

Prof. Fischer stressed that "We can't allow the interest rates gaps to get too large ... Israel is fortunate in that it realized very early that it didn't have a choice to close itself off to the world economy ... makes no sense in a small economy ... We are dealing with a slightly slower growth than we were expecting to have but this should improve."

Looking ahead, the governor said, "Low interest rates will continue for a very long time." He added that there's a "lot of concern" regarding whether "there is a big shock coming" adding that there only would be such a shock if nobody knew about future interest rate hikes and didn't plan for them. "That should not happen now. The fed has been telling everybody it has to be ready for a change like this" he said but added that this would be unlikely that interest rates would begin to rise before the beginning of 2015 "when I'm safely out of sight."

One of the governor's gripes was with the efficiency of the government and he stressed that something needed to be done "so our government will operate in a more efficient manner." He noted, however, "We have a few efficient ministries," specifically mentioning the finance and defense ministries, "yes, [defense is] strong, it knows how to check out money." He added that in the civil service "we only have people that keep changing ... the political system is not stable ...doesn't help at all in managing the civil sector."

Discussing Fiscal law, Fischer said, "I think this economy has ... to aim for smaller liability. This state is in a very fragile situation ... our situation in the world is a very fragile one. Our situation is not ok. We need to build up reserves ... have the possibility in the time of needs to raise money and recruit funds and we can't do this with big liability." Fischer predicted, "If we go into significant recession, it will jump up and we will be back where we were in 2003" when the government was unable to raise funds "using a reasonable interest rate."

A problem that the government is set to face is that the budget formula that calculates GDP growth permits a 5% rise in government spending ... but the governments total commitments are 10%." This will mean cuts that will be "massively difficult ... politically difficult." But he stressed that the danger of not making cuts now was severe.

Echoing past messages, Fischer emphasized the importance of the ultra-Orthodox and Arab populations joining the work force. He said that Israel's serious poverty problem was concentrated among these two populations and that the ultra-Orthodox only had 40% of its male population in the work force, which translated to only a 4% rise in growth.

A long-time criticism of Fischer's has been the money spent on the defense industry and he again stressed the need to cut this budget, "we spend lots of money on defense."

Through it all, throughout his two addresses, Fischer stressed the success of the Israeli economy which has "been through big shocks" yet "sailed on."

He said that this was a result of "good fundamentals," mainly a result of the string banking systems. "It's very conservative and people don't like that and wish it would take risks" he said, adding that "In 2008 and 2009, our banks were heroes. By 2010, the heroism effect had worn off and the people were complaining."

"This is a very powerful economy with a force of entrepreneurial ability which is absolutely remarkable," Fischer noted. "We need to avoid populism. To think about the longer term of where this populace lives," explain that the definition of populace was doing things which were good for the public in the short run but bad in the long run.

## "The number one priority is to make sure that Israel does not attack Iran," says top former US official at the 2013 Herzliya Conference

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With President Obama's visit only a few days away, the panel titled "Ahead of President Obama's visit to Israel:US-Israel Relations- Quo Voids?" The Honorable Dr. Dov S. Zakheim, Former US Undersecretary of Defense said, "The number one priority is to make sure that Israel does not attack Iran." He explained that there is a misconception in the world that the US is withdrawing from external affairs. Its of the utmost importance that is perception is changed; especially Israel's perception. If Israel thinks this is so, they will take actions without consulting the US. The President is the only person who can dispel this perception that the US is withdrawing; this is why this visit is so important as it will reaffirm US involvement and discussions can move forward on preventing the development of nuclear weapons.

As the discussion continued on Iran, other challenges raised are the instability of the Middle East, the current status of Syria, and the Two State Solution.

Former Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Dore Gold focused on the Middle East that exists at the moment. "If you sign a deal with a country today, you are not sure if its going to be there tomorrow or its leaders will be there tomorrow. Because of this, efforts should not be halted, but the plan for peace needs to be rethought

and changed. However, his certainty is in a bipartisan approach. "(Being) bipartisan is the key for the Israeli relationship with the US and that should never be compromised."

Ambassador Dan Shapiro, US Ambassador to Israel, reinforced the importance of the world seeing that the US relationship with Israel is as deep as ever and one that nothing will break. "A lot of Israelis are touched. The US President is a big deal. You can see it on the Embassy's Facebook page. Thousands of Israelis are competing for a ticket to Jerusalem." He continued by explaining Israel and the US relationship based on their shared values and principles, especially security wise, but did not add to what President Obama's plans are for when he is here, except for the two state solution, since that is always on the agenda.

Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon discussed the importance of perception and action that follows a perception. "Ambassador Shapiro is trying to lower the expectations (of President Obama's visit) and rightfully so, but i think it would be a missed opportunity if these things (Iranian development of nuclear weapons and Syria) are not discussed.

## Maj. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, IDF Director of Military Intelligence at the Herzliya Conference: Iran and Hezbollah established a 50,000 men army operating in Syria

The Middle East's leading security & policy gathering takes place which wraps up today at the Dan Accadia Hotel in Herzliya

Maj. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, IDF Director of Military Intelligence, spoke today at the 13th annual Herzliya conference. In his speech, Kochavi analyzed the impact of the changes in the Middle East and reviewed key threats to Israel's security in 3 central arenas: Syria, Iran and the Palestinian Authority.

Kochavi discussed the rise of radical Islam in the Middle East, saying that "these Muslim Brotherhood movements work to promote their agenda of Sharia states, as well as to achieve more strategic goals and to strengthen their hold in the power, including in the Gaza strip and Turkey."

Kochavi referred to Syria as a disintegrating state, and expressed his worry of the deterioration in governance and Syria's ability to control its territories. While Assad is losing control of many parts of Syria, Kochavi said, "Assad continues to assert his control Syria's chemical weapons, air force, and military hardware. **Assad is making advance preparations to use chemical weapons. He did not give the order yet, but preparing for it.**"

"The damages of the imminent fall of Syria are very high for both Iran and Hezbollah. Iran is losing a sole ally in the region surrounding Israel. It will lose the ability to transfer weaponry through Syria to Hezbollah. **Iran and Hezbollah are both doing all in their power to assist Assad's regime.** They support Assad operationally on the ground, with strategic consultation, intelligence, weapons, ... Most recently, **they are establishing a popular army trained by Hezbollah and financed by Iran, currently consisting of 50,000 men, with plans to increase to 100,000.** Iran and Hezbollah are also preparing for the day after Assad's fall, when they will use this army to protect their assets and interest in Syria."

On Iran, Kochavi told participants: "Iran's nuclear program is advancing slower then they planned, but it is moving. At their current pace of enrichment of 14 kilograms of uranium per month, Iran would be able **to manufacture 5-6 nuclear bombs, if the order is given.** Iran is making sure not to cross any international red lines because the survival of the regime is the biggest priority." He added, "Iran does not see a high likelihood of an attack on its nuclear facilities by the international community."

Addressing the calm on the Gaza border he said: "The relative peace and quiet that we have experienced in the past few months are only observed because Hamas wishes it. Following the Pillar of Defense operation

Hamas has been deterred, they need to time rehabilitate and need to uphold their deep commitment to Egypt who fostered the agreement.”

In Judea and Samaria, Kochavi said that “the Palestinian street has been turbulent...The economic crisis is a major motivator in this development, and the issue of Palestinian prisoners is genuine as well, in addition to the “price tag” incidents and the lack of hope for a diplomatic solution. However, most events included less than 4000 people. **There is no third Intifada potential here.**”

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The Herzliya Conference is the flagship of the Institute of Policy and Strategy (IPS) at the Lauder School of Government of IDC Herzliya. The Herzliya Conference addresses Israel’s national agenda by encouraging public debate and influencing the country’s public policy planning. This is achieved through convening Israeli and international elite policy makers, conducting cutting edge research, fostering a global network of contacts in a public forum by attracting the best and the brightest to take part in the conference and its discussions.

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For further information contact:

**Steinreich Communications - Tel Aviv Office**

**Jeremy Ruden** – Conference Spokesman - 052-407-0775 – [jruden@scompr.com](mailto:jruden@scompr.com)

**Avi Hyman** – International Media Coordinator – 054-633-0768 – [ahyman@scompr.com](mailto:ahyman@scompr.com)