



3 June 2011

Six Day War Commemoration: *Renewed Possibility of Violence Against Israel*





The “Naksa Day”

The Event

- ❖ “*an-Naksa*” is Arabic for “The Setback”. The event marks the failure of the regional Arab countries to defeat the IDF and destroy the State of Israel.
- ❖ Because this is the first year of its commemoration, it is impossible to predict the exact nature of the demonstrations. However, Israel expects the event to be modeled after the May 2011 “*Nakba Day*” protests, which were extremely violent and widespread.
- ❖ Israel calls on its neighboring countries to keep the peace and to secure the borders against attempted breaches of Israeli sovereign territory.
- ❖ 3 June- “Friday of Loyalty”
- ❖ 5 June- “Sunday of the Fallen”
- ❖ 7 June- “Tuesday of Jerusalem”



For all of the events, Israel expects protests at the borders and at Israeli embassies. In addition, Israel anticipates a march on Al-Aqsa on 7 June.



Current Context

A number of regional factors influence the tone and scale of the planned “*Naksa Day*” events:

- **The PA’s current political strategy:** The Palestinian governments plan to unilaterally declare statehood and procure international recognition in September.

- **Political unrest in the Arab world:** Uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, etc. demanding democratic reform provide an opportunity for “*Naksa Day*” protestors to draw false comparisons between Israel and Arab dictatorships. In addition, regional countries experiencing domestic unrest- Syria in particular- will be tempted to use the demonstrations to distract the international community, as they did during the May 2011 “*Nakba Day*” protests.

- **The reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas:** The agreement could allow Hamas to enhance its status and reach in the West Bank without changing its policy against Israel, as demanded by the International Quartet (recognition of the State of Israel, respect to previous agreement and the denunciation of the use of violence as a political tool).



Tahrir Square



Zahar and Abbas



Current Context

- **The European flotilla to Gaza (planned for end-June):** Such flotillas are intended to provoke violence and break Israel's lawfully imposed security blockade on the Gaza Strip, established to prevent arms smuggling to terrorist groups.
- Sporadic Escalations in rocket fire emanating from the Gaza Strip have caused extensive property damage, injuries and the death of a 16 year-old boy.
- **"Nakba Day" protests:** The May 2011 "Nakba Day" protests were particularly aggressive and could influence the level of violence of the upcoming "Naksa Day" protests.

*Hamas
terrorists
firing
rockets into
Israel*



*Palestinian
demonstrators
during the 2011
"Nakba Day"*



Focal Points

- *“an-Naksa”* (the “setback” in Arabic) is a newly created day of protest instigated by the Palestinian population. The “Naksa Day” demonstrations are the latest addition to a comprehensive strategy intended to de-legitimize the State of Israel.
- The day aims to commemorate the Arab defeat in the 1967 war in which Israel launched a preemptive strike against enemy forces following aggressive actions against it.
- Israel expects relevant UN forces to fulfill their mandate and to reduce potential friction along the borders. In addition, Israel expects its Arab neighbors to exercise control over their borders. During the 2011 “Nakba” protests, the Israeli border was infiltrated by protesters near both Lebanon and Syria. The latter hijacked the events in order to redirect international and domestic attention away from its own internal conflict.
- Israel is intent on maintaining a peaceful state of affairs but reserves the right to preserve its territorial integrity, as well as the obligation to protect its civilians, should the need arise.