

ISRAEL

C1. NAFTALI BENNETT, "THE ISRAEL STABILITY INITIATIVE," FEBRUARY 2012.

This "proposed solution" to the conflict was first circulated in late February 2012 to Israel's political and military elites, who reportedly (Jerusalem Post 2/23) gave it "high praise." Its author, a self-made multimillionaire and a "rising star" in the religious-Zionist-nationalist right, was Netanyahu's chief of staff (2006–8), and for two years (until January 2012) head of the YESHA settlers council. Bennett is also founder and head of the extra-parliamentary movement My Israel. The Israel Stability Initiative is posted on the One State Israel website at www.onestateisrael.com.

Currently, in Israel's marketplace of ideas, only two solutions are being proposed for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They are:

1. The establishment of a Palestinian state on the majority of the territory of Judea and Samaria, or
2. The full annexation of Judea and Samaria including its two million Arab residents.

Yet the public understands that both of these solutions are impractical and would threaten Israel's security, demography, and humanitarian standing.

The time has come to provide a workable and rational solution which serves Israel's interests. This program, which is still a work in progress, does not attempt to solve all of Israel's problems once and for all, recognizing that no such panacea exists. The initiative, while far more modest in its aims, gives Israel three key advantages:

1. Israel will receive vital territories and assets.
2. It will strengthen our standing in the international community by completely neutralizing the "apartheid" argument.
3. It will create stability on the ground, and amongst the people, for decades to come.

The plan relies on a number of senior government ministers (Saar, Kahlon, Katz, and Edelstein), that have

already called for Israel's annexation of specific territories in Judea and Samaria, to actualize their words through concrete action. What separates this plan from others is that it's practical.

The 7-Point Plan for Managing the Arab-Israeli Conflict in Judea and Samaria

1. **Israel unilaterally extending sovereignty over Area C:** Through this initiative, Israel will secure vital interests: providing security to Jerusalem and the Gush Dan Region, protecting Israeli communities, and maintaining sovereignty over our National Heritage Sites. The world will not recognize our claim to sovereignty, as it does not recognize our sovereignty over the Western Wall, the Ramot and Gilo neighborhoods of Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. Yet eventually the world will adjust to the de facto reality. Further, the areas coming under Israel's sovereignty will create territorial contiguity and will include the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, Ariel, Maale Adumim, the mountains above Ben Gurion Airport, and all of the Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria. As a result, residents of Tel Aviv, the Gush Dan Region, Jerusalem, and Israel will live in full security, protected against threats from the east.
2. **Full naturalization of the 50,000 Arabs living in Area C:** This will counter any claims of apartheid. Currently there are 350,000 Jewish residents, and only 50,000 Arab residents of Area C. Irrespective of religion, all residents of the area will receive full citizenship. Based on this outline, no Arabs or Jews will be evicted or expelled from their properties.
3. **Full PA [Palestinian Authority] autonomy in Areas A and B with the free flow of people and goods between all PA-controlled territories:** Palestinians will be able to travel freely anywhere in Judea and Samaria without checkpoints and soldiers stopping them. We don't like long traffic jams, and

understandably neither do they. This contiguity can be achieved with a one-time investment of hundreds of millions of dollars. This will not create separate roads for Jews and Arabs. Instead, it will eliminate all obstructions to the free flow of traffic at critical junctions, in a safe and secure manner. Today, Arabs and Jews in Judea and Samaria use the same roads and this should continue. As this will also improve the lives of the Palestinians, it will deflect unnecessary international and humanitarian pressure off Israel.

4. **Palestinian refugees from Arab countries will not enter into Judea and Samaria:** This is in contrast to the currently discussed framework, under which millions of Palestinian refugees from Arab countries would be absorbed into a Palestinian state. Unfortunately, Prime Minister Netanyahu in his Bar Ilan speech accepted this notion. This is a fatal mistake that will lead to an irreversible demographic disaster. As soon as millions of refugees from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and other Arab countries flood into Judea and Samaria, there will be no going back. Descendants of the refugees should be absorbed into the countries where they currently reside, and will not be allowed to move west of the Jordan River.
5. **A full Israeli security umbrella for all of Judea and Samaria:** The success of the initiative is conditional on keeping the territories peaceful and quiet. Peace can only be achieved with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] maintaining a strong presence in, and complete security control over, Judea and Samaria. If the IDF leaves, Hamas will rapidly infiltrate the area. This is how Hamas took control of Gaza, and how Hizballah took control of southern Lebanon.
6. **The separation of Gaza from Judea and Samaria:** In contrast to the idea of creating a "safe passage," we must recognize that there is no connection between

Gaza and Judea and Samaria. If such a connection were forged, it would bring the violence, instability, and problems of Gaza into the currently calm areas of Judea and Samaria. Gaza is also gradually becoming closer to, and more dependent on, Egypt. This process is ongoing and Gaza is not our responsibility. After all, when Israel expelled 8,000 Jews forcibly from their homes in Gush Katif, and pulled back to the last inch, Israel received a Hamas state and thousands of rockets in return. Now the burden is being passed to Egypt.

7. **Massive economic investment in coexistence on the ground:** This would include building interchanges, the improvement of infrastructure, and the supporting of joint industrial zones. Peace is a bottom-up initiative that can best be achieved through people who want to live their everyday lives. Instead of money going to the fruitless diplomatic cocktails of Oslo, Geneva, and Camp David, it could be used to produce substantial change and improvements on the ground. One prominent example would be at the Hizma Junction, in the Benjamin region, which has long been lacking a proper interchange. As a result, every morning thousands of Israelis and Palestinians sit through unnecessary traffic jams, while the neglectful uptake of such roads is also the cause of many traffic accidents.

Today, there is no great love between the Arabs and Jews of Judea and Samaria. Yet both sides have already come to the understanding that the other isn't going away. Therefore, instead of continuing to spend our time, energy, and resources on solutions that only lead to frustration and violence, we can instead focus on practical steps that will improve people's lives and stabilize the situation. The time has come for fresh ideas that shift from conflict resolution to conflict management. The time has come for Israel to take the initiative.