

## Virtual Roundtables

### The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Headed to Court – Coping with the Challenge and Potential Consequences

Monday, 12 April 2021, 3-5:20 PM CET / 4-6:20 PM Israel / 9-11:20 AM ET

### Biographies

#### Opening remarks:



#### **Dr Arié Bensemhoun**

Dr Arié Bensemhoun has been the Chief Executive Officer of ELNET-France since 2011. He is also the Chairman of the Jewish Community of Toulouse, and a member of the National Board of the Unified Jewish Social Fund (FSJU) and Central Consistory Board. He is dentist by profession and made his career in the private sector as a consultant in communications, PR and international relations dealing with Middle Eastern and strategic affairs. Dr Bensemhoun plays a crucial role in the French-Israeli relationship through his commitment both at the community and political levels.

#### Keynotes speeches:



#### **Prof. Irwin Cotler**

Prof. Irwin Cotler intervened in landmark Charter of Rights cases in the areas of free speech, freedom of religion, minority rights, peace law and war crimes justice. Prof. Cotler initiated the first-ever comprehensive reform of the Supreme Court appointment process and helped make it the most gender-representative Supreme Court in the world. He is Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in Iran; Inter-Parliamentary Group of Justice for Sergei Magnitsky; and All-Party Save Darfur Parliamentary Coalition. Prof. Cotler has served as Counsel to prisoners of conscience including Andrei Sakharov & Nathan, Nelson Mandela, Jacobo Timmerman, Prof Saad Eddin Ibrahim. He is the recipient of eleven honorary doctorates, and numerous awards.



## **Justice Elyakim Rubinstein**

Justice Elyakim Rubinstein is the Former Deputy President of the Supreme Court of Israel. Prior to his role as a Supreme Court Justice, Justice Rubinstein served as the Attorney General of Israel where he participated in negotiations with Syria, in the Camp David Summit, and as the head of the Israeli delegation to numerous conferences about intolerance and antisemitism. Earlier in his career, he served as Legal Counsel to the Ministry of Defense and Assistant to the Prime Minister, and simultaneously as chair of the Committee supervising negotiations on Agreements for implementation of the Peace Treaty with Jordan. He also worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Director-General, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Minister (Deputy Chief of Mission) in Washington, D.C. He participated in the negotiations on the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty at Camp David and Washington, negotiations on normalization of the relations with Egypt and on Palestinian autonomy, negotiations with Lebanon on the 1983 Agreement, and negotiations on strategic cooperation with the United States. Justice Rubinstein graduated cum laude from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, with Bachelor's degrees in Hebrew Language and Arabic Literature and Language and in Law and obtained a Master's degree cum laude in Contemporary Jewry.

## **Part I: The Legal Dimension**



## **Amb. François Zimeray**

Ambassador François Zimeray is a former Member of European Parliament, French Ambassador to Denmark, and French Ambassador-at-large for Human Rights. He has specialised in both international commercial and international human rights law. Practising before both national and international courts, including the International Criminal Court and the European Court of Human Rights, he has worked on a range of complex legal challenges. Amb. Zimeray has been a Member of the International Criminal Bar, was admitted as expert in the French Institute for international legal experts (IFEJI) and founded in Paris the *Alliance des Avocats pour les droits de l'Homme*. As an MEP, Amb. Zimeray was particularly active in the Legal Affairs committee. As the French Ambassador-at-large for Human Rights, Amb. Zimeray became France's highest ranking diplomat for human rights, a position he assumed over five years, serving two presidents. In 2013, he was appointed Ambassador to Denmark. On 14 February 2015, soon after the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, he survived a bloody terror attack in Copenhagen. Educated at Paris-II Assas University and Paris Criminology Institute, François Zimeray was admitted to the Paris Bar in 1987 and practised for 20 years at the leading Paris law firm, Jeantet.



### **Dr Christophe Eick**

Dr Christophe Eick is the Director-General for Legal Affairs, Legal Adviser, of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin since July 2018. Previously, he was the Director for Human Rights, International Development and Social Affairs of the German Federal Foreign Office (2017-2018). Dr Eick was the Minister, Deputy Head of Mission, in the German Embassy in Beijing and the Minister Plenipotentiary for Political Affairs and Security Council Political Coordinator in the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York. Dr Eick held several positions in the International Law Division of the German Foreign Office and was part of German Federal Foreign Office missions to NATO and Spain. He holds a PhD in Law (Professor Tomuschat) from Bonn and a LL.M. from McGill University in Montreal.



### **Dr Tal Becker**

Dr Tal Becker serves as the legal adviser of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has been a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team in successive rounds of negotiations. Most recently, he was instrumental in negotiating and drafting the historic agreements between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. He has years of experience on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges as a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative for Israel, in a wide variety of contexts, including in relation to the International Criminal Court. Dr. Becker is also Israel's candidate in the upcoming elections to the International Law Commission.

### **Moderator:**



### **Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch**

Colonel (res.) Adv. Pnina Sharvit Baruch is a senior research fellow at the Israel Institute for National Security Studies (INSS). She retired from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in 2009 after twenty years in the International Law Department, heading the Department from 2003. In this capacity, she was a senior legal advisor responsible for advising IDF commanders and decision makers at the governmental level on a wide variety of issues relating to international law and administrative law, among them: the laws of armed conflict and occupation of territory; naval law; counter-terrorism; security liaison; border demarcation; and conflict resolution. She commanded the operational legal advisors at the IDF. Adv. Sharvit Baruch also served as a legal advisor in Israel's delegations to negotiations with the Palestinians and participated in the negotiations with Syria. Adv. Sharvit Baruch holds an LL.B. degree and an LL.M. degree, both from Tel Aviv University.

## Part II: The Geo-political Dimension



### **Michal Cotler-Wunsh**

Michal Cotler-Wunsh is a former Member of the Knesset for the Blue and White party. During her time in Knesset, she was the first ever Liaison on Matters Related to the ICC, served as Chair of the Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Use, and as a member of the Law, Children's Rights, Women's Rights, and Immigration and Integration Committees. Prior to becoming a Member of Knesset, Michal served as a research fellow at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at IDC Herzliya. She was also a dedicated legal advisor to the Goldin family, working for the return of deceased Israeli soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul as well as Israeli civilians Avera Mangistu and Hisham al-Sayed. She received her LL.B. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her LL.M. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She is a PhD candidate in the Human Rights under Pressure - Ethics, Law and Politics program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Freie Universität of Berlin.



### **Brig. Gen. (ret.) Michael Herzog**

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Michael Herzog is the Director of the Forum of Strategic Dialogue (FSD), an International Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and a Senior Fellow at BICOM and the Jewish People Policy Institute. He retired from active duty in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in late 2010, after a long and distinguished career. His service included heading the Strategic Planning Division of the IDF and working with four ministers of defence as senior military aide and chief of staff. Since 1993, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Herzog has actively participated in nearly all of Israel's peace negotiations with the Palestinian, Syrians and Jordanians, including in the last round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations (2013 to 2014). He recently published an insiders' unique summary of this last round of negotiations.

### **Moderator:**



### **Lahav Harkov**

Lahav Harkov is the Senior Contributing Editor and Diplomatic Correspondent of The Jerusalem Post. Her responsibilities include reporting on and analyzing Israel's relations with the world, the Prime Minister's office, the National Security Council, the Foreign Ministry, and more. She has interviewed major figures across the Israeli political spectrum and is well-connected to the country's top lawmakers and diplomats. She is often invited to lecture on Israeli government and politics, and international news outlets, such as the BBC, France 24 and Sky News have sought her insights and analysis about breaking news. Harkov has a degree in Political Science and Communications from Bar-Ilan University.

## Concluding remarks:



### **H.E. Dennis Ross**

Ambassador Dennis Ross is counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. For more than twelve years, Ambassador Ross played a leading role in shaping US involvement in the Middle East peace process, dealing directly with the parties as the US point man on the peace process in both the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations. He later served two years as special assistant to President Obama and National Security Council senior director for the Central Region, and a year as special advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Ross is the author of several influential books on the peace process, including *Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.-Israel Relationship from Truman to Obama* (2015). His new book, *Be Strong and of Good Courage* (2019), written with his colleague David Makovsky, was published in September of this year. It provides profiles of four Israeli prime ministers – David Ben-Gurion, Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Rabin, and Ariel Sharon – who made historic choices and explores the lessons from those decisions to see if they can provide a guide to dealing with the fateful choice that Israel's leaders must soon confront or by default become a binational state.