



Teaneck USY

# Israel Insight

ישראל מקרוב

## Civil War in the Territories

### News Briefs:

- Former PM Ehud Barak ousts Labor Chairman Amir Peretz, retaking control of the party.
- Member of Knesset and Vice Premier Shimon Peres is elected President of Israel.
- Rockets continue to hit S'derot, while the Israeli Air Force targeted rocket-launching sites. PM Olmert confesses there is no easy solution to the problem, but promises that Israel will persevere.
- The Lebanese Army and militants clash in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon as the government tries to reassert control over the country.

- After several weeks of medium- to high-intensity fighting, Hamas moved quickly to consolidate control of the Gaza Strip. In lightning maneuvers, Hamas forces overran Fatah positions in the territory.
- Hamas leaders have promised the creation of a new "Islamic Republic," raising concerns of religiously moderate Palestinians.
- Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas formally dissolved the government, though Prime Minister Ismail Haniyah, of Hamas, rejected the decree. Thus, the

government has fractured, leaving Gaza under one authority and the West Bank under another.

- Hamas's actions were harshly criticized by the Arab League. Members, most prominently Egypt, "[have] tried -- in fact, tried hard -- to bring the parties together," according to the organization's Secretary-General, Amr Moussa.
- Israeli and US diplomats reaffirmed that they are not willing to negotiate with Hamas, which they classify as a terrorist organization. The US continues to support Abbas's Fatah party.

## USY Israel Summer Programs

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- Eastern Europe/IP: Explore Eastern Europe and commemorate the Jewish community that once prospered there. Then

immerse yourself in the largest Jewish community through IP.

- Poland Seminar/IP: Commemorate the Jewish presence in Poland, then jump into the famous IP.
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[israelhighway.org](http://israelhighway.org)

## UK Boycott Escalates

- A boycott led by British activists, some of whom are Jewish, expanded from a merely goods-based sanction to an academic boycott. The University and College Union implemented the academic boycott against Israel last week.
- Israeli politicians proposed a counter-boycott, an idea which has found support across the political spectrum.

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