

# **COUNTRY FACT SHEET**

## **ISRAEL**

**January 2007**

Research Directorate  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

### **Disclaimer**

This document was prepared by the Research Directorate of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada on the basis of publicly available information, analysis and comment. All sources are cited. This paper is not, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to conditions in the country surveyed or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. For further information on current developments, please contact the Research Directorate.

Research Completed 15 January 2007

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

### **3. POLITICAL PARTIES**

### **4. ARMED GROUPS AND OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS**

### **5. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

## **ENDNOTES**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Official name

State of Israel

### Geography

Located in Western Asia, Israel encompasses 22,145 km<sup>2i</sup> and borders the Mediterranean Sea to the west, Egypt to the southwest, Jordan to the east, Syria to the northeast and Lebanon to the north. The climate is Mediterranean but varies between the fertile coast and the arid Negev Desert.

### Population and density

Population: 6,859,500<sup>ii</sup> (official estimate December 2004).

Density: 317.0 per km<sup>2</sup> (December 2004).

### Principal cities and populations:

Jerusalem (capital)<sup>iii</sup> 706,400; Tel Aviv-Jaffa 371,400; Haifa 268,300; Rishon LeZiyyon 217,400; Ashdod 196,900; Beersheba 184,500; Petach-Tikva 176,200; Netanya 169,400; Holon 165,800; Bnei Beraq 142,300; Bat Yam 130,400; Ramat Gan 127,400 (estimate Dec. 2004).

### Languages

Hebrew and Arabic are the official languages of Israel, while English is the most widely spoken foreign language. However, many European languages are also used, including Russian with over a million speakers.

### Religions

Jewish 76%, Muslim 16%, Christian 2%, Druze 2%, unclassified 4%.

### Ethnic groups

Jewish 76% (comprising of Israeli-born 67%, European/American-born 23%, African-born 6%, Asian-born 4%); non-Jewish 24% (Arab 20%; non-Arab 4%).

### Demographics (2006 estimate unless otherwise indicated)

Population growth rate: 1.18%.

Infant mortality rate: 6.89 deaths/1,000 live births.

Life expectancy at birth: 79.46 years.

Fertility rate: 2.41 children born/woman.

Literacy rate (% aged 15 and older who can read and write): 95.4% (2003).

---

<sup>i</sup> Includes East Jerusalem (annexed in June 1967) and the Golan Heights (annexed in December 1981).

<sup>ii</sup> Includes the population of East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Israeli residents of areas under Israeli military control.

<sup>iii</sup> Israel considers Jerusalem its capital city, but the United Nations (UN) does not recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

## **Currency**

New Israeli Shekel

ILS 3.64 = CAD 1.00<sup>1</sup>

## **National holidays**

The Jewish Sabbath begins every Friday at sunset and ends at nightfall on Saturday.

**2006:** 12-18 April (Pesach, Passover - public holidays on first and last days of festival), 2 May (Yom Ha'atzmaut, Independence Day), 1 June (Shavuot, Feast of Weeks), 22-23 September (Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year), 1 October (Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement), 6-12 October (Succot, Feast of the Tabernacles).

**2007:** 2-8 April (Pesach, Passover - public holidays on first and last days of festival), 22 April (Yom Ha'atzmaut, Independence Day), 22 May (Shavuot, Feast of Weeks), 12-13 September (Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year), 21 September (Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement), 26 September - 2 October (Succot, Feast of the Tabernacles).<sup>iv</sup>

## **Head of state**

President Moshe Katsav (since 1 August 2000)

## **Head of government**

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (since 4 May 2006)

## **Form of government**

Israel is an independent republic under a multiparty parliamentary regime. The President, who performs a mostly ceremonial role, is the constitutional Head of State and is usually elected by the Parliament (Knesset) for a five-year term, although current President Moshe Katsav was elected for seven years. The Cabinet, led by the Prime Minister, holds executive power but can only assume office after winning a vote of confidence from the Knesset. Ministers are usually, though not always, members of the Knesset.

## **Legislative structure**

Israel's unicameral Knesset is comprised of 120 seats and its members are elected by universal suffrage for four years (but subject to dissolution), according to a system of proportional representation, in which no party has ever earned a majority of seats.

## **Administrative divisions**

Israel is divided into six administrative districts (*mehozot*), each headed by a district commissioner appointed by the central government. The districts, along with their populations as of December 2004, are Central (1,613,700), Haifa (851,600), Jerusalem (831,900), Northern (1,166,800), Southern (985,100) and Tel Aviv (1,176,600). At the local level, there are 31 municipalities (of which two are Arab), 115 local councils (of

---

<sup>iv</sup> Jewish festivals begin in the evening of the dates listed; Islamic and Christian holidays are observed by Arabs belonging to these respective communities.

which 46 are Arab and Druze) and 49 regional councils (of which one is Arab), representing 700 villages.

### **Judicial system**

Within the Ministry of Justice, there are various separate and independent Israeli courts of law. Among these are the Supreme Court (which also sits as the High Court of Justice), five District Courts (which hear major civil or criminal cases), and 29 Magistrates Courts (which have jurisdiction in civil or criminal cases where the maximum penalty does not exceed a million shekels or seven years imprisonment, respectively). Judges are selected by a nine-member committee representing all three branches of government. Tribunals outside the general law courts, such as military courts, labour courts and religious courts, are supervised by the Supreme Court.

### **Elections**

The 120 Knesset seats are selected by elections that are general, national, direct, equal, secret and proportional. Unless a court has ruled otherwise, every Israeli citizen of 18 years or over has the right to vote in elections to the Knesset, and any Israeli citizen of 21 years or over may be elected to the Knesset. The following are the results of the most recent elections, for the 17<sup>th</sup> Knesset:

Kadima 29 seats, Labor-Meimad 19 seats, Shas 12 seats, Likud 12 seats, Israel Beytenu 11 seats, National Union-National Religious Party 9 seats, Pensioners' Party 7 seats, United Torah Judaism 6 seats, Meretz 5 seats, United Arab List 4 seats, Hadash 3 seats, Balad 3 seats.

### **Defence**

Service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is compulsory for Jews and Druzes, but voluntary for Christians, Circassians and Muslims. However, deferments may be granted in some circumstances. For instance, the Tal Law exempts Haredi Jews<sup>v</sup> from military service if they are pursuing full-time religious studies. Compulsory service is 36 months for men and 24 months for women.

In August 2005, the regular armed forces were estimated at 168,300 personnel, including 105,000 conscripts, with the following breakdown:

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Army:      | 125,000 |
| Navy:      | 8,300   |
| Air Force: | 35,000  |

In addition, full mobilization to 576,300 troops can be rapidly achieved with 408,000 reserves. Israel also counted some 8,050 paramilitary troops.

---

<sup>v</sup> Many scholars differentiate between two groups of Orthodox Jews: Modern Orthodox and Haredi (ultra-Orthodox), the latter of whom are further divided into Hasidim, Mitnaggdim (opponents of Hasidism) and Sephardic/Oriental Haredim. Haredi Jews reject some modern trends, which can be seen, for example, in their distinctive dress.

The 2005 defence budget was ILS 34.3 billion (CAD 9.45 billion).<sup>2</sup>

### **Media**

Israeli media is free and censorship is generally limited to security matters. The Associated Israel Press (*Itonut Yisrael Me'uchedet* - ITIM) is the main domestic news agency. The Israel Broadcasting Authority (*Reshut Hashidur Hayisra'elit*) is a commercial but government-controlled radio and television service, providing programming in 16 languages. Radio and television services are owned and operated by the government, except for some cable television outlets.

All Israeli newspapers are privately owned but most are subsidized by political parties, religious organizations or public funds. The main daily newspapers include (in alphabetical order): *al-Itihad* (Arabic), *al-Quds* (Arabic), *Davar* (Hebrew), *Globes* (Hebrew), *Haaretz* (Hebrew), *Hatzofeh* (Hebrew), *The Jerusalem Post* (English), *Maariv* (Hebrew), *Nasha Strana* (Russian), and *Yedioth Ahronoth* (Hebrew).

In 2003, there were approximately 2.4 million television receivers, 1.6 million personal computers, and 2.0 million internet users in Israel.

### **United Nations Human Development Index and Country Rank<sup>vi</sup>**

Value: 0.927/1 (2004).

Rank: 23 out of 177 countries.

### **Gender-related Development Index and Country Rank<sup>vii</sup>**

Value: 0.925 (2004).

Rank: 22 out of 177 countries.

### **Population below the national poverty line**

21% (2005)

### **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)<sup>viii</sup>**

Score: 5.9/10 (2006)

Rank: 34 out of 163 countries surveyed (2006).

### **Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)<sup>ix</sup>**

---

<sup>vi</sup> The HDI is a composite measurement of human development in a country, based on life expectancy, levels of literacy and education, and standard of living. Values are: 0.800 and higher (high human development), 0.500-0.799 (medium human development) and 0.500 and under (low human development). Countries are ranked in descending according to their HDI scores.

<sup>vii</sup> The GDI adjusts the rating of the HDI to reflect inequalities between men and women.

<sup>viii</sup> The Transparency International CPI is based on composite survey data from 16 polls and 10 independent institutions. The data reflects the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country analysts. Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (highly clean). According to their score, countries are ranked in order from least corrupt (1) to most corrupt (159).

<sup>ix</sup> The Transparency International GCB is a public opinion survey used to gauge people's perceptions of corruption within their own state. Scores range from 1 (not corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt).

Political parties 4.2, parliament/legislature 3.8, business/private sector 3.2, police 3.3, legal system/judiciary 2.8, media 3.1, tax revenue 3.0, medical services 2.9, education system 2.6, military 2.2, utilities 3.1, registry and permit services 3.0, NGOs 3.2, religious bodies 3.6.

[Information compiled from: *Boston Globe* 26 Mar. 2006, BBC 16 Dec. 2006; Canada 28 Dec. 2006; *ibid.* 27 Dec. 2006; *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 2006, 2308-2346; *The Globe and Mail* 28 Mar. 2006; Israel 1 Oct. 2006a; *ibid.* 1 Oct. 2006b; *ibid.* 1 Oct. 2006c; *ibid.* 1 Oct. 2006d; *ibid.* 1 Aug. 2005; *Political Handbook of the World 2007* (PHW 2007) Oct. 2006, 590-608; *Political Parties of the World 2005*, 321-330; Transparency International (TI) 7 Dec. 2006; *ibid.* 2006; UN 2006; US 19 Dec. 2006; *ibid.* 15 Sept. 2006; *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices 2006*, 462-468]

## 2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

### **Beginning of the Second Intifada (2000)**

In July 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and US President Bill Clinton at Camp David, Maryland for a "make-or-break" summit.<sup>3</sup> The major impasse involved disagreements over the final status of Jerusalem, including sovereignty over the city's holiest sites, such as the Temple Mount.<sup>4</sup> In September 2000, Likud party leader Ariel Sharon controversially visited the Temple Mount, a site sacred to both Jews and Muslims, leading to severe rioting by Palestinians which eventually spread throughout the Palestinian territories.<sup>5</sup> In October 2000, peace negotiations collapsed with the ushering in of the Second Intifada (uprising) and the highly mechanized response of the Israeli army, fighting which, by the end of the year, led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries.<sup>6</sup>

### **New government (2001)**

On 6 February 2001, Ariel Sharon was elected Prime Minister of Israel, defeating Ehud Barak, who promptly resigned as the leader of the Israel Labor Party.<sup>7</sup> After his election win, Sharon announced that he would not resume negotiations with the Palestinian Authority (PA), and refused to end a blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.<sup>8</sup> The escalation of violence continued throughout 2001, with Palestinian militants conducting many suicide bombings and Israel retaliating by launching missiles and sending tanks into the Palestinian Territories.<sup>9</sup> Rechavam Ze'evi, Israeli Minister of Tourism, was assassinated by a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP), allegedly in retaliation over the recent assassination of the PLFP's leader.<sup>10</sup> In October 2001, Sharon called Arafat personally responsible for the assassination and cut all contact with the PA.<sup>11</sup> By December 2001, from his besieged compound in Ramallah,<sup>12</sup> Arafat called on Palestinian groups to respect a ceasefire and conceded flexibility on the Palestinian "refugee question."<sup>13</sup>

### **Escalating tensions (2002)**

Frequent attacks perpetrated by Palestinian militants in early 2002 led to a massive military response by the Israeli army, which took control over much of the West Bank.<sup>14</sup>

When this failed to bring an end to the suicide bombings, Sharon ordered the construction of a "security fence" around the West Bank and called Arafat an "enemy."<sup>15</sup> In March 2002, a Hamas suicide bomber killed 30 Israelis and left 140 injured during a Passover celebration in Netanya; this prompted weeks of intense fighting between Israeli troops and Palestinians in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin, an alleged militant base.<sup>16</sup> In May, Arafat was freed from his compound after the PA handed over four men accused of assassinating Minister Ze'evi.<sup>17</sup> However, Israel accused Arafat of sheltering 20 Palestinian militants and began demolishing his Ramallah compound in September 2002.<sup>18</sup>

### **The "roadmap" (2003)**

Despite a relatively poor voter turnout, Israel's 28 January 2003 elections confirmed the popularity of Sharon and his Likud party, which created a coalition government together with one secularist and three right-wing parties.<sup>19</sup> The election, which had largely revolved around security issues, seemed to indicate a distrust of Labor's peace plans, but Sharon nevertheless indicated a willingness to make "painful concessions" to the Palestinian side.<sup>20</sup> Shortly after Mahmud Abbas was appointed Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority in the spring of 2003, the US unveiled its three-phased "roadmap" for peace, which called for an independent Palestinian state by 2005.<sup>21</sup> The three phases included cessation of attacks by Palestinian militants; the withdrawal of Israel from areas occupied since 2000 and the dismantling of settlements established since 2001; peace talks between Israel, Lebanon and Syria on the borders of the new Palestinian state; and finally, agreement on the status of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees.<sup>22</sup> Despite some initial objections, the Israeli cabinet endorsed the plan and Sharon made the unprecedented admission that Israel was occupying Palestinian land.<sup>23</sup> A renewal of violence in the summer of 2003 involving more suicide attacks by Palestinians and targeted assassination attempts by Israel threatened these initial steps for peace, but the Israeli government dismantled several settlements, released hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and "instigate[d] troop withdrawals" from the West Bank.<sup>24</sup> However, Israel continued in its construction of the barrier citing security concerns, despite pressure from the international community that alleged the wall was an excuse to annex land.<sup>25</sup> Attacks and counterattacks between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants continued throughout the year, leading to more civilian casualties.<sup>26</sup> In the wake of the violence, Sharon announced that unless the PA could reign in militant groups, Israel would step up disengagement efforts, including "accelerating the construction of the 'security fence' in the West Bank."<sup>27</sup>

### **New directions (2004)**

In February 2004, Sharon announced that he was planning to dismantle all Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, housing some 7,500 Israelis.<sup>28</sup> While this step was initially welcomed by the Palestinian leadership, the mood changed following Israel's March 2004 assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder and spiritual leader of Hamas, which claimed responsibility for two suicide bombings that killed 10 Israelis in Ashdod on 14 March 2004.<sup>29</sup> The mandate of Yassin's replacement, Abd al-Aziz ar-Rantisi, was brief, as he was killed by an Israeli rocket on 17 April 2004.<sup>30</sup> Domestically, opposition to Sharon's disengagement plan intensified, including from within his own Likud party,



as Sharon lost his Knesset majority.<sup>31</sup> In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) called on Israel to remove sections of the West Bank barrier because it had a negative impact on the lives of thousands of Palestinian civilians, but this ruling was rejected by Sharon.<sup>32</sup> In October 2004, the Knesset approved Sharon's plan to close all 21 Jewish settlements in the Gaza strip and several others in the West Bank.<sup>33</sup> Also in October 2004, Israel engaged in a two week-long military operation in Gaza that killed 135 Palestinians and destroyed 95 homes, in response to a Hamas rocket attack that killed two Israeli children in Sderot.<sup>34</sup> Following the death of Yasser Arafat in November 2004, Mahmoud Abbas assumed the leadership of the PA.<sup>35</sup> In December 2004, Labor agreed to join a coalition with Likud, which was rapidly losing support in the Knesset.<sup>36</sup>

### **Sharm esh-Shekh and disengagement (2005)**

Notably, in February 2005, Sharon, Abbas, Egyptian President Mubarak and King Abdullah of Jordan convened a summit at Sharm esh-Sheikh, where Sharon and Abbas shook hands and agreed to end hostilities between their two peoples; additionally, Israel announced that it would release some 900 Palestinian prisoners in several phases.<sup>37</sup> Despite several bilateral challenges to the resumption of peace talks, in mid-March, 13 armed Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, announced a cease-fire until the end of 2005, and by early June 2005, Israel had released some 900 Palestinian prisoners.<sup>38</sup> In June and July 2005, violence erupted between Islamic Jihad and Hamas on the one hand, which launched several attacks against Israeli targets, and Israeli forces on the other, which resumed targeted assassination attempts, mass arrests and sealed off the Palestinian Territories.<sup>39</sup> By the end of July, however, the cease-fire was reinstated.<sup>40</sup> The disengagement of the Gaza Strip was successfully completed on 12 September 2005 when the last Israeli soldiers left the territory.<sup>41</sup> However, shortly after the withdrawal, Hamas carried out a number of rocket attacks against Israel from the Gaza Strip, and Israel responded with air-strikes; both the security situation and relations between Israel and the PA subsequently deteriorated.<sup>42</sup> On 21 November 2005, Sharon announced the creation of a new party, Kadima (Forward), explaining that continuous political opposition within Likud was blocking progress on the "roadmap" plans for peace with the Palestinians.<sup>43</sup> One Knesset member from Labor joined fourteen from Likud to form the new party.<sup>44</sup> As a majority of the Knesset was now opposed to the government, the legislature was dissolved on 8 December 2005 and new elections were scheduled for 28 March 2006.<sup>45</sup>

### **Changes of leadership (early 2006)**

On 4 January 2006, Ariel Sharon suffered a severe stroke and was rushed to hospital, where doctors announced that he was unlikely ever to recover.<sup>46</sup> As of 4 January 2007, Sharon remained comatose and his prospects for recovery have not improved.<sup>47</sup> After Sharon became incapacitated, Ehud Olmert was immediately appointed acting premier.<sup>48</sup> In mid-January 2006, Hamas won a majority in the Palestinian legislative elections; Olmert said he would not deal with an organization which called for the destruction of Israel, although he later suggested that plans to unilaterally separate Israel from the Palestinian Territories within four years would be undertaken only if an internationally backed peace plan with Hamas failed.<sup>49</sup> While Israel took several measures to weaken the Hamas-led government, Hamas reiterated that it would never recognize Israel's right to

exist, but pledged to renew a year long ceasefire as long as Israel did the same.<sup>50</sup> Kadima, led by Ehud Olmert, won the elections to the Knesset on 28 March 2006.<sup>51</sup> Olmert was able to form a majority government in early May 2006, when Knesset members from Labor-Meimad, Shas and the Pensioner's Party joined his administration.<sup>52</sup>

### **War in Lebanon (mid-2006)**

In June 2006, Palestinian militants abducted an Israeli soldier leading Israel to make its first incursion into Gaza since its disengagement a year earlier.<sup>53</sup> In the same month, Hezbollah abducted two Israeli soldiers while conducting a cross-border raid from Lebanon.<sup>54</sup> Israel responded by launching air raids on Hezbollah-controlled southern Lebanon as well as Beirut and other cities, targeting civilian infrastructure such as bridges, power plants and the Beirut airport.<sup>55</sup> Meanwhile, Hezbollah fired four thousand rockets into Israel.<sup>56</sup> On 14 August 2006, a cease-fire came into force and Israeli troops began to leave southern Lebanon.<sup>57</sup> In five weeks of fighting, some 1,109 Lebanese civilians were killed, 3,697 were wounded and 915,762 were displaced.<sup>58</sup> On the Israeli side, some 116 soldiers and 43 civilians were killed, 2,675 were injured and roughly 500,000 were displaced.<sup>59</sup>

### **End of 2006**

In November 2006, Israel responded to rocket attacks from Gaza by shelling the town of Beit Hanoun, located on the Gaza strip, killing dozens of militants and civilians.<sup>60</sup> A cease-fire signed on 26 November 2006 between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza was of limited use since rocket attacks and Israeli reprisals continued.<sup>61</sup> By December 2006, factional violence in Gaza between Fatah and Hamas militants was threatening to worsen civil strife.<sup>62</sup>

B'tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, released the following figures on fatalities between the onset of the Al-Aqsa Intifada in September 2000 and the end of 2006:

#### **Fatalities inside Israel**

553 Israelis (466 civilians, including 80 minors, in addition to 87 military personnel) and 61 Palestinians (including 2 minors).<sup>63</sup>

#### **Fatalities inside the Occupied Territories**

3,985 Palestinians (including 809 minors) and 464 Israelis (235 civilians, including 39 minors, in addition to 229 military personnel).<sup>64</sup>

## **3. POLITICAL PARTIES**

### **Government and Government-Supportive Parties**

**Kadima (Forward):** Alternately considered centrist<sup>65</sup> and liberal,<sup>66</sup> Kadima was created in November 2005 by Ariel Sharon as a breakaway faction from Likud.<sup>67</sup> Kadima aims to continue the roadmap to peace with the Palestinians, seeking unilateral withdrawal from the Palestinian Territories if necessary, as well as to fight socio-economic problems at home.<sup>68</sup> Kadima won the highest number of seats (29 out of 120) in the March

2006 elections.<sup>69</sup> Prominent Kadima members include Tzipi Livni (Deputy Prime Minister), Shimon Peres (Vice Prime Minister) and Dalia Itzik (Speaker).<sup>70</sup> The leader of Kadima is Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Israel.<sup>71</sup>

**Israel Labor Party (*Mifleget Ha'avoda Ha'yisra'elit*, ILP):** Labor was formed in 1968 as a Zionist democratic socialist party.<sup>72</sup> In November 2005, left-leaning union leader Amir Peretz replaced Shimon Peres as the new leader of Labor, vowing to emphasize the party's domestic socialist roots.<sup>73</sup> Labor won the second highest number of seats (19 out of 120) in Israel's 2006 general elections.<sup>74</sup> Amir Peretz is currently the Chair of the Party, and Eitan Cabel is the General Secretary.<sup>75</sup>

**Meimad (Dimension):** Meimad was founded in 1988 as a moderate democratic Jewish party<sup>76</sup> that separated from the National Religious Party (NRP) by members who considered the NRP too right-leaning.<sup>77</sup> Meimad, an Orthodox Zionist party that supports the peace process, ran in coalition with Labor during the March 2006 elections.<sup>78</sup> The leaders of Meimad are Rabbi Michael Melchior and Rabbi Yehuda Amital.<sup>79</sup>

**Shas (*Shomrei Torah Sephardim*, Sephardi Torah Guardians):** Founded in 1984 as an offshoot from Agudat Yisrael, Shas is a Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Sephardic party.<sup>80</sup> Shas won 12 seats out of 120 in the March 2006 elections, and joined the Kadima-led coalition government two months later.<sup>81</sup> Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is the Spiritual Leader of Shas, and Eliyahu Yishai is the Party Chair as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Israel.<sup>82</sup>

**Pensioners' Party (*Gimla'ey Yisrael LaKneset*, Gil):** A small, domestically-oriented party, the Pensioners' Party advocates for pensioners' rights, including better housing and increased national health insurance expenditures.<sup>83</sup> The Party won 7 seats and 6 percent of the vote in the March 2006 elections, surprising many experts, and went on to join the Kadima-led governing coalition in May 2006.<sup>84</sup> The leader of the Pensioner's Party is Rafael Eitan, who is also the Minister for Pensioner Affairs.<sup>85</sup>

### **Opposition Parties**

**Likud (*Likud-Liberalim Leumi*, Unity-National Liberal Party):** Founded in September 1973 as the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist idea,<sup>86</sup> Likud aims to retain post-1922 mandatory Palestine territory, integrate immigrants, and promote freedom, justice, economic development and the improvement of the environment.<sup>87</sup> In December 2005, Benjamin Netanyahu became Likud leader, replacing Ariel Sharon, who had gone on to form his own party, Kadima.<sup>88</sup> Likud is opposed to Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip.<sup>89</sup> Likud lost 26 seats in the March 2006 Knesset ballot, ending with 12 seats out of 120; these poor results were attributed to the creation of Kadima which pushed Likud to the right of the political spectrum, and to the unpopularity of Netanyahu's neoliberal economic policies.<sup>90</sup> The leaders of Likud are Moshe Katzav (President of the State of Israel) and Benjamin Netanyahu (Party Chair).<sup>91</sup>

**National Religious Party (NRP) (*Mifleget Datit Leumit*, Mafdal):** A religious Zionist party, the NRP was formed in 1956 through the merger of two parties, *Mizrachi* and *Mizrachi Workers*.<sup>92</sup> The NRP, which has over 120,000 members<sup>93</sup> and is considered the

mouthpiece of Jewish settlers in the Palestinian Territories,<sup>94</sup> opposes territorial concessions in the West Bank, seeking a "Greater Israel" governed according to Jewish law.<sup>95</sup> In Israel's March 2006 elections, the NRP campaigned on a list with the National Union and won a combined total of 9 seats out of 120.<sup>96</sup> The NRP is led by Zevulun Orlev (Chair), Effi Eitam and Shalom Jerbi (Secretary General).<sup>97</sup>

**National Union (*Halchud HaLeumi*):** The right-wing National Union was formed in 1999 through the union of three parties: Moledet, Tequma and New Herut.<sup>98</sup> However, today the party comprises Moledet, Tekuma and the Renewed Religious National Zionist Party (see below).<sup>99</sup> Like the NRP, the National Union strives for an undivided "Greater Israel" run according to Jewish religious precepts.<sup>100</sup> In February 2005, two members of the NRP joined the National Union for what they considered insufficient resistance by the NRP over the Gaza disengagement.<sup>101</sup> Running in a coalition with the NRP, the National Union won 9 seats out of 120 in the March 2006 legislative elections.<sup>102</sup> The National Union is led by Rabbi Binyamin (Benny) Elon.<sup>103</sup>

**Moledet (Homeland):** Founded in 1988 by Rechavam Ze'evi, Moledet is an "ultra-Zionist" secular party which calls for the full annexation of the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Golan Heights<sup>104</sup> and the ouster of their Arab inhabitants.<sup>105</sup> Moledet is led by Benny Elon.<sup>106</sup>

**Tekuma (Revival):** In 1998, spiritual leaders and activists among Jewish settlers founded Tekuma, which is led by Rabbi Menahem Felibus, Uri Ariel, Benny Katzover and Zvi Hendel.<sup>107</sup>

**Renewed Religious National Zionist Party:** A right-wing religious Zionist party that broke away from the NRP before the 2006 Knesset elections and is led by Ephraim Eitam and Yitzhak Levi.<sup>108</sup>

**United Torah Judaism (*Yahadut Hatorah*, UTJ):** Formed in 1992, UTJ represents an Ashkenazic Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) constituency and advocates a government run according to Jewish religious precepts.<sup>109</sup> A coalition of Agudat Israel and Degel Hatorah (described below), UTJ won 6 out of 120 seats in the 2006 Israeli elections.<sup>110</sup> The coalition is led by Meir Porush (Agudat Israel) and Rabbi Avraham Ravitz (Degel Hatorah).<sup>111</sup>

**Agudat Israel (Union of Israel):** Founded in 1912, Agudat Israel is a mostly Ashkenazic Hasidic party that proposes a religious Jewish state.<sup>112</sup> Originally anti-Zionist, the party won four of the six seats won by UTJ during Israel's March 2006 national elections.<sup>113</sup> Agudat Israel is led by Meir Porush and Ya'acov Litzman.<sup>114</sup>

**Degel Hatorah (Flag of the Torah):** Formed in 1988 as a non-Zionist splinter group from Agudat Israel,<sup>115</sup> Degel Hatorah represents Lithuanian Haredi Jews<sup>116</sup> and won two of the six seats won by UTJ in the March 2006 elections.<sup>117</sup> Degel Hatorah is led by Avraham Ravitz and Moshi Gafni.<sup>118</sup>

**Israel Beytenu (Israel Is Our Home):** Israel Beytenu was founded in 1999 to represent immigrants from the former Soviet Union<sup>119</sup> and is considered right-wing.<sup>120</sup> With 18,000 members, the party advocates an exchange of territory with the Palestinians and the transfer of Arab Israelis to areas under Palestinian control.<sup>121</sup> Israel Beytenu, which won 11 out of 120 seats in the March 2006 elections after having left the National Union to run on its own, is led by Avigdor Lieberman and Yuri Stern.<sup>122</sup>

**Israel B'Aliya (Movement for Israel and Immigration):** Founded in 1992 with the aim of improving the economic situation for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Israel B'Aliya merged with Likud before the 2006 elections, and its former leader Natan Sharansky is now a representative of Likud in the Knesset.<sup>123</sup>

**Meretz-Yahad (Vitality-Together, Social Democratic Party of Israel):** Formed in 2003 from a merger between the Meretz and Shazar parties, Meretz-Yahad is a Jewish-Arab social-democratic party, advocating civil rights, welfare, secularism, Palestinian self-determination within pre-1967 borders and a divided Jerusalem (but no return of Palestinian refugees).<sup>124</sup> The party opposed Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan, preferring negotiations with the Palestinians.<sup>125</sup> In Israel's March 2006 elections, Meretz-Yahad garnered 5 seats out of 120.<sup>126</sup> Meretz-Yahad is led by Yossi Beilin (chair) and Michal Shohat (General Secretary).<sup>127</sup>

**United Arab List (*Reshima Aravit Me'uchedet*, UAL):** In 1996 left-wing Arab parties merged to form the UAL, which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital and equality for all Israeli citizens.<sup>128</sup> In the 2006 Knesset elections, the UAL ran with the Arab Movement for Renewal, led by Ahmed Tibi, and together they won 4 seats out of 120.<sup>129</sup> The leader of the UAL is Ibrahim Sarsur.<sup>130</sup>

**Hadash (*Hachazit Hademokratit Leshalom Uleshivyon*, Democratic Front for Peace and Equality):** Hadash was founded in 1977 through a merger of the New Communist Party of Israel (Rakah) with other leftist groups.<sup>131</sup> The mixed Jewish-Arab membership supports the creation of a socialist state, the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian Territories, and supports the rights of the working class, Israeli Arabs and oriental Jews.<sup>132</sup> Hadash won 3 seats out of 120 in Israel's 2006 Knesset ballot.<sup>133</sup> The party is led by Muhammad Bareka and Awdah Bisharat (Secretary General).<sup>134</sup>

**Balad (National Democratic Alliance, *al-Tahammu al-Watani al-Dimuqrati*):** Balad, whose name means "homeland" in Arabic, was formed in 1996.<sup>135</sup> The party campaigns against what it considers government discrimination against Israeli Arabs.<sup>136</sup> In February 2002, Azmi Bishara, the party's leader, went on trial for "incitement to violence" relating to a speech he allegedly made while in Syria that supported Palestinian resistance.<sup>137</sup> However, Balad was permitted to continue running in elections, and won 3 seats out of 120 in Israel's 2006 Knesset poll.<sup>138</sup> Azmi Bishara remains the leader of Balad.<sup>139</sup>

## **Other Parties**<sup>140</sup>

Bloc of the Faithful (*Gush Emunim*), Bridge (*Gesher*), Center Party, Change (*Shinui*), Civil Rights and Peace Movement (*Ratz*), Communist Party of Israel (*Miflagah Kommonistit Yisraelit, Maki*), Council for Peace and Security, Crossroads (*Tzomet*), Democratic Arab Party (DAP), A Different Israel (*Yisrael Acheret*), Freedom (*Herut*), Green Leaf Party (*Aleh Yarok*), Islamic Movement of Israel, Love for Israel (*Ahavat Yisrael*), National Jewish Front, One Nation (*Am Ehad*), Poale Agudat Israel, Progressive List for Peace (PLP), Third Way (*Derech Hashlishi*).

#### 4. ARMED GROUPS AND OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS

The Government of Canada confirms that, as of 9 November 2006,<sup>141</sup> the following groups operating in Israel are associated with terrorist activity<sup>142</sup>:

**Abu Nidal Organization (ANO):** Also known as the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the ANO was founded by Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal), who reportedly died in 2002.<sup>143</sup> The ANO seeks the destruction of Israel and its replacement with a sovereign Palestinian state.<sup>144</sup> Some experts believe that the group is inactive and no longer poses a major threat, while others believe that it continues to operate in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and in its suspected base in Iraq.<sup>145</sup>

**Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade:** Formed in 2000, al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade is a secular nationalist organization that seeks to expel Israelis from the West Bank and Jerusalem in order to create a Palestinian nation-state.<sup>146</sup> Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade conducts suicide and firearm operations against Israeli soldiers and civilians both in the Palestinian Territories and in Israel.<sup>147</sup> As of 10 December 2006, the AAMB has killed an estimated 18 people and injured 31.<sup>148</sup> Alaa al-Hams and Marwan Barghouti are thought to be the group's leaders.<sup>149</sup>

**Hamas (*Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, Islamic Resistance Movement*):** Hamas (Zeal) is a radical Sunni Muslim organization<sup>150</sup> with over 1,000 members, which grew out of the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987.<sup>151</sup> In January 2006, Hamas won a landslide victory in the Palestinian legislative elections, winning 76 out of 132 seats.<sup>152</sup> Hamas believes that all of Israel and the Palestinian Territories must be reclaimed through violent *jihad* and turned into an Islamic state.<sup>153</sup> Considering itself at war with Israel and the Jewish people,<sup>154</sup> Hamas frequently uses suicide bombings and rocket attacks to achieve its goals,<sup>155</sup> stating that "[t]he purpose of every operation is to kill Jews".<sup>156</sup> As of 10 December 2006, Hamas has reportedly killed over 600 people and injured nearly 3,000.<sup>157</sup> Hamas is led by Ismail Haniyeh, Mahmud al-Zahar, Hassan Yousef, Mohammed Abu Tir, Jamila Shanti and Mohammed Deif in the Palestinian Territories, and by Khalid Meshal and Mousa Abu Marzook in Syria.<sup>158</sup>

**Hezbollah (Party of God):** Based in Lebanon, Hezbollah was founded in 1982 as an umbrella group for radical Islamic Shia factions.<sup>159</sup> Its 1,000 core members and up to 10,000 reservists seek to destroy Israel and create a Shia theocracy in Lebanon.<sup>160</sup> In the summer of 2006, Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets into northern Israel on a daily basis for over a month.<sup>161</sup> As of 10 December 2006, attacks perpetrated by Hezbollah

both internationally and in the Middle East are thought to have killed over 800 people and injured more than 1,500.<sup>162</sup> Hassan Nasrallah is the political leader of Hezbollah, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah is the group's spiritual leader, and Imad Fayeز Mugniyah is thought to be the leader of Hezbollah's "worldwide terrorist operations."<sup>163</sup>

**Kach (Thus) / Kahane Chai (Kahane Lives):** Kach and Kahane Chai are two groups comprised of right-wing, anti-Arab, Jewish extremists who operate in Israel and the West Bank.<sup>164</sup> Kach (Thus), founded in 1971 by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane,<sup>165</sup> is a religious nationalist party that seeks to expel all Arabs from Israel and the Palestinian Territories and replace Israeli democracy with a Jewish theocracy.<sup>166</sup> Kahane Chai (Kahane Lives) was founded by Rabbi Binyamin Zeev Kahane, shortly after his father's assassination in 1990.<sup>167</sup> This party also seeks the expulsion of Arabs from Israel, annexation of the Palestinian Territories and the creation of a Torah state.<sup>168</sup> As of 10 December 2006, Kach and Kahane Chai have been responsible for an estimated 42 fatalities and 256 injuries.<sup>169</sup> On 25 February 1994, a Kahane disciple killed 29 Muslim worshippers at a Hebron mosque.<sup>170</sup> Statements made by both Kach and Kahane Chai in support of the shooting led to their ban by the Israeli government.<sup>171</sup> However, the extent of these groups' involvement in anti-Arab attacks since the beginning of the al-Aqsa Intifada is inconclusive.<sup>172</sup> Comprising several dozen core members and a few hundred supporters, Kach and Kahane Chai continue to operate in Israel and the West Bank, especially in the settlements of Kiryat Arba and Tapuach.<sup>173</sup> In December 2000, Binyamin Kahane was himself assassinated in a drive-by shooting, and the groups' current leadership is unclear,<sup>174</sup> although Itamir Ben-Gvir is a prominent spokesperson for Kahane Chai.<sup>175</sup>

**Palestinian Islamic Jihad (*Harakat al-Jihad al-Islami Fi Filastin*, PIJ):** The PIJ is a Sunni Islamist movement with fewer than 1,000 members that began in the late 1970s, which, like Hamas, seeks to eliminate Israel in an effort to hasten the creation of a pan-Islamic empire.<sup>176</sup> However, the PIJ is much smaller than Hamas and focuses exclusively on violence, targeting Israelis on city buses, shopping malls and cafés.<sup>177</sup> Attacks perpetrated by the PIJ have led to over 200 fatalities and 1,000 injuries as of 10 December 2006.<sup>178</sup> The Secretary General of the PIJ is Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, who is based in Damascus.<sup>179</sup>

**Palestine Liberation Front (*Jabhat al-Tahrir al-Filistiniyyah*, PLF):** The PLF, also known as the Abu Abbas Faction, is a small leftist nationalist group allied with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), which seeks to destroy Israel and make Jerusalem the capital of a new Palestinian state.<sup>180</sup> Founded in 1959, the last known attack by the PLF was in 1990,<sup>181</sup> although the PLF has been suspected of operating after 1993, since the group reportedly distributed Iraqi funds to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers.<sup>182</sup> Abu Abbas (aka Muhammad Zaidan), the group's leader, reportedly died in 2004.<sup>183</sup>

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (*al-Jabha ash-Sha'abiya li-Tahrir Falastin*, PFLP):** Founded in 1967 as a secular nationalist movement, the PFLP's 800 members seek the elimination of Israel and the creation of Marxist-Leninist states throughout the Middle East.<sup>184</sup> Increasingly marginalized with the demise of the Soviet

Union,<sup>185</sup> the PLFP has nevertheless been active during the current Intifada, launching suicide bombings against Israeli civilians<sup>186</sup> and taking responsibility for the 2001 assassination of the Israeli Minister of Tourism.<sup>187</sup> As of 10 December 2006, nearly 200 fatalities and over 700 injuries were attributed to PFLP operations.<sup>188</sup> As of October 2005, the leader of the PFLP was Ahmed Jibril.<sup>189</sup>

**Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (*Al-Jibha Sha'biya lil-Tahrir Filistin-al-Qadiya al-Ama*, PFLP-GC):** The PFLP-GC was founded in 1968 by Ahmed Jibril as a pro-Syrian Marxist militant group that split from the PFLP because it wanted to concentrate more on attacks than on politics.<sup>190</sup> With fewer than 300 members,<sup>191</sup> the PFLP-GC calls for the destruction of Israel and the creation of a Palestinian state.<sup>192</sup> During the current Intifada, the group claimed responsibility for wounding two Jewish settlers in the West Bank, including a young boy.<sup>193</sup> PFLP-GC operations have killed an estimated 163 people and injured 43 as of 10 December 2006.<sup>194</sup> The Syria-Lebanese-based PFLP-GC is notable for the unconventional nature of its cross-border attacks against Israel, using mechanized hang-gliders and hot-air balloons.<sup>195</sup>

## 5. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

As of January 2007, it appeared that the coalition government under Prime Minister Ehud Olmert would survive at least until the publication of the official enquiry into the 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah war; however, it also appeared possible that Olmert's government might collapse before Israel's next scheduled elections in 2010.<sup>196</sup> Significant inroads on a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians continued to elude both parties.<sup>197</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Canada 27 Dec. 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 28 Dec. 2006.

<sup>3</sup> *Political Handbook of the World 2007 (PHW 2007)* Oct. 2006, 598.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2315.

<sup>6</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 598.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 593.

<sup>8</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2316.

<sup>9</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 598.

<sup>10</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2317.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 598.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid..

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2318.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 598.

<sup>21</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2319.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.



- 
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid., 2320.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>33</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 598.
- <sup>34</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2320.
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid., 2321.
- <sup>36</sup> Ibid., 2320.
- <sup>37</sup> Ibid., 2321.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>39</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>40</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>42</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>43</sup> Ibid., 2322.
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>47</sup> BBC 4 Jan. 2007.
- <sup>48</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2322.
- <sup>49</sup> Ibid., 2322-2323.
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid., 2323.
- <sup>51</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>52</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>53</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 599.
- <sup>54</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>55</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>56</sup> Ibid., 590.
- <sup>57</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>58</sup> BBC 31 Aug. 2006.
- <sup>59</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>60</sup> *The Economist* 9 Nov. 2006.
- <sup>61</sup> Ibid., 28 Nov. 2006.
- <sup>62</sup> Ibid., 19 Dec. 2006.
- <sup>63</sup> B'Tselem 27 Dec. 2006
- <sup>64</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>65</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 599.
- <sup>66</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.
- <sup>67</sup> Ibid., 2322
- <sup>68</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>69</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 599.
- <sup>70</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>71</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>72</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.
- <sup>73</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 600.
- <sup>74</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>75</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>76</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.
- <sup>77</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 600.
- <sup>78</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>80</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.
- <sup>81</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 600.

---

82 Ibid.  
83 Ibid.  
84 Ibid.  
85 Ibid.  
86 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
87 Ibid.  
88 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
89 Ibid., 599.  
90 Ibid., 601.  
91 Ibid.  
92 Ibid.  
93 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
94 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
95 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
96 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
97 Ibid.  
98 Ibid.  
99 Ibid.  
100 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
101 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
102 Ibid.  
103 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
104 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
105 Ibid.  
106 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
107 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
108 Ibid.  
109 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
110 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 601.  
111 Ibid., 602.  
112 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
113 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.  
114 Ibid.  
115 Ibid.  
116 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
117 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.  
118 Ibid.  
119 Ibid.  
120 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
121 Ibid.  
122 Ibid.  
123 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.  
124 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
125 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.  
126 Ibid.  
127 Ibid.  
128 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2335.  
129 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.  
130 Ibid.  
131 *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
132 Ibid.  
133 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.  
134 Ibid.  
135 *Political Parties of the World* 24 Jan. 2005, 322.  
136 *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 602.

- 
- <sup>137</sup> Ibid., 603.  
<sup>138</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>139</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>140</sup> Compiled from *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334-2335, *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 603 and *Political Parties of the World* 24 Jan. 2005, 329-330.  
<sup>141</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>142</sup> Ibid. n.d.  
<sup>143</sup> CFR Oct. 2005.  
<sup>144</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>145</sup> CFR Oct. 2005.  
<sup>146</sup> MIPT n.d.c  
<sup>147</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>148</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>149</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>150</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>151</sup> MIPT n.d.d  
<sup>152</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>153</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>154</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>155</sup> MIPT n.d.d  
<sup>156</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>157</sup> MIPT n.d.d  
<sup>158</sup> CFR 10 Feb. 2006.  
<sup>159</sup> MIPT n.d.e  
<sup>160</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>161</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>162</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>163</sup> CFR 17 July 2006.  
<sup>164</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>165</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
<sup>166</sup> *Political Parties of the World* 24 Jan. 2005, 329.  
<sup>167</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 603.  
<sup>168</sup> *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 2334.  
<sup>169</sup> MIPT n.d.f.  
<sup>170</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 603.  
<sup>171</sup> MIPT n.d.g  
<sup>172</sup> CFR Nov. 2005.  
<sup>173</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>174</sup> *PHW 2007* Oct. 2006, 603.  
<sup>175</sup> MIPT n.d.a  
<sup>176</sup> Ibid. n.d.h  
<sup>177</sup> CFR 12 June 2003.  
<sup>178</sup> MIPT n.d.h  
<sup>179</sup> Ibid. n.d.b  
<sup>180</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>181</sup> MIPT n.d.i  
<sup>182</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>183</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>184</sup> Ibid. N.d.j  
<sup>185</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>186</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>187</sup> MIPT n.d.j  
<sup>188</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>189</sup> CFR 31 Oct. 2005.  
<sup>190</sup> MIPT n.d.k.

- 
- <sup>191</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>192</sup> Canada 9 Nov. 2006.  
<sup>193</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>194</sup> MIPT n.d.k  
<sup>195</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>196</sup> *The Economist* 5 Jan. 2007.  
<sup>197</sup> Ibid.

## REFERENCES

- Boston Globe*. 26 March 2006. Anne Barnard. "Courting Israel's Russian Speakers: Centrist Party Targets Key Bloc."  
<[http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2006/03/26/courting\\_israel\\_russian\\_speakers/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2006/03/26/courting_israel_russian_speakers/)> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). 4 January 2007. Katya Adler. "Sharon's Shadow Looms over Israel."  
<[http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/6230897.stm](http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6230897.stm)> [Accessed 4 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 16 December 2006. "Country Profile: Israel and Palestinian Territories."  
<[http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/803257.stm](http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/803257.stm)> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 31 August 2006. "Middle East Crisis: Facts and Figures."  
<[http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/5257128.stm](http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/5257128.stm)> [Accessed 5 Jan. 2007]
- B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories [Jerusalem]. 27 December 2006. "Statistics: Fatalities."  
<<http://www.btselem.org/English/statistics/Casualties.asp>> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2007]
- Canada. 28 December 2006. Bank of Canada. "Daily Currency Converter."  
<<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/rates/converter.html>> [Accessed 29 Dec. 2006]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 27 December 2006. Bank of Canada. "Daily Currency Converter."  
<<http://www.bankofcanada.ca/en/rates/converter.html>> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 9 November 2006. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC). "Currently Listed Entities." <<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/ns/le/cle-en.asp>> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC). "Listed Entities." <<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/ns/le/index-en.asp>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]

---

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) [New York]. 17 July 2006. "Hezbollah (a.k.a. Hizbollah, Hizbu'llah)." <<http://www.cfr.org/publication/9155/>> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 14 June 2006. " Hamas." <<http://www.cfr.org/publication/8968/hamas/html>> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 10 February 2006. Alexandra Silver. " Hamas' Leaders." <<http://www.cfr.org/publication/9811/>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. November 2005. " Kach, Kahane Chai (Israel, extremists)." <[http://www.cfr.org/publication/9178/kach\\_kahane\\_chai\\_israel\\_extremists.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/9178/kach_kahane_chai_israel_extremists.html)> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 31 October 2005. " PFLP, DFLP, PFLP-GC, Palestinian Leftists." <[http://www.cfr.org/publication/9128/pflp\\_dflp\\_pflpgc\\_palestinian\\_leftists.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/9128/pflp_dflp_pflpgc_palestinian_leftists.html)> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. October 2005. " Abu Nidal Organization (Iraq, extremists)." <<http://www.cfr.org/publication/9153>> [Accessed 9 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 12 June 2003. " Middle East: Terrorism." <[http://www.cfr.org/publication/7832/middle\\_east.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/7832/middle_east.html)> [Accessed 11 Jan. 2007]

*The Economist* [London]. 5 January 2007. " Israel: Forecast." <<http://www.economist.com/countries/Israel/profile.cfm?folder=Profile-Forecast>> [Accessed 12 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 19 December 2006. " The Spectre of War Between Palestinians." <[http://www.economist.com/world/africa/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=8458275](http://www.economist.com/world/africa/displaystory.cfm?story_id=8458275)> [Accessed 5 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 28 November 2006. " The Israeli-Palestinian Truce." <[http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=8344247](http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=8344247)> [Accessed 5 Jan. 2007]

\_\_\_\_\_. 9 November 2006. " After Israel's Latest Assault on Gaza." <[http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story\\_id=8150161](http://www.economist.com/displayStory.cfm?story_id=8150161)> [Accessed 5 Jan. 2007]

*The Europa World Year Book 2006*. 10 June 2006. Vol. 2. " Israel." London: Routledge.

*The Globe and Mail* [Toronto]. 28 March 2006. Carolynne Wheeler. " Israeli Voters Face Prospect of Radical Change; Poorly Assimilated Russian Contingent Expected to Lean to the Far Right." (Factiva)

- 
- Israel. 1 October 2006a. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Culture: Media."  
<<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Culture/CULTURE+Media.htm>> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1 October 2006b. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The Land: Geography and Climate."  
<<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Land/THE%20LAND-%20Geography%20and%20Climate>> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1 October 2006c. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The People."  
<<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/People/SOCIETY>> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1 October 2006d. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The State: Israel Defense Forces (IDF)."  
<<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/State/THE%20STATE-%20Israel%20Defense%20Forces%20-IDF->> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1 August 2005. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The Judiciary: The Court System."  
<<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/government/branches%20of%20government/judicial/the%20judiciary-%20the%20court%20system>> [Accessed 28 Dec. 2006]
- Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT). N.d.a. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Key Leader Profile: Ben-Gvir, Itamir."  
<<http://www.tkb.org/KeyLeader.jsp?memID=6106>> [Date de consultation : 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.b. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Key Leader Profile: Shallah, Ramadan Abdullah." <<http://www.tkb.org/KeyLeader.jsp?memID=156>> [Accessed 11 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.c. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=3855>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.d. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Hamas." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=49>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.e. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Hezbollah." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=3101>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.f. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Kach." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=61>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]

- 
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.g. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Kahane Chai." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=3750>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.h. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=82>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.i. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Palestine Liberation Front." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=157>> [Accessed 10 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.j. Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB). "Group Profile: Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=85>> [Accessed 10 Jan 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. N.d.k. "Group Profile: Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)." <<http://www.tkb.org/Group.jsp?groupID=148>> [Accessed 12 Jan. 2007]
- Political Handbook of the World 2007 (PHW 2007)*. October 2006. "Israel." Edited by Arthur Banks, Thomas Muller and William Overstreet. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Political Parties of the World*. 24 January 2005. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. "Israel." Edited by Bogdan Szajkowski. London: John Harper Publishing.
- Reporters Without Borders (RSF). 3 May 2006. "Israel." *Annual Report 2006*. <[http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id\\_article=17231](http://www.rsf.org/article.php?id_article=17231)> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]
- Transparency International (TI). 7 December 2006. *Report on the Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2006*. <[http://www.transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/global/gcb](http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/global/gcb)> [Accessed 15 Jan. 2007]
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2006. Corruption Perceptions Index 2006. <[http://www.transparency.org/layout/set/print/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/cpi/2006](http://www.transparency.org/layout/set/print/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2006)> [Accessed 2 Jan. 2007]
- United Nations (UN). 2006. UN Development Programme (UNDP). "Israel." *Human Development Report 2006*. <[http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/data\\_sheets/cty\\_ds\\_ISR.html](http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_ISR.html)> [Accessed 29 Dec. 2006]
- United States (US). 19 December 2006. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). "Israel." *The World Factbook*. <<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/is.html>> [Accessed 27 Dec. 2006]

---

\_\_\_\_\_. 15 September 2006. Department of State. "Israel and the Occupied Territories." *International Religious Freedom Report 2006*.  
<<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71423.htm>> [Accessed 29 Dec. 2006]

*Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices*. 2006. "Orthodox Judaism." Edited by Thomas Riggs. Farmington Hills, MI: Thomson Gale.