**Opening Scenario for the Simulation**

**September 15th, 2017**

On the 15th of May, 2017 - the "Nakba" day, **serious riots** broke out in Judea and Samaria, after the Regulation Law on the annexing of Maale Adumim passed at the Knesset on first reading, and after president **Trump** declared that next time he does not intend to use his waiver regarding the law to move the American embassy to Jerusalem. The riots, which started with mass marches in the villages and around the borders, however quickly lapsed into violent protests in every West Bank city and mainly in Hebron.

**During the first phase of the riots,** 60 Palestinians died in clashes. At a larger stage, after two Israeli Knesset members went to The Temple Mount, 3 **suicide attacks** took place in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and 14 Israeli citizens were killed in these attacks. In the territories there were mass marches against the PA of the Hamas supporters and other organizations.

**In his resignation speech** given during the "Naksa" day on the 6th of June, 50 years after the Six-Day War, **Abu Mazen** declared that Israel finally proved that it wants to destroy the Palestinian dream and to bury the two states idea, with the support of the USA. While shedding tears, Abu Mazen evoked with regret the failure of his way of leading, based on violence-free negotiation also announcing that he will "hand the keys" and that he will resign in 60 days. He also announced a historical conference for the Palestinian National Council (PNC) and called the representatives of all the Palestinian organizations, "including our brothers from Hamas" to unite, "as we will have to make historical decisions about the continuity of our national struggle in new ways."

Following Abu Mazen's resignation, the PNC partially gathered, as a consequence of the Israeli attempts of preventing PNC entries and arresting some of its members. Hamas seniors joined the discussions through video calls, and the PNC decided to temporarily appoint the prime minister **Rami Hamdallah** as the substitute to the chairman of the PNC, and as well as the person to be in charge of the elections which will take place in 120 days.

The battle for the succession between Jibril Rajoub and Mohammad Dahlan is at its height, while Marwan Barghouti and Majid Farag, the heads of the organizations operate behind the scenes as well. All those are trying to "ride the wave" and to recruit alongside themselves the strongest forces operating in the area. The Palestinian organizations decided on temporarily suspending the security coordination with Israel, and on the field there are signs that the cooperation has already stopped.

The Palestinian press reports that the contacts between Hamas and the PNC is significantly moving forward **towards a peace treaty**. According to Hamas's leader Ismail Haniyeh, all the Palestinians understand today that the way of leading which Abu Mazen tried to use has failed, that Israel isn't going to give the Palestinians a country and it actively operates to erase the connection between the Palestinians and Jerusalem. Commentators estimate that Hamas leans toward the part taking in the elections that would take place in Judea and Samaria, and it sees them as an opportunity to unite and renew the two parts of the Palestinian people under its rule.

**The Minister of Defense, Lieberman**, announced that "it is good riddance of Abu Mazen's punishment" who was a part of the problem and not a part of the solution. The Minister of Defense expressed his hope that the new Palestinian government to arise would truly be committed to a peaceful solution and not only to double-faced talks.

**President El-Sisi and king Abdullah** made a joint announcement and declared that the annexing of Maale Adumim will make them calling back their ambassadors from Israel for consultation, and may bring them to reconsider their relations. They called Abu Mazen to go back on his resignation, and promised to keep supporting him in his legitimate struggle for the Palestinian people. The king of Saudi Arabia also told the press that he is very concerned about the deterioration of the situation and called all the sides to exercise restraint.

President **Putin** claims that the agreement he reached with President Trump during their summit meeting in July known to commentators as "The Grand Bargain", includes a draft for a solution for the Palestinian question, as a part of his efforts of bringing back stability in the Middle East. According to him, the Palestinian problem should be solved by establishing a Palestinian Country with Jerusalem as its capital, and Moscow is prepared to host an international congress with the participation of all the sides involved in the situation. Despite the agreements reached between the Russians and the Americans, it was reported that there is an irksome activity shown by Russian airplanes near the Baltic States and unidentified units operating in the area.

**The Opposition** submitted motions of no confidence in the government. The "Kulanu" movement is gathering and considering its way. On opposite side, there are left-wing riots of activists calling for a negotiation with the Palestinians without prior conditions, as well as mass riots among **Israeli Arabs**, whom some are violent.

**In the Gaza strip** the humanitarian crisis is worsening and in addition to the frequent blackouts, in some extensive areas the waters aren't potable. In the Security Council's report during the Monthly Middle East discussion, the UN's envoy to Judea and Samaria, Nickolay Mladenov, reported that the humanitarian institutes located in the Gaza strip and especially the UNRWA, are endangered of promptly collapsing. In addition, the unemployment attaining these days about 40% creates great frustration.

**Hamas led in Gaza under the leadership of Yehia Sanwar** announced that it is ready for a confrontation in which "the Zionist enemy will pay the price it hasn't paid up until today". In Judea and Samaria, significant preparations within the military branch for the confrontation in the strip can be noticed. As recalled, the terrorist tunnel attack on the 20th of June did not meet the outcomes Hamas had aimed and the terrorists were shot as soon as they left the tunnel near Nahal Oz. The Minister of Defense Lieberman declared again **that the next confrontation in Gaza would be the last one as long as Hamas would fall and be replaced.** The military reporters announce the vast preparations of the IDF for the confrontation in Gaza.

In **Iran's** elections which took place in May, President Rouhani won by a slight difference. Following his meeting with the Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Trump's announced that he is considering operative ways for **cancelling or modifying the nuclear agreement with Iran** as well as deciding on new sanctions to be promoted by the USA on the grounds of Iran rockets tests. This brought aggressive statements among Iran's leaders, among which mentions on the acceleration of nuclear plan in the case that the agreement would be canceled. The head of the research division in the intelligence branch claimed, in the foreign relations and security committee, that **the relations between the military branch of Hamas and Iran have grown closer.**

**Hezbollah** is encouraged by the situation in Syria and by the agreement between Trump and Putin. It announced that the time of going back on focusing on all efforts of countering Israel, which is the number one enemy of the organization, is coming closer. In the speech that got the name "Spider Webs 2", the secretary-general of Hezbollah, Nasrallah, announced that Israel will not stand a war in two fronts at the same time, and that his organization is preparing surprises from different kinds that were never heard of - at sea, in the air, and on land. Citizens of the northern settlements repeatedly claim that they hear echoes of explosions and diggings underground.

Following the legislation on the annexations the **ICC's public prosecutor announced on the 5th of August the opening of the official investigation** on the case of the settlements and the case of "Israeli War Crimes". Lawyers claim that the day where Israeli leaders, politicians and even senior military officers will be invited for examination is not far. In response to that, Trump's government announced that as he promised before (in the case an investigation would be opened following a complaint from the PA) he will cancel the assistance to the PA and announce the closing of the authority's offices in Washington.

Following the Maale Adumim annex rule passing in the first reading, on the 10th of August the **European Union's ministers of foreign affairs** assembled and decided on **establishing a committee that will arise sanctions for Israel** which will be activate in case the law would be used in the territories. Britain opposed to the decision in a weak manner (it seemed regarding of the negotiation of "Brexit", Britain has no actual way to oppose) while the rest of Israel's allies in within the union announced they will not be able to defend it. As a response to the developments, 10 parliaments of the European Union countries that include France, Italy and Spain recognized the state of Palestine. From few European countries the Ministers of Foreign Affairs had said that Israelis who live beyond the green line will be required to get a travel visa to travel to the Union countries.

**The BDS movement** keeps gaining success, and the large French supermarkets network 'Carrefour' announced they would stop selling Products that were made in Israel.

**Abdullah the king of Jordan** says that the American decision to move the embassy is a historical mistake. Every month there are large demonstrations in the Jordanian capital and observers estimate that the riots are a threat to the government. At the same time, it is reported of dramatic rise in the numbers of citizens in Judea and Samaria with either Jordanian papers or family in Jordan that desire to immigrate to the kingdom. The Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that "Jorden fully supports the rightful struggle of the Palestinians and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, which should be established for once and for all". Despite the harsh statements, a secret visit of the Jordanian minister of Foreign Affairs to Israel was reported on the website "Walla" This visit to discuss further developments. In the streets of Jordan there is still a great presence of Defense forces, this is after **ISIS's** triple suicide attack in Amman which took 31 lives.

The rapprochement process between Israel and **Turkey** that already had made progress, came to an end during this phase with an announcement by the Turkish government in August that said they are suspending the relations with Israel and from now on will only focus on defending the Palestinians whom, president Erdogan says, "are suffering under the most cruel occupation in human history". It has been reported that Turkey and **Qatar** are cooperating in order to transfer money and equipment to the Strip.

On the 1st of September **The Swedish delegation of the UN** brought to discussion in the UN security council a proposed decision that calls to end the occupation in two years, establishing a Palestinian state based on the 67 borders with agreed land exchange with East Jerusalem as its capital, an utter halt of building constructions in the settlements and a rightful solution for the refugees which its issue would be based on the Arabic initiative. Likewise, the decision calls the UN to accept Palestine as a full member. The decisions call for the protection of the legitimate security needs of Israel and Palestine in every future agreement to come. The decision proposal expressed willingness to send peace protecting forces of the UN in order to assist in the implementation of the agreement while giving "international protection" to the Palestinians who are "a country under occupation."

In an unconventional way **China reacts intensively** in favor of the decision in the security council, While the diplomatic struggle it encounters with president Trump, Which was reported at the military agreement between China and the Philippines and the action taking of the president of the Philippines to promote the legislation of the parliament to remove the American military bases from the Philippines within a year. The USA's ambassador of the UN, **Nikki Haley**, announced that **USA will veto the decision.**

Following the developments of the **major riots that broke out all around the Muslim world**, mostly against the USA's embassy. Beside mass demonstrations, shooting attacks against American diplomats and their families which started in Malaysia, Indonesia and Brussels. Thus far 5 American civilians were killed in 3 shooting attacks. In response the president announced a delivery of an additional plane carrier to the ISIS battle sector.

**In the 10th of September president Trump twitted** that the riots in the Muslim world, that already caused the biggest decline in stock prices in the USA and around the world, endanger the global stability and the American economy. **In a conversation with king Salman of Saudi Arabia** he renounced he is "still committed to solving the conflict but the transferring of the embassy to the west of Jerusalem does not determine anything about the final status".

The president added that **in the next month he would call Israeli and Palestinian representatives to a summit meeting in Washington DC** to In his words **"close a deal"**., the person in charge - his son in law Jared Kushner - is preparing a draft for the agreement with the assistance of the national Security Council, and "this time, both sides would have to be serious".