

## Invitees and Opposition to Nov. 27 Annapolis Summit

By Al-Masakin & the Agencies

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The United States is inviting 49 countries, groups of nations, financial institutions and individuals to a Middle East peace conference it will host next week. *Al-Manar Television* reported Wednesday that *Arab League* will meet Thursday Nov. 23 in Cairo.

*Al-Jazeera* meanwhile has reported that Egypt is also to hold a *mini summit* of Arab leaders on Thursday in *Sharm el-Sheikh*. Honsi Mubarak, the Egyptian president, said he would be meeting the heads of state of Palestine and Jordan in the Red Sea resort.



Four Palestinian factions: Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP-GC and Saiqa will simultaneously hold a counter summit in Gaza Nov. 27. Muhioddin Abu Dakka, head of the Saiqa forces said that the Palestinian factions were preparing for the national conference in Gaza city.

He told daily newspaper *Palestine* published on Wednesday that the conferees would affirm that no one could give up Palestinian national constants, most importantly the Palestinian refugees' right of return to their homeland, Jerusalem, sovereignty and borders.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Saiqa and PFLP-GC would attend the conference along with civil institutions, he concluded.



Israel and the Palestinians received their invitations Tuesday and U.S. embassies elsewhere were notifying the others, asking them to send their foreign ministers or other appropriate officials to the event, the State Department said.

Following is the full list of conference invitees. The representation for most invitees is not clear. The U.S. includes itself as an invitee.

*The United States*, host, to be represented by President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

*Israel*, to be represented by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni.

*Palestine*, to be represented by President Mahmoud Abbas and senior officials. Hamas and the PFLP have condemned the talks as a "liquidation project."

The '*Quartet*'—Members of the International Diplomatic '*Quartet*' on the Middle East other than the United States:

*The United Nations*, to be represented by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

*European Union Presidency*, to be represented by Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado.

*European Union Commission*, to be represented by EU External Affairs Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

*European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs*: Javier Solana.

*Russia*, expected to be represented by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the *Quartet* special representative to the Palestinians.

*Members of the Arab League Committee tasked with pursuing a Saudi Initiative for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace deal.* Of these, only Egypt and Jordan have full diplomatic relations with Israel:

*Arab League*, to be represented by Secretary-General Amr Moussa: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen

*Other members of the Arab League:* Iraq, Mauritania, Oman, United Arab Emirates

*Permanent members of the U.N. Security Council* not included in above categories: Britain, China, France

*Members of the Group of Eight industrialized countries* not included in above categories: Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan

Members of the *Organization of the Islamic Conference* not included in above categories: Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey

*Other Nations:* Brazil, Greece, India, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden

*Financial Institutions* invited as observers: International Monetary Fund, World Bank

In related news, the Nam News Network (NNN-KUNA) reported from Cairo today that the *Arab League* warned against recognizing Israel as a state for Jews considering the call by Israel an attempt to disrupt the upcoming US-sponsored Annapolis peace conference.

The comment was made by *Arab League Assistant Secretary-General for Palestinian Affairs* Muhammad Subeih in a press release

Tuesday and in response to Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's latest comment on the issue. He said the Israeli comments were greatly damaging for the rights of the Arab citizens, the true land owners and holder of the Israeli citizenship, Subeih said. He said the Arabs would not accept that nor the Palestinian president. "No one has the authority to do that," he said.

The Arab League official said the peace initiative committee will listen during its meeting next Thursday and Friday to the Palestinian delegation headed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. From the point of view of the Palestinian negotiators, it appears that there are true obstacles, he said, adding that the outcome of meetings between Arab foreign ministers and the American side would be also heard. For a successful Annapolis conference, it should be "serious and attended by all parties concerned including Lebanon and Syria," Subeih said, reiterating Arab's point of view.

On Monday night, Livni said Israel is a Jewish state and that all those represented in the Israeli Knesset (parliament) should adhere to the basic principles on which such a state was established.

"Those who think that we forgot the PA crime in Jericho prison are indeed deluded, and those who think we might forgive that crime are indeed more deluded as we affirm that our patience and tolerance over that felony was out of our national sense in advancing national interest over our own interest," the Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades said on Tuesday.

The Arab League official also noted that “so far what we see from the Israeli side are negative signs, in addition to the issue of settlements and Jerusalem as being the most dangerous issues which threatened the peace process.” Livni was also quoted as saying “a future Palestinian state would serve as a national solution for Palestinians in the West Bank, in the *Diaspora* and those in Israel.”

Hamas has denounced the US-sponsored peace summit, saying PA Chief Mahmud Abbas is not entitled to negotiate on behalf of all Palestinians. PFLP Secretary General Ahmad Sa’adat, speaking from *Ofer Military Court*, said on Sunday that the *Annapolis Summit* has been designed “to liquidate the Palestinian resistance and to sanction the internal Palestinian rift.” The PFLP armed wing the *Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades* to the Palestinian Authority on Tuesday that it will not ignore PA crimes in Jericho referring to the detention of Sa’adat. Inter alia:

“Those who think that we forgot the PA crime in Jericho prison are indeed deluded, and those who think we might forgive that crime are indeed more deluded as we affirm that our patience and tolerance over that felony was out of our national sense in advancing national interest over our own interest.”

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned against the enemies' conspiracies to sow seeds of discord in the region and urged unity among Iran, Syria and Lebanon.

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