

## Peretz unveils new 'roadmap to peace'

Written by Chris Perver

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Israeli Defence Minister Amir Peretz has unveiled a new ["roadmap to peace"](#) plan, he says could bring about peace within a couple of years. He announced the ambitious plan just days after rumours were circulating that he had been sacked by Prime Minister Olmert, and after calls had been made for his resignation over his failures in the Lebanese war and the defence of Sderot. Peretz has stated that he believes the US backed roadmap is at a dead end, and it is imperative that the impasse be broken by a new plan that would give Palestinian moderates hope. They say their new roadmap is a combination of the hard-line [Saudi initiative](#) and the Quartet's ["Roadmap to Peace"](#);

**Quote:** *"The first six-month stage of the plan calls for stabilizing the military and economy in the PA through the financial support of Abbas and security forces loyal to him and releasing security prisoners in return for kidnapped soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit. It also calls for Israel to evacuate illegal outposts. Since taking office last May, Peretz has repeatedly declared his intention to evacuate outposts, but has failed to act. The second six-month stage of the plan calls for the release of additional prisoners, easing restrictions on Palestinians in the West Bank, and the transfer of West Bank territory currently denoted as Area B to Area A, full Palestinian control. Negotiations will be held with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas or another responsible Palestinian leader and a summit with moderate Arab countries will be held. The idea is to engulf the axis of moderates in the PA based on the Saudi plan and the road map," Sneh said. In the third stage, Israel will finalize the agreement in negotiations with the Palestinians.*

But as some have pointed out, while Hamas remains in charge of the PA, there will be no hope of a peace agreement in the Middle East. Israeli politicians criticized Peretz, asking why he is drawing up a plan he knows has no real hope of being implemented. I personally can't see Peretz' plan being implemented either. For a start, it's not been agreed by the Quartet (the EU, US, UN, Russia), the Palestinians or even the Israeli government yet. It seems we've had our share of peace plans in the Middle East, and not one has been successful. And of course not one will, until the Lord Jesus Christ sets up His Millennial Kingdom. Only then can we truly say, ["of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end"](#) (Isaiah 9:7), unlike so many Israeli and Palestinian governments we have seen.

Source [Jerusalem Post](#)