

Livni talks with Arab League delegation

Written by Chris Perver
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Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni met with her Jordanian and Egyptian counterparts in Cairo today, to discuss the [Arab League initiative](#). The talks went ahead despite the uncertainty over Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's political future. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has recently stated he will call for early elections if Olmert doesn't resign. Former Prime Minister Shimon Peres has kept out of the fray, stating he is not planning on running for Prime Minister, but has said he is still planning on running for President. Today's meeting in Cairo were the first high-level talks between Israel and officials from the Arab League, and a further meeting has been scheduled to be held in Israel.

Quote: *"Livni said she would meet again in a few weeks with her Egyptian and Jordanian counterparts in Israel as part of this process between Israel and the representatives of the Arab League."* Thursday's meeting was the first high-level talks between Israel and the Arab world on the Arab League initiative calling for an exchange of land for peace. Livni said the meeting was preparation for the "historic and important" talks between Israeli and Arab League representatives on the initiative.

The [EU](#) has recently expressed its support for the Arab League initiative, and is planning to meet representatives from the organization in Brussels on May 14th. Olmert had expressed optimism after the Saudi plan was revived in [Riyadh](#) in March, but has rejected the idea of any Palestinian "right of return". It will be interesting to see what becomes of these meetings. It certainly would be historic for Arab leaders to set foot in Israel, but whether they get what it is they are looking for is another matter entirely. As the Bible states, I don't think Israel can negotiate with the Arab League on their own. I think it will take an outside mediator to "strengthen the covenant", and to ensure that parties like Hamas and Hizbullah comply.

Source [Jerusalem Post](#)