

Inside the Black Box of Israeli-Palestinian Talks

by [Michael Herzog \(/experts/michael-herzog\)](/experts/michael-herzog)

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Michael Herzog was appointed Israel's ambassador to the United States in 2021. Previously, he was an international fellow at The Washington Institute.



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All sides failed in the most recent round of negotiations, but there was an opportunity for real progress -- take it from someone who was there.

Tuesday, April 22, 2014. We are one week from the end of the nine-month period set for negotiations. Israeli, Palestinian, and American negotiating teams meet at a Jerusalem hotel in a last-ditch effort to salvage the talks. After long, sleepless weeks of tough negotiations, all are visibly exhausted, yet appear to appreciate the urgency of the moment as the sun sets over Jerusalem and on one more attempt to resolve the perpetual Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For weeks the parties have struggled to produce a formula to extend negotiations and buy much-needed time. Such a bargain would include the release of Palestinian prisoners, as well as the curtailment of settlement activity by Israel, and no further push by the Palestinian Authority to advance Palestinian statehood outside bilateral negotiations. It was an uphill struggle. But today feels somewhat different...

To read the full article, download the first PDF above or visit the *American Interest* website (<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2017/02/27/inside-the-black-box-of-israeli-palestinian-talks/>). ❖

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