



[The 2022 Arab League Summit Takes Place in Algeria with Leaders Expressing that the Palestinian Cause Remains a Central Issue of Concern](#)

On Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the Arab League convened for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic with a full agenda. Most important among these were discussions around the circumstances in Palestine and Israel, a topic that has often taken center stage at the annual conference. One would have expected division over how to handle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be at an all-time high this year. Since the group last met, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Bahrain, and Morocco have all signed the Abraham Accords with Israel, which has enabled the formation of diplomatic ties between Israel and several Arab governments despite continued Israeli oppression of Palestinians and an absence of fair concessions. However, the reality was that participants largely evaded the subject, even as Israel appears to be ushering in one of the most far-right and extremist governments in its history. Led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the new government is expected to crack down further on Palestinian rights and entrench illegal occupation. There was no discussion of the Israeli election, either. Instead, delegates called on Israel to stop their encroachment and violence against Palestinians and pledged support for Palestine without making any official moves or debating controversial material.

In addition to prospective diplomatic engagement with Israel based on the status quo of continued illegal Israeli occupation, Arab League members are also deeply divided on a number of other topics about which they refused to have conversations. For instance, Algeria and Morocco are not only divided on the issue of relations with Israel, but also on the autonomy of Western Sahara, a region of Morocco that has vied for statehood for years. Algeria supports Western Sahara's existence, whereas Morocco signed the Abraham Accords with Israel partially because there was a clause that the United States would officially reject Western Sahara. Other points of disagreement amidst the Arab nations that went unmentioned were Syria's suspended membership in the League, as well as how best to handle regional powerhouses Iran and Turkey.

Still, there were some fruitful discussions at this week's summit. The war in Ukraine has been especially damaging to the food and energy supplies of Arab League countries, many of whom heavily rely on Ukraine for grain. The resulting crises were discussed at length, but members ultimately agreed to remain neutral in the conflict. Unfortunately, no idea was put forward as to how to handle the food and energy crises in the meantime. Participating members also discussed the spread of drought and famine across the region, especially in Somalia, where this has had devastating humanitarian consequences.