



### [Israeli Delegation Meets with UAE Despite Tensions'](#)

A delegation of senior Israeli's meet with officials from the United Arab Emirates to prepare for the next meeting of the Negev Summit of Middle Eastern states, which is to be held in Morocco. The Negev Summit is a product of the Abraham accords in which the signing countries, Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, meet to discuss regional security, energy, education and tolerance, food and water security, and tourism. This meeting took place despite growing tensions between the two countries as the actions of far-right Israeli governments begin to take their toll. The UAE recently politically snubbed Israel by requesting at the behest of the Palestinian Authority that the United Nations Security Council meets to discuss the status quo of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. This UAE also strongly condemned the storming of the mosque courtyard. This request was in response to Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the Mosque, which drew international outcry for unnecessarily raising tensions and violating the status quo that has been agreed upon and largely respected for decades until recently. The Al-Aqsa Mosque sits atop an area known as the Temple Mount in the Jewish faith. The compound is a holy site in both Islam and Judaism. This has made it a point of contention between Muslim Palestinians and Jewish Israelis. The status quo has long regulated when and where people of each faith can worship. Ben-Gvir's visit was just the latest violation in the long list of times ultra-nationalist orthodox Jews have stormed the mosque.

This spat continues to show the folly of the Abraham Accord. While hailed as a breakthrough by those who signed it. Critics have pointed out that the agreement is shallow and economically focused. It has not made real progress towards peace. The agreement is largely focused on transactional agreements that had to do with intelligence sharing and arms dealing. It is a thinly veiled deal between repressive regimes to assist each other in repressing their citizens with shared intelligence and weapon systems. The population of the Arab countries in the agreement still have strong negative views of Israel. The treatment of Palestinians is still a very important issue among Arab nations, and the Abraham Accords did little to change any of these facts. They have done even less to further peace in the Middle East. Israel was not compelled to cease their theft of Palestinian land. Nor have they shown interest in peacemaking at all. The only real affect this agreement had been to dump more weapons into the region. This does not serve U.S. interests or the interests of anyone in the region. It will not bring the promised economic relief to Palestinians, it will only take away further non-violent avenues in which Palestinians can hope to gain justice, leading to more violence in the region.

It is imperative that the Abraham Accords are treated as not a peace accord, but as a shallow economic agreement with no peacemaking potential. A comprehensive peace deal between Israel and Palestine is the only way there will be true peace and normalization between Israel and the Arab world.