

**MEETING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HARRY S. TRUMAN
INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PEACE
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Participants: Eyal Ben Ari- Anat Lapidot, Ali Nihat Ozcan, Derya Sevinc, Yildirim Kirgoz, Cigdem Ince, Mustafa Aydin, Cagri Erhan, Neslihan Kaptanoglu, Uygur Aktan.

Prof. Eyal Ben Ari- Director of the Truman Institute: Prof. Ben Ari studies Japanese politics and military and he is also a prominent anthropologist. Truman founded this Center because he did not want to be remembered as someone who dropped the atomic bomb and therefore he wanted a peace-studies institute in his name. There are around 90 fellows at the Truman Center and the majority of these fellows belong to a department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 15 out of 90 of these fellows belong to other academic institutions in Israel. There are political scientists, security experts, history majors etc. These scholars are mandated to deal with the study of the non-western world. The Truman Institute mostly focuses on peace-related issues and policy geared projects. As an example, they have a project dealing with how to share the water resources between Palestine, Israel and Jordan.

There was a wide ranging cooperation between this institute and the Arab intellectuals until the Al-Aqsa Intifada started. Workshops are still being conducted with the al-Quds University. Joint public opinion surveys regarding the current disengagement process are also being published.

The Truman Institute is also trying to reach out to the Muslim population of Asia. Last year, they went to Singapore. They established a research group on economic relations between Palestine and Israel and brought together Israeli and Palestinian economists to do research. They are highly regarded by many Palestinians and Jordanians. The Truman Center also has a project on the sharing of water related to the Sea of Galilee, the Aqaba firm, Cistern underneath the West Bank and parts beyond the Green Line. As to the prospect of turning sea water into drinking water, a plant was established in Ashkelon and research is being conducted on how to make it economically feasible. Regarding the pipe issue from Turkey to Israel, they think that this issue is very political and not feasible. In their view, it is cheaper to turn sea water into drinking water.

Dr. Anat Lapidot-Frilla: Dr. Lapidot is studying Islamic currents and their networking structures. The Truman Institute does not specifically have a project on Turkey since they usually do not make a geographical distinction at the Institute. However, they have projects that do interest Turkey such as the identity conflict project. At Hebrew University, they have a number of PhD students working on modern Turkey as well as Ottoman Turkey. There is a small Turkish studies program. There might be exchange of students, and some scholarships might be offered.

There are two possibilities of cooperation between the Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the Economic Policy Research Institute:

- 1) Local solutions: Starting slowly by creating an Israeli-Palestinian economic relations working group. SAM- Strategic Research Center- of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a bilateral program; one in Ankara, one in Jerusalem.
- 2) Organizing an academic conference of workshops of serious topics with serious economists from all around the world to discuss general economic issues in the Middle East.