

Israeli leadership in crisis amid Gaza conflict and community violence

The Gaza conflict and violence between Arabs and Jews puts spotlight on Israel's divided leadership

Rosie Scammell / May 14, 2021

With sirens wailing amid daily fire from Gaza, rockets launched from Lebanon and intercommunal violence raging on the streets, Israel's political leadership is beset by divisions and facing a deepening crisis.

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"We are in a very dire situation," **Meir Elran**, head of the homeland security programme at Israel's **Institute for National Security Studies**, said on Wednesday in Lod, which suffered consecutive nights of violence.

"This whole political structure in Israel is under question, we have a major problem of stability ... we have a major problem of trust, of public trust in the government."

While Mr Netanyahu is serving as caretaker prime minister and facing a corruption trial, his opponent Yair Lapid is trying to form a coalition.

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