

## Talking Points Towards A Federation Of Middle Eastern States

**Premise:** The various conflicts of cultures which have coexisted for thousands of years have led to the current situation of millions in the region fighting over ancient ideas of control and territorial rights. I will not detail the controversies that this history has developed. Instead, I wish to promote a path away from these conflicts, as a child born in the region tomorrow morning should not be forced to deal with the atrocities of last night.

**Note:** Palestine is not in position to operate fully as a sovereign nation state, due to circumstances beyond its control. Therefore it does not behave expertly as one. Terrorist activity as a political instrument is perhaps deemed necessary in lieu of more acceptable governing powers in its relations with surrounding states. Inexcusable behavior and unreasonable actions are destined to take place if there is no reasonable recourse. This document suggests a practical context for establishing such a recourse.

Israel will be insecure so long as Palestine is not an equal partner as a neighboring nation state with secure and sovereign borders. It is in the interest of all who live in the region to generate mutual security. The establishing of this Federation will present a context for such security. Three mutually responsible and serviceable entities need to be established.

**1)** A Federation of Middle Eastern States comprised of any and all interested nations in the region, complete with a joint assembly and a decree of federation policy to counter the concept of foreign policy in relations with member states. **Note:** This in no way calls for the dissolution of any existing state. Palestine comes in as an equal charter member. All policies of the Federation would be equally applied to all member states. Charter membership can begin with a two state solution regarding the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

**2)** A Middle Eastern Common Market with a Federation approved currency (or exchange rate) and trade agreement. **Note:** No dissolution of existent currency is pre-supposed.

**3)** A Federation administered cultural and educational exchange program for all member states, including a University of The Middle East with campuses in all member nations.

With the establishment of the Federation, a new context for developmental relations among member states will also be established. At the first constitutional convention of the Federation, all member states will participate in a plan for peaceful cultural, economical and political coexistence. All members retain national sovereignty and send delegates to a FME Assembly. Charter members should, at a minimum, be the following: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.