

**YONATAN MENDEL / BASHIR BASHIR**

**70 YEARS TO 1948:**

**EMERGING TRENDS IN THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

In the public talk titled *70 Years to 1948: What Has Changed in Israeli and Palestinian Politics* the two speakers, Bashir Bashir and Yonatan Mendel, shared their analyses and discussed their views on the emerging central trends in the Israeli and Palestinian politics and societies. The two scholars described the dominant characteristics of the new right-wing politics in Israel -- including vulgarism, propaganda as alternative to politics, Messianism and the Jewish-Christian alliance -- and compared it both to emerging world trends (including the rise of Donald Trump and the extreme right leaderships in some European countries) and the history of Israeli politics. They went further to give examples on the way these characteristics both reflect and shape the current political sphere in Israel. Looking at the Palestinian politics the two have stressed a few emerging developments and strategies in light of the political deadlock, including internationalisation of the conflict, struggles against aggressive colonization of the West Bank and Jerusalem, and the BDS campaign, all represent examples and attempts to push forward non-violent resistance. The speakers analysed these examples and highlighted points of agreement and disagreement vis-a-vis the effects they have had on Palestinian politics, on Israel and on international arena. Reflecting on the physical and partisan fragmentation of the Palestinian political arena on the one hand, and processes of radicalization, denial of international law, support of excessive use of violence and oppression against the Palestinians in Israel on the other hand, the two expressed serious doubts concerning the chances to reach peace in the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine. They concluded with the need to think creatively and develop new political language that is able to lead to decolonization, dismantling Jewish privileges and the formation of Arab-Jewish alliances around the principles of freedom, equality, justice, and cohabitation.

**Yonatan Mendel** is the Director of *Manarat*: The Center for Jewish-Arab Relations at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and a senior lecturer in the department of Middle East Studies at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His research interests include the status of Arabic language in Israel, the study of Arabic in the Jewish education system, and political and security considerations in the field of Arabic language in Israel.

**Bashir Bashir** is a political theorist. He is a senior lecturer in the department of sociology, political science and communication at the Open University of Israel and a senior research fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. His primary research interests are democratic theory, nationalism and citizenship studies, multiculturalism, and the politics of reconciliation.