

## **WHY HAVE THE ROAD MAP, THE ABBAS GOVERNMENT AND THE CEASE-FIRE COLLAPSED?**

**AMERICANS FOR PEACE NOW PERSPECTIVES**  
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**November 16, 2003**

Arafat, Sharon, and Bush each contributed to this setback:

- **Arafat** had no intention of sharing power or the spotlight with erstwhile Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas.
- **Abbas** was unable, and Arafat unwilling, to take steps mandated by the Road Map requiring the Palestinian Authority to begin “sustained, targeted, and effective operations aimed at confronting all those engaged in terror and dismantlement of terrorist capabilities and infrastructure” including “commencing confiscation of illegal weapons and consolidation of security authority, free of association with terror and corruption.”
- **Sharon** knew that Abbas had almost no popular support on the Palestinian street. He realized that if Abbas were to survive politically, he would need extensive help from Israel, tangible results that could be shown to Palestinians as a payoff from the peace process. But a moderate Palestinian partner came with too steep a price for Sharon—a down payment on those “painful compromises” to which he gave lip service, like a freeze on settlements, the removal of outposts, and reopening Palestinian offices in Jerusalem.
- **Bush** was unwilling to commit the political resources needed to keep the process moving. A high-profile envoy was not named to work the issue. Sufficient monitoring did not take place. Efforts to retrain and restructure Palestinian security forces were not forthcoming. And not much was done to strongly encourage Sharon to meet his obligations. Bush’s contribution to the demise of the Abbas government—and the Road Map—was death by negligence. (Mark Rosenblum, Gidon D. Remba)

**See also “Israel's Chief of Staff Ya'alon Denounces Sharon's Hardline Policies Against Palestinians, Warns Against Repeating Mistakes Which Helped Bring Down Abbas Government,” NY Times/Ha'aretz/Yediot, Oct. 29-30, 2003, on this site.**

Mark Rosenblum excerpts from, “Murder on the Middle East Express,” Sept. 15, 2003