The U.S. Palestine Peace program dubbed the ‘Deal of the Century’ has been one of the most highly anticipated elements of the Trump Administration’s foreign policy. The first part of the much-awaited plan was released on 22 June, a few days before the ‘Peace to Prosperity’ workshop in Manama was set to begin. The first part of the plan states that it aims to economically empower Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza through $50 billion in investment. It immediately faced criticism for failing to address the root cause of Palestinian economic disenfranchisement, and did not mention the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories once (HRW, 24 June 2019). The workshop was attended by representatives from Gulf countries, Egypt, and Jordan. It was boycotted by Lebanon and Iraq in solidarity with Palestinian officials. The attendance at the workshop is a snapshot of current political allegiances in the Middle East with the U.S.-Saudi allies attending, and Iranian allies boycotting. Jared Kushner, President Trump’s son-in-law and the organizer of the workshop, was quoted as calling Palestinian leadership “hysterical and stupid” for boycotting the workshop. However, prior to the release of the plan, American-Palestinian diplomatic relations have collapsed since the election of President Trump. In September 2018, the Trump administration ordered the closure of the PLO offices in Washington, DC, “effectively shuttering the Palestinian diplomatic mission to the U.S.” (NPR, 10 Sept 2018). Matters were made worse by the controversial move of the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The day of the embassy’s opening 57 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in Gaza during demonstrations. Yet, the Trump administration still appears to consider itself well poised to broker Israeli-Palestinian relations. © 2019 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). All rights reserved. Demonstrations in the Middle East against the Peace to Prosperity Workshop Lauren Blaxter Lauren Blaxter is a Middle East Research Manager at ACLED. She has been responsible for coding Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan since May 2017. Ms. Blaxter holds a BA in Human Rights, a Graduate Diploma in Law, and a LLM in International Criminal Law. Her work focuses on law and forensics in armed conflict. Jules Duhamel Jules Duhamel is an independent researcher mapping armed conflicts and terrorism, with a focus on the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa. He holds an MSc in Countering Organised Crime and Terrorism from the University College London (UCL). Tagged on: Bahrain Egypt Gaza Iran Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Palestine Saudi Arabia Turkey Lauren Blaxter and Jules Duhamel
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Demonstrations in the Middle East against the Peace to Prosperity workshop
June 7 - June 29, 2019
From 25-26 June, the U.S. hosted the ‘Peace to Prosperity’ workshop in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, to present and discuss the U.S. peace plan for Palestine with Arab representatives. The workshop stirred tensions in the Middle East, resulting in demonstrations in multiple countries in the region (seen here).

In Iraq, the ambassador to Bahrain was recalled after hundreds of demonstrators stormed Bahrain’s embassy in Baghdad.

Demonstrations were notably not reported in Iran; however, massive protests in Iran and across the region were held just a few weeks prior for Quds Day on the last Friday of Ramadan.

Large demonstrations also took place in Bahrain against the hosting of the workshop. Many of the demonstrations were organized by the February 14 Youth Coalition, an opposition group to Bahrain’s monarchy.

The largest demonstrations were in Palestine where demonstrators took to the streets to protest the plan and the attendance of Arab leaders. Demonstrations turned violent in many locations as Israeli forces intervened to control and suppress them. Over a hundred Palestinians were injured in the three days of clashes and one fatality was reported.

ACLED is the highest quality, real-time, and widely used data and analysis source on political violence and protest in the developing world. Practitioners, researchers and governments depend on ACLED for the latest reliable information on current conflict and disorder patterns. Data, analysis and process details are found on acleddata.com.