

Sep 2009

A letter to the American Jewish community, from Israeli civil society organizations and individuals:

Dear friends,

We, the undersigned, are a group of committed involved Israelis from the public sector, academia, business, civil society and the arts. What links us together is our shared conviction that Israeli-Palestinian peace is not only an existential necessity for both peoples, but is a realistically achievable goal at this time. We speak in the name of an extensive group of Israeli organizations through which we seek to translate our commitment to the peace process into concrete programs.

Our partnership with the American Jewish community, and the support – institutional, political, cultural and financial - which that community has always provided us, have always been a central and constant element in the genesis and development of the State of Israel. We write you at this time because we believe that your support of the peace process is crucially important to the achievement of that peace, which is so vital to the future of Israel.

The peace process now stands at a critical crossroads. On the one hand, there is a growing realization, in Israel and in Palestine, that the unending, Sisyphean cycle of violence and counter violence can bring no solution to the conflict in our region. Further, it is widely recognized that this conflict impacts a wide variety of regional and global issues, and that its continuation feeds the growth of extremism and is used to justify terrorism and ongoing, brutal attacks on stability and security around the world.

Yet direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have all but ceased, making any progress mainly, if not solely, dependent on the determination of President Barack Obama and his administration to reenergize the peace process and to lead it to the well-known and widely-agreed solutions emanating from the principle of ‘two states for two peoples’.



An initiative of the Israeli Peace NGO Forum

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President Obama gave a ringing endorsement of this approach in his speech in Cairo on June 4th. But he and his administration will need tremendous political will to overcome the daunting obstacles to concrete progress

Thus, the most effective way you can support the peace process is by actively and openly backing President Obama's peace initiative; by making it clear to him that his commitment to Middle East peace reflects your views and hopes as well.

We believe that this can be a contribution of truly major dimensions to the achievement of peace and thus to securing the future of the people of Israel, in this and coming generations.

We look to you in hope and in confidence.

Shana Tova,

Signed individuals:

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