



LA Jews for Peace

www.LAJewsforPeace.org

April 18, 2011

President Barack Obama
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Obama;

LA Jews for Peace, along with millions of peace loving Americans and world citizens, are horrified at the American veto in the United Nations Security Council February 23, 2011. Why are we continually supporting the Israeli apartheid regime in the face of current Middle East democratic revolutions? Our democratic principles are becoming false rhetoric. LA Jews for Peace is ashamed of Israel's actions in our Jewish name. A million peace promoting Jews are rising up against the hardliners that Congress thinks is the "Jewish voice." That the U.S. backs Israel carte blanche is atrocious!

Since 1948 the dispossession of Palestinians has been condemned by the United Nations in several resolutions and now the U.S. stands alone against the Security Council's fourteen votes condemning Israel's building of settlements in Jerusalem and one-hundred-and-twenty General Assembly co-sponsors. Why do you continue to acquiesce to Israel's violating International Law? I refer to, among others:

- (1) Israeli settlers who infringe on Palestinian human rights (since most settlements are built on confiscated Palestinian land).
- (2) Under the Fourth Geneva Convention Occupying Powers are prohibited from destroying property or employing collective punishment. Article 53: under this provision the practice of demolishing Palestinian houses is banned, as is the wholesale destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure. The Israeli authorities have demolished 24,000 Palestinian homes since 1967 and new orders are issued daily.*
- (3) Under article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention Israel is prohibited from establishing settlements: "The Occupying Power shall not transfer parts of its own civilian population into territories it occupies."
- (4) Under Articles 35 & 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention it is forbidden to deport or "forcibly transfer," the local population, including such common Israeli practices as revoking the Jerusalem residency of Palestinians or banning Palestinians from returning from work, study or travel abroad.
- (5) 1948: the UNGA resolution 194 that all the Palestinian refugees have the unconditional right to return.

Israel's creeping annexation of Palestine is aided and abetted by 2.84 billion dollars of U.S. money. Stop! Impose sanctions.

From 1948 to the invasion of Gaza in 2008, an outright massacre, Israel's military aggression went unchallenged by the U.S. Congress' overwhelming revocation of the Goldstone Report and shatters our hope in that body. Your administration makes overtures against Israeli aggression, Mr. Obama - now back them up with action! As long as you won't impose sanctions, there is very little hope for peace and reconciliation in Israel and Palestine.

The UN secretary general has called on Israel to put an end to its occupation of Palestinian territories and its aggression against Palestinians. Ban Ki-moon said that Israel's construction of illegal settlement on the occupied lands must be halted immediately, stop all forms of violence and provocation and must revert back to its 1967 borders. "The occupation that started in 1967 is morally and politically unsustainable, and must end," Ban said in a meeting in Uruguay on Tuesday, this April. "The target date for completing the Palestinian Authority's two-year State-building program is fast-approaching," Ynet News quoted Ban as saying. He added that "the Palestinians have a legitimate right to the establishment of an independent and viable State of their own." Ban said that "there must be a just and agreed solution to the prolonged plight of the Palestinian refugees." The UN chief also urged Israeli authorities to remove obstacles to freedom of Palestinian movement and cease military operations against them. Ban further called for the easing of the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip which has been under an all-out land and naval Israeli blockade since 2007 (*Palestinian Chronicle*, April, 2011). Why can't the U.S. join this international outcry in favor of human rights? September, 2011, is fast approaching--the Palestinian Authority's and your goal, Mr. Obama, for a Palestinian State. Will you perpetuate Israel's stonewalling to peace, the dynamic status quo of their creeping annexation? Please, step away from their abhorrent behavior and let us regain our pride in the world of nations.

Sincerely,

BJ Jordan, representative
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Copy: Susan Rice, United States Ambassador to U.N.
United States Mission to the United Nations
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* ICAHD (the Israel Committee Against House Demolitions) estimates that some **24,813** Palestinian structures have been demolished in the Occupied Territories since 1967, based on information gleaned from the Israeli Ministry of Interior, the Jerusalem Municipality, the Civil Administration, PCHR, OCHA and other UN sources, Palestinian & Israeli human rights groups, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, our field work and other sources. Last updated on 28 July 2010.