

Petition to the United States Government

Dear all,

This petition is initiated by the Organizing Committee for Brit Tzedek v' Shalom: Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace (<http://brittzedek.org>). It will be used for a major lobbying effort conducted on Monday, April 29, and will be presented at the vigil organized by Brit Tzedek v' Shalom to the State Department on April 29, 2002.

Please forward all e-mail signatures to Clare Kinberg

clare@...

If you are going to the BTvS conference in DC April 26-29, please bring hand-signed petitions.

Please copy and forward this petition to people you think will sign, but keep intact that the end date for sending signatures to this petition is April 28, 2002

Make sure name & FULL ADDRESS & LEGIBLE email address is given by all signators.

Donna

PS Please don't forget to come to our Women in Black Vigil this Thursday, April 25, at 5:30-6:30, Coolidge Corner Brookline.

Petition to the United States Government

We are American Jews and our allies who are deeply committed to the well-being of Israel. We are also deeply committed to the values of human rights and international law which reflect our love and concern for the well-being of all humanity.

There can be no justification for suicide bombings or other violent attacks against civilians. We are terrified for the safety of our families and friends in Israel. The recent eruptions of anti-Semitic rhetoric and violence around the world are also terrifying and can have no excuse.

At the same time, we condemn the current level of violence against the Palestinian people as a moral and political disaster. We believe the thirty-five year Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip both compromises the humanity of Palestinians and Israelis, and contributes to the ever-worsening cycle of violence. Violence, destruction, and repression will not produce a 'moderate' negotiating partner. We believe the current Israeli government's approach is helping to produce another generation of suicide bombers.

As American Jews we call on American leadership to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in an equitable and nonviolent way. We believe this includes a policy based on the following principles:

1) A complete end to the Israeli military occupation of the territories occupied since 1967 in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem with border adjustments agreeable to both parties.

2) The establishment of a viable Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders alongside Israel. Both Israel and a the Palestinian state should thus be able to guarantee the ability to maintain secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

3) Jerusalem will be the capitol of both states. Unfettered access to all religious sites in Israel and in the future Palestine will be insured to all Jews, Muslims and Christians, regardless of nationality or sovereignty of the sites.

4) A just resolution of the Palestinian refugee problem that takes into account the needs and aspirations of both peoples is crucial to a just peace. Such a resolution should acknowledge Israel's share of responsibility for the plight of Palestinian refugees while respecting the special relationship between the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

5) We strongly urge the termination of both state-initiated violence and terrorism for achieving political goals. This applies to violence against all individuals with special care being taken to avoid harm to civilians. We work towards a future in which peoples use non-violent means to resolve social and political inequities.

6) Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories are a major obstacle to peace, a tremendous financial burden to Israel and do little, if anything, to enhance Israel's security. These settlements constantly expose to danger

the settlers themselves and the Israeli soldiers sent to defend them, in addition to bringing grave harm to the Palestinians living under Occupation.

We call for bringing safely home to Israel the settlers from all existing settlements except in those areas that will be included as part of a negotiated and mutually agreed upon exchange of territories between Israel and Palestine in determining the final borders of both states.

Signed

Name Full address (street/city/state,/zip) Phone

Email

1. Donna Spiegelman --contact info withheld to maintain privacy for this widely distributed email
2. Rabbi Toba Spitzer -- contact info withheld to maintain privacy for this widely distributed email

Clare Kinberg, Bridges Managing Editor

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Jewish Unity for a Just Peace (JUNITY) is an international network of Jewish activists and their organizations. Members of JUNITY have diverse opinions about the origins of and solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. All JUNITY members agree, however, there must be a just, viable and lasting peace based on the principles of international law, requiring a complete end to Israel's Occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Unless specifically stated, views contained herein are not necessarily the Views of Junity, its membership or organizers. Junity is committed to promoting activities of Jewish peace organizers without necessarily endorsing the views of

those groups whose activities we report.