



JEWISH ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE & PEACE

A CALL TO BRING THE SETTLERS HOME TO ISRAEL

We are American Jews who care deeply about Israel and who are filled with sorrow by the continuous cycle of violence and death in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We call upon the United States government to embrace an initiative which can break through the present stalemate, create a new opening for a negotiated settlement, safeguard the lives of Israeli settlers and remove a major obstacle to peace.

We call upon the United States government:

- to urge the Israeli Government to reverse its longstanding financial inducements to Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and instead to redirect those funds to settlers who are now willing to return to Israel proper;
- to provide generous foreign assistance and to solicit contributions from the European Union, other major industrial democracies and the United Nations for this massive relocation effort, irrespective of whether the Israeli government is ready to participate.

FOR THE SAKE OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY, BRING THE SETTLERS HOME

For the past 35 years, more than 200,000 Israeli citizens have been induced by special economic incentives to settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A recent comprehensive survey* of settlers found that nearly 80% were motivated by a desire to create better lives for themselves and their families and not by ideological or religious reasons. That dream, however, quickly became a nightmare of constant terror, sniping, murderous incursions into settlements, and suicide bombings. Simultaneously, enormous suffering has been inflicted upon the Palestinian population.

The relentless campaign to settle hundreds of thousands of Israelis amidst millions of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip threatens the moral foundation of the State. One year after the 1956 Sinai Campaign, Israelis first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion explained to IDF officers the reasons for Israelis withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. Nearly fifty years later, his speech serves as both warning and grim prophecy.

(over please)

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BRING THE SETTLERS HOME TO ISRAEL

Please sign the Call and share it with others in your community. In doing so, you will help move Israel one step closer to peace. To sign the Call go to <http://bringthemhome.btvshalom.org/> or fax/mail the coupon on the reverse side.

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[I]t was clear that our remaining in Gaza, while the entire world ostracized us would lead to [...] finding ourselves in a hostile sea of terrorism. Our military authorities would have had to shoot terrorists on a daily basis. [...] We would not have been able to withstand this. For the State of Israel, such a reality would have become a catastrophe [...]. Possibly, this would have destroyed us, not militarily, but morally - and in my opinion our morality underpins our very existence.

David Ben-Gurion
Yihud ve-Yi'ud (Tel Aviv) 1971 p. 294
 (Translation:
 Dr. Shai Feldman and Michael Davis)

The settlers have never enhanced Israel's security. On the contrary, their vulnerability to attack has resulted in the loss of nearly a thousand Israeli soldiers and civilians in the last 35 years and hundreds in just the past two years. Those who live on land expected to be negotiated as part of the new State of Palestine – especially those in settlements that are distant from Green Line

Israel and are surrounded by much larger Arab populations – are an obstacle to peace; their continued presence prevents a viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

FOR THE SAKE OF ISRAEL'S ECONOMY, BRING THE SETTLERS HOME

The cost of sustaining and protecting the settlers is draining Israel's resources; it limits Israelis ability to provide vital social services, build a stable economy, and ensure peaceful coexistence between the Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israel. The unending conflict, which the settlers exacerbate, has contributed to a severe economic downturn, a rising rate of unemployment (over 10%), a dramatic decrease in foreign investment, and an increase in the number of Israelis (now 20%) living below the poverty line, including 27% of all children.

PROVIDING SUITABLE COMPENSATION OPENS UP THE POSSIBILITY FOR MANY SETTLERS TO VOLUNTARILY RETURN TO ISRAEL PROPER

A popular misconception claims all settlers would actively resist any attempts to bring them home to Israel; but the same survey* revealed that if a decision is made for withdrawal, a clear majority of settlers is prepared to accept a withdrawal from the settlements in exchange for suitable financial compensation. Undoubtedly, among this majority, there are many if not most who would leave voluntarily even in the absence of a comprehensive settlement were they provided with the financial wherewithal to do so.

*Dr. Micha Hopp, "Settler Attitudes towards Withdrawal from the Territories," July 2002 (Hopp Research Company)
<http://bringthemhome.btvshalom.org/settlersurvey/>

Yes, I want to add my name to the Call to Bring the Settlers Home to Israel! Contact me to volunteer

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

You may NOT use my name publicly.

I want to help promote this important initiative throughout the American Jewish community with a contribution.

My check made payable to "Brit Tzedek v'Shalom" is enclosed.

Charge my Master Card Visa American Express a total of \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card (please print) _____

Credit card donations may be faxed to (773) 583-5772 or mail this coupon to:

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