



B' N A I B' R I T H I N T E R N A T I O N A L

April 14, 2013

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International's more than 200,000 members and supporters, we write to express our deep concern over your analysis of the breakdown of peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. We fear that attributing the current impasse to Israel's actions rather than confronting the Palestinian Authority for its betrayal of crucial commitments will bolster the latter's proven determination to circumvent negotiations with the Israeli government.

Your remarks come shortly after the Palestinian Authority's decision to apply to 15 international organizations and conventions, in stark violation of the Oslo accords. While Israel has released 78 terrorists from custody, the Palestinians have refused to continue direct talks with Israelis and have flatly rejected any consideration of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Instead, they have chosen once again to pursue unilateral concessions from the international community. Failure to challenge them for adopting this strategy could only further hinder negotiations by hardening the Palestinians' resolve. It also feeds the eagerness of Israel's countless detractors to once again blame the Jewish state for the ongoing conflict.

Mr. Secretary, we lament the damage caused to the peace process by the Palestinian Authority's insistence on unilateralism in lieu of negotiations. Only when the Palestinians embrace, as the Israelis have, a formula of direct engagement, mutual compromise, and shared recognition can a lasting and sustainable peace occur.

Respectfully,

Allan J. Jacobs
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President

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