

Americans  
for   
Peace Now 

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
Via Fax: 202-456-2461

January 13, 2011

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of Americans for Peace Now (APN), we are writing to you today urge you to take dramatic, decisive action to re-invigorate the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The urgency of the Israeli-Palestinian situation today cannot be overstated. The status quo is fragile and unsustainable. With the peace process at an impasse, settlement construction continues, while violence and tensions on the ground are rising. With growing instability in Gaza and instability in Lebanon, Israelis and Palestinians alike are talking about impending war.

With this backdrop, much attention is focused today on Palestinian efforts to build international recognition of a state of Palestine, including in the United Nations. These efforts reflect, first and foremost, the loss of credibility of the peace process and the understandable and growing conviction among Palestinians that negotiations will never deliver statehood. Palestinian leaders, like leaders anywhere, need to address the concerns of their people and provide them a tangible path forward.

While we recognize why the Palestinian leadership has adopted this strategy, we know that international recognition of Palestine is not an alternative to a negotiated settlement. The issues of borders, refugees, security and Jerusalem will not be resolved by such recognition – they will only be resolved through negotiations that involve both Israel and the Palestinians. Unilateral actions, by either side, will never be a substitute for negotiations or resolve the conflict – something that the Palestinian leadership itself has recognized even in the context of this effort. We believe, moreover, that the campaign for recognition holds dangers for both sides, including the risk of unintentionally emboldening Palestinians and Israelis who oppose the peace process, oppose a two-state solution, and welcome confrontation. The risk of violence is high.

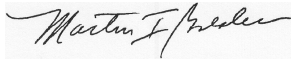
**The appropriate response by the U.S. and others concerned with this new Palestinian strategy is not simply to criticize the Palestinians and demand they desist, but, rather, to work urgently to re-accredit and launch a peace process that can quickly deliver results.**

We appeal to you to recognize the urgency of the situation today and to respond accordingly, for the sake of both Israel and the United States. What is needed from you now is dramatic and



decisive action. This could include, for example, laying down U.S. permanent status parameters or a U.S. peace plan and insisting upon both sides responding. Absent such a renewed and reinvigorated process, support for recognition of Palestine, outside a negotiated peace agreement, can be expected to gain significant momentum. Eventually, sixty-three years after demanding and receiving United Nations recognition, Israel could find itself in the uncomfortable position of opposing recognition of an independent Palestine by the same international body.

Sincerely,



Martin I. Bresler  
Chairman



Debra DeLee  
President & CEO

