

Brief israelischer und palästinensischer Organisationen der Zivilgesellschaft an das Quartett und die Mitglieder des Quartetts

Jerusalem 15.02.2011

Die nachstehende Erklärung wurde auf der letzten Sitzung des „Palestinian Peace NGO's Forum“ Ende Januar 2011 in Jericho verabschiedet und ist vom „Bringing Peace Together Team“ – vertreten durch Walid Salem (Dozent an der Al-Quds University) – und vom „Council for Peace Initiative in Israel“ – vertreten durch Prof.Dr. Yitzhak Schnell (Tel Aviv University) – getragen. Die Erklärung richtet sich an die für den 15. März 2011 geplante Sitzung des Nahost-Quartetts. Sie fordert das Quartett im Hinblick auf den palästinensischen Abschluss der Vorbereitungen auf die Proklamation des Staates Palästina am 1. September 2011 dazu auf

- den Staat Palästina in den Grenzen vor dem Junikrieg 1967 anzuerkennen;
- für die schnelle Umsetzung der Anerkennung zu sorgen und dabei die Komponenten anzusprechen, die ihrer Realisierung im Wege stehen, nämlich
- dass die Palästinensische Autonomiebehörde der Stationierung von NATO-Einheiten auf beiden Seiten zustimmt, wenn sich Israel auf die Grenzen vor 1967 zurückzieht. Würden Verhandlungen zu ihrer Umsetzung scheitern, soll das Quartett dafür Sorge tragen;
- Israel zu einem Aktionsplan zu ermutigen, der auf die palästinensischen Fortschritte auf dem Weg zum Staat Palästina positiv eingeht. Dazu sollte das Quartett auf (Vorschläge für) alle Zwischenschritte verzichten, welche die Endstatus-Lösung ersetzen. Zur Zwei-Staaten-Lösung gehören

- das Ende der israelischen Maßnahmen in der Zone C der Westbank;
- die Implementierung der palästinensischen Regierungsprojekte in Ost-Jerusalem, wobei der letzte Bericht der „EU Heads of Mission“ in der Stadt herangezogen werden solle;
- die Schaffung einer Transitstrecke zwischen der Westbank und dem Gazastreifen, um die territoriale Einheit für den palästinensischen Staat zu gewährleisten;
- die Hilfe beim Aufbau des Hafens in Gaza-Stadt, um Importe und Exporte zu erleichtern. Das Quartett solle für die Zustimmung der Palästinenser sorgen, dass alle Waren des Imports und des Exports im Hafen eines EU-Staates kontrolliert werden. Dabei betonen die Unterzeichner der Erklärung die Wichtigkeit, sofort mit dem Wiederaufbau und der Entwicklung des Gazastreifens zu beginnen und dafür eine Kommission einzusetzen.

Abschließend bitten die Unterzeichner das Quartett darum, die Aufmerksamkeit auf die Freiheit der Menschen besonders im Gazastreifen zu konzentrieren, um sie als Geiseln der Hamas gegen deren unterdrückerisches Regime zu schützen. Die Revolutionen in der arabischen Welt seien ein weiteres Argument für die Dringlichkeit eines palästinensisch-israelischen Friedens sowie für einen umfassenden mittelöstlichen Frieden mit Sicherheit und Stabilität auf der Basis der Arabischen Friedensinitiative und des „Hamilton-Baker Report“ (vom Oktober 2006).



Dear friends,

On Wednesday we returned from a two-day meeting in Jericho of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace NGO Forum which I founded five years ago together with our friend and colleague, who has since become the Palestinian Foreign Minister, Dr. Riyad Malki.

Approximately 200 people participated in the event, including representatives of around 100 organizations from both sides who are members of the Forum, as well as Ambassadors, diplomats, members of Knesset, and others. The event was very widely publicized, including Channel 2, Galei Tzahal, Reshet B, Ynet, Walla, ap, afp, the Jerusalem Post, Al Quds, Kol El Erev and other Arab and Palestinian media.

At the opening of the event, in the present of Palestinian officials, the Governor of Jericho, and all the participants, **the leadership of the Israeli Peace NGO Forum announced our recognition of an independent Palestinian state based on the '67 borders alongside the State of Israel, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states, and called upon the Israeli government to adopt this stance based on the premise that recognition of Palestinian independence is in the interest of Israel as it will bring an end to the conflict, and that any negotiations should start from this premise.**

Representatives of the Israeli organizations emphasized the urgent need to rekindle the two-state solution and to immediately renew talks until their completion.

Dr. Ron Pundak (Peres Center for Peace, Tel Aviv)

Below is a statement by The Palestinian Peace NGO's Forum in the same line of what we proposed above. This statement was developed during their last meeting in Jericho in the end of last January. The meeting was attended by 200 persons representing 100 peace organizations on both sides of the conflict. Therefore you can depend on the peace NGO's support.

Israeli and Palestinian Civil Society Organizations' Letter to the Quartet and the Quartet Members

Jerusalem 15.02.2011

Given the urgency of the situation on the ground and the crises that might emerge if no progression towards the formation of a Palestinian statehood will be made before September 1st 2011; when the 13th Palestinian Government Plan to build the infrastructures of the Palestinian statehood will be finalized. Plus the urgency of the implementation of the positions that the international community has taken concerning the establishment of a Palestinian state (on the borders of 1967) , including President Obama September 2010 speech at the UN Assembly meeting, and the statements made by the Quartet of March 2010.

If these two urgencies will not be met, there will be a lot of negative ramifications. One probable ramification is the establishment of a de facto (if not a de jure) greater Israel that will include the biggest part of the West Bank (64%), plus the greater Jerusalem that was created by Israel after 1967. On the other hand, a semi Palestinian state will be excluded to Gaza Strip. Additionally, Middle Eastern ramifications might emerge, as a result of the attempts of the extremists in the region to fill in the vacuum created by the discontinuation of the state building and peace processes.

On this basis, the Quartet meeting of March 15th 2011 should call for:

- The Quartet recognition of the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders.
- The Quartet commitment to make this state realized within a short period of time, by focusing on the following components that are preventing it from being realized, and by acting in two directions:

The first direction: Formulate a Quartet plan for a permanent status solution on the table, and start immediately the process of communicating it with the two sides for implementation. As an incentive for Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders, the Palestinian authority declared that it has no objection for the deployment of NATO forces in its border, aiming to provide both sides with protection and security. If negotiations will be inevitable within such a process, it is advisable that these negotiations should be about implementing the previous agreements more than re-negotiating them. If negotiations regarding implementation will prove to be impossible, then it is advisable that the Quartet should oversee the two sides in order to guarantee that they will fulfill their obligations within the decided time frame.

The second direction: Encourage Israel to develop an action plan that will respond positively to the Palestinian achievements during the process. These actions should not replace nor become alternatives for a definitive peace agreement which includes all the final status issues, but they should happen in order to assist getting there. Therefore, the Quartet should refrain from any incremental steps that are utilized to replace the final status peace solution, while doing the following in order to support and sustain the process towards two states solution:

- 1) Stop the Israeli actions in area C of the West Bank. In this regard Israel should be encouraged to stop settlement expansion, remove the settlements outposts, and facilitate the implementation of the Palestinian Government projects in Area C. Up till now Israel is preventing, destroying, or even demolishing these projects' premises when they are established.
- 2) Allow the implementation of the Palestinian Government projects in East Jerusalem, and stop all settlement expansion, and all other annexation procedures conducted in the city. The Quartet should also oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the last report of the EU Heads of Missions in Jerusalem.
- 3) Create a free passage between West Bank and Gaza in order to create the contiguity required for the establishment of the Palestinian state, and stop the collective punishment practiced against the Palestinian freedom of movement from Gaza to West Bank and East Jerusalem, and vice versa.

- 4) Assisting in constructing Gaza sea port to facilitate imports and exports, seeing that Palestinians accept that all goods imported or exported will be checked at an EU country sea port before reaching its final destination.

Beyond these essential points for the establishment of a Palestinian state living in peace and security with Israel, we stress again the importance of the immediate commencement of the plan for rebuilding and developing Gaza, through establishing a commission that includes the UN and donor organizations, in addition to the representatives of the private sector, and the civil society in Gaza. Such a commission is a must, and its formation needs to be accompanied with nullifying the restrictions on the importing of building materials, machinery, equipment, spare parts and other requirements to Gaza, in order to enable the rebuilding of fully or partially demolished houses and factories in Gaza during the last war. (65,000 people were displaced due to the demolition of their homes for more than 2 years).

Finally we suggest emphasizing the focus on the freedoms of the people especially in Gaza. Thus, protecting them against being held as captives by Hamas oppressive regime. This matter is becoming extremely urgent after the latest non-violent revolutions for democracy throughout the whole region. These revolutions create another reason for the urgency of reaching a Palestinian- Israeli peace, and Middle Eastern comprehensive regional peace, security and stability, on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative, and Hamilton Baker report.

Looking forward for your feedback, meanwhile we will keep you informed about our activities.

On behalf of the Bringing Peace Together Team
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