

Judith Bernstein: Letter to the editors of the "Sueddeutsche  
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May 27, 2011

The proposed four parameters by the European Union (borders alongside the lines of 1967 with territorial swaps, security issues, resolving the refugee problem, and Jerusalem) which are supposed to lead to negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, were totally rejected by Prime Minister Netanyahu during his address to the U.S. Congress on May 24. This raises the question what is left for negotiations. Until now the talks resulted in an extension of Israel's influence in the West Bank and in Jerusalem, the so-called "facts on the ground".

Rather than to demand from the Palestinian Authority to withdraw its request that the state of Palestine be recognized and acknowledged as a full member in the United Nations, the West should support the initiative of President Mahmoud Abbas, since he only wants to have implemented in September what American and European politicians have preached for many years: the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The Israeli people should be grateful to Mr. Abbas. The alternative to a two-state solution is an apartheid state under Israeli rule or a dual state – for most Israelis a nightmare because of the expected outcome in general elections ("one man one vote"). Not the Palestinians are threatening Israel's security, but it is the irresponsibility of its own government. Without a Palestinian state Israel will eventually be disposed to a situation where the pre-1967 borders are up to discussion. This should be taken into account by our politicians in Berlin for their decision about a Palestinian state.

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