

Response to US Abstention on UN Resolution Criticizing Israel

We are deeply disappointed by the Obama administration's refusal to veto United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which harshly criticizes Israel and labels Israeli settlements as having "no legal validity." Allowing the resolution to pass prejudices future negotiations.

This one-sided resolution harms only the Israelis, yet it is the Palestinians—not the Israelis—who rejected two states for two peoples in 1937, 1947, 1967, 2000, and 2008. Supported by the US, Resolution 2334 promotes dividing Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people, and contradicts the longstanding US policy that lasting peace can only come through direct negotiations—as happened with Egypt and Jordan.

The Palestinian Authority continues to support terrorists and promulgate murderous Jew-hatred, resulting in well over 1,000 Israeli civilians murdered throughout the last two decades—several from the Boston area. The obstacle to peace is not Israel's intransigence, but rather the Palestinians' rejection of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state in any borders.



With this stark reality, we take issue with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston's recently released statement criticizing the nomination of David Friedman as US Ambassador to Israel and calling for the US Senate to challenge his views during the confirmation process.

While we agree with the JCRC that a solution to the Middle East conflict can be achieved only "through direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians," we part with the JCRC's premise that a two-state solution is the "only viable approach." While the two-state solution was conceived with the best of intentions, it unfortunately has not yielded the desired peace for anyone. We support Mr. Friedman's contention that "a two-state solution is a way, but it's not the only way." After almost 25 painful years, it is time to consider other avenues in the interest of advancing peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

We welcome David Friedman's nomination as US Ambassador to Israel. He has demonstrated a long-time commitment to and love for Israel. We call on the JCRC, the Boston Jewish community, and friends of Israel to join us in wishing Mr. Friedman a successful tenure as US ambassador to Israel, and in opposing all actions that unfairly condemn Israel and endanger its security.

BOSTON ISRAEL
ACTION COMMITTEE



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