



The
International
Progressive
Jewish
Network

May29, 2025

www.jlinknetwork.org

IT IS TIME TO CALL FOR PEACE AND A 2 STATE SOLUTION

J-Link, an international Network of progressive Jewish organizations was created with a vision of a democratic, just and peaceful resolution to the Israel-Palestine crisis. Sadly, we have witnessed decades of unresolved conflict and an ongoing humanitarian disaster.

The small window of light in a dark history was the response of Palestinians and Jews to the promise of the Oslo Accords that 2 States would emerge from mutually beneficial negotiations. This highly anticipated outcome was derailed by radical Palestinian and Jewish zealots who mobilized violent opposition resulting in the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister Itzhak Rabin and the horrendous killings of the 2nd intifada.

The vision of a shared, peaceful world was replaced by despair, the rise of hateful extremists and a retreat from negotiations. And what has been accomplished? More than 53 ,000 Palestinians are dead, with 70% believed to be women and children, and almost 2,000 Jewish lives have been lost, with hostages held as barter in captivity, and no intention by leaders of either side to end the violence and seek a satisfactory and just end to the conflict.

IT IS TIME for the international community to raise its voice to end a tragedy that is creating trauma in the Middle East and around the world. Bystanders cannot witness senseless loss of life, starvation and the breeding of future enemies and do nothing.

IT IS TIME for the international community to recognize a **Palestinian State** – with clear requirements to ensure security, confidence-building government policies, and international oversight to reassure a traumatized Israeli and Palestinian population.

IT IS TIME and J-Link applauds the courageous determination shown by Canada, France and Britain and joined by an increasing chorus of other countries. The Conference in Paris, the G7 Meeting in Canada and the UN Peace Conference in New York, all in mid June, 2025, offer a critical opportunity!

J-Link asks the international community to join the call by Canada, Britain, France and many Israeli civil society organizations for:

- **Hamas to release all Israeli hostages**
- **An immediate end to the war**
- **The resumption of urgent life-saving humanitarian aid for civilians**
- **Hamas to lay down its weapons and have no future role in Gaza**
- **Recognition of a Palestinian State towards a negotiated two-state solution**

Respectfully,

The J-Link Coordinating Committee

Barbara Landau (Canada), Ken Bob (New Jewish Narrative, U.S.A.), Basil Dubb (JDI, South Africa), Giorgio Gomel (JCall Europe, Italy), Alon Liel (PWG, Israel), Shlomo Slutsky (J Amlat), Ella Taylor Fagan (England)

J-Link is an international network of progressive Jewish organizations. We share a love of Israel and a commitment to democracy, human rights, religious pluralism, and a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. We believe in the values enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence, which promise "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." For more visit: www.jlinknetwork.org

*Please see the following documents as a sample of the international call to action: **IT IS TIME***

1. *Joint Statement by International Leaders*

Joint statement from the leaders of Canada, the United Kingdom and France on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank

[Prime Minister of Canada](#) Ottawa, Ontario May 19, 2025

Joint statement from the leaders of Canada, the United Kingdom and France on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank

Main Content

"We strongly oppose the expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza. The level of human suffering in Gaza is intolerable. Yesterday's announcement that Israel will allow a basic quantity of food into Gaza is wholly inadequate. We call on the Israeli Government to stop its military operations in Gaza and immediately allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. This must include engaging with the UN to ensure a return to delivery of aid in line with humanitarian principles. We call on Hamas to release immediately the remaining hostages they have so cruelly held since 7 October 2023.

The Israeli Government's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable and risks breaching International Humanitarian Law. We condemn the abhorrent language used recently by members of the Israeli Government, threatening that, in their despair at the destruction of Gaza, civilians will start to relocate. Permanent forced displacement is a breach of international humanitarian law.

Israel suffered a heinous attack on October 7. We have always supported Israel's right to defend Israelis against terrorism. But this escalation is wholly disproportionate.

We will not stand by while the Netanyahu Government pursues these egregious actions. If Israel does not cease the renewed military offensive and lift its restrictions on humanitarian aid, we will take further concrete actions in response.

We oppose any attempt to expand settlements in the West Bank. Israel must halt settlements which are illegal and undermine the viability of a Palestinian state and the security of both Israelis and Palestinians. We will not hesitate to take further action, including targeted sanctions.

We strongly support the efforts led by the United States, Qatar and Egypt to secure an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. It is a ceasefire, the release of all remaining hostages and a long-term political solution that offer the best hope of ending the agony of the hostages and their families, alleviating the suffering of civilians in Gaza, ending Hamas' control of Gaza and achieving a pathway to a two-state solution, consistent with the goals of the 18 June conference in New York co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France. These negotiations need to succeed, and we must all work towards the implementation of a two-state solution, which is the only way to bring long-lasting peace and security that both Israelis and Palestinians deserve and ensure long-term stability in the region.

We will continue to work with the Palestinian Authority, regional partners, Israel and the United States to finalize consensus on arrangements for Gaza's future, building on the Arab plan. We affirm the important role of the High-level Two-State Solution Conference at the UN in June in building international consensus around this aim. And we are committed to recognizing a Palestinian state as a contribution to achieving a two-state solution and are prepared to work with others to this end."

2. Statement by Israeli Policy Working Group (PWG)



Jerusalem
May

Ms. Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada
Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
Hon. David Lammy MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs, UK
Mr. Marco Antonio Rubio, Secretary of State, United States
Mr. Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
Mr. Takeshi Iwaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan
Mr. Johann Wadephul, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany
Ms. Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU

Dear Ministers,

A word of introduction: The Policy Working Group is a voluntary team of senior Israeli academics, former diplomats, political analysts, and human rights defenders who advocate for international involvement to expedite a resolution of the IsraelPalestine conflict based on the two-state solution.

International peace and security and global economic stability are high on the agenda of the upcoming Kananaskis summit, and the Russia-Ukraine war and Iranian nuclear program will likely dominate the discussions. While we recognize the importance of these issues, we wish to stress the potential for global destabilization if the Middle East in general and IsraelPalestine in particular are not addressed.

The international community has demonstrated alarm over the humanitarian disaster in Gaza and is invested in discussions on shaping the “day after.” These discussions, however, tend to focus on the question of Gaza governance and reconstruction. Except for general statements about a future two-state solution, they largely fail to address the broader issue of ending the occupation and resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. We believe that the end of the Gaza war must constitute a pivotal moment in the history of Israeli-Palestinian relations and that the G-7 has the moral responsibility and political authority to ensure that it leads to an era of Middle East peace.

All G-7 member states have declared commitment to the two-state solution but have yet to recognize the State of Palestine. We firmly believe that recognition is not a prize to be awarded by this or any future Israeli Government. Statehood is the right of the Palestinians in accordance with international resolutions on self-determination of nations and the UN Partition Plan of 1947. Recognition of the State of Palestine at this time would align with the UNSC resolution 2334 of Dec. 2016 and the ICJ advisory opinion on the illegality of the occupation and convey to the Israeli Government that settlement expansion will never undermine the legitimacy of the Palestinians’ right to the territory occupied in 1967. Furthermore, it would afford the Palestinians *parity of esteem* when the two sides enter the negotiations room, as they ultimately will.

Plans are underway for a peace summit to be held in June under the joint leadership of France and Saudi Arabia. We urge you to respond to President Macron’s attempts to rally support for recognition of Palestine at the summit. Several of your governments have said that they are waiting for the most appropriate time. That time is now.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.



Amb. (ret.) Ilan Baruch
PWG Chairperson
Director



Ms. Susie Becher
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“We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.” (Nelson Mandela, 1997)

3. Joint Statement by Israeli Civil Society organizations



Joint statement by Israeli Civil Society Organizations: May 19, 2025

During the past several days, Israel has intensified its attacks on Gaza, following more than ten weeks during which it blocked all entry of aid and other goods to the Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statement last night that Israel will allow entry of "a basic amount of food for the population" in order to continue the war demonstrates that Israel has no intention to stop its unlawful use of aid as a lever of political pressure.

Every day, the Israeli army is killing and injuring hundreds of Palestinians in Gaza. All residents of the Strip are at risk of famine, while the healthcare system is collapsing due to severe shortages of medicine, medical equipment, and fuel. Israel is deliberately inflicting conditions that make life impossible in Gaza, with the declared goal of carrying out ethnic cleansing.

Israel must stop the attacks and allow immediate entry of aid!

The plan being formulated by the US and Israel for distribution of goods does not meet gaping humanitarian needs created by the blockade and widespread attacks. The UN and other international humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza have categorically rejected the plan on the grounds that it does not adhere to basic humanitarian principles.

Israel has openly declared that the plan aims to advance its goals of expanding its physical presence in Gaza and forcibly transferring the civilian population. Israel's commission of war crimes, which could also amount to crimes against humanity, must not be met with continued silence and inaction by the international community.

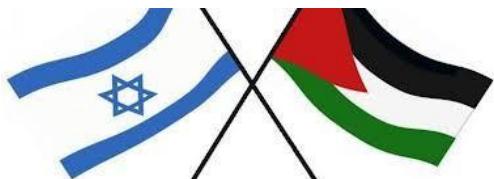
We call again for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages. Simultaneously, Israel must immediately stop its attacks, cease its policy of starvation, open the crossings for entry of aid to Gaza, and allow aid organizations in the Strip to carry out their work.

Academia for Equality, Akevot, B'Tselem, Bimkom, Breaking the Silence, Culture of Solidarity, Combatants for Peace, Emek Shaveh, Gisha, HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual, Ir Amim, Isha L'Isha, Itach Ma'aki, Jahalin Solidarity, Jordan Valley Activists, Looking the Occupation in the Eye, Machsom Watch, Mizrahi Civic Collective, Mothers Against Violence, Neve Shalom, Other Voice, Osot Democratia, Oz VeShalom, Policy Working Group, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, PsychoActive, Rabbis for Human Rights, The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, The Parents Circle – Families Forum, The School for Peace in Wahat al-Salam Neve Shalom, This is Not an Ulpan, Yesh Din, Your Neighbor As Yourself, Zazim

4. Statement by JCall – Progressive European Leaders



JCall is a non profit group of European Jewish citizens and friends of Israel who call for a negotiated peace between Israelis and Palestinians, based on the two-state solution.



We, the leaders of La Paix Maintenant and JCall, have long called for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel since the creation of our movements. Indeed, Palestinians have the right to their own state, just as the Jews obtained theirs in 1948.

We founded La Paix Maintenant in 1980 to support the Israeli movement Shalom Akhshav (Peace Now), which has opposed the occupation and colonization of the West Bank and Gaza since its founding in Israel. We have supported every peace initiative that has aimed to have Israel withdraw from these regions through an agreement, so that a Palestinian state could be created alongside Israel within secure and recognized borders. In 2010, we launched JCall, the Call for Reason by European Jewish citizens *unfailingly committed to Israel's future and security, because we were aware of the danger for Israel lies in the occupation and the continuing pursuit of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and in the Arab districts of East Jerusalem.*

Until now, our efforts were not aimed at immediately creating a Palestinian state, but at supporting all plans and initiatives that would lead to its creation. These efforts have always been based on a number of principles that reflect realities on the ground and address the legitimate aspirations of both peoples: the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with land swaps to minimize the number of Israelis who would need to be relocated and to ensure territorial continuity for Palestinians in the West Bank and a connection to Gaza : demilitarization of the Palestinian state, sharing of Jerusalem, with the attachment of Arab neighborhoods to the Palestinian state; renunciation of the right of return to Israel for the Arab refugees of 1948 and their descendants, which would bring a definitive end to this century-old conflict and ensure that the future Palestinian state is not used as a springboard for future claims over the entire territory of Mandatory Palestine; and finally, mutual recognition of the two states and their legitimacy.

We supported the Oslo Accords, which were intended to lead to the creation of a Palestinian state by granting the Palestinian Authority gradual autonomy over the major cities of the West Bank and then over other territories. But the Oslo process was a failure. What was meant to be temporary became permanent; the occupation regime of Area C which represents nearly 60% of the West Bank and is

under Israeli administrative responsibility has led to its accelerated colonization and the undermining of the viability of a future Palestinian state. The status quo, which was already crumbling, lies in tatters since the October 7 attacks and massacres perpetrated by Hamas in Israel, and the deadly war that followed in Gaza. Today, the Israeli government is multiplying its settlement projects in the West Bank, where settler violence is worsening without military intervention. And the war in Gaza continues, without the Israeli government having defined a strategy for managing the territory once the fighting ends. After more than 19 months of conflict, Hamas has still not been completely defeated, most of the hostages have only been freed through negotiations, and the number of Palestinian civilian casualties is unjustifiable and deeply distressing to us all.

Faced with this situation, we believe it is necessary to take a new step. We can no longer be satisfied with statements of principle about the two-state solution, which remains the only reasonable path to ending this conflict. It is because we are committed to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state open to the world; because we reject Israel's ongoing occupation and domination of another people; because we wish for that people to also have a free and independent state alongside Israel, that we call for its recognition. Such recognition is by no means, as some claim, a gift to Hamas which opposes the very existence of Israel and advocates for an Islamic state from the river to the sea. Rather, it is the only possibility that would allow the two peoples to one day live in security within their respective states.

We support the proposed initiative to include this recognition by France within a broader regional peace plan that would involve: a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all hostages; the reconstruction of Gaza with support from Arab and Western countries; and the establishment of a civilian administration in Gaza including Palestinians without Hamas's involvement, its demilitarization, and the recognition of Israel by Arab countries that have not yet done so.

Recognition by France of the State of Palestine which would likely be followed by other European countries would reinforce Palestine's status as a state on the international stage and allow it, when the time comes, to engage in state-to-state negotiations with Israel, notably on borders. The recognition of the State of Palestine can no longer be indefinitely postponed. The time to recognize it is now.