

Granny Peace Brigade (NYC)
244 Madison Avenue, Suite 396
New York, NY 10016-2817

Email address: grannypeace@gmail.com

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The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Granny Peace Brigade, dedicated to the goals of peace with justice domestically and globally, would like to keep abreast of ongoing U.S. action in the Israel/Palestine conflict. Having supported the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for British Mandatory Palestine (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181), the U.S. has, we believe, responsibility not only to Jews but also to Arabs for ensuring that both the Jewish State and the Arab State are contiguous and viable homelands.

As is known, the Holy Land, Palestine, has historical and historic significance for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. What in 1947 was British Mandatory Palestine, Palestine was ancestral home to Palestinian Jews, Christians, and Muslims - [1914 - Jews-94,000, Christians-70,000, Muslims-575,000; 1947 - Jews-630,000, Christians-143,000, Muslims-1,181,000]. In a writing on the Balfour Declaration was reference to a memorandum from Lord Curzon, who "referred to the Syrian Arabs, mainly Muslims, who had 'occupied [Palestine] for the best part of 1,500 years,' and asked what would become of them."

Clearly, it was not a 'land without people.' With reason the United Nations Partition Plan provided for a Jewish State (now Israel) and for an Arab State (now the Occupied Territories - West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza). It is history that none were satisfied with the terms of the plan and the conflict continues.

The following are references to major relevant international law rulings:

A. GENEVA CONVENTION (IV), ARTICLE 49, AUGUST 12, 1949

... The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population to the territory it occupies (in this case from the Israeli homeland to the Palestinian homeland).

B. UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 (1967) OF 22 NOVEMBER 1967,

called for, inter alia, "Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

C. UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973) of 22 OCTOBER 1973, called for "the parties concerned to start immediately after the ceasefire the implementation of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) in all its parts."

D. UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, inter alia,

1. Reaffirms that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting, comprehensive peace;
2. Reiterates its demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard;
3. Underlines that it will not recognize any change in the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiation;
4. Stresses that the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities is essential for salvaging the two-State solution, and calls for affirmative steps to be taken immediately to reverse the negative trends on the ground that are imperiling the two-State solution; ...

The ignoring of relevant international law with impunity -- with the exception of UNGA 181 on partition -- has resulted in Palestinians' continued exposure to myriad serious human rights violations over 50 years; well recorded and continuing is the 'cause and effect -- action and reaction' Israeli-Palestinian violence.

On January 15, 2017, hosted by the French Government, representatives of 70 countries met in Paris and, inter alia, there was reaffirmation of support for a two-State solution and the 1967 boundaries between the Israelis and the Palestinians, including the removal of settlements from the West Bank, reference being made to relevant international law.

Straightforwardly, last year, Martin Indyk, former U.S. Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations, said the U.S. is not neutral and does not claim to be neutral in negotiations with the Palestinians, that Israel 'screwed up' Kerry peace talks by building settlements but there were no consequences, and that he advocated U.S. abstention in upcoming UNSC resolution on Israeli settlements ['Mondoweiss,' March 14, 2016]. For Palestinian status equity in negotiations with Israeli authorities and in world body representation, we are of the view that, as advised by President Jimmy Carter ['New York Times,' Op-

Ed, November 29, 2016] who oversaw the drawing up of the Camp David Accords, the Palestinian State should be supported for full UN membership.

There is awareness of significant Israel-focused campaigns of AIPAC, other organizations, groups, individuals for support of Israel, which the U.S. provides generously, supporting its security and contributing to the enabling of a high standard of living. There is also need for increased recognition of legitimate rights of Palestinians in their homeland and the need for serious bilateral and world body action in this regard.

Sir, it is known Palestinians lost a great part of their homeland, and more, in the 1947 partition. We would very much appreciate your administration's views on the matter of U.S. Government endeavors for promotion of Palestinian human rights and the securing of their viable and contiguous homeland in an Arab State – the Occupied Territories (West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza).

We thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

Barbara Walker
[UN-retired -- United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO),
Jerusalem - 1990-1991]
for Granny Peace Brigade (NYC)