



TOWARDS A 'JUST PEACE' IN ISRAEL  
AND PALESTINE

NO PEACE WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL  
PRESSURE

To the members of the European Parliament  
DPLC

Brussels

Alken (Belgium), January 22, 2013

Dear member of the EU Parliament,

In December 2012 a number of organizations has jointly drawn up a petition to request the European Union to help restart the peace negotiations between Palestine and Israel.( [http://bit.ly/petition2012\\_en](http://bit.ly/petition2012_en) )

The reason for this initiative was the trip nine people made to Palestine and Israel last September and in particular their meeting with Ismael Khadhib and his foundation Cuneo Peace Centre in Jenin. Ismael is a Palestinian whose little son was shot dead by an Israeli soldier and who donated his son's organs to children in Israel.

The petition addresses the president of the European Council but the request is directed at the entire European Union. In several documents of the European Union there are references to the fact that Israel is under obligation to respect human rights, freedom of press, the right to freedom of speech, et al. ... Like any other country Israel has the right to protect itself but the EU urges Israel not to violate human rights in the process. In other words the EU is consistent in pointing out that Israel is obliged to abide by certain fundamental rules.

Unfortunately we notice a discrepancy between the general declarations and the concrete actions of the EU.

Israel ignores international law and systematically violates international human rights and the human rights of the Palestinian citizens. Nevertheless the EU does not take disciplinary actions against Israel to enforce respect, not financially, not economically and not politically. The transgressions by Israel remain as such unpunished. All the same Israel feels unsafe and the Palestinians are being robbed of their land, house, job, freedom and dignity.

For the benefit of both peoples there is an urgent need of peace negotiations which provide Israel with guaranties for its safety and the Palestinians with justice and their own state. Europe invests in Israel through agreements, bilateral programs and funds in the area. This cooperation and help allows Europe to exert pressure in order to break the political deadlock.

We therefore want to urgently request the European Members of Parliament to strongly insist that the President, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton and the members of the Commission inject new life into the peace negotiations, based on international law. It is of the utmost urgency because of Israel's plans to build 3500 new houses a.o. in East Jerusalem. In that case there is little left of a possible Palestinian state.

We also ask you to sign the petition. ( [http://bit.ly/petition2012\\_en](http://bit.ly/petition2012_en) )

You are empowered by the population to defend universal values which we Europeans emphasize: equal rights, justice and the opportunity to design one's own community. Do not leave it at declarations anymore but take specific measures to safeguard the future of both peoples.

Yours faithfully,

Frans Swartelé, Kinderrechtenhuis Alken  
Libert Verjans, Kinderrechtenhuis Alken  
Ella Bormans, Amnesty International Hasselt  
Leni Creuwels, vzw Hannah Herent  
Marcel De Prins, Werkgroep Palestina-Israël, Broederlijk Delen en Pax Christi  
Vlaanderen

**Petition text:**

To be signed preferably on line: [http://bit.ly/petition2012\\_en](http://bit.ly/petition2012_en)

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**Encl.**

- Full text of the petition
- More background information on the petition