

# More Can Be Done

When hypocrisy is written all over your face.

**O**n January 21, 2010 some 50 members of the US House of Representatives sent a letter to President Obama calling on him to press for the immediate relief of Gaza citizens.<sup>1</sup> We should extend our special thanks to these men and women and encourage others to follow.

It is, indeed, unfortunate that the United States government has not done more to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli aggression. The US government's continued financial and military support for the state of Israel flies in the face of the better judgement of the world community and undermines US credibility among Arab nations and elsewhere in the Islamic world. As a result, bringing peace to the region has become impossible -- despite repeated effort over the decades.

More Palestinians live outside of Palestine, than live inside. The majority of these expatriots occupy land in refugee camps in other Arab lands -- compelled to leave their homes by the Israelis.<sup>2</sup> This enduring dislocation is a standing affront against Israel's Arab neighbors, remains an important source of contention among all nations of the region, and fans the flames of global terror.

What is worse, the United States govern-

ment makes no distinction between terroristic acts of self-defense conducted by the Hamas and Hezbollahs, and the global terror practiced by the likes of al Qaeda who purposefully disrupt the global community in the name of an ideology that few Arabs embrace. This failure to discriminate against the legitimate self-defense of a brutally oppressed people and the wanton destruction of al Qaeda and others plays directly into the hands of the Israeli government who uses global terror as an excuse to avoid dialogue with its enemies and to commit atrocities against the Palestinian people far worse than any terrorist attack committed against Israel.

The Israeli government does not represent the voice of all the Jewish people, any more than the NAZIs represented the voice of all Germans. Furthermore, just as the German people followed the NAZIs down an ugly path of persecution, so too are the Israelis following their government down a path of brutal oppression, discrimination, and dislocation. America once stood up against the NAZIs in partnership with its allies, and this is what it must do today against the Israeli government.

**W**e are fighting a war in Afghanistan and Pakistan to eliminate often well-accepted Muslim fanatics in an area of the world largely occupied by other Muslims. In contrast, we support democratically elected fanatic Jews in the heart of the Arab world. It makes no sense.

America was built on the notion of separation of church and state, and we are supporting a democracy in the Middle East that goes against our deeply rooted democratic principle while simultaneously calling on Arab states to become more democratic. What is worse we support undemocratic Arab governments in or-

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1 Authors US Congressmen Keith Ellison (D-MN) and Jim McDermott (D-WA). Letter to the President, 21 January 2010. US Campaign to End the Occupation [[online document | reserve](#)] (downloaded on 28 January 2010).

2 Ahmad H. Sa'di and Lila Abu-Lughod, editors. 2007. Nakba: Palestine, 1948, and the Claims of Memory. Columbia University Press. Nakba was only the beginning. The several wars that followed and the occupation have exacerbated the problem many fold.

der to secure oil for ourselves and allies. Hypocrisy is written all over the face of America and the Muslim world can see it plainly.

No, al Qaeda will not go away because the Israelis and Palestinians finally come to terms, but an important cause of support for al Qaeda and its followers would be eliminated by recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and those who have spearheaded the struggle of the Palestinians against the Israelis, and by compelling Israel to do the same.

Every terrorist organization is not an enemy of America, any more than all democracies are proponents of peace. If Israel wanted peace it could have it tomorrow, but it does not. Else, it would be willing to recognize those who have so bravely stood up against it.

**A**merica must increase its pressure on the state of Israel to stand down, and the best way to achieve this is through economic sanctions, financial restrictions, and a withdrawal of military and financial support -- neither silence, nor words alone can make a meaningful and lasting difference.

Thank you for what you have done but you can and should do so much more.