

SOEMOED Vlaanderen

صمود

March 2014

To the EP Members of the:  
Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council &  
Delegation for relations with Israel

Dear Member of the European Parliament,  
Dear Madam, Sir,

As citizens from the EU we are launching an appeal to draw your attention to the recent negative evolution in Israel and Palestine.

We ask you to see to it that European policy is enforced concerning the settlements in Palestinian territory and that European institutions continue to work for a just and sustainable peace in Israel- Palestine. Without a peace treaty, accepted by the two states and by their inhabitants; the region will be a permanent origin of conflict.

We launch this appeal, the more so because from Israel increasingly more settlements are currently being built and planned in Eastern Jerusalem as well as deep into the West Bank. This continuous erosion of the Palestinian territory is a sustained violation of international law and makes a two-state solution practically impossible.

From the base, in the US as well as in Europe, there are now increasing protests against this policy of Israel. It is important to stress that also Jewish base organizations such as "J Street", "Een ander joods geluid/A Different Jewish Voice", "B'Tselem", "Breaking the silence" and "Jewish Voice for Peace" are supporting these actions.

**We ask you to keep reminding the High Commissioner Mrs. Ashton, and the Members of the European Commission and Administration, of their responsibility for the enforcement of international law. As members of the joint committees you have to support the European position in the relations with Israel and Palestine.**

As articles in the international and Israeli press point out, it are the actions of the State of Israel that form the most important obstacle to giving the country a safe and just place in the world community. As you can see in the annex to this letter there are about 12000 new settlement houses planned and partly under construction in Palestine since the start of the peace talks in July 2013.

It requires courage for Europeans to draw attention to Israel's violation of human rights, against its own Arabic population, against the inhabitants of the Palestinian territories and against critical voices in Israel. However, the guilt-ridden memory of the persecution and extermination of Jews in Europe should inspire Europeans to be greatly concerned with the rights of threatened groups of people even in this conflict.

**Europe cannot step aside. We demand you now to see to it that the European Union in the ongoing peace talks will adjust the American resolution so that a fair agreement should become possible without obligation for the Palestinian leaders to give up fundamental rights.**

An unbalanced agreement will not advance but jeopardize peace. On other levels too the urgent and unremitting vigilance of the European Parliament will be required.

Our special attention was recently drawn to blatant attacks on Palestinian civil initiatives for solidarity and human rights. We add to this letter a link, which is an appeal by Addameer to call the IDF to account for their raid on this organization, destroying its offices, and for inflicting major injuries and detention on its staff members. And this is only one of a long list of nightly raids, road blocks, humiliations, land robbery and arrests.

These incidents make the life of the Palestinian population impossible; they undermine the chances of peace and carry the seeds of violence on a broader scale.

As the 2013 peace talks are practically dead we urge you to stimulate a **European initiative** for renewed talks about a just and sustainable peace between Israel and Palestine. Palestine is the weaker partner in the conflict and the population is suffering since almost 40 years under the occupation. Europe cannot tolerate this any longer.

By accepting the occupation of Palestine, we are violating our own moral standards as they are translated in the European Declaration of Human Rights.

Respectfully yours,

Marcel De Prins, Frans Swartelé, Ella Bormans, Jan Engelen, Leni Creuwels  
Members of Committee Soemoed Vlaanderen

**Notes:**

- Addameer press release: <http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=666>
- “The Rights Forum” continuously monitors the building of new houses in Palestinian territory. Cfr. next page and/or: <http://rightsforum.org/achtergronden/nederzettingenmonitor>

## NIEUWE WONINGEN IN NEDERZETTINGEN, GOEDGEKEURD DOOR ISRAËL SINDS DE START VAN DE ONDERHANDELINGEN



NEW BUILDINGS IN SETTLEMENTS, APPROVED BY ISRAEL SINCE THE START OF THE NEGOTIATIONS [JULY 2013]

source:

<http://rightsforum.org/achtergronden/nederzettingenmonitor>