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The Israeli-Palestinian Peoples Peace Campaign (IPPPC) The Human Chain of June 2002 in Israel and Palestine Draft: Dan Bitan, 26.5.02

On December 28, 2001 The IPPPC convened for the first time in Jerusalem, at the NIH, to mark the launching of the IPPPC. Since then we are working together to prepare and expand the campaign, and we are now, at the end of June 2002 reaching a first climax

June 2002 marks 35 years of Israeli occupation of the WB and G, which is a calamity for the Palestinians and turned Israel into an oppressor.

In June 2002 the Israeli Government continues to expand Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories, intending to create irreversible presence and occupation. In June 2002 violence and terror, closures, destruction, suffering and fear are still the fate of Palestinians and Israelis, In June 2002 the Peace Process is still bogged, and Peace initiatives seem paralyzed.

In view of this tragic situation that is afflicting both the Israeli and the Palestinian people, the time has come for all those who believe in peace and justice to join together in popular actions for Peace.

Therefore the IPPPC, with wide support from many Internationals, proclaims that in both peoples there are majorities that are Partners for a Peace based on 'two states for two peoples' with two capitals in Jerusalem.

Therefore too the IPPPC with its many international supporters from many countries, calls upon our two peoples to join hands in the non-violent protest for Peace, and on JUNE 28 and 29 form human chains in the WB, Gaza, Israel and Jerusalem that will symbolize our belief that non-violence is the only way to end the occupation and bring about a new era of freedom sovereignty, dignity, mutual respect and cooperation, care for human rights, sustainable development and prosperity for both Palestinians and Israelis.

[= Another possibility: On June 28 and June 29 in the Streets of the WB and Gaza, and in the streets of Jerusalem and, as much as will be possible, along the green line on both sides – the IPPPC with its supporters from many countries will peacefully demonstrate. We will demonstrate jointly and in parallel, to express our belief in the 2 States solution with 2 capitals in Jerusalem and in the non-violent campaign to convince our peoples to join us in the struggle that will open the way to a new era, an era of independence and of sovereignty for both, of freedom and Human Rights for both, of Human, cultural and social development, of Economic Sustainable development which bring about prosperity. ==]

[== ??? I tried to edit the "Aims paragraphs - without success ==]

The next chapters would be written after the meeting tomorrow.

Human Chain within 1967 Territories

In view of the tragic situation that has afflicted both the Israeli and Palestinian people, the time has come for all those who believe in peace and justice to join together in protesting the injustice of the Israeli occupation. The continued expansion of the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, the stalling of the peace process, and the constant fear that both peoples live under is a reminder of how the occupation is a danger to all people. Hence, there is a strong need for a sustained nationwide public movement, which calls for an end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In light of the need for a renewed effort on the part of Palestinian and Israeli peace activists, a major civic action has been planned. On June 27th 2002, a human chain will be formed throughout the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel. Together with international supporters from many countries, we will join hands to form a human chain as the symbol of our belief that non-violence is the only way to end the occupation and call for a new era of sovereignty, dignity, human rights, and sustainable development for both Palestinians and Israelis.

Aims of the Human Chain

The main aim of the human chain is to generate international support for Palestinian national and human rights using extensive media coverage to solicit coverage by way of:

- Maintaining a linkage between all cities, towns, and villages of the Palestinian territories;
- Protesting the ongoing sieges and blockades of Palestinians and their land;
- Reaffirming the right to maintaining sovereignty over Palestinian land;
- Asserting to the international community and the Israeli people that Palestinians are not terrorists, but a nation struggling for its independence; and
- To rearticulate Palestinian demands calling for an end to the occupation, the evacuation of all the settlements on Palestinian land, and the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Activities

The following will be the schedule of activities:

- June 28, 2002: Achieve the physical formation of the human chain, linking people throughout the Palestinian territories and Israel.
- June 29, 2002: The formation of a human chain that encircles the old city of Jerusalem. Festivities will take place at the Jaffa Gate and will be attended by many foreign dignitaries, including the mayor of Campanga (Italy) who assisted in launching the People's Peace Campaign.

Other activities such as student camps, music concerts, plays, seminars will be taking place, made possible with the participation of international organization.

Organizational Structure

Higher Organizational Committees

In order for such a large movement and organization of people to be successful, a higher organizational committee will be formed in every governorate whose task will be to organize participants in each district, and centrally to facilitate and coordinate the successful implementation of this endeavor (Steering, Media, Logistics & International).

Field Committees

Every Higher Committee will form a field committee responsible for all activities in each district.

Coordinating Committees

The Jerusalem coordinating committee will provide support, information, and organization between the various higher committees, as well as communication with foreign and Israeli participating bodies. It will also arrange media coverage and logistics.