

/p/1, 10 10

The Israeli-Palestinian People's Peace Campaign (IPPPC)

The Israeli-Palestinian Human Chain June 2002

**Proposal for immediate support
28.5.2002**

I. Background

Less than two years ago the supporters and advocates of peace within each society believed that the hundred years plus war was coming to an end. When the Palestinian and Israeli delegations flew to the Camp David negotiations in the United States, hopes were high that progress would be made towards a final status agreement. While it was recognized that many difficulties remained to be resolved, there was a sense that the progress since the signing of the Oslo agreements would continue.

Unfortunately, history reversed itself. The violence that was sparked by Ariel Sharon's visit to the Al Aqsa Mosque developed into the present intifada. For the past nineteen months blood-letting and vengeance have replaced negotiations and reconciliation. The relations between Palestinians and Israelis, built before and after Oslo, were shattered. Trust, the foundation upon which the peace process was constructed, was seriously eroded.

The tragic events of the past nineteen months have not only resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives, the wounding of thousands, and widespread physical destruction, but has also resulted in the weakening and marginalization of the peace camps on both sides of the conflict.

In the midst of this terrible dilemma, groups of Israeli and Palestinian activists have been adamant to maintain contacts and to speak in a more peaceful language and spirit. Efforts have been directed to demonstrate that a majority on each side seeks a negotiated settlement as the only way to resolve the conflict. They called for an immediate cease-fire and troop withdrawal to the pre-September 2000 borders as a condition for the resumption of peace negotiations.

It has been extremely difficult to maintain support for such positions in the current reality characterized by a cycle of terrible violence and a growing sense of hopelessness. Nevertheless, the channels have remained open, and several joint activities have occurred throughout these long months. Reconciliation and demanding an end to the violence on each side, recognizing that joint efforts can affect public opinion and influence the leadership in each society.

II. Public Diplomacy Campaign

The origin of the current proposal was a suggestion to launch a public diplomacy campaign aimed at mobilizing support for peace between the two peoples. It was

decided to formulate a Statement of Principles (annex 1) that could function as a platform for joint Israeli-Palestinian activities, and to use the occasion of the signing ceremony of this statement as a launching pad for the campaign. The signing ceremony took place on 28th December 2001 at the New Imperial Hotel at Jaffa Gate, and was attended by hundreds of participants from both sides. It was then decided to use the premise of the New Imperial Hotel as the headquarters of the People's Peace Campaign, a forum where pro-peace Israeli, Palestinian, and international activists can meet, discuss, exchange ideas, and plan joint events for their peace mobilization campaign. The creation of such a headquarters, precisely during these difficult times, is in itself symbolic of a new energy and determination among those who maintain that civil society projects can support a negotiated peace.

The New Imperial Hotel is located immediately within the Jaffa Gate in Old Jerusalem. It is an historic landmark with available space, where Israelis, Palestinians, and guests from the international community can meet. There are plans to convert existing facilities into offices and halls for peace activities.

If this location is successfully activated on a routine basis, it will be a home not only for peace activities founded upon co-existence and cooperation for convinced activists, but will also draw Israelis and Palestinians who have not previously been involved in such endeavors. Thus, the New Imperial Hotel will serve as the anchor of a broad-based outreach Public Diplomacy Campaign.

The program planned begins in Jerusalem but reaches out throughout Palestine and Israel. The People's Peace Campaign is national in conception and will implement events throughout the area, according to specific conditions.

III. Human Chain Across the Territories and Jerusalem

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 for the 'end of Israeli occupation and two states for two peoples' with 'two capitals in Jerusalem'. 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 urgent our action is to our peoples.

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 28th and 29th 2002, human chains 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 convince that a new era is possible - a new era of freedom, equality, dignity, human rights, sovereignty, and sustainable development for both Palestinians and Israelis.

IV. Activities

The following will be the schedule of activities:

- June 28, 2002: Human chains, in the West Bank and Gaza, symbolically linking people throughout the Palestinian territories and Israel.
- June 29, 2002: The formation of a human chain in Jerusalem, culminating at the Jaffa Gate with foreign supporters.

Organizational Structure

Joint Steering Committee

An Israeli-Palestinian Joint Steering Committee will coordinate all joint activities from Jerusalem. It will decide on policy and will provide support, information, and coordination between the various field sub-committees.

Regional 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 of Palestine, whose task will be to organize participants in each district, and centrally facilitate and coordinate the successful implementation of events. In Jerusalem joint sub-committees will be responsible for logistics, for media coverage and for contacts with participants from abroad.

Proposed Budget (in Euro)

I. Logistics

Signs and Maps	2,000
Transportation	5,000
First Aid	2,000
Refreshments	10,000
Communications	3,000
Hospitality for foreigners	5,000

Sub total **27,000**

II. Publicity

Advertisements in local papers	10,000
Brochures, Stickers, Flyers, Flags & Banners	5,000
T-Shirts and Hats (2 Euros X 25,000)	50,000

Sub total **65,000**

III. Miscellaneous

8,000

Sub total **8,000**

GRAND TOTAL

100,000

Annex 1 – Foundational Document

The foundation document of the People's Peace Campaign was a joint statement prepared for the 28th December 2001 launching of the New Imperial Hotel Center.

Time for Peace

Israeli-Palestinian Campaign – December 2001

We, the people, Palestinians and Israelis who seek peace and regret the deterioration in the situation that has led to a terrible loss of human life, grave suffering and an ongoing disregard for human rights.

We support a cessation of violence between the two peoples, a lifting of restrictions on Palestinian movement, and a return to negotiations which will lead to the end of the occupation on the basis on UN Resolution 242. We call for the immediate initiation of negotiation on the permanent status agreement, which should be based on the following principles:

- 1) The adoption of a two state solution which guarantees the Israeli and Palestinian peoples the right to live in human dignity and security in their own independent states along the 1967 boundaries. Israeli settlements will be removed from the Palestinian State.*
- 2) The city of Jerusalem will contain two capitals for two states.*
- 3) A just and equitable resolution to the Palestinian refugee issue will be reached.*

We call on all Israelis and Palestinians who accept these principles to join in a campaign that will translate them into reality.

We invite the international community to support this campaign launched by the Israeli-Palestinian Coalition for Peace.