



Jewish Community Relations Council

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Media Announcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DISENGAGEMENT FROM GAZA: THE NEXT 24 CRUCIAL HOURS

“Grace Period” to Expire; Remaining Settlers to be Evacuated

JCRC Spokespersons available for comment and analysis,

The Jewish Community Relations Council is the central public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community, representing more than 80 synagogues and Jewish organizations in the Bay Area on public affairs issues.

San Francisco, California – **Israel’s Disengagement is underway.** While thousands of settlers have already left voluntarily, **others are refusing to leave.** The next **24 hours are crucial:**

- The Israeli government’s **grace period** will **expire on Wednesday**, but **locally** that will be **this afternoon.** After the **expiration of the grace period**, Israeli police and soldiers will enter the settlements and **remove** anybody who is remaining.
- Meanwhile, **Palestinian Authority forces** are poised to prevent **Hamas and other terror groups** from taking over the evacuated settlements. These same terror groups **are celebrating Israel’s withdrawal as a victory for “armed resistance.”**

JCRC can provide informed and insightful commentary and analysis on these and other developments, from the perspective of the mainstream Jewish community.

The San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council supports Israel’s disengagement plan, which is now in motion, withdrawing the Israeli army and evacuating all settlements in the Gaza Strip, and four settlements in the northern West Bank. JCRC recognizes the courage of the Israeli people and their government in taking this dramatic step, in the hope that it will contribute to peace in the region and enhance Israel’s overall security.

In June, 2005, the JCRC voted unanimously to support the disengagement plan. In a far-reaching statement (available at www.jcrc.org), the JCRC stated that the plan can only be successful if there is a total commitment and sustained effort on the part of the Palestinian leadership to put an end to terrorism. JCRC calls upon the Palestinian Authority to disarm the terrorist groups and infrastructure, including removing existing stockpiles of weapons and preventing such stockpiles from being rebuilt; preventing the smuggling of weapons across international borders; and closing of clandestine weapons manufacturing. The future of peace, and the stability of the PA itself, is fully dependent on the PA taking this action.