



Jewish Community Relations Council

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Media Announcement

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Jewish Community Relations Council supports the Israeli government's Disengagement Plan, and two-state solution

SAN FRANCISCO – The Jewish Community Relations Council, representing over eighty Jewish organizations and synagogues in the Bay Area on matters of public affairs, has just issued a broad based statement of strong support for and solidarity with Israel that also supports the Israeli government's disengagement plan. (To view a complete copy of JCRC's statement, go to www.jcrc.org.)

"The democratically elected Israeli government, with the support of Israel's Knesset (Parliament) and the Israeli public, has concluded that it is in Israel's best interest to evacuate all Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip, and four settlements in the West Bank," said Yitzhak Santis, JCRC's director of Middle East affairs. "This is going to be a painful and difficult time for Israel," Santis added. "It is distressing to watch Jewish communities being uprooted, yet this is an example of the kind of steps Israel is willing to take for the sake of peace with the Palestinians," he said.

"Additionally, we came to the conclusion that the Israeli government's endorsement of a two-state solution, to end the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, should also be supported," Santis said.

JCRC's statement emphasizes that the Disengagement Plan and peace itself can only be successful if there is a commitment on the part of the Palestinian leadership to put a complete end to terrorism. President Mahmoud Abbas, who has not made a one hundred percent effort, must disarm the terrorist groups and infrastructure, including the removal of existing stockpiles of weapons; preventing the smuggling of weapons across international borders; and closing of clandestine weapons manufacturing.

"We condemn the recent terror attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas and Islamic Jihad," Santis said referring to last week's suicide bombing in the Israeli city of Netanya that killed five people at a shopping mall, and the hundreds of rockets fired on Israeli communities, killing a young Israeli woman and wounding dozens of others.