



Jewish Community Relations Council

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties
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Media Announcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spokespersons available for on-the-record comment and analysis

JCRC, the central public affairs agency for the organized Jewish community of the Bay Area, is praying for the health of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

PM Ariel Sharon's condition:

- Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will remain under heavy sedation and on a respirator for at least the next 72 hours, and continues to be in serious but stable condition,
- There was no word as to the damage Sharon may have suffered.
- Sharon was hospitalized at a time when his standing at home and abroad was at a peak, following the successful implementation of the Gaza Disengagement Plan.

Israel's vigorous democracy ensures a smooth transition

It is clear today that Israel is a changed country without Sharon at its helm, and that Israelis feel a great deal of uncertainty without his presence. Yet, Israel is a vigorous democratic nation with strong democratic institutions including

- a vibrant civil society, a free press, an independent judiciary, and freedom of expression.
- Power has been transferred smoothly to Vice Premier Ehud Olmert, who is now the Acting Prime Minister. All Israeli political parties are rallying behind him during this time of crisis.

The JCRC is confident in his ability to assume the full responsibilities of the office and to provide steady leadership during this transitional period. The JCRC stands in solidarity with the people of Israel as their robust democracy provides a clear path ahead during this difficult time.