



For Immediate Release
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JCRC Statement in Response to Formal Recognition of Jerusalem

The Jewish community of the Bay Area has long believed that Jerusalem is – and should be recognized internationally as – the capital of the Jewish and democratic state of Israel, and that the Jerusalem Embassy Act (1995) should be enacted to right an injustice. Claims that there is no Jewish connection to Jerusalem and the refusal to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people negate 3,000 years of history and the right of a nation to select its capital. This deserves correcting.

At the same time, the Bay Area Jewish community believes it is imperative that the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis end so that the parties may peacefully coexist, with fully normalized diplomatic relations, in mutual cooperation that promotes the economic development and social welfare of their respective citizens. We pray for the day when bilateral negotiations result in the establishment of a Palestinian state, living side by side with Israel in mutually and internationally recognized borders, and the status of Jerusalem and other final agreements are determined by the parties themselves.

Many in our Jewish community are deeply concerned that today's announcement will make it harder to achieve the goal of peace, and further divide Israelis and Palestinians. There is a sense that the potential for bilateral negotiations can only be aided by the Administration reminding all parties of their commitments to achieve a two-state solution. There is therefore a sense that now is not the time for this announcement.

Many others in our Jewish community feel the stagnation in talks might be aided by the Administration's statement. There is a sense that finally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital is a response to the Palestinian Authority's recent attempts in the international community to delegitimize the democratic and Jewish state and its connection to the land. Also, it's widely felt that inflammatory calls for "days of rage" by Palestinian leaders are no reason for the United States to delay doing what is just.

The Jewish community is made up of nearly 400,000 diverse people in the Bay Area. While there is great variety of views regarding tactics and strategies that will achieve a lasting and just peace, there is overwhelming consensus for a two-state solution and for the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the democratic and Jewish state.

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