

29 January 2009

Dear President Barack Obama,

I am a citizen from Denmark, Europe, and I would be very pleased should you have time to read my comment about the Palestine-Israel conflict below in addition to the small comment I have already sent via your Internet contact page.

I don't support violence carried out by anybody at all, but I am definitely shocked by the Israeli methods during their hysterical attacks on whole civilian parts of towns which were carried out with a view to "fighting Hamas". In reality, the Israeli fought, killed, and injured all too many civilians and made even more people homeless.

I think that a much better and reasonable way to eliminate Hamas' violence is that a Palestinian state is created (personally - due to historical reasons stated below - I hope at least 50% of the current area can be assigned to the Palestinians to remove the Palestinians' feelings of oppression due to the long-standing occupation – or, if more practical, the same area per inhabitant for both parties. The area of each state should be viable - that is not split into several parts. I also hope Palestine will become a non-religious state).

Moreover, all Israeli settlements on Palestinian areas should be removed. In 2008, the Israeli human right organization B'Tselem stated that illegal Israel settlers in Hebron of the West Bank are increasingly aggressive and violent towards their Palestinian neighbors. The Israeli police and military don't care about it – they even offend against the Palestinians themselves, according to B'Tselem.

According to the largest Danish TV-station "DR", about 250,000 Israeli live in settlements on the West Bank. The Israeli government states some of them are legal although all of them are illegal according to international law.

Such apartheid conditions are what I call terror – both in mind and body.

If the Palestinians are placed on an equal footing with the Israeli, they naturally have much less – or in fact no more incentives at all to retaliate the serious Israeli oppression.

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I have made some research to find out the background of the general conflict between Palestinians and Israeli. Please find my summary of the most relevant details I have noted below:

---The background of the general conflict---

One of the reasons for the long-standing conflict may be the extreme persecution of Jews and the relating crimes against humanity, especially in the 1930s and 1940s, which forced so many Jews to flee, for example to Palestine. I understand they had to do so. After the

Second World War, many Jews, maybe, didn't have the necessary resources/mental energy to return to their own countries, and they were forced to stay in Palestine for that reason?

After all, in my opinion, the Zionists were not entitled to exploit the Jews' situation with a view to enforcing the Zionists' general goal: to create a permanent Jewish nation in Palestine against the Palestinians' will. Which people with self-esteem would voluntarily allow immigrants to overthrow their existing society and take their areas? All of this is not only history; The conflict has been reality ever since its beginning - not least today.

Please find some information from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2005 below:

The Ottoman Empire of Asia Minor defeated the Mamelukes in 1517 and, with few interruptions, ruled Palestine until the winter of 1917 and 1918. The country was divided into several districts (sanjaks), such as that of Jerusalem. The administration of the districts was placed largely in the hands of Arabized Palestinians, who were descendants of the Canaanites and successive settlers. The Christian and Jewish communities, however, were allowed a large measure of autonomy.

The rise of European nationalism in the 19th century, and especially the intensification of anti-Semitism during the 1880s, encouraged European Jews to seek haven in the "promised land", Palestine. Theodor Herzl, author of *The Jewish State* (1896; translated 1896), founded the World Zionist Organization in 1897 to solve Europe's "Jewish problem" through Zionism. As a result, Jewish immigration to Palestine greatly increased. In 1880, Arab Palestinians constituted about 95 per cent of the total population of 450,000. Nevertheless, Jewish immigration, land purchase, and claims were reacted to with alarm by some Palestinian leaders, who then became adamantly opposed to Zionism.

Aided by the Arabs, the British captured Palestine from the Ottoman Turks in 1917 and 1918. The Arabs revolted against the Turks because, on behalf of the Government of Great Britain, the British had promised them, in letters (1915-1916) to Husein ibn Ali of Mecca, to support and recognize the independence of their Arab countries after the war. Please also see <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1915mcmahon.html> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein-McMahon\\_Correspondence#cite\\_note-5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein-McMahon_Correspondence#cite_note-5)

Britain, however, also made other, conflicting commitments. Thus, in the secret Sykes-Picot agreement with France and Russia (1916), it promised to divide and rule the region with its allies. In a third agreement, the Balfour Declaration of 1917, Britain promised the Jews, whose help it needed in the war effort, a Jewish "national home" in Palestine. This promise was subsequently incorporated in the mandate conferred on Britain by the League of Nations in 1922.

### **The Balfour Declaration**

By World War I the extremely active Zionist movement had won backing from the government of the United Kingdom, which wanted support from world Jewry for its struggle against Germany. The British government therefore issued the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917, in the form of a letter to Edmund James Rothschild, one of the British

Zionist leaders, from the Foreign Secretary Arthur J. Balfour: “His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

The document in effect violated promises made by the British government to the Arabs in return for their support in the Allied war effort, as it had undertaken to “recognize and support” Arab independence in the Arabian Peninsula, Palestine, Transjordan, Syria, and Iraq.

When it was clear to the Palestinians that the Zionists intended to use – or rather misuse – their refugee/immigration cases with a view to creating a permanent Jewish nation in the area, anti-Zionist attacks occurred in Jerusalem (1920) and Jaffa (1921). A 1922 statement of British policy denied Zionist claims to all of Palestine and limited Jewish immigration, but reaffirmed support for a Jewish national home.

The British suggested several partition solutions according to which the Arabs were assigned the majority of the area – between 80% and 95% according to Wikipedia - but in vain. Please also see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodhead Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodhead_Commission)

Microsoft Encyclopedia says:

"Exhausted by seven years of war, faced with numerous terrorist attacks by Jews on British targets in Palestine, and eager to withdraw from overseas colonial commitments, the British government in 1947 decided to leave Palestine and called on the League of Nations' successor, the UN, to make recommendations."

In that way, Israel was created; After the British were forced to leave Palestine following many terrorist attacks by Zionists, the Zionists gained control of the area.

Please also see: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irgun>

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As long as Israel oppresses others by sticking to unequal area distributions in general and allowing illegal settlers (sometimes violent – and even supported by Israeli police) to steal even more areas, then Israel itself creates natural incentives for some other parties to retaliate. Thus, Israel can't prevent attacks by Hamas or others by committing hysterical war crimes against civilian Palestine targets such as densely populated parts of towns, U.N. schools, etc.

Therefore, I hope that any export of arms to Israel can be reduced significantly or stopped so Israel won't be able to misuse these arms for further crimes against thousands of blameless civilians. In this connection, it would also be fair to prevent Hamas from acquiring arms.

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Please also see:

Znet, January 22, 2009 - ....First, we must immediately move for the de facto suspension of Israel throughout the entirety of the United Nations System, including the General Assembly and all U.N. subsidiary organs and bodies. We must do to Israel what the U.N. General Assembly has done to the genocidal rump Yugoslavia and to the criminal apartheid regime in South Africa! Here the legal basis for the de facto suspension of Israel at the U.N. is quite simple....

<http://gzasiege.blogspot.com/2009/01/international-law-and-israels-war-on.html>

The Israeli siege of Gaza that has restricted access to food, water and medicine is now beginning to hit unborn children and newborn babies.

<http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article9544.shtml>

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Many thanks for spending time on my comment.

Yours sincerely,

David