



American Friends *of the*
Episcopal Diocese *of* Jerusalem
Building Presence – Building Peace

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Your voice matters now Support peace in the Holy Land

Greetings!

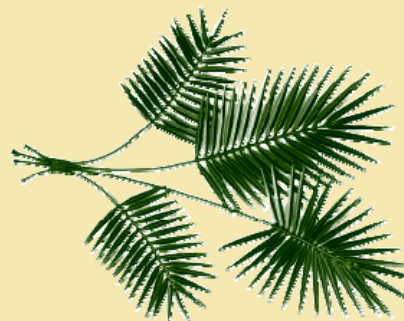
We're forwarding the Episcopal Public Policy Network's important message about President Obama's proposed plan in case you haven't seen it. Please support this effort through personal contact, letters, emails and vehicles you influence such as your own newsletters, bulletin boards and pulpits, and forward it to friends. Your voice matters.

Peace is the greatest gift we can imagine in the Holy Land. This may be the moment to make it a reality. Pray, give, act.

Phoebe Griswold

President of the Board of Trustees, AFEDJ

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The Episcopal Public Policy Network

Policy Alert

Dear Phoebe,

Your voice is needed now to support a renewed American leadership for peace in the Holy Land.

Over the past several weeks, numerous media reports have spotlighted the new energy in the Obama Administration for working toward a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Reportedly, the President is considering putting forward a U.S.-backed plan for a two-state solution that would end the occupation of the Palestinian territories; provide for the security and recognition of Israel; and establish a viable, secure,

and independent Palestinian state.

Earlier this month, Christian leaders in the United States, including Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, wrote to the President to express "every possible support" for the Administration's leadership toward peace, and to pledge to renew efforts to "join with our Jewish and Muslim colleagues to help work for that goal." [To read the full text of the letter, click here.](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

For the Administration to succeed in its push for Middle-East peace, it needs strong support from lawmakers of both parties. You can help now by sharing the letter from the Presiding Bishop and other Christian leaders with your Senators and Representative. [Click here to send a message to your lawmakers.](#)

BRIEF BACKGROUND

- In March, the Administration's envoy to the Middle East, former Senator George Mitchell, announced a commitment by Israel and the Palestinians to resume indirect peace negotiations (so-called "proximity talks"), a modest but important first step toward the resumption of full negotiations. This effort, however, was derailed in the wake of Vice President Biden's trip to Jerusalem, during which the Israeli government announced a new wave of settlement-building in Palestinian East Jerusalem.
- Both Israel and the Palestinians must share responsibility for creating the conditions necessary for peace talks to resume. Palestinians must improve security by halting attacks on civilians, blocking illegal arms shipments and disarming militias, and improve governance and transparency as they build capacity for a future state. Israel needs to freeze expansion of settlements, withdraw "illegal outposts," ease movement for Palestinians by reducing military check points, and refrain from disproportionate military responses.
- The Obama Administration now reportedly is considering putting forward an American plan for achieving a two-state solution.
- This is a vital moment in the fight to establish a lasting peace that strengthens and protects Israel's right to exist securely and free from violence, ends the occupation, and establishing a viable and independent Palestinian state.

[Forward this message to a friend!](#)

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