

September 18, 2011

To: The Honorable President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20500  
FAX: 202-456-2461

RE: Palestinian full UN membership

Dear President Barack Obama:

You still have time to reverse your decision to oppose the Palestinian application to the U.N. General Assembly for recognition of a Palestinian State.

You know that Israel was given the right to statehood by U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 passed on Nov. 29, 1949; that resolution called for TWO states, one Jewish and one Palestinian, with Jerusalem as an international city under U.N. control.

You know that the Palestinians are entitled to their civil and human rights, and Americans should support their efforts to govern themselves. Eleven million Palestinians are living as refugees within and out of their homeland, having endured two expulsions from their land, in 1948 and 1967. Not only does their expulsion from their homes in East Jerusalem and the West Bank continue today, but for four years 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza have been besieged by Israel, causing a humanitarian catastrophe.

You know that the U.N. General Assembly and U.N. Security Council have passed resolutions condemning Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 have called upon Israel to withdraw to pre-1967 borders, including from East Jerusalem. On July 9, 2004 the International Court of Justice ruled that: "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are illegal and an obstacle to peace and to economic and social development [...] have been established in breach of international law."

You know that on many occasions only the U.S. stood with Israel as it violated International law and U.N. resolutions—even Security Council Resolutions we supported.

President Obama, your veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution recommending that the General Assembly recognize a Palestinian state will further solidify the Arab and Muslim view that American policy in the region is hypocritical and reeks of double standards given American total support of Israel against Palestinian rights. The creation of an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 border is the best guarantor of Israel's security and will pave the way to a final resolution of the century-old conflict and effectively reduce Muslim animosity to the United States.

I have never voted for anyone for President in my life. However, for this time only, I will vote for your reelection if you make a right and wise decision now.

Sincerely,



Jing Zhao, Ph. D  
President of US-Japan-China Comparative Policy Research Institute