



NEWS

CFPN URGES ISRAELI KNESSET TO REJECT "LOYALTY OATH" PROPOSAL

TORONTO, ON, OCTOBER 14, 2010

Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN), which is dedicated to enhancing Israel's security through peace and to supporting the Israeli Peace Now movement and its campaign for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, today expressed its deep concern at the Israeli Cabinet's approval of a Bill to require a loyalty oath from non-Jews who wish to become Israeli citizens.

"This is a short sighted decision which will harm Israeli democracy," said Sheldon Gordon, CFPN Chair of CFPN Toronto. Dr. Stephen Scheinberg, Chair of CFPN Montreal, added: "Our organization maintains that Israel is not only the national home of the Jewish people, but also a democracy that should grant full rights of citizenship and equality to its large non-Jewish minorities--regardless of their range of beliefs". Forcing this kind of loyalty oath is provocative, counter productive, anti-democratic and contrary to the founding principles of the State of Israel, declared CFPN.

Mr. Gordon added; "This proposal will provide ammunition directly to Israel's enemies who wish to cast Israel as a racist state." Israel's Declaration of Independence, pledges to "uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education and culture."

Canadian Friends of Peace Now calls on Israel's Knesset members to strongly vote down this shortsighted proposal.