

**Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Shalom Achshav Peace Foundation**

Charitable Reg. # 11914 7320 RR0001



119 - 660 Eglinton Ave. E. Suite 517 Toronto, ON, M4G 2K2
PH 416-322-5559 1-866-405-5387 FX 416-322-5587
e-mail info@peacenowcanada.org
web-site www.peacenowcanada.org

NEWS

CFPN CONDEMNS ISRAELI RETALIATION AGAINST PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

TORONTO - December 3, 2012 - The Netanyahu Government's moves to punish the Palestinian Authority for gaining UN recognition of limited Palestinian statehood is a deplorable exercise in exacerbating tensions, Canadian Friends of Peace Now said today.

Israel is retaliating for Thursday's UN vote by announcing it will withhold US\$120 million in taxes and customs collected from Palestinians for the Palestinian Authority, using the funds instead to pay off the P.A.'s debt to Israel's state-run electricity company and other Israeli firms

The Israeli Cabinet also approved a plan to build 3,000 new homes for Jews in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The construction would connect the large Jewish settlement of Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem, dividing the West Bank in two. The Palestinian cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem would be cut off from East Jerusalem.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Israel's plans for the new settlements abutting East Jerusalem "set back the cause of a negotiated peace." The U.K. and France urged Israel to rescind the decision, and other European states also denounced it. CFPN urges the Canadian government to do so, too.

Mr. Netanyahu justifies these punitive actions as a response to the P.A.'s unilateralism in seeking statehood at the UN rather than through bilateral negotiations with Israel. But it is the Netanyahu Government that acts unilaterally in its ongoing settlement expansion. Once again, it prefers to unleash the bulldozers instead of entering meaningful negotiations.

For further information, please call 416-322-5559.

CFPN is a Zionist organization that is dedicated to enhancing the State of Israel's security through peace and to supporting Israel's Peace Now movement. CFPN has chapters in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.