

Netanyahu does not speak for us

Benyamin Netanyahu has asserted that in his March 3 address to the U.S. Congress on the issue of Iran he will be representing "the entire Jewish people." Canadian Friends of Peace Now strongly objects to this arrogant and false claim. In our objection we join with many other Jews the world over who have spoken out against Netanyahu's assertion and the message he is bringing to Washington.

While it could be fairly said that the whole Jewish world fears Iran possessing nuclear weapons, there is no unified view, whether among world Jewry or within Israel itself, as to the most realistic way of preventing this from happening. The negotiations underway by the Washington-led six powers (known as the P-5 +1) are seen by many experts, including leading members of Israel's own security establishment, to be the best available option for containing Iran's development of nuclear arms. Even many who are concerned about the deal that may be made dislike Netanyahu's ploy to undermine the Obama administration by playing partisan politics in Congress.

Netanyahu's approach of confronting the Obama administration is thus highly controversial within Israeli, American and world Jewry. Far from unifying Jews around his self-appointed leadership, Netanyahu is alienating many and furthering divisions.