

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

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NEWS

CFPN Condemns Netanyahu for Breaking Off Peace Talks

TORONTO—[Monday April 28, 2014] – Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for breaking off negotiations with the Palestinian Authority last week following the announcement of a unity agreement between the PLO and Hamas.

Since Israel and the West Bank Palestinians began final-status negotiations nine months ago, paralysis rather than progress has been the motif. Although the talks were conducted in secret, leaks from Israeli and U.S. Sources indicated that the Israeli side did its best to thwart movement.

Israel's hard line at the negotiating table was reinforced by its public positions. Mr. Netanyahu needlessly demanded that the Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state. Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman proposed doing land swaps with the Palestinians that would result in Israel's Arab citizens being ceded against their will to a Palestinian state. Israel reneged on its promised release of a fourth group of Palestinian prisoners. And further announcements of settlement expansion provided an ongoing counterpoint to the negotiations.

It was entirely predictable that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, stonewalled by Mr. Netanyahu, would look for other ways to bolster his diplomatic position. So he has invested, yet again, in reconciliation with Hamas, and seeks to make the Palestinians a party to 15 United Nations conventions.

If this latest Palestinian rapprochement actually works, it could have the beneficial effect of pulling Hamas toward non-violence and closer to recognition of Israel. In any event, it's better than Mr. Abbas's threat to shut down the Palestinian Authority altogether and force Israel to resume administration of West Bank towns and villages.

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.