

Canadian Friends of Peace Now

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CFPN Condemns Abductions and Netanyahu Agenda

TORONTO—[Monday June 23, 2014] – Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) expresses solidarity with the Israeli people in demanding the safe return of the three Israeli yeshiva students. It is tragic that these innocent teens have become pawns in an ugly struggle between Hamas and the Netanyahu Government.

As Yariv Oppenheimer, director-general of Peace Now, said last week, *“There is no justification for acts of violence, certainly not for the kidnapping of teenagers and the harassment of their dear families.”*

But this despicable act cannot be viewed in isolation. As Mr. Oppenheimer also noted, *“When from every Palestinian window you can see bulldozers building more settlements and leaving no space for the Palestinian state, the area roils and that sense of powerlessness and frustration is going to seek an outlet. What did we expect, that all the Palestinians would sit back quietly and cave in as the Israeli occupation grew stronger?”*

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has risked the wrath of the Palestinian street by condemning the abductions and maintaining security co-operation with the IDF despite its raids on West Bank homes, yet that still wasn't enough for Prime Minister Netanyahu.

He told his Cabinet on Sunday that Mr. Abbas's “words will not only be judged in terms of actions taken to bring the boys home, but also by his willingness to break up the unity government with Hamas.” The Israeli PM seems to view the kidnappings as a Heaven-sent opportunity to try to discredit Hamas politically and punish it militarily.

As Amos Harel, the military correspondent for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz wrote, the West Bank sweeps and arrests “had little connection with finding the kidnapped teens.”

As this anti-Hamas offensive proceeds, it's worth recalling that it was the Netanyahu government's nine months of intransigence in the peace negotiations that drove Mr. Abbas into the arms of Hamas and set the stage for this latest crisis. ●

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.