

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

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## NEWS

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### CFPN CRITICIZES LEVY COMMISSION ON SETTLEMENTS

**TORONTO - [July 12, 2012] -** The report released Monday by an Israeli government-appointed commission that says Israel's presence in the West Bank is not "occupation" is a fundamentally mistaken and regressive document, Canadian Friends of Peace Now, (CFPN) said today.

The commission, led by former Supreme Court justice Edmund Levy, was established in January at the behest of settlement leaders. Its report endorses the state's legal right to settle in the West Bank and proposes that the Netanyahu government approve scores of new Jewish settlements.

This reckless report, in denying the reality of the occupation, doesn't just do violence to the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the International Court of Justice's ruling, it also shows contempt for the views of most of the world, including countries supportive of Israel.

No less an authority than ex-P.M. Ariel Sharon told Israeli legislators in 2003: "I think the idea that it is possible to continue keeping 3.5 million Palestinians under occupation—yes it is occupation, you might not like the word, but what is happening is occupation—is bad for Israel, and bad for the Palestinians, and bad for the Israeli economy. Controlling 3.5 million Palestinians cannot go on forever."

The New York Times was right to describe the Levy Commission's recommendations as "bad law, bad policy and bad politics." Although non-binding, the recommendations will reinforce the intransigence of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition government and deepen Israel's deadlock with the Palestinians over the renewal of peace talks.

CFPN is a Zionist organization dedicated to enhancing Israel's security through peace and to supporting Peace Now, Israel's oldest and largest peace movement.

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