

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

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## NEWS

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### **CFPN WELCOMES RESUMPTION OF ISRAEL-PALESTINE PEACE TALKS; URGES LEADERS TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST.**

**TORONTO - Tuesday, July 23, 2013 - Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN) enthusiastically welcomes the forthcoming resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. CFPN applauds U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for his tenacious efforts to achieve this diplomatic breakthrough. CFPN calls on the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians to negotiate in good faith toward the goal of achieving a two-state solution to the conflict.**

**CFPN urges all other parties to support Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. That includes the Arab states, the Israeli and Palestinian publics, Canada and the Canadian Jewish community.**

**It is crucial that both sides refrain from unilateral actions that would jeopardize the success of the negotiations. That means no further settlement construction, or announcement of settlement building plans, by the Netanyahu Government. It also means no further initiatives at the U.N. by the Abbas Government to further isolate Israel. It is encouraging that Mr. Kerry appears to have enlisted the agreement of both sides to such restraint.**

**The parties, Israelis and Palestinians alike, must demonstrate that they are serious about negotiations and serious about peace by avoiding inflammatory actions and rhetoric. Israel must deliver on its reported acceptance of a Palestinian prisoner release as a confidence-building step. Palestinians must do their utmost to maintain security, to actively oppose violence and to refrain from incitement. As we have seen before, peace negotiations that take place in an environment that is hostile to peace are all but doomed to fail.**

**While this tentative return to negotiations is fraught with uncertainty, Mr. Kerry appears to have succeeded in restarting final-status talks at a time when many pundits were skeptical or even downright hostile towards his initiative. All credit to him and his shuttle diplomacy.**

**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. CONTACT: 416-322-5559**