

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

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NEWS

CIJA'S OUTRAGE IS OUTRAGEOUS, SAYS CFPN

TORONTO—[August 16, 2012]— The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is over the top in its criticism of the United Church of Canada for adopting a resolution proposing a boycott of products from Israeli settlements, says Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

CIJA claims in its denunciation of the Church to be speaking on behalf of 100,000 Jewish families. But CIJA is not a democratically elected leadership of the community. It represents no one other than its Board of Directors.

CIJA outrageously distorts the UC's position when it claims that the Church has "chosen to explicitly ally itself with those who formally reject the two-State solution and who deny the historical right of the Jewish people to a homeland." In reality, the Church explicitly supports a two-state solution and recognizes Israel as a Jewish state.

CIJA claims its survey of UC members revealed that a majority were against a boycott. But it appears from the wording of CIJA's news release that the survey asked UC members only if they were against a boycott of Israel, not of Israeli settlements.

CIJA also misrepresented CFPN's position on the issue of a settlements boycott. CFPN did not endorse or oppose the Church's resolution, in part because of a lack of balance underlying it. However, our parent organization, Peace Now in Israel, has endorsed, in principle, a boycott of the settlements (while also being aware that they are not the only impediments to peace).

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the UC resolution, it should be a wakeup call to the Netanyahu government and to its backers in Canada who support the settlements project with a total lack of intellectual honesty.

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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