

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

Charitable Reg. # 11914 7320 RR0001



119 - 660 Eglinton Ave. E. Suite 517 Toronto, ON, M4G 2K2
PH 416-322-5559 1-866-405-5387 FX 416-322-5587
e-mail info@peacenowcanada.org
web-site www.peacenowcanada.org

NEWS

CFPN CONDEMNS RENEWED SETTLEMENT CONSTRUCTION

TORONTO—[September 27, 2010]

Canadian Friends of Peace Now (CFPN), supporters of Israel's largest peace movement, today condemned the Netanyahu Government for its refusal to extend the 10-month moratorium on West Bank settlement construction that expired Sunday, but called upon the Palestinian Authority not to quit the peace talks.

It is irresponsible for Mr. Netanyahu to put the recently revived peace talks at risk in order to placate the right-wing members of his Cabinet and the settler movement. The settlement building agenda is inherently at odds with the Prime Minister's professed commitment to work toward a two-state solution within a year.

A Peace Now report released yesterday indicated that construction work could proceed on 2,066 housing units, spread out over 42 different settlements since those building projects had already received the required permits and have preliminary foundations. In addition to these units, Peace Now's report noted that there were an additional 11,000 potential houses which could be built, in places where general outlines had been approved.

Nevertheless, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas would only damage the interests of the Palestinians by walking away from the negotiating table to signal a loss of confidence in Mr. Netanyahu as a peace partner. It is to be hoped that the Arab League's monitoring committee, meeting on October 4th, will provide the diplomatic cover that Mr. Abbas needs in order to remain at the negotiations.