

## Resolution on the Status of the Peace Process

Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 20, 1994:

The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations condemns in the strongest possible terms all acts of terrorism deliberately aimed at preventing the implementation of the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles. These include, but are not limited to, the massacre of Palestinians that took place at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, as well as terrorist acts at Israelis, such as the massacres in Afula and Hadera and the attempted massacre in Ashdod.

Whether terrorist acts are committed by an individual pursuing a personal path of hatred or groups pursuing deliberate and organized policies of terrorism, such acts cannot be tolerated by a civilized society. We express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and friends who are bereaved and offer our prayers for a full and speedy recovery to those wounded.

Jewish law has always affirmed the supreme value of human life and the absolute equality of all human beings. Violence is an affront to God, by whatever name God is known.

The most important goal, in our view, is to not permit those who reject the peace process to succeed. Rejectionists on both sides are engaging in violent acts designed to trigger public reactions which prevent the peace process from going forward. The opponents of peace cannot be permitted to win. We continue to support efforts to maintain progress in the peace process.

We commend the swift action by President Clinton in calling for immediate and continuous negotiations. But, for the parties to make real progress at the table, concrete actions by both sides are needed to restore confidence.

We support the Israeli government's decisions in reaction to Hebron, Afula, Ashdod and Hadera:

- the commitment to continue the peace process and accelerate negotiations to implement the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles.
- the pursuit, disarming and arrest of leaders of the violent opposition to the peace process.
- moves to outlaw groups which advocate violence.
- undertaking a full and open inquiry into the Hebron massacre.
- the March 31, 1994 Israel-PLO agreement on security

in Hebron.

Ultimately, furthering the peace process is the only useful reply to violence. Only a true and lasting peace can prevent future bloodshed. It is critical now for us to state our support for the government of Israel and for both sides to continue the historic reconciliation they have begun.

In view of the recent and continued terrorist attacks in Israel for which the fundamentalist Hamas has claimed responsibility, we urge Chairman Arafat to follow the example set by Prime Minister Rabin and immediately condemn such terrorist acts.

Recommended by the Israel Commission,  
March 31, 1993  
Recommended by the Executive Committee,  
April 14, 1993  
Approved by the Board of Directors,  
May 19, 1993

**COUNCIL POSITION AND PROGRAM GOALS**  
**REGARDING THE PEACE PROCESS**

The Milwaukee Jewish Council adopts as its own goals two positions which had been adopted by the 1993 NJCRAC Plenum for inclusion in the 1993-94 NJCRAC Joint Program Plan:

1. A priority strategic goal [for the Milwaukee Jewish Council] is to develop programs to educate the community about the significance and urgency of the peace process, and to publicly manifest the community's support for continued progress in the negotiations.
2. A priority strategic goal [for the Milwaukee Jewish Council] is to interpret to the Administration, Congress, and influentials the urgency of defusing the Arab-Israeli conflict through the peace process before regional proliferation of long-range missiles and unconventional weapons drastically increases the dangers of war.