

Democratic Socialists of America

National Political Committee Statement on Israel-Palestine

**For a Just Two-State Solution: Recognize a Palestinian State; End the Violence in Gaza;
Pressure Israel to Withdraw from West Bank Settlements**

November 30, 2012

Democratic Socialists of America endorses the decision of the United Nations to grant Palestine Non-Member Observer State status. We regard the U.N.'s recognition of a Palestinian state as a vital step forward towards a durable, just, comprehensive, negotiated two-state peace. We regret that Israel and the United States actively opposed the Palestinian application. As we stated in our 2009 Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Winning Peace with Justice in the Middle East:

Peace in the Middle East and justice for both the Palestinian and Israeli people can only be achieved through mutual recognition by each side of the right of each people to viable and secure states of their own, in which the rights of minorities are also guaranteed.

We strongly oppose retaliatory measures against the PLO or the Palestinian Authority (PA)—in particular, Congressional efforts to cut funding, which could lead to the collapse of the PA and jeopardize the important progress it has made in recent years. We call on President Obama to swiftly adopt serious and vigorous efforts that promote Israeli-Palestinian peace.

DSA also condemns the recent Israeli military attacks on Gaza that led to disproportionate civilian deaths. These arose in response to Hamas's unjustifiable rocket attacks on Israeli civilians. Israel, however, is the hegemonic military and occupying power in the region; therefore, DSA believes Israel has the primary responsibility to create pre-conditions for peace—such as a unilateral withdrawal of illegal West Bank settlements and an end to the embargo of civilian goods entering Gaza. Israel should be willing to negotiate with representatives of the Palestinian people, while such representatives should promote the peace process by ending attacks on Israeli civilians.

At this crucial juncture, it is the obligation of the international community, including especially the United States of America, to make sure that the strategy of coexistence and moderation is rewarded, and that the Palestinian people are offered a horizon in which they are able to realize a viable, contiguous, independent state alongside Israel (including a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem) not through guns and bombs, but via the tools of statecraft and diplomacy.

DSA will work, along with other pro-peace forces in the American Jewish, Palestinian, Arab, and broader progressive community to pressure the United States to adopt a balanced Middle-East approach, including an end to military aid to Israel that is used for occupation purposes, and to support movements in Israel and Palestine that are committed to a two-state solution.