Israeli-American peace activist Miko Peled will bring his thoughts on the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations to Windsor Wednesday night.

Peled, the son of Matti Peled, an Israeli general in the 1967 Six Day War, advocates a single-state solution to bring an end to the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

“Among the less fanatic Jewish community, there is a sense that this is unsustainable,” said Peled Tuesday, en route to a presentation in London.
“The best thing to do is get rid of this non-democratic regime.”

Peled said with the current population breakdown in Israel of 6.5 million Jewish Israelis and six million Palestinians, and an increasing number of walls being built between communities, there needs to be a rethinking of the Jewish nation-state.

“No Israeli government will do it because it is a Jewish state,” said Peled, who will speak at the University of Windsor’s Winclare A Vanier Hall Room at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Peled is on a cross-Canada speaking tour sponsored by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East.

He likens the divide between the two majority populations in Israel to that between blacks and whites in South Africa before the end of apartheid.

“If you told somebody that Nelson Mandela would be president of South Africa two or three years before it happened, nobody would have believed you,” said Peled.

“But it happened.”

He said growing up as a Jew in Israel there was a fear of Arabs ingrained in the Jewish population.

“We’re indoctrinated into living in fear,” said Peled.

But he said he was able to change his views by venturing into Palestinian communities and learning about their lives.

“You will have a Palestinian town with 10 hours of running water per week, and next to it is an Israeli town with green lawns and swimming pools,” said Peled, who believes that such inequality between Israel’s populations cannot endure another five or 10 years.

He said the new nation could be called Israel-Palestine, Palestine-Israel.

Tickets for Peled’s talk are $6 in advance or $9 at the door for students with ID, and $11 in advance or $14 at the door for non-students.

More information is available at cjpmo.org.

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