

JULY 2020

J-LINK ANTI- ANNEXATION DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN

A REPORT ON THE COLLABORATIVE
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT AGAINST
ANNEXATION



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MISSION STATEMENT

The International Progressive Jewish network comprises Jewish organizations from the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, South Africa, and Australia. Together with Israeli organizations, we cooperate to provide a unified voice in support of democracy, religious pluralism, and a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The human and material costs of this conflict are tragic as attested by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, continuing violence with loss of lives on both sides, and the threat to the very coexistence between Arabs and Jews inside Israel.

We believe in the deep values and principles of Judaism, which regards human dignity as sacrosanct and justice as an absolute imperative. Our shared values include the need to uphold pluralism and democracy so as to ensure the protection of minority rights and the coexistence of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious identities in open societies. We are concerned by the increasing intolerance, xenophobia, and ultra-nationalism in the world. Building a global network of Progressive Jewry to oppose anti-Semitism and racism, which undermine democracy and tolerance internationally, is both a moral and an existential necessity.

We see a widening chasm between Jews from different regions of the world who are concerned with issues of human rights, equality and pluralism, and the growing number of Israelis who are leaning toward parochial nationalism. Many Jews involved in confronting anti-immigrant xenophobia and a rise in anti-Semitism are finding it difficult to reconcile these values with the illiberal and nationalistic spirit that prevails in Israel. We reject the Israeli Government's campaign to silence opposition to its policies by falsely equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. Such a campaign weakens the struggle against true instances of anti-Semitism and, instead, strengthens the hands of anti-Semites worldwide.

We continue to believe in the values enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence, according to which the State of Israel as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people will ensure "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." We are greatly concerned by racist and discriminatory trends that are taking hold in Israel. We oppose initiatives such as the Nation-State Law, which discriminates against non-Jewish minorities in the country.

We support movements and parties in Israel committed to ending the occupation and achieving peace between Israelis and Palestinians based on the right to self-determination of the two peoples. We aim to coordinate campaigns that mobilize Jews all over the world and Israelis who share progressive values, cooperate to defend democracy and the rule of law.

The International Progressive Jewish Network aspires to work with our respective local Jewish communities, our national governments and international organizations to advance the adoption of policies that promote justice, human rights, and a peace agreement between the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

ANTI-ANNEXATION APPEAL

As supporters of J-Link, the international network of progressive Jewish organizations, we urgently share our deep concerns, backed by the analysis of diplomatic and security experts, regarding the Government of Israel's intention to proceed with annexation of parts of the West Bank.

Only a short time remains to convince the Government of Israel to halt this ill-advised move. With the abetment of the Trump administration, Prime Minister Netanyahu is perpetuating the myth that reality on the ground supersedes international law. This is the moment that Israelis need to consider the consequences to their security and international relations, as a result of unilateral annexation.

Notably, a petition signed by 220 former senior officers of the army, the Mossad and the police who are members of Commanders for Israel's Security stated that annexation will set in motion a chain reaction over which Israel will have no control, leading to the collapse of the Palestinian Authority. This in turn would require Israel to take full control over the entire West Bank and assume responsibility for the lives of 2.6 million Palestinians.

The coalition agreement signed by Netanyahu and Alternate Prime Minister Gantz includes articles that enable the incoming government to expedite the process of annexation as of July 1st. Despite an acknowledgment of the need to discuss the matter with the international community, the only binding commitment in the agreement is coordination of the move with the U.S. Administration. As was the case with President Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan, the Palestinians have no say in the matter. It is worth noting that Article 28 of the Coalition Agreement mentions the government's intention "to strive to uphold existing peace agreements," indicating that Jordan and Egypt may have leverage over this decision.

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, heavily populated by Palestinian refugees, annexation risks destabilization that could endanger the government and compel it to reconsider its peace treaty with Israel. Israel's peace treaty with Egypt would also be put in jeopardy. Moreover, Israel's actions are already straining its relations with democratic countries around the world.

Unilateral annexation is illegal under international law and contravenes all relevant UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Israel-Palestine conflict, particularly UNSC Resolution 2334 of Dec. 2016. If implemented, annexation will signify the demise of the two-state solution and will dash any hopes the Palestinian people have of achieving self-determination through nonviolent means.

Furthermore, annexation could turn Israel into a state that maintains permanent control over millions of Palestinians within its territory – while denying them the most basic civil and political rights – thereby putting an end to democracy in Israel as we know it.

Such action risks provoking a mounting tide of delegitimization of Israel and further bouts of antisemitism. Annexation will also jeopardize relations between Israel and progressive Jews around the world for whom human rights, equality and democracy are essential principles.

Please join us in our call to all who care about Israel's future to take immediate action to convince the government and people of Israel that the price to be paid for annexation will be too heavy for Israel to bear.

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ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNERS

Ameinu Australia
Ameinu Canada
Ameinu United States
Americans for Peace Now
Argentinos Amigos de Paz Ahora
Amogos Brasileiros Do Paz Agora (Brazil)
Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Casa de Cultura (Uruguay)
Centro Progresista judio CPJ (Chile)
Centre Communautaire Laïc Juif (Belgium)
Cercle Martin Buber Geneva (Switzerland)
Gruppo Martin Buber- ebrei per la pace (Italy)
Habonim Dror North America
Habonim Dror Southern Africa
Hashomer Hatzair World Movement
J-AMLAT (Latin America)
JCall Europe
JCall Belgium
JCall France
JCall Italy
JCall Spain
JCall Switzerland
Jewish Democratic Initiative (South Africa)
Jewish Labor Committee (United States)
Jewish Labour Movement (United Kingdom)
JSpaceCanada
J Street (United States)
La paix maintenant (Peace Now), France
Llamamiento Argentino Judio (Argentina)
Meretz Argentina
Meretz France
Meretz UK
Meretz Uruguay
Mujeres activan por la paz (Argentina)
Netzer South Africa
New Israel Fund (Australia)
New Israel Fund (Austria)
New Israel Fund (Canada)
New Israel Fund (Germany)
New Israel Fund (United Kingdom)
New Israel Fund (United States)
New Israel Fund (Switzerland)
Partners for Progressive Israel (United States)
Policy Working Group (Israel)
Reconstructing Judaism (United States)
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (United States)
Smol Talk Mexico
Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights (United States)
Union Jovenes judios Argentinos (Argentina)
Yachad (United Kingdom)

ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNERS



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INTRODUCTION

In response to the Israeli government's Coalition Agreement, dated April 20 2020, which included a proposal to unilaterally annex up to 30% of the West Bank as early as July 1, 2020, J-Link devised a strategy with its many international supporters.

In June 2020, the J-Link Coordinating Committee members, organized delegations to meet with Israeli Diplomats around the world, to express their concerns, as pro-Israel, pro-Peace, pro-2-state solution supporters. Each delegation presented the J-Link Appeal, signed by 50 progressive Jewish organizations worldwide, and asked that the Diplomats forward the Appeal to the Israeli Foreign Minister. This Report provides a brief summary of those meetings, including the Diplomats, members of the various delegations, and the significant outcomes.

AGENDA FOR MEETINGS

J-Link Delegations invited replies from each Diplomat on 4 key questions:

- *Is the annexation part of the Trump Plan?*
- *Is the Israeli government still supporting the two-states policy?*
- *How does the Israeli government see its future relationship with the Palestinian Authority (PA), when the PA completely rejects the Trump plan and any form of annexation?*
- *Is the Israeli government going to grant citizenship to the Palestinians living in the annexed territories?*

USA & CANADA

SAN FRANCISCO, USA

June 15, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Shlomi Kofman, Consul General for the US Pacific Northwest

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Brian Lurie, New Israel Fund, United Jewish Appeal,
2. Daniel Sokatch, New Israel Fund, Jewish Community Federation
3. Rabbi Andrew Straus, J Street
4. Rabbi Melanie Aron, Congregation Shir Hadash
5. Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan
6. Mel Kronick, Congregation Beth Am
7. Charles Rothschild, Union for Reform Judaism, Congregation Beth Am
8. Susan Rothschild, J Street
9. David Waksberg, Jewish LearningWorks, Ameinu

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

* organizational affiliation for identification purposes only

MIAMI, USA

June 25, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representatives

- Lisa McClaskey, Director of Political Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in Miami
- Kasa Bainesay-Harbor, Deputy Consul General of Israel for Florida and Puerto Rico

J-Link Delegation

1. David Abraham, Partners for Progressive Israel
2. Rabbi Bradd Boxman, Congregation Kol Tikvah
3. Sarah Pincus, Habonim Dror North America
4. Elianna Cooper, J Street U
5. Jonah Karsch, J Street U

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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LOS ANGELES, USA

June 10, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Hillel Newman, Consul General of Israel for the Pacific Southwest
- Carolyn Ben Natan, Director of Public Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi John Rosove, J Street, ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America)
2. Alisa Katz, Ameinu
3. Karen Shapiro, Partners for Progressive Israel
4. Janet Halpert, J Street
5. Sandy Weiner, Americans for Peace Now
6. Keri Hausner, J Street

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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NEW YORK, USA

June 12, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Dani Dayan, Consular General of Israel in New York
- Israel Nitzan, Deputy Consular General of Israel in New York
- Andrew Gross, Director of Political Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in New York

J-Link Delegation

1. Sam Norich, Ameinu, Forward Association
2. Rabbi Steve Gutow, NYU Wagner School Scholar
3. Stuart Appelbaum, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Jewish Labor Committee
4. Leah Schwartz, Habonim Dror North America
5. Jessica Brown, J Street NYC

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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ATLANTA, USA

July 6, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Anat Sultan-Dadon, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Ron Segal, Temple Sinai, Central Conference of American Rabbis
2. Cedric Suzman, J Street Atlanta Steering Committee, AJC Atlanta
3. Jeanney Kutner, J Street
4. Scott Rafshoon, J Street Atlanta Steering Committee
5. Shai Robkin, Atlanta Regional Council of the New Israel Fund
6. Lois Frank , Jewish Council of Public Affairs

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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BOSTON, USA

June 25, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Zeev Boker, Consul General of Israel to New England
- Daniel Agranov, Deputy Consul General of Israel for New England
- Juan Gilces, Chief of Staff to the Consul General of New England

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek of West Newton
2. Rabbi Allison Berry, Temple Shalom of Newton
3. Rabbi Art Green, Hebrew College
4. Geoffrey Lewis, Americans for Peace Now
5. Stephane Acel-Green, New Israel Fund
6. Rabbi Keith Stern, Avodah
7. Rabbi David Lerner, Massachusetts Board of Rabbis
8. Shaina Wasserman, J Street

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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CHICAGO, USA

July 21, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Aviv Ezra, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest US
- Ariella Rada, Consul for Academic and Community Affairs of Israel in Chicago
- Moran Birman, Consul for Public Diplomacy of Israel in Chicago
- Renie Schreiber, Jewish Outreach Director for the Consulate General of Israel in Chicago

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Sam Gordon, Congregation Sukkat Shalom
2. Rabbi Isaac Serotta, Makom Solel Lakeside
3. James Klutznick, Americans for Peace Now
4. Zach Harris, Habonim Dror North America
5. Jeffry Mallow, Ameinu
6. Rabbi Andrea London, Beth Emet

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

TORONTO, CANADA

June 15, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Galit Baram, Consul General of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada and former Director of Palestinian Affairs in Israel

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Barbara Landau, J-Link Coordinating Committee
2. Dr. Karen Mock, JSpaceCanada
3. Ben Murane, NIF Canada
4. Jon Allen, JSpaceCanada, former Canadian Ambassador to Israel
5. Bob Katz, Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date
- Suggested J-Link should have conversations with moderate Palestinians who support two states

MONTREAL, CANADA

June 17, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- David Levy, Consul General of Israel for Quebec and Eastern Canada

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Barbara Landau, J-Link Coordinating Committee
2. David Cohen, Canadian Friends of Peace Now
3. Michael Morgenteau, JSpaceCanada
4. David Adley, Canadian Friends of Rabbis for Human Rights

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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OTTAWA, CANADA

June 15, 2020

Forum

Phone Call

Israeli Representative

- Eitan Na'eh, Charge D'Affaires at the Israeli Embassy for Canada in Ottawa

J-Link Delegation

1. Jon Allen, J-Link, JSpaceCanada, Former Canadian Ambassador to Israel

Further Meeting Request

- Dr. Barbara Landau, asked that the J-Link Appeal be forwarded to the Israeli Foreign Minister

Outcome

- Offered to meet with a delegation later in July once Israeli policy on proposed Annexation is clearer

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LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

June 23, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Zvi Tal, Ambassador of Israel to Mexico and Bahamas
- Tal Naim, Director of Public Affairs for the Embassy of Israel in Mexico

J-Link Delegation

1. Esther Shabot, Middle East affairs analyst with Excelsior, J-AmLat
2. Mordecai Staropolsky, Avodá, Center for Judaic Studies, The Rabin Group
3. Moisés Salinas, Meretz México, ORT University of Mexico.
4. Salvador Lobatón, Joven Guardia AC (linked to Hashomer Hatzair), J-AmLat Mexico
5. Arturo Duque, Smol Talk (linked to Hashomer Hatzair)
6. Nicolás Trepman, Avodá México
7. José Hamra Sassón, Middle East analyst, J-AMLAT México

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

SANTIAGO, CHILE

June 16, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Marina Rosenberg, Ambassador of Israel to Chile

J-Link Delegation

1. Tamara Benquis, Jewish Progressive Center
2. Marcelo Carvallo, J-AMLAT Chile
3. Carlos Vásquez, Meretz Chile
4. Sara Frenkel, Hashomer Hatzair Chile
5. René Arriagada, Jewish Progressive Center
6. Galo Eidelstein, Jewish Progressive Center
7. Yonathan Nowogrodski, Jewish Progressive Center

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Meeting Denied

Initial Request

- Sent to Shani Tayar-Rabinovitch, First Secretary to the Embassy of Israel in Brazil

J-Link Delegation

1. Sergio Storch, J-AMLAT
2. Rolande Fischberg, ADAF (Associação David Frischman de Cultura e Recreação)
3. Moises Storch, Brazilian Friends of Peace Now
4. Mauro Band, ASA - Associação Scholem Aleichem
5. Renato Bekerman, Associação Cultural Mordechai Anilevicz (Rio de Janeiro), Meretz Brazil
6. Mauro Lipman, Mordechai Anilevicz Cultural Center (São Paulo)
7. Beatrice Goldfeld, JpD - Judeus pela Democracia
8. Beni Iachan, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
9. Eduardo Rawet, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
10. Guilherme Cohen, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
11. Juliana Kaiser, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
12. Bernardo Furrer, Fascism Observatory (Rio de Janeiro)

Outcome

- No response

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BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Meeting Denied

Initial Request June 8, 2020

- Sent to Paola Baredes, Assistant to Ambassador of Israel in Argentina

J-Link Delegation

1. Adriana Potel, Women Activate for Peace
2. Ariel Gueiser, Meretz Argentina
3. Dardo Esterovich, Llamamiento Argentine Jewish Appeal
4. Gustavo Efron, Director of the Nueva Sion Newspaper
5. Isaac Roberto Faur, Argentine Friends of Peace Now
6. Pablo Lumerman, J-Link coordinating committee
7. UJJA - Union of Young Argentine Jews

Response June 26, 2020

Outcome

- Refusal to meet on the grounds that annexation had not yet happened
- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Willing to consider a conversation dependent on if Israel moves forward with annexation

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EUROPE

BRUXELLES, BELGIUM

Meeting Denied

Initial Request

- Sent to Emanuel Nachson, Ambassador of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg

J-Link Delegation

1. Benjamin Beeckmans, Jewish Secular Community Center (CCLJ)

Outcome

- Refusal to meet
- The J-Link Appeal should be thrown away

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HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

July 2, 2020

Forum

In Person

Israeli Representative

- Naor Gilon, Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Eldad Ben Aharon, Professor at Leiden University
2. Nir Geva, AFI Group Holland
3. Gad Meir Lev, musician and composer

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

June 30, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Benny Dagan, Ambassador of Israel to Denmark

J-Link Delegation

1. Merete Christensen, New Outlook
2. Sigge Korzen, New Outlook
3. Mette Geldmann, New Outlook

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date
- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Will establish a point person for direct channel of communication with J-Link in the future

ROME, ITALY

July 20, 2020

Forum

In person

Israeli Representative

- Dror Eydar, Ambassador of Israel to Italy

J-Link Delegation

1. Giorgio Gomel, JCall Italy, Alliance for Middle East Peace Europe
2. Fernando Liuzzi, Group Martin Buber-Jews for Peace, Rome
3. Daniele Naim, Beth Hillel Reform Jewish Community

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

OSLO, NORWAY

June 9, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Alon Roth, Ambassador of Israel to Norway

J-Link Delegation

1. Ervin Kohn, The Mosaic Faith Society

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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BERLIN, GERMANY

June 18, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Jeremy Issacharoff, Ambassador of Israel to Germany

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Micha Brumlik, Professor at Selma Stern Center of Jewish Studies, Jalta magazine
2. Sergey Lagodinsky, Green Party member of the European Parliament, Jewish Community of Berlin
3. Dr. Irit Dekel, Scholar of Holocaust Memory
4. Dr. Susan Neiman, Einstein Forum in Potsdam
5. Amir Theilhaber, NIF Germany
6. Dr. Susan Lourenco, NIF Germany

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

MADRID, SPAIN

June 9, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Yoav Katz, Spokesman of Israel Embassy in Spain

J-Link Delegation

1. Jonas Benarroch, JCall
2. Marcel Odina, JCall, Plataforma Mozaika
3. Isabelle Pleskoff, JCall, Musée d' Art et Histoire du Judaïsme (Paris)
4. Arnau Pons, JCall
5. Daniela Rosenfeld, JCall, Barcelona Jewish Film Festival
6. Victor Sorensen, JCall, Plataforma Mozaika, Association Européenne pour le Patrimoine Juif (AEPJ)

No Outcome

PARIS, FRANCE

June 16, 2020

Forum

In person

Israeli Representative

- Delphine Gamburg, Director of Public Relations for Israeli Embassy in France

J-Link Delegation

1. Izio Rosenman, Secular Humanist Jewish Association (AJHL)
2. Anny Dayan Rosenman, JCall
3. Laurent Azoulai, Cercle Léon Blum, French Socialist Party
4. Hélène Papiernik, Medem Centre
5. Tzion Grabarz, Hashomer Hatzair, Peace Now, Zionist Congress (Meretz), CRIF

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

BERN, SWITZERLAND

July 17, 2020

Initial Request Denied

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Jacob Keidar, Ambassador of Israel to Switzerland and Liechtenstein

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Michel Borzykowski, Cercle Martin Buber, JCall
2. Jacques de Haller, New Israel Fund
3. Rachel Halpern, New Israel Fund
4. Dr. Marcelo Kohen, Cercle Martin Buber, JCall
5. Barbara Vogt-Hornick, JCall

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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SOUTH AFRICA & OCEANIA

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Meeting Denied

Initial Request

- Sent to Lior Keinan, Ambassador of Israel to South Africa

J-Link Delegation

1. Prof. David Bilchitz, The Jewish Democratic Initiative
2. Nina Reitenberg, Habonim Dror Southern Africa
3. Rachael Bootcov, Netzer South Africa

Second Request Sent June 11, 2020

Outcome

- Response from Mariette van Door, Personal Assistant to the Ambassador of Israel to South Africa, June 17, 2020
- Refusal to meet

Third Request Sent June 19, 2020

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Meeting Denied

Initial Request June 29, 2020

- Sent to Mark Sofer, Ambassador of Israel to Australia

J-Link Delegation

1. Jo Dixon, Jewish Canberra Peace Forum
2. Matthew Zagor, Professor at ANU College of Law
3. Len Dixon, ACT Jewish Community
4. Naomi Gould, Human rights & community lawyer
5. Michael Platow, Psychology researcher and professor
6. Dr. Dan Rosaeur, ARC DECRA Research Fellow (2016-2019, ANU)
7. Dr. Galia Shy, Canberra-based artist
8. Tim Hollo, The Green Institute; Visiting Fellow, RegNet, ANU
9. Lorana Bartels, Professor at College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU
10. Assa Doron, Professor at College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
11. Ronit Ricci, Professor at College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
12. Meir Itzchaki, MIBD Strategies, former Diplomat, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13. Dr. Julia Wolfson, Turning Forward

Outcome

- Refusal to meet
- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Meeting Denied

Initial Request June 3, 2020

- Sent to Itzhak Gerberg, Ambassador of Israel to New Zealand

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Margalit Toledano, professor at University of Waikato
2. Tami Louisson
3. Simon Louisson
4. Sarah Cole
5. Annick Jason
6. Hadas Ore
7. Rick Sahar
8. Yael Shochat
9. Laura Zilberberg
10. Denzelle Marcovicci, Sh'ma Koleinu- Alternative Jewish Voices
11. Jeremy Rose, Sh'ma Koleinu- Alternative Jewish Voices
12. Fred Albert, Sh'ma Kolein - Alternative Jewish Voices
13. Marilyn Garson, Sh'ma Koleinu- Alternative Jewish Voices
14. Sue Berman, Dayenu- New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation
15. Asher Wilson Goldman
16. Ilan Blumberg, Dayenu- New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation
17. Rebecca Kunin, Dayenu- New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation

Outcome

- Refusal to meet on the grounds that annexation has not been finalized or brought up in Knesset

Second and Third Requests

Additional Correspondence

- Ilan Baruch, Policy Working Group to Winston Peters, New Zealand Foreign Minister

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SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The J-Link delegations met with Israeli Diplomats from 21 different missions; however we noticed several recurring responses. In order to uphold the confidentiality of the meetings, we have summarized some of the most consistent responses and have not identified anyone's name. The following notes and opinions were expressed by Israel's Diplomats. J-Link's views on the proposed Annexation are explicitly stated in the Anti-Annexation Appeal that is signed by 50 progressive Jewish organizations worldwide.

Arguments supporting annexation:

- Israel has the support of its strongest ally, the USA
- Annexation is not a fait accompli
 - The Israeli government has not finalized anything
 - It has not even been brought up to a vote in the Knesset
- Will likely be a limited annexation
 - Seems to be a result of immense international pressure
- Annexation is a good option in line with a Two-State Solution

With regards to Palestinians:

- Palestinians must come to the table and negotiate
 - There is no one to talk to
- Palestinian severance of security coordination is dangerous to their own people
- No clear response as to the legal status of Palestinians on annexed land:
 - Including citizenship, voting rights, home demolitions, etc
 - The outlier includes one senior ambassador, directly related to Israeli leadership, stated that Palestinians living in annexed territories would receive full citizenship rights

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Internationally:

- Israel's relationship with Jordan remains a high priority
- One senior ambassador cited the importance of the United Arab Emirate's opinion in Israeli decision making
 - Our delegations noticed a meaningful slowdown in preparation to annex after the Oped by UAE Ambassador to Washington in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper

Note on Ambassadors' Responses:

- Israeli Embassies across the world did not have unified knowledge about annexation; several thought it would not happen while many admitted to be speculating responses. Some were not able to answer any of our questions while others gave specific answers, and some contradicted each other. Additionally, Jewish condemnation of the proposed Annexation has varied across and within countries. Most Ambassadors acknowledged that many people had reached out to them about this issue, but several mentioned that the J-Link delegation was the first time they heard of it directly.

J-LINK COORDINATING COMMITTEE



Barbara Landau Ph.D., LL.B., LL.M., President, Cooperative Solutions Toronto, Canada

Barbara is a Lawyer, Psychologist and Mediator. She is a Board Member and Chairs the Shared Society Committee of JSpaceCanada and is the Canadian representative on the J-Link Coordinating Committee. Barbara participated in 3 Compassionate Listening peace-building missions to Israel and Palestine. She co-chairs the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM), is co-founder of “Together in Hope”, a Jewish, Palestinian/Arab women’s dialogue group. Barbara is a partner in Givat Haviva’s “Heart to Heart” Alumni Program, whose goal is building shared society for Jewish and Palestinian Israeli youth and their parents.

Pablo Lumerman, J-AMLAT Spokesperson with J-Link Cipolletti, Argentina

Pablo has practiced mediation and peacebuilding for 15 years in different peacebuilding projects. Following Kaufman’s theory on the role of diasporas in peacebuilding, he co-founded Consenso Argentino por la Paz entre Israel y Palestina and J-AMLAT, a Latin American Israeli joint project. An expert in conflict resolution, human rights, and sustainable development, Pablo has been involved in an array of conflict resolution roles such as mediator, facilitator, and strategic process designer, trained by George Mason University Notre Dame and Fundacion Cambio Democratico. Pablo has also been involved in local Jewish community activities as part of the community leadership in Centro Hebraico de Neuquen in Patagonia, promoting an open Judaism based on interfaith dialogue, peace, and human dignity for humankind.



Kenneth Bob, National President, Ameinu New York, USA

Ken serves as national president of Ameinu, a progressive Zionist organization as well as the chair of Project Rozana USA. He is a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel Board of Governors and sits on its Executive Committee. He also serves as the treasurer of the J Street board of directors and speaks widely on topics of interest regarding Israel and the Jewish community.



**Alon Liel, former Ambassador of Israel to South Africa
Tel Aviv, Israel**

Alon served as the Ambassador of Israel to South Africa and as the Director General of the Foreign Ministry of Israel. Today, he sits on the boards of several academic institutions and organizations including Israel Academic College, Hertzliya Hebrew Gymnasium, Ir Amim, and Sikkuy. Alon is one of the leaders of an Israeli campaign to advance European recognition of a Palestinian state. Besides this involvement, is considered an expert and has written several books on Israeli-Turkish relations.

**Gabriella Saven, Coordinator, Jewish Democratic Initiative
Cape Town, South Africa**

Gabi completed her undergraduate degree in Law and International Political Science at the University of Cape Town, where she is currently undertaking her postgraduate degree in International Development Theory. She was a member of Habonim Dror South Africa from 2006-2018, sat on the national executive committee for two years, and was in charge of the Western Cape for 2 years. She is an active Jewish community member, assists Limmud South Africa with its national marketing and currently works for the Jewish Democratic Initiative as their coordinator and administrator.



**Giorgio Gomel, President, Alliance for Middle East Peace Europe
Rome, Italy**

Giorgio, Italian economist, has been the head of research and international economics at the Bank of Italy. Among the cofounders of JCall, an association of European Jews committed to a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on two states, he is the President of Alliance for Middle East Peace Europe, a coalition of Israeli-Palestinian NGOs working cross border. He was a cofounder of Beth Hillel, a progressive Jewish community in Rome. Beside professional publications, he has written extensively on Israel and Jewish affairs.

**Lior Ben-Zvi, Administrative Intern, J-Link
New York, USA**

Lior recently graduated Rutgers University, with a double major in Middle Eastern Studies and French. Her research focuses on national identities within countries in conflict. She was an active member of Hashomer Hatzair USA, and served as Educational Director and National Youth Coordinator there. Most recently, Lior has been working with NIF on an Israel education curriculum.



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