

Where Were the Palestinians?

Rabbi Andrea London

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To the Editor:

I was pleased to see you covered the Chicago Jewish-Palestinian press conference in support of the principles of the Geneva Accord. I was, however, dismayed that the article never mentioned that Chicago area Palestinians co-sponsored the event, spoke at the event, and were signatories to a statement that had been jointly written by Chicago area Jews and Palestinians. The article mentions “Arabs” and “Jews, Muslims, and Christians” but completely fails to mention Palestinians as participants. In fact, the press conference was co-sponsored by THREE Palestinian organizations: American Task Force on Palestine, Yalla Salam/Palestinians for Peace Now, and the Palestinian American Women's Society.

If one Palestinian had broken a window at a synagogue, it would have been front-page news in the Chicago Jewish News and in every other Jewish publication but, apparently, three Palestinian organizations gathering with their Jewish counterparts to support peace is not newsworthy. When people ask me, “Rabbi, where are the Palestinians who are working for peace?” I will answer, “Ask the news organizations that fail to mention them and their efforts.”

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