



Speaking our Piece Americans for Peace Now... www.peacenow.org

A recent joint survey of American Jewish and Arab American opinion about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict revealed that, even after more than two years of brutal bloodshed that has marked the Intifada, both communities share moderate views on the situation and voice strong support for positions that can advance the peace process. Beyond the results of the poll, the groups that sponsored the survey, Americans for Peace Now and the Arab American Institute, also demonstrated that cooperation between our two communities is indeed possible-and desirable.

Here are the major findings:

Over 86% of American Jews and Arab Americans agree that Israelis and Palestinians each have a right to live in secure, independent states of their own;

Given a choice of seven different possibilities, pluralities of American Jews (42.1%) and Arab Americans (49.6%) think both sides are to blame for the breakdown of the Middle East peace process;

A plurality of American Jews (45.4%) and a majority of Arab Americans (65.8%) want to see the Bush Administration steer a middle course in the pursuit of peace; and

51.7% of American Jews and 78.9% of Arab Americans support a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that would include independent, secure states for each side, the evacuation of most settlements from the West Bank and Gaza, the establishment of a border roughly along the June 4, 1967 line, a Palestinian right of return only to inside a new Palestinian state, and establishing Jerusalem as the shared capital of both countries.

Further, American Jews were asked a separate series of peace-related questions during the survey. We found that:

71.8% of American Jews believe the best way for Israel to respond to ongoing violent attacks by Palestinians is with a combination of political negotiations and force, while another 17.6% said that just political negotiations was the best response; and

67.5% of American Jews agree that some Israeli settlements should be evacuated in the context of a peace agreement, while 53.3% of American Jews support removing settlements to improve Israeli security, even without a peace accord.

As decision makers in this country consider their next moves regarding the conflict in the Middle East, they should keep in mind that there is a real Jewish and Arab constituency for Israeli-Palestinian peace right here at home.

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