

Americans for Peace Now: We Give Voice to Moderation

In the emotional world of Middle East politics, it often seems that those who scream the loudest are the only ones who draw attention. Unfortunately, even though these “screamers” usually reflect minority views, people get the impression that they represent a bigger constituency than they actually do.

Left unspoken, and too often discounted, are the views of the majority.

That’s why Americans for Peace Now recently joined the Arab American Institute in surveying Jewish Americans and Arab Americans about Israeli-Palestinian peace process issues.

Arab and Jewish attitudes are not as far apart as you might think.

Our poll found that a majority of Jewish Americans and Arab Americans said yes to the following questions:

Issue	Jewish Americans Saying ‘Yes’	Arab Americans Saying ‘Yes’
Do you support the Road Map to Middle East peace?	71%	74%
Should Israel and the Palestinians take steps at the same time to advance the Road Map?	57%	73%
Should Israel freeze all settlement expansion in the West Bank?	71%	80%
Should Israel end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza?	59%	84%
Do Palestinians have a right to live in a secure and independent state of their own?	82%	93%
Do Israelis have a right to live in a secure and independent state?	99.5%	95%

Israeli settlers, too, are more moderate than you might think.

At the same time, Americans for Peace Now helped underwrite a new Israeli Peace Now survey of settler opinion on a wide range of issues.

The poll found that a majority of Israeli settlers answered yes to the following questions:

Issue	Israeli Settlers Saying ‘Yes’
Should unauthorized outposts be removed?	66%
Do you view the 'hilltop youth' as extremist and dangerous?	57%
Should Israel reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians?	71%
Would you agree to leave the occupied territories in exchange for compensation?	83%
Would you like to leave the West Bank and Gaza immediately?	29%

And 90% of settlers would not violate the law in response to a decision to withdraw from settlements.

Most Israelis still believe in a political solution.

With the Road Map in crisis after the August 19th Hamas bus bombing in Jerusalem, a significant majority of 60% of Israelis still recognizes that Palestinian terrorism cannot be eliminated by military means alone, requiring a political solution to the conflict; just 35% of Israelis think a military-only approach will work.

A year ago, 52% of Israelis believed military steps had to be supplemented with efforts to reach a political solution, while 41% thought a military-only approach would work. The strength of the right-wing camp, which believes in resolving the conflict through military means alone, has eroded sharply over the past year.

Israelis seek security in a democratic Jewish state, while most Palestinians seek an end to Israeli occupation and settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, to govern themselves in an independent state living side by side with Israel. The Road Map to peace is clear: Palestinians must enforce a cease-fire, prevent suicide bombings against Israelis and begin disarming the terrorist groups, while Israel should dismantle the over 100 settlement outposts built since March 2001, freeze new settlement construction and withdraw forces from Palestinian areas as the Palestinian Authority demonstrates its ability to live up to its security commitments.

Most Jewish Americans, Arab Americans, and Israelis, including the settlers, are much more moderate than some people would have the world believe.

Americans for Peace Now helps give these silent majorities a chance to be heard. Now it’s time for Washington to listen.

Chicago Peace Now

is proud to present a benefit performance of

The Arab-Israeli Comedy Hour

with Roni Geva and Hassan Arawas
Directed by Aaron Freeman

Thursday, October 30, 2003, 8:00 p.m.
at Beth Emet The Free Synagogue
1224 Dempster Street (at Ridge), Evanston, IL

Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$50 for priority seating

To purchase tickets, please call 202/728-1893, or visit
www.peacenow.org

Don't miss this one-time Chicago-area performance of the show which has won rave reviews. Now on national tour, the Arab-Israeli Comedy Hour uses humor to offer hope for Arab-Israeli peace. Proceeds will go to benefit Americans for Peace Now and Shalom Achshav in Israel.

To learn more about how you can help promote *Shalom Achshav* and Americans for Peace Now's efforts here in Chicago, across the US, with our elected officials in Washington, and in Israel, see our local web site at

www.chicagopeacenow.org

or contact

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