

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



In 1948 the United Nations recognized the right of the Jews, an ancient people, to a country of their own in their promised homeland. I, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speak to you on behalf of my country and my people. The United Nations, founded after World War II and the Holocaust, wanted to ensure that no such horror ever happens again. And it could, you know.

Just recently the President of Iran claimed that the Holocaust is a lie; that six million Jews did not die at the hands of the German Nazis. But too many people were witnesses; too many bear the tattoos that reduced them to numbers rather than human beings, to prove the horror. But soon the survivors will be gone. We cannot allow Muslim fundamentalism to spew hatred and lies about the Holocaust and the people of Israel. If we are not careful, if we do not keep a watchful eye, one day their lies will be accepted as facts.

Israel is a tiny nation, surrounded by enemies that want to wipe it from the map. Palestinian terrorists lie in wait to attack us. This we know. Arab nations aim their weapons at us, ready to use them at any moment. We have been attacked many times, even on our highest religious holiday of Yom Kippur. We know an attack can come today and must be ready. We must be stronger, have better armies and weapons, and we must never give too much or we become weaker. Our land is our strength, and I will do everything within my power to keep it as safe as possible in the midst of extreme danger.

# الله From My Perspective

My name is Ismail Haniyeh, and I am a leader of Hamas, a major force in governing Palestine. Hamas was founded in 1987 during the first intifada, the uprising against Jewish control of our land. Our numbers are small, compared to the Israeli army. Our weapons are weak compared to their stockpiles and those of the Americans who support them. Therefore, we will do anything to remain alive and to be heard. If we die for our cause, it is with great honor. There are many among my people willing to give their lives as martyrs for Palestinian freedom.



Palestine was once a homeland to my people, but it was taken from us. Then in the late 1940's we were given small scraps: the West Bank of the Jordan River; the Gaza Strip; and Golan Heights. But even then, Israel again takes our lands. Settlers come, they plow down villages of poor Palestinian people, and they build homes. The government of Israel does not stop them. The government of the United States does not stop them. The United Nations only mumbles protests, but it does not stop them.

There are some, even among my own people, who would also turn away from the settlements and the mistreatment in the name of peace. But Hamas does not believe peace is worth much if not a just peace. We will continue to fight using all methods at hand until the people of Palestine can live in freedom in our own land.

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



I am Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Fatah Party in the Palestinian government. While Fatah shares the religion of Islam and many of the same values as Hamas, we do not accept their fundamentalist views. Fatah does not link religion to government as Hamas and other fundamentalists do. We clearly separate our religious views from what is best for the Palestinian people. At this point we believe the best course is to compromise and make peace.

Of course Fatah has been willing to use violence when needed to achieve our goals in the past. When we were called the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the PLO, we believed violent methods were called for and used them. Now though, we are trying to take a more moderate course. We seek to work with Israel, rather than continue a war that has gone on so long without winning a real, independent Palestinian state. We now want to work with other nations to bring about a lasting agreement that will allow the Palestinian people to live in peace and thrive.

While I must admit that neither approach has yet worked out a lasting settlement, I have hope that with patience we will. All I know is that the people of Palestine are tired of war. They are tired of living in poverty, always in fear, and they want a land of their own. If we can achieve that goal through cooperation and compromise, I am willing to do my part, even if others are too anxious to wait. Enough bloodshed!

# FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

My name is Lee Rosenberg, and I'm the president of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. We work to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship and have been called, "the most important organization affecting America's relationship with Israel."

My colleagues and I work to influence U.S. foreign policy to help Israel remain strong and secure. U.S. policy is in fact, very friendly to Israel, as well it should be. It is in America's interest to work with Israel to develop strong anti-terrorist policies, share our homeland security technologies, and keep anti-Israeli nations such as Iran from developing nuclear weapons. If Iran achieves nuclear capability, they would surely use such weapons on the Israelis.

I am not ashamed to say that many in America are strongly pro-Israel. And I am proud to say that many fighting for our brothers and sisters there have great wealth and influence here. AIPAC works among its 100,000 members to see that those in Congress and the White House fully understand the plight of the Jewish people and their sincere need for a strong, secure homeland.

You see, many people in power listen to AIPAC, to me, to others who understand the importance of our cause. They listen and they know we can help them as well. It is always good for someone running for office to have support and money behind them. We at AIPAC do all we can to see that those in Washington and elsewhere willing to help our cause are elected to positions to do so.



# From My Perspective†



I, Mike Huckabee, am an American minister and politician and am not afraid to say that my religion does indeed dictate my politics. Take the land of Israel. Christians believe that God formed a covenant, an agreement, with the Jewish people. Throughout the Bible, Christians are called upon to honor and cherish the Jewish people. In Genesis 12:3, for example, God says to Abraham, the Father of the Jewish people, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." The Bible also commands us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, speak out for Zion's (Israel's) sake, and to watch over Jerusalem. I therefore believe the Jews have a God-given right to reclaim land given to their ancestors and later taken away from them.

I am not alone in my beliefs either. 75% of conservatives strongly support Israel as an ally and "America's greatest friend in the region." Part of that support means ensuring the Jewish state has access to advanced weapons and technologies to defend itself. We also must support the Israelis to live wherever they want on their land. It concerns me when people in the United States want to tell the people of Israel that they cannot move onto "Palestinian" lands.

Now, please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that the Palestinians do not also deserve land. As Christians we believe in the right of Palestinians, as all peoples, to a homeland. However, a Palestinian state should be outside of Israel, perhaps in Egypt or Saudi Arabia. There is plenty of Arab land outside of Israel.

## الله FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

As an Arab-American by birth, I Queen Noor of Jordan, widow of the late King Hussein, have a somewhat different view of the Middle East. As a moderate, I believe we must focus on education, careful use of our resources, development, human rights, and cross-cultural understanding. I also believe women should play a key role in development.



Today across the Middle East, women are raising their voices, fighting for their families and for freedom. In Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen, Palestine, and elsewhere, mothers, daughters, wives, and sisters are joining the struggle for freedom and the right to live in peace. Even as a member of a royal family, I know that both men and women in the region yearn for greater say in their governments.

Women, in particular, view the fight for democracy as a fight for their own freedom. Governments like those of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the king in Saudi Arabia strictly limit women's rights, dictating what they wear, where they go, and how they must act. In many places girls as young as fourteen are married and forced to live according to rules laid down by their husbands, supported by a religion that some view as very pro-male.

This, I believe, must change and may be changing now. I am proud of the people who fight for democracy, yet I fear rapid change could usher in greater fundamentalism. I pray that women are not shoved back from the threshold of freedom.

# From My Perspective الله



I am Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, elected president of Iran in 2005. The West always tries to paint me as a terrorist or at least insane, but I am neither. I am a man of the people, and I speak for all Iranians.

In fact I think the exact opposite is true. I think Western ideas are crazy! I can tell you that the Western system in which the rich control the economy and government is wrong. It robs from many to give to the few; it is unjust and evil. Unfortunately, here in the Middle East things are not much better. Ours is a region ruled mostly by rich kings and tyrants. They are fools, and most lick the boots of the American president and other western leaders. But I am not afraid to stand up to the West. I am not afraid to ignore their demands.

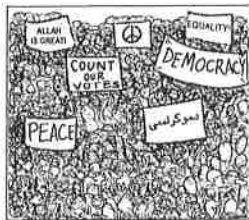
Western demands only work in their favor or in the interest of the Jewish squatters in Palestine. The Jews murder Palestinian women and children in the name of the so-called Jewish murders that never happened. The Holocaust is a hoax, my friends. It isn't real; it is just an excuse to allow the Jews to take over the land of hardworking Palestinian people.

You ask me if I help the people of Palestine. Of course I help them! We sell them arms, just as the U.S. sells nuclear bombs to Israel. Then after America does so, its leaders stand in the U.N. and condemn me for developing nuclear power to help my people. All people hear in the West are the lies of their leaders. We are not building bombs; we are making energy to improve our lives. Because of this, the U.N. and the United States stop trading with us and try to starve the Iranian People.

## From My Perspective



News Feed Share:



Wala Gheita

In the weeks we have been in Tahrir Square, we would not give up our desire for democracy. Everyone did their share to help and look out for one another. People shared food with those who did not have it. And now the Egyptian tyrant and his henchmen have stepped aside! We did it! We did it!

Now we must see that the army begins plans for elections. We want free elections to vote for our leaders, not men that stay in power for decades, ruling their people with the point of a gun!

We want democracy. We want equality. I look around in this sea of faces, and there are so many women. They have hope, but now the work begins. If it can be as in Tahrir Square, we shall all be free! Though I have heard of a few cases of guards mistreating women, what I have seen for myself is women acting equal to men. Planning, making signs, shouting for freedom. Pray Allah, we shall have it!

# At Odds With Each Other

**DIRECTIONS:** Given the various perspectives on the Middle East, which ones do you think come into conflict? Fill in the blanks with pairs of people / perspectives at odds and explain the conflict in the center space provided.
