

16th July 2014

Memorandum Israel – Gaza, July 2014

The Israel Friendship Associations signing this memorandum are appealing to their Governments:

On 29th November 2012, in the direct aftermath of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the General Assembly of the United Nations granted Palestine the status of a Non-Member Observer State.

With the exception of the Czech Republic, all European states voted either for this upgrade or abstained. The argument often heard supporting the UN's decision is that with the Observer State status, the UN would in the future be able to prevent the Palestinian parties, especially Hamas, from attacking Israel.

Almost two years later, the European Governments' argument has been flouted by Hamas. If the Governments' aim was really to influence Hamas and the new Palestinian Unity Government, they clearly failed, as has been shown by Hamas' actions in the last ten days. The fact cannot be overlooked that since the ceasefire was declared in 2012, Hamas has been able to massively increase their missile arsenal right under the eyes of the international community and is now using it against Israeli civilians with over 900 attacks to date.

The Governments of the European countries repeatedly acknowledge Israel's right for self defence. Israel is now exerting this right. The Israel Friendship Associations signing this memorandum therefore expect the government of their countries to affirm Israel's legitimacy to respond militarily to Hamas' ongoing terrorist attacks.

Co-signatories:

- Anglo-Israel Association
- Česká Společnost Přátel Izraele
- Cultural Friendship Association Romania-Israel
- Dansk-Israelisk Selskab
- Deutsch-Israelisch Gesellschaft (DIG)
- Društvo srpsko-jevrejskog prijateljstva
- Federazione delle Associazioni Italia-Israele
- FRANCE-ISRAEL. Alliance Général KOENIG.
- Genootschap Nederland Israel
- Gesellschaft Schweiz Israel (GSI)
- ICEJ Suomen osasto

- Ireland Israel Friendship League
- Irish 4 israel
- Les amitiées Belgo-Israélienne
- Magyar-Izraeli Baráti Társaságok és Körök Országos Szövetsége
- Med Israel for fred (Norway)
- Österreichisch-Israelische Gesellschaft (ÖIG)
- Samfundet Sverige-Israel