

“The People’s Voice”

Join us to learn about a grassroots Middle East initiative
“The People’s Voice - Signing for Peace”

The Honourable
Former Premier
Opening

former head

Israeli Navy

Pres

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Invitation Committee

Mr. Bob Rae, Event chair

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Dr. Chaviva Hosek

Mr. Milton Harris
Ms. Arlene Perly Rae

May 19, 2004 - 8 PM (doors open at 7 PM)
Holy Blossom Temple 1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto
Free admission - Limited Seating

The People’s Voice is an Israeli-Palestinian civil initiative, aimed at building public support for a permanent and final agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The People’s Voice has launched a public process of enlisting popular support on both sides. To date more than 180,000 Israelis and 140,000 Palestinians have signed the terms of agreement. Information about the initiative can be found at <http://www.mifkad.org.il/eng/>.

This is an opportunity for Canadians from all backgrounds to educate themselves on grassroots peace initiatives in the Middle East, and help Israelis and Palestinians come together to resolve their differences.

For more information send an email to toronto@mifkad.org.il

BACKGROUND ON THE "PEOPLE'S VOICE" INITIATIVE



The People's Voice is an Israeli-Palestinian civil initiative, aimed at creating public support for a term sheet for a permanent agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The People's Voice has launched a public process of enlisting popular support on both sides. The purpose of the process is to influence the leaders on both sides to accept the term sheet that was signed by Prof. Sari Nusseibeh and Admiral (ret.) Ami Ayalon. The term sheet, also called the Statement of Principles, is summarized below and can be found in full at <http://www.mifkad.org.il/eng/PrinciplesAgreement.asp>. It deals with the issues at the core of the conflict, issues which will need to be addressed in the framework of a permanent agreement.

The premise of "The Peoples' Voice" initiative is that the political leaderships on both sides are trapped by the necessity to react to current events. Therefore, any political process which tries to attain peace by building trust between the two sides is very fragile, as any perceived deviation from the road map is considered a violation by the other side, and any violent act of extremists on either side can cause quick deterioration. It is also obvious that in order for the process to be successful, each side needs to confront its extremists. Such confrontation can succeed only if the outcome of the peace process is well understood ahead of time. It is therefore imperative that the end goal of the peace process be clearly defined.

The initiative has started in the spring of 2002, and was publicly launched on both sides in June 2003. As of early April 2004, more than 300,000 Israelis and Palestinians have joined the initiative. The target is to continue and increase the number of signatures on both sides, and to use this massive support to influence the local leaderships as well as the international community.

The leaders of the initiative are two individuals who possess the combination of vision and practical experience. The leader of the Israeli side is Admiral (ret.) Ami Ayalon, former commander of the Israeli Navy and former head of the Israeli General Security Service ("Shabak"), a leader who considers Israel's security as top priority. Prof. Sari Nusseibeh, who leads the Palestinian side, is the president of El-Quds University in East Jerusalem, and has held a number of key positions in the Palestinian Authority.

- Summary of the Statement of Principles:
- Two states for the two peoples.
- The borders will be based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with the possibility of mutually agreed territorial swap.
- Jerusalem will be the capital of both states. The Arab neighbourhoods of Jerusalem will be under Palestinian sovereignty, the Jewish neighbourhoods under Israeli sovereignty, and the holy basin under no sovereignty.
- Palestinian refugees will return only to Palestine. Jews will return only to Israel.
- The Palestinian state will be demilitarized.
- End of Conflict

More information can be found at <http://www.mifkad.org.il/eng/>

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY SPEAKERS

Adm. (Ret.) Ami Ayalon

- Career Background:
 - 2002 – Today – Founder and Chairman of "The People's Voice"
 - 2001 – Today – Chairman of Board Netafim – Irrigation Equipment & Drip Systems Company.
 - 1996 – 2000 Director of the Israel Security Agency, (Shin-Beit).
 - 1963 – 1996 Military service in the Israeli Navy, Last Position 1992 – 1996 as Commander in Chief of the Israeli Navy.
- Education
 - 1991 – 1992 M.A. in Public Administration, Harvard University
 - 1981 – 1982 Studies at the Naval War Collage in Newport, R.I., USA
 - 1975 – 1978 B.A. in Economics and Political Science, Bar- Ilan University
- Campaign Ribbons:
 - The "Six Day War"
 - The "Yom Kippur War"
 - Operation "Peace in Galilee"
- Citations
 - Medal of Supreme Bravery - (Israel's Highest Award for Bravery in the Field of Battle)
 - The Quality Government Knight Award year 2000 – This award is given to civil officials and elected leaders, who contributed to the promotion of democratic values, public leadership and to the advancement of sound administration and Quality government.

Dr. Sari Nusseibeh

- Career Background
 - 1995- Today- President of Al Quuds University, East Jerusalem
 - Co-founded “The People’s Voice”
 - 2002- Elected Palestinian Authority Commissioner for East Jerusalem, a position from which he later resigned.
 - Helped articulate and propound the strategy of civil disobedience and non-violent resistance against occupation.
 - Co-authored a book with Israeli Mark Heller (*No Trumpets, No Drums*) on how to solve the various problems associated with a two-state solution, he was appointed Chairman of the Technical and Advisory Committees to those talks, and a member of the steering committee of the delegation
 - 1978 –1990- Nusseibeh taught philosophy and cultural studies at Birzeit University in the West Bank.
 - Founded the Union of Faculty and Staff at Birzeit, and the consortium of such unions at Palestinian Universities more generally.
 - 2 Years working as government relations representative for oil company in Dubai
- Education
 - 1978- PhD in Islamic Philosophy, Harvard University
 - 1971- B.A. (M.A.Oxon) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, University of Oxford
- Publications
 - No Trumpets, No Drums
 - On The Limits of Freedom
 - What Next?