

**For Immediate Release:** February 4, 2020

## **Statement by Herut North America Opposing Call for “State of Palestine” and Release of Terrorists in "Deal of The Century" Plan**

Friends of Israel are profoundly grateful for President Trump’s relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, suspension of U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority, and repudiation of the claim that Jewish communities in Judea-Samaria are illegal. Herut North America believes that the provisions for creating a State of Palestine and releasing Palestinian Arab terrorists from prison in the so-called "Deal of The Century" contradict the spirit of the administration’s previous actions.

The creation of a “State of Palestine” would endanger Israel’s national security. Israel would be pushed back to borders dangerously similar to the pre-1967 lines, which made Israel so vulnerable to destruction that famed liberal Israeli diplomat Abba Eban called them “Auschwitz lines.” Israel would be less than ten miles wide along the coast from Netanya to Haifa, meaning the country could be sliced in half by enemy forces in a matter of minutes.

A Palestinian Arab state would become a virtually impenetrable haven for terrorists. The current autonomous regimes of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have become shelters for Palestinian terrorists, including some who murdered American citizens. The terrorists’ training camps and weapons depots function freely. Israel’s requests to extradite terrorists are ignored. This situation will become much worse if the Palestinian Arabs have a sovereign state, since Israel will be denounced and even sanctioned if it violates the sovereignty of “Palestine” in pursuit of terrorists.

This new Plan’s provision for the release of all Palestinian Arab terrorists who were not convicted of murders or attempted murders means that large numbers of terrorists-in-training would be free to resume their terrorist ways. Those to be freed include terrorists who were involved in murders but have not yet been formally tried because they are being held in administrative detention.

The plan to create a “State of Palestine” tramples on the Jewish people’s historical right to the Land of Israel. The proposed territory of “Palestine” has been the heart of the Jewish national homeland for more than 3,000 years. It includes many of the most important historical and religious sites in Jewish history.

Creating a State of Palestine disregards the Jewish people’s religious right to the Land of Israel. Many millions of Christians and Jews around the world revere the Hebrew Bible and regard the Divine promise of the Land of Israel to the Jewish people as sacred and inviolable.

The "Deal of the Century" plan unfairly restricts the Jewish development of the Land of Israel. The plan’s four-year freeze on Jewish construction in many parts of Judea-Samaria—while unlimited Arab construction continues—is intrinsically unfair and outrageously one-sided. Jews have a moral, historical, and legal right to build anywhere they want in the Land of Israel. The idea that Jews—and only Jews—should be prevented from construction carries

echoes of some of the darkest periods of recent Jewish and Zionist history. Herut urges the Knesset to immediately annex the Jordan Valley as well as all the Jewish communities in Judea-Samaria including all the land that has been set aside for the expansion of these communities.

Herut North America is a division of World Herut. Herut international movement for Zionist pride and education and is dedicated to the ideals of pre-World War Two Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky and more about Herut can be found at <https://www.voteherut2020.com/>.

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