



J-Link

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State of Israel
Haykirya, Tel Aviv

September 13, 2020

Dear Alternate Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Benjamin Gantz,

Thank you for your letter dated Aug 16th, 2020. We found it encouraging as it addressed several issues of shared concern to Jews in many countries.

The recent West Bank annexation plan brought about meaningful tension between the Israeli government and wide circles of Jewish people living in different regions of the world. We are relieved that this plan was suspended, hopefully indefinitely, and we are grateful for your role in its suspension. We also ask for the cancellation of further settlement and building projects in the West Bank, in particular those close to Jerusalem, in order to facilitate the resumption of peace talks.

We follow closely the worrying health and unemployment situation in Israel, accompanied by pro-democracy and anti-corruption demonstrations which we fully support.

As to the regional issue that you mention, we strongly support the idea of two states, Israeli and Palestinian, living safely side by side. We are quite perplexed by your use of the term “entities”, which leaves your position unclear. We strongly support the renewal of regional peace talks, in which the Palestinians are included as full partners.

Your reference to “the sense of inclusion” within the Israeli society, should, of course, include the Arab citizens of Israel, as a full and welcomed partner in Israeli political life. Such a sense of inclusion is also important between Israelis and Jews living outside of Israel.

We urge you to continue, Mr. Minister to seek peace, based on justice to all neighboring parties, and to strive for overall reconciliation.

With our highest appreciation and in the hope of a continuing conversation,

The J-Link Coordinating Committee: Giorgio Gomel (JCall, Italy), Kenneth Bob (Ameinu, U.S.A.), Barbara Landau (JSpaceCanada), Alon Liel (Policy Working Group, Israel), Gabriella Saven (Jewish Democratic Initiative, South Africa), and Pablo Lumerman (J-AMLAT, Latin America).

J-Link is an international network of progressive Jewish organizations. We share a love of Israel and a commitment to democracy, human rights, religious pluralism, and a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We believe in the values enshrined in Israel’s Declaration of Independence, which promise “complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex.” For more visit www.jlinknetwork.org.