



**VIOLENCE IS NOT THE ANSWER !**

## **ISRAEL - PALESTINE PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN INTERVENTION FORCE**

- To help strengthening the space for dialogue for those working for peace
- To create the preconditions for a political solution to the conflict
- To overcome the logic of violence

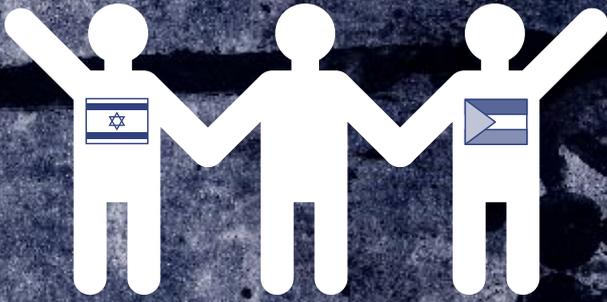
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**In Israel and Palestine :** Arab Educational Institute (AEI), Arik Institute for Reconciliation and Peace, Bustan, Center for reconciliation and conflict resolution, International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL), Jerusalem Center for Women (JCW), Library on wheels for non violence and peace, New Profile, One Voice – Palestine, Wi'am

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# ACTING IN FAVOUR OF A NONVIOLENT RESOLUTION OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

## THE SOLUTION CANNOT BE MILITARY

The peaceful coexistence of the Israeli and the Palestinian people will have to be founded on the creation of relationships based on justice and equity. The foundations of peace are to be built by civil societies, with the support of networks of committed citizens on both sides, acting in favour of democracy, justice and the respect of human rights.

## RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

A just and longlasting peace in the region has to be based on the Geneva Conventions as well as on the resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Those resolutions reiterate the right of each people to live in security in an independent state recognised by its neighbours. This principle provides a solid international basis and should serve as a reference for any settlement of the conflict. It is vital that law and justice be respected, so that these populations can live together in security and dignity one day, in two mutually recognised states, Israel and Palestine, with normal neighbourly relations.

## ALL VIOLENCE IS AN OBSTACLE TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT

By denying Palestinian citizens freedom of movement, by preventing them from education, from cultivating their land, by demolishing their houses and their orchards, by building the security fence, by marginalising their leaders and by applying hurtful and humiliating measures, the Israeli government's military action is not waging war on terrorism nor fighting an army; it is waging war on a whole people.

The suicide attacks against Israeli civilians will neither lead to a military nor to a political solution of the conflict. In the face of tanks, planes and missiles that are an outrage against their people in the eyes of the whole world, humiliation and despair can lead young Palestinians to believe that terrorism is the ultimate solution. However, even this cannot justify terrorism nor make it acceptable.

Each brandishes the other's crimes to justify their own murders in the name of self-defence. At the end of the day, this policy

## PEACE WILL BE BUILT BY CIVIL SOCIETY, AND BY THOSE ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS WORKING FOR PEACE

Civil society on both sides of the conflict are called upon to play a decisive role in finding a political solution, allowing them to construct a lasting peace. Already, citizens' networks within the communities have the farsightedness and courage to oppose the cycle of war. These networks must be supported by the solidarity of the international community.

For all these reasons, this campaign must encourage Israelis and Palestinians who are working for peace to take the stakes of the conflict – today captured by the logic of violence – back into their own hands, and it must allow for the creation of the preconditions necessary for resolving the conflict on the political level.

Creating and sending an international civilian intervention force to the Middle East aims therefore at contributing to a reduction of violence and at strengthening the conditions for dialogue in the civil societies.

# PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NONVIOLENT CIVILIAN INTERVENTION FORCE

## TO TAKE ACTION IN CIVIL SOCIETY

The peace process cannot be reduced to the diplomatic initiative of political leaders. It is essential in the meantime to create an intervention strategy involving civil society, because it is just as urgent to create the pre-conditions for peace between peoples as it is to foster dialogue between political leaders.

Israeli and Palestinian organisations work on a daily basis for peace and the respect of law, for justice and dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. It is in support of these organisations that the presence of volunteers is needed.

## A THIRD PARTY, WORKING ALONGSIDE BOTH PARTIES

The dividing line today is not between Israelis and Palestinians but between those in the Middle East who want to live together and those who advocate withdrawing into their own communities. Thus the intervention of a third party must take into account, in its principles and in its actions, the legitimate concerns of both Israelis and Palestinians. The international civil intervention force in the Palestinian territories and Israel must affirm its solidarity with both sides.

## WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

The deployment of an international civilian intervention force is only possible with the agreement, or at least the tolerance, of the parties to the conflict. The presence of unarmed volunteers must not be perceived as an act of aggression nor as occupation.

## EXAMPLES OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEACE ORGANISATIONS :

**Rabbis for Human Rights** : an organisation of rabbis denouncing injustice to the Palestinians, working with Jewish students, and supporting Palestinians for example with the olive harvest.

**Arab Educational Institute** : a Palestinian organisation working for intercultural exchange, education in non-violence and peace.

**Wi'am** : a Palestinian organisation working on non-violent conflict resolution and the creation of jobs for the community.

**New Profile** : an Israeli feminist organisation that criticizes the militarization of Israeli society and supports Israeli conscientious objectors (refusniks).

## OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN INTERVENTION FORCE

- To encourage the political resolution of a conflict by mediation and observation.
- To reduce fears and feelings of insecurity. The presence of international volunteers is intended to express the attention the international community pays to the fate of the civilian population.
- To discourage acts of violence against civilians no matter what the justification. This obviously requires a sufficiently large number of volunteers.

## IN THE FIELD

Unarmed volunteers will :

- Accompany those working for peace in order to make them more visible, to give them the support of an international third party.
- Reinforce the conditions for dialogue between civil societies by mediation activities in order to facilitate the dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian civil societies.
- Act as human rights observers at sensitive sites.

## TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS

Training already exists for volunteers in Civilian Peace Intervention. The volunteers learn how to find non-violent solutions to conflicts, how to analyse risks and how to face them using non-violent methods. They will learn, for example, how to deal with personal attitudes, how to work as a team in conflict situations, and they will work on volunteers' civil intervention mandates.

The European Union wants to work for a multi-polar world. It is trying to develop alternative, non-military ways of solving international crises. Solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the opportunity to act on this political objective. However the international civil intervention force will have to be mandated by an international organisation, such as the UN.

# OBJECTIVE : WE ASK THE EUROPEAN UNION TO CREATE AND SEND AN INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN INTERVENTION FORCE TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE.

THIS FORCE'S MISSION WILL BE TO WORK WITH LOCAL PEACE ORGANISATIONS IN ORDER TO REINFORCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETIES. IN THE SHORT TERM WE ASK THE EUROPEAN UNION TO CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CONDITIONS FOR CREATING THIS FORCE. THIS CAMPAIGN IS CARRIED OUT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PEACE ORGANISATIONS IN ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND EUROPE.

## WHO IS THE CAMPAIGN AIMED AT ?

We are asking the Foreign Minister and officials of the European Union to:

- Do a feasibility study on the conditions for the creation of an international civilian intervention force in Israel and in Palestine.
- Set up all means necessary for creating and sending the civilian intervention force, mandated by an international organisation and made up of unarmed volunteers.
- Carry on diplomacy with the Israeli and Palestinian authorities so that they accept the deployment of these volunteers.

## WOW AND WHY TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN ?

To take part, you can:

- Volunteer to follow a training course funded by the institutions, in order to prove the existence of a large number of potential peace volunteers.
- Order the campaign leaflets and other material to distribute them.
- Give financial support to the campaign committee.



More information :

[www.interventioncivile.org](http://www.interventioncivile.org)

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 **MOUVEMENT POUR UNE  
ALTERNATIVE NON-VIOLENTE**

**Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente (MAN)** is the French member organisation of

**Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)**

– visit [www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)  
and [www.npeurope.org](http://www.npeurope.org)

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**European Network for Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS)**  
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