



Mondaire Jones Israel Position

The US-Israel Relationship

Since Israel's establishment as a nation, the United States has played a crucial role in supporting the country. Through military and economic assistance, the United States has demonstrated its partnership with Israel in pursuit of its security and prosperity in the Middle East. As the only democracy in the region, Israel has been a vital ally for the United States on the basis of shared values and beliefs. Like the United States, Israel has been a force of progress when it comes to technological and scientific advancements. I also recognize the importance of this alliance on the world stage. From Camp David to Oslo, the United States has helped Israel negotiate crucial peace deals and I strongly support continued efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region. When elected to Congress, I will use my platform to strengthen the US-Israel relationship and work tirelessly to ensure that the peace process for Israelis and Palestinians--including a two-state solution--is a legislative priority.

Israeli Security and Palestinian Rights/Human Security

As a nation situated in one of the most volatile regions in the world, Israel has been rife with violence, terrorism, and instability since its founding. The security of the Israeli people must be a top priority for the United States, and Israel has the right to defend itself. That said, the constant violence between Israelis and Palestinians creates an unbearable reality for the Israeli and Palestinian people. As an initial matter, many innocent civilians are killed in the crossfire, creating a dangerous and inhumane environment. Moreover, the violence has led to inhumane living conditions in places like Gaza in the form of water and electricity shortages and a crisis of illiteracy. I believe that Palestinians deserve the basic human right of fair and equal treatment under Israeli and international law.

To that end, I strongly oppose the building and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the demolition of Palestinian homes. Such actions not only foster unstable living conditions, but also undermine the peace process. To further the peace process, I believe the United States should serve as an independent arbiter while providing economic assistance to Palestinian refugees.

Two-State Solution

I believe that a two-state solution is the best possible means of achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace. This outcome must be achieved through international diplomacy wherein both parties come to the negotiating table in good faith. By re-establishing the pre-1967 borders and swapping land for settlements, Israel can create a more secure and stronger border while also allowing Palestinians their own homeland. To achieve this end, Israel must stop building settlements in the West Bank and demolishing Palestinian homes. Settlements prevent the



territorial contiguity of a future Palestinian homeland and undermine Palestinian faith in Israel's commitment to a two-state solution.

In a two-state solution, Jerusalem must be recognized as a capital for both the Israelis and the Palestinians. I opposed President Trump's embassy move to Jerusalem because it failed to recognize the fact that parts of Jerusalem have historically been at the heart of Palestinian life, and that therefore the movement of the American embassy to Jerusalem would need to be part of a negotiated two-state peace process.

Thus far, a two-state solution has yet to be brokered due to failed negotiations and empty promises on both sides. The achievement of such a solution is dire, as it will ensure the security of both parties, reduce tension and violence, alleviate inhumane living conditions, and create a fair compromise. In Congress, I will be a vocal supporter of a two-state solution and will do everything in my power to work toward a viable peace.

While I believe the two-state solution can be accomplished, I also understand the barriers to this goal, including the prevalence of terrorist groups such as Hamas. By stoking fear and violence among Israelis, Hamas not only creates dangerous living conditions for innocent Palestinians, but also poses a real threat to the peace process. I have already denounced the terrorism and violence emerging from Hamas and I will continue to do so when elected to Congress.

Iran

As an early supporter of the Iran Nuclear Deal, I disagreed with my member of Congress when she voted against it and had been vocal in my criticism this year. I believe that Iran poses an existential threat to Israel — and to the world — and that such a country should be prevented from obtaining and/or expanding its nuclear capabilities. I strongly believe in the power of diplomacy and viewed this deal as a great—although imperfect—accomplishment, as it vowed to remove much of Iran's nuclear stockpile while keeping Iran in check through extensive monitoring. When President Trump pulled out of this deal in May 2018, I was deeply disappointed and concerned over the consequences. My fear was justified as Iran resumed its dangerous nuclear weapons program soon after, stoking tensions with Israel and the United States.

Iran has demonstrated reckless and impulsive behavior on the world stage by funding terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, disseminating hateful and threatening rhetoric, and building nuclear weapons. The Iran Nuclear Deal aimed to hold Iran accountable in an effort to decrease tensions and avoid a costly war. In Congress, I hope to help broker a similar (though hopefully better) deal that limits Iran's nuclear capabilities in exchange for lifting certain sanctions, provides for a robust system for outside monitoring, and reduces hostility between Iran and its neighbors in the region and worldwide.