

CHILDREN OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS LOS ANGELES

November 2, 2006

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

Too many of your recent positions regarding the Middle East are woefully misguided. The comments you made during your latest visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority demonstrated your own personal misinterpretation of the circumstances in the region. The obvious bias reflected in your comments left us doubting your intentions to effectively fulfill your duties.

You compared your struggle for equality and civil rights in a segregated Birmingham, Alabama to the Palestinian quest for statehood. Comparing your success in surmounting tremendous odds to become the Secretary of State of the United States with the Palestinian bloodlust for the destruction of Israel is reprehensible.

Please tell us when the Palestinians have demonstrated a committed effort to achieve statehood in order to live side-by-side in peace with Israel. The answer, sadly, is never. On the contrary, the Palestinians, led by their extremist governmental and religious leaders, have grown ever more radical. Producing a better suicide bomber or a deadlier weapon with which to kill innocent civilians is no way to secure a better future. The path of violence has been shown to be counterproductive time and again. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. understood this much.

You have clearly forgotten or chosen to forget the numerous opportunities the Palestinians have been afforded to improve their situation. They have balked or reneged at every turn. Instead, the Palestinians have opted for the path of (self-) destruction. What civil liberties have the Palestinians struggled to attain? Any freedom that they possess or gain, their so-called leaders misuse to further repress, indoctrinate and abuse them.

"Refugiism" is an interim status, yet they are still refugees after 50 years. They choose to or their leaders choose to keep them that way. Israel chose to lead a life toward success while the Palestinians chose for wait for a handout. The Palestinians long ago could have had a free and thriving society had they demonstrated their true desire for one or their leaders would have allowed it to become a reality.

Ms. Rice, you should consider that tiny Israel and the small Jewish populace around the world are humiliated and victimized daily by bitter, interminable anti-Semitic attacks. Unfortunately, your insinuation that Israel is largely responsible for the Palestinians' inability to achieve statehood is yet another blow and setback. Such a remark is both uninformed and irresponsible, especially for someone in your position. It is Israel that is compelled to struggle for its existence, international respect and to maintain its ability to pursue a better future despite the constant fear of homicide bombings and rocket attacks, in addition to the growing threat of nuclear annihilation.

Please spare us from your unfair rhetoric against Israel and the unwarranted commendations that you heap upon the Palestinians. Your approach endangers Israel's security and does not serve the best interests of the United States. Please remember, you owe your allegiance to the citizenry of our country and not to another nation, entity or authority.

Ms. Rice, we are embarrassed to realize how misinformed you are and angered by how you misrepresent us. We are determined to counter your inappropriate and unprofessional bias, and we strongly urge you to uphold the values of this great nation rather than misinterpret and misrepresent them.

Doris Wise, President
Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors

Please sign on and forward to:

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