



Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact: Noam Gilboord, Director, Israel and International Affairs
Email: gilboordn@jrcny.org
Phone: 212-983-4800 ext. 146 or 917-456-7638
Interviews available upon request.

JCRC-NY Welcomes the Announcement to Recognize Jerusalem as Israel's Capital

In 1983, New York's Senior Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D) introduced the concept of the *Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act* at the JCRC-NY Congressional Breakfast. JCRC-NY has endorsed it since it was enacted in 1995, under President Clinton.

In that spirit, JCRC-NY welcomes President Donald J. Trump's decision to have the United States government recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to relocate the American Embassy there. For more than 3,000 years, Jerusalem has been the historical and spiritual center of the Jewish people. Under Israeli sovereignty, Jerusalem is open to followers of all faiths. Since the reunification of the city, all people have had access to their holy places – Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains an extremely volatile issue and heightened sensitivities exist throughout the Middle East concerning the status of Jerusalem. The President's announcement underscores that this decision has no bearing on the final status agreements concerning Jerusalem and mutually recognized borders. JCRC-NY remains committed to a two-state solution comprising of a safe and secure Jewish state living peacefully alongside an independent Palestinian state. We encourage President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu to return to direct, bilateral negotiations to bring about a just peace, and mutually recognized borders. Furthermore, we urge the Administration to implement this policy with great care in direct consultation with regional leadership.

Sincere efforts to forge a just peace are the best antidote to continued violence. We strongly condemn the abhorrent calls from the Iran-backed Hamas terrorist organization for a renewed *intifada* and declarations from other Palestinian and Arab factions to foment "general popular anger" through "days of rage." Such incitement can lead to deadly violence and has already cost thousands of Israeli and Palestinian lives. We call upon Palestinian, Israeli, American, and international leadership to work diligently to maintain calm and peace in Jerusalem and the region.

Charles S. Temel
President

Michael S. Miller
Executive Vice President and CEO