



March 11, 2013

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), I am writing you regarding your upcoming trip to Israel and Palestine.

Founded in 1980, ADC is the largest Arab American grassroots organization committed to protecting civil rights, promoting mutual understanding, and preserving cultural heritage. ADC has chapters and members nationwide.

ADC urges you to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination in an independent and fully sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. ADC also urges you to demand the Israeli government dismantle settlements constructed on Palestinian land, to dismantle the Israeli wall, and to withdraw immediately from all occupied Arab territories in compliance with international law and United Nations resolutions.

Mr. President, your upcoming trip to Israel and Palestine is happening at an important political moment. I am hopeful this trip will set the tone for your second term's policy regarding Palestine and Israel.

ADC urges you take the following three issues into serious consideration in anticipation of your trip:

1- Palestinian Unity: Achieving unity among Palestinians will help reach a lasting peace in the Middle East. ADC urges you to play a constructive role in this regard, and remove obstacles delaying the achievement of Palestinian unity.

2- US Aid to Israel: ADC is deeply concerned about allegations of torturing 30-year-old Palestinian prisoner Arafat Jaradat to death in Israeli prison last month. ADC contacted Secretary Kerry last week and asked for an investigation into the matter. ADC and the Arab American community are extremely concerned that our tax dollars are funding a foreign state committing gross violations of human rights. In addition, the United States should use its aid to Israel as leverage to achieve peace. ADC urges you to ask the Israeli government for an immediate freeze on settlement construction.

3- Right to Enter Israel: Israeli authorities have been discriminating against American citizens of Arab descent who attempt to enter Israel. ADC urges you to address this issue with the Israeli authorities. We also call on the US Embassy in Tel Aviv to provide US citizens with the necessary protection and council in case they were deported or denied entry.

On behalf of ADC and myself, I wish you a safe and productive trip to Israel and Palestine.

Sincerely,

Warren David
ADC President