

## THE LEGALITY OF SETTLEMENTS ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW

### SEPERATING FACTS FROM FICTION

Construction plans for the State of Israel to build settlements in occupied Palestinian territory. Israel's announcement that it would building 1,600 new houses in a disputed area of Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, undermining a trip by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. further called into question the Netanyahu government's commitment to seriously engaging in the peace talks.

[United Nations Security Council Resolution 242](#) (S/RES/242) was adopted unanimously by the [UN Security Council](#) on November 22, 1967, in the aftermath of the [Six Day War](#). It was adopted under Chapter VI of the [United Nations Charter](#).<sup>[1]</sup> The resolution was drafted by [British](#) ambassador [Lord Caradon](#) and was one of five drafts under consideration.<sup>[2]</sup>

The preamble refers to the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East in which every State in the area can live in security."

Operative Paragraph One "Affirms that the fulfillment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:

- (i) Withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;
- (ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."<sup>[3]</sup>

Resolution 242 is one of the most commonly referenced UN resolutions to end the [Arab-Israeli conflict](#), and the basis of later negotiations between the parties.

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#### **Clash of building in Israel subsidies.**

A senior official agreed. Speaking on the condition that he not be named, he said that Israel considered itself sovereign in Jerusalem and that even though the world disagreed, Israel would nothing to foster, even tacitly, the de facto division of the city. (2 NYT 3-21-2010)

We pray for the legitimate rights of all people in the lands of the Bible, and we support the fundamental conclusions of the Iraq Study Group Report particularly in regard to the importance of United States addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict.

#### **From the bipartisan report executive summary:**

"The United States cannot achieve its goals in the Middle East unless it deals directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict and regional instability. There must be a renewed and sustained

commitment by the United States to a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace on all fronts: Lebanon, Syria, and President Bush's June 2002 commitment to a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. This commitment must include direct talks with, by, and between Israel, Lebanon, Palestinians (those who accept Israel's right to exist), and Syria."

James A. Baker, III, and  
Lee H. Hamilton, Co-Chairs  
Lawrence S. Eagleburger  
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.  
Edwin Meese III,  
Sandra Day O'Connor  
Leon E. Panetta  
William J. Perry  
Charles S. Robb  
Alan K. Simpson

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General David H. Petraeus, the commander of the military's Central Command, who said in prepared testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee that the lack of progress in the Middle East was one of the largest challenges to American Interests. "Israeli-Palestinian tensions often flare into violence and large-scale armed confrontation," he said. The conflict foments anti-"American sentiment due to a perception of U.S. favoritism toward Israel."

Edited by Leonard Rodgers, Executive Director, EMEU