

JULY 2020

J-LINK ANTI- ANNEXATION DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN

A REPORT ON THE COLLABORATIVE
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT AGAINST
ANNEXATION



02

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MISSION STATEMENT

The International Progressive Jewish network comprises Jewish organizations from the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, South Africa, and Australia. Together with Israeli organizations, we cooperate to provide a unified voice in support of democracy, religious pluralism, and a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The human and material costs of this conflict are tragic as attested by the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, continuing violence with loss of lives on both sides, and the threat to the very coexistence between Arabs and Jews inside Israel.

We believe in the deep values and principles of Judaism, which regards human dignity as sacrosanct and justice as an absolute imperative. Our shared values include the need to uphold pluralism and democracy so as to ensure the protection of minority rights and the coexistence of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious identities in open societies. We are concerned by the increasing intolerance, xenophobia, and ultra-nationalism in the world. Building a global network of Progressive Jewry to oppose anti-Semitism and racism, which undermine democracy and tolerance internationally, is both a moral and an existential necessity.

We see a widening chasm between Jews from different regions of the world who are concerned with issues of human rights, equality and pluralism, and the growing number of Israelis who are leaning toward parochial nationalism. Many Jews involved in confronting anti-immigrant xenophobia and a rise in anti-Semitism are finding it difficult to reconcile these values with the illiberal and nationalistic spirit that prevails in Israel. We reject the Israeli Government's campaign to silence opposition to its policies by falsely equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. Such a campaign weakens the struggle against true instances of anti-Semitism and, instead, strengthens the hands of anti-Semites worldwide.

We continue to believe in the values enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence, according to which the State of Israel as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people will ensure "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." We are greatly concerned by racist and discriminatory trends that are taking hold in Israel. We oppose initiatives such as the Nation-State Law, which discriminates against non-Jewish minorities in the country.

We support movements and parties in Israel committed to ending the occupation and achieving peace between Israelis and Palestinians based on the right to self-determination of the two peoples. We aim to coordinate campaigns that mobilize Jews all over the world and Israelis who share progressive values, cooperate to defend democracy and the rule of law.

The International Progressive Jewish Network aspires to work with our respective local Jewish communities, our national governments and international organizations to advance the adoption of policies that promote justice, human rights, and a peace agreement between the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

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ANTI-ANNEXATION APPEAL: ENGLISH

As supporters of J-Link, the international network of progressive Jewish organizations, we urgently share our deep concerns, backed by the analysis of diplomatic and security experts, regarding the Government of Israel's intention to proceed with annexation of parts of the West Bank.

Only a short time remains to convince the Government of Israel to halt this ill-advised move. With the abetment of the Trump administration, Prime Minister Netanyahu is perpetuating the myth that reality on the ground supersedes international law. This is the moment that Israelis need to consider the consequences to their security and international relations, as a result of unilateral annexation.

Notably, a petition signed by 220 former senior officers of the army, the Mossad and the police who are members of Commanders for Israel's Security stated that annexation will set in motion a chain reaction over which Israel will have no control, leading to the collapse of the Palestinian Authority. This in turn would require Israel to take full control over the entire West Bank and assume responsibility for the lives of 2.6 million Palestinians.

The coalition agreement signed by Netanyahu and Alternate Prime Minister Gantz includes articles that enable the incoming government to expedite the process of annexation as of July 1st. Despite an acknowledgment of the need to discuss the matter with the international community, the only binding commitment in the agreement is coordination of the move with the U.S. Administration. As was the case with President Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan, the Palestinians have no say in the matter. It is worth noting that Article 28 of the Coalition Agreement mentions the government's intention "to strive to uphold existing peace agreements," indicating that Jordan and Egypt may have leverage over this decision.

For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, heavily populated by Palestinian refugees, annexation risks destabilization that could endanger the government and compel it to reconsider its peace treaty with Israel. Israel's peace treaty with Egypt would also be put in jeopardy. Moreover, Israel's actions are already straining its relations with democratic countries around the world.

Unilateral annexation is illegal under international law and contravenes all relevant UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Israel-Palestine conflict, particularly UNSC Resolution 2334 of Dec. 2016. If implemented, annexation will signify the demise of the two-state solution and will dash any hopes the Palestinian people have of achieving self-determination through nonviolent means.

Furthermore, annexation could turn Israel into a state that maintains permanent control over millions of Palestinians within its territory – while denying them the most basic civil and political rights – thereby putting an end to democracy in Israel as we know it.

Such action risks provoking a mounting tide of delegitimization of Israel and further bouts of antisemitism. Annexation will also jeopardize relations between Israel and progressive Jews around the world for whom human rights, equality and democracy are essential principles.

Please join us in our call to all who care about Israel's future to take immediate action to convince the government and people of Israel that the price to be paid for annexation will be too heavy for Israel to bear.

ANTI-ANNEXATION APPEAL: ITALIANO

Come membri e sostenitori di J-Link, la rete internazionale delle organizzazioni ebraiche progressiste, vogliamo condividere la nostra profonda preoccupazione, avvalorata dalle analisi di esperti diplomatici e di sicurezza, riguardo all'intenzione di Israele di procedere con l'annessione di parti della Cisgiordania.

Poco tempo rimane per convincere i governanti israeliani a rinunciare a questa mossa sconsiderata. Con l'appoggio dell'amministrazione Trump il Primo Ministro israeliano Netanyahu pretende di perpetuare il mito che la realtà sul terreno abbia più forza del diritto internazionale. Questo è il momento in cui gli Israeliani devono attentamente considerare le conseguenze dell'annessione per la sicurezza regionale e le relazioni internazionali.

Una petizione di recente resa pubblica, sottoscritta da 220 ex alti ufficiali dell'esercito, del Mossad e della polizia membri dell'associazione "Comandanti per la sicurezza di Israele", afferma che l'annessione provocherà una reazione a catena al di fuori del controllo di Israele e condurrà alla disintegrazione dell'Autorità palestinese. Ciò richiederà a Israele di riprendere il possesso dell'intera Cisgiordania e di assumersi la responsabilità delle vite di 2.600.000 abitanti Palestinesi.

L'accordo di coalizione raggiunto tra Netanyahu e Gantz include articoli che consentono al governo entrante di accelerare il processo di annessione entro il 1 Luglio. Nonostante l'ammissione della necessità di discutere la questione con la comunità internazionale, l'unico impegno vincolante è quello di coordinarsi con l'amministrazione USA. Come è stato già per il piano di Trump "Peace to Prosperity", i palestinesi anche in questo caso non avranno nessuna voce in capitolo.

E' importante notare, comunque, che l'articolo 28 dell'accordo di coalizione menziona anche la volontà del governo di mantenere gli accordi di pace preesistenti, indicando con ciò che Giordania ed Egitto potranno esercitare un'influenza particolare nelle decisioni in materia. Per il Regno hashemita di Giordania, paese che ospita numerosi profughi palestinesi, l'annessione rischia di mettere in crisi il governo e di forzarlo a riconsiderare il trattato di pace con Israele. Lo stesso trattato tra Israele ed Egitto rischia di essere messo a repentaglio. Inoltre, le azioni di Israele sono destinate a compromettere i rapporti tra questo e i paesi democratici nel mondo.

L'annessione unilaterale è illegale secondo il diritto internazionale e contravviene a tutte le risoluzioni del Consiglio di Sicurezza dell'ONU riguardanti il conflitto israelo-palestinese, particolarmente la risoluzione 2334 del dicembre 2016. Se portata a termine l'annessione significherà la fine della soluzione "due popoli due stati" e cancellerà per i Palestinesi ogni speranza di realizzare la propria autodeterminazione con metodi non violenti.

Inoltre in seguito all'annessione Israele diventerà uno stato che esercita un controllo permanente su milioni di abitanti palestinesi sul suo territorio, privandoli peraltro dei più basilari diritti civili e politici; ciò sarà la fine di Israele come paese democratico così come lo conosciamo. L'annessione non comporta solo la fine delle aspirazioni del popolo palestinese all'indipendenza, ma anche dei valori fondanti dello stato di Israele sanciti nella Dichiarazione di indipendenza del 1948. Vi è anche il rischio di un'ondata di delegittimazione di Israele e di ulteriori episodi di antisemitismo. L'annessione metterà in pericolo infine i rapporti tra Israele e gli ebrei progressisti nel mondo per i quali le ragioni dei diritti umani, dell'uguaglianza e della democrazia sono principi essenziali.

Invitiamo tutti coloro che hanno a cuore il futuro di Israele di unirsi a noi nel convincere il governo ed il popolo di Israele che il prezzo che Israele pagherà con l'annessione sarà troppo alto, insopportabile.

ANTI-ANNEXATION APPEAL: ESPAÑOL

Como miembros y simpatizantes de J-Link, la red internacional de organizaciones progresistas judías, compartimos urgentemente nuestra profunda preocupación, respaldada por el análisis de expertos diplomáticos y de seguridad, con respecto a la intención del Gobierno de Israel de proceder con la anexión de partes de Cisjordania.

Queda poco tiempo para convencer al Gobierno de Israel de que detenga esta medida desacertada. Con el apoyo de la Administración Trump, el Primer Ministro Netanyahu está perpetuando el peligroso principio de que los hechos consumados en el terreno reemplazan el derecho internacional. Este es el momento en que los israelíes, deben considerar las consecuencias para su seguridad y sus relaciones internacionales, como resultado de la anexión unilateral.

Una petición firmada por 220 ex oficiales superiores de las FFAA, el Mossad, el Shabak y la policía, todos miembros de la ONG "Comandantes por la Seguridad de Israel" afirmó que la anexión pondrá en marcha una reacción en cadena sobre la cual Israel no tendrá control, lo que conducirá al colapso de la Autoridad Palestina. Esto, a su vez, requeriría que Israel tome el control total sobre toda Cisjordania y asuma la responsabilidad por la vida cotidiana de 2.6 millones de palestinos.

El acuerdo de coalición firmado por Biniamin Netanyahu y Beni Gantz incluye artículos que permiten al gobierno entrante acelerar el proceso de anexión a partir del 1 de julio. A pesar de incluirse una referencia general a la necesidad de discutir el asunto con la comunidad internacional, el único compromiso vinculante en el acuerdo es la coordinación de la medida con la Administración de los Estados Unidos. Como fue el caso con el plan de paz denominado por el Presidente de los EEUU Donald Trump como "El negocio del siglo", tampoco acá los palestinos no tienen voz en el asunto. Vale la pena señalar que el Artículo 28 del Acuerdo de Coalición menciona la intención del gobierno de "luchar por mantener los acuerdos de paz existentes", indicando que Jordania y Egipto pueden tener influencia sobre esta decisión.

Para el Reino Hachemita de Jordania, muy poblado por refugiados palestinos, la anexión corre el riesgo de desestabilizar y poner en peligro al gobierno y obligarlo a reconsiderar su tratado de paz con Israel. El tratado de paz de Israel con Egipto también se pondría en peligro. Además, las acciones de Israel ya están dañando sus relaciones con los países democráticos de todo el mundo. La anexión unilateral es ilegal según el derecho internacional y contraviene todas las resoluciones relevantes del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU relacionadas con el conflicto israelo-palestino, particularmente la Resolución 2334 del CSNU de diciembre de 2016. Si se implementa, la anexión significará la desaparición de la Solución de Dos Estados y eliminará cualquier posibilidad que el pueblo palestino logre su autodeterminación a través de medios no violentos.

Además, la anexión –que no estaría acompañada por otorgamiento de derechos civiles- convertirá a Israel en un Estado que discrimina oficialmente al pueblo palestino por su origen étnico, poniendo fin a la democracia en Israel tal como la conocemos. La anexión es una sentencia de muerte no solo para las aspiraciones nacionales palestinas, sino también para los valores fundacionales del Estado de Israel, consagrados en su Declaración de Independencia. Dicha acción corre el riesgo de provocar una creciente ola de de-legitimación de Israel y ataques antisemitas en distintos lugares del mundo. La anexión también pondrá en peligro las relaciones entre Israel y los judíos del mundo para quienes los derechos humanos, la igualdad y la democracia son principios identitarios esenciales.

Únase a nosotros en nuestro llamado a todos los que se preocupan por el futuro de Israel para que tomen medidas inmediatas para convencer al gobierno y al pueblo de Israel de que el precio que se pagará por la anexión será demasiado alto para que Israel lo cargue.

ANTI-ANNEXATION APPEAL: FRANÇAIS

En tant que membres et sympathisants de J-Link, réseau international d'organisations juives progressistes, nous souhaitons sans délai partager notre profonde préoccupation, étayée par les analyses d'experts en relations internationales et en sécurité, concernant l'intention du gouvernement israélien de procéder à l'annexion de certaines parties de la Cisjordanie.

Il ne reste que peu de temps pour convaincre le gouvernement d'Israël de mettre un terme à cette démarche malavisée. Avec la complicité de l'administration Trump, le Premier ministre Benjamin Netanyahu perpétue le mythe selon lequel la réalité sur le terrain l'emporte sur le droit international. C'est maintenant le moment où les Israéliens doivent réfléchir aux conséquences de l'annexion unilatérale sur leur sécurité et leurs relations internationales.

Une pétition signée par 220 anciens officiers supérieurs de l'armée, du Mossad et de la police, tous membres de l'ONG "Commandants pour la sécurité d'Israël" établit que l'annexion déclenchera une réaction en chaîne sur laquelle Israël n'aura aucun contrôle, conduisant à l'effondrement de l'Autorité palestinienne. Cela exigerait en retour qu'Israël prenne le contrôle total de toute la Cisjordanie et assume la responsabilité de la vie de 2,6 millions de Palestiniens.

L'accord de coalition signé par Benjamin Netanyahu et le président de la Knesset, Benny Gantz, comprend des articles qui permettent au nouveau gouvernement d'accélérer le processus d'annexion à compter du 1er juillet. Bien que soit reconnue la nécessité de discuter de la question avec la communauté internationale, le seul engagement contraignant de l'accord est la coordination de la démarche avec l'administration américaine. Comme dans le cas du plan "Paix pour la prospérité" du président Trump, les Palestiniens n'ont pas leur mot à dire. Il convient de noter que l'article 28 de l'accord de coalition mentionne l'intention du gouvernement "de s'efforcer de faire respecter les accords de paix existants", ce qui indique que la Jordanie et l'Égypte pourraient avoir un poids particulier sur cette décision.

Pour le Royaume hachémite de Jordanie, fortement peuplé de réfugiés palestiniens, l'annexion risque de déstabiliser le gouvernement et l'obliger à reconsidérer son traité de paix avec Israël. Celui avec l'Égypte serait également mis en péril. En outre, les actions d'Israël mettent déjà à rude épreuve ses relations avec les pays démocratiques du monde entier.

L'annexion unilatérale est illégale en vertu du droit international et contrevient à toutes les résolutions du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies relatives au conflit israélo-palestinien, en particulier la résolution 2334 de décembre 2016. Si elle est appliquée, l'annexion signifiera la fin de la solution à deux États et anéantira tout espoir du peuple palestinien de parvenir à l'autodétermination par des moyens non violents.

En outre, l'annexion risquerait de transformer Israël en un État qui maintient un contrôle permanent sur des millions de Palestiniens au sein de son territoire - leur déniaient les droits civiques et politiques - mettant ainsi fin à la démocratie en Israël telle que nous la connaissons. Une telle action risque de provoquer une marée montante de délégitimation d'Israël et de nouvelles poussées d'antisémitisme. L'annexion mettra également en péril les relations entre Israël et les Juifs progressistes du monde entier pour qui les droits de l'homme, l'égalité et la démocratie sont des principes essentiels.

Nous appelons tous ceux qui se soucient de l'avenir d'Israël à agir au plus vite afin de convaincre le gouvernement et le peuple d'Israël que le prix à payer pour l'annexion sera trop lourd à supporter.

ANTI-ANNEXATION APPEAL: PORTUGUESE

Como membros e apoiadores do J-Link, a rede internacional de organizações judaicas progressistas, compartilhamos com urgência nossas profundas preocupações, endossadas pelas análises de especialistas em diplomacia e segurança, com vistas à intenção do Governo de Israel de iniciar com a anexação de partes da Cisjordânia.

Apenas um pequeno tempo resta para convencer o Governo de Israel a sustar esta ação impensada. Com a adesão da administração Trump, o primeiro-ministro Netanyahu está perpetuando o mito de que a realidade no terreno substitui a lei internacional. Este é o momento em que os israelenses precisam considerar as consequências para sua segurança e suas relações internacionais, como resultado de uma anexação unilateral.

Notadamente, uma petição assinada por 220 ex-oficiais seniores do Exército, do Mossad e da Polícia, membros dos 'Comandantes pela Segurança de Israel' (Commanders for Israel's Security) afirmou que a anexação porá em movimento uma reação em cadeia, sobre a qual Israel não terá controle, levando ao colapso da Autoridade Palestina. Isto, por sua vez, demandaria que Israel assuma controle total sobre a Cisjordânia inteira e passe a se responsabilizar pela vida de 2,6 milhões de palestinos.

O acordo de coalizão assinado por Netanyahu e o porta-voz do Knesset Gantz inclui artigos que permitem ao novo governo iniciar o processo de anexação a partir de 1º de julho. Apesar do reconhecimento da necessidade de discutir a questão com a comunidade internacional, o único compromisso explícito no acordo é a coordenação da ação com a administração norte-americana. Como no caso do plano 'Paz para Prosperidade', do presidente Trump, os palestinos não terão qualquer palavra no assunto.

Deve-se notar que o Artigo 28 do Acordo de Coalizão menciona a intenção do governo de "lutar para manter os acordos de paz existentes", indicando que Jordânia e Egito poderão ter influência sobre a decisão. Para o Reino Hachemita da Jordânia, com pesada população de refugiados palestinos, a anexação traz um risco de desestabilização, que poderia por em perigo o governo e compeli-lo a reconsiderar seu Tratado de paz com Israel. O Tratado de paz de Israel com o Egito também pode ser posto em risco. Mais ainda, as ações de Israel já estão estressando suas relações com países democráticos em todo o mundo.

Anexações unilaterais são ilegais sob a lei internacional e violam todas as resoluções do Conselho de Segurança da ONU pertinentes ao conflito Israel-Palestina, particularmente a Resolução UNSC 2334 de dezembro de 2016. Se implementada, a anexação significará a morte da solução de Dois Estados e anulará quaisquer esperanças do povo palestino em alcançar a autodeterminação através de meios não violentos. Além disso, a anexação transformará Israel num Estado que oficialmente discrimina contra o povo palestino baseado em etnicidade, privando-os de direitos civis e assim acabando com a democracia em Israel como a conhecemos.

Anexação é uma sentença de morte não apenas para as aspirações nacionais palestinas, mas também para os valores fundadores do Estado de Israel, consagrados em sua Declaração de Independência. Tal ação traria o risco de provocar uma maré crescente de deslegitimação de Israel e mais surtos de antissemitismo. A anexação também prejudicará as relações entre Israel e os judeus progressistas em todo o mundo, para quem direitos humanos, igualdade e democracia são princípios essenciais.

Por favor, junte-se a nós em nosso apelo, a todos que se preocupam com o futuro de Israel, para agir imediatamente para convencer o governo e o povo de Israel de que o preço a ser pago pela anexação será pesado demais para Israel carregar.

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ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNERS

Ameinu Australia	JSpaceCanada
Ameinu Canada	J Street (United States)
Ameinu United States	La paix maintenant (Peace Now), France
Americans for Peace Now	Llamamiento Argentino Judio (Argentina)
Argentinos Amigos de Paz Ahora	Meretz Argentina
Amigos Brasileiros Do Paz Agora (Brazil)	Meretz France
Canadian Friends of Peace Now	Meretz UK
Casa de Cultura (Uruguay)	Meretz Uruguay
Centro Progresista judio CPJ (Chile)	Mujeres activan por la paz (Argentina)
Centre Communautaire Laïc Juif (Belgium)	Netzer South Africa
Cercle Martin Buber Geneva (Switzerland)	New Israel Fund (Australia)
Gruppo Martin Buber- ebrei per la pace (Italy)	New Israel Fund (Austria)
Habonim Dror North America	New Israel Fund (Canada)
Habonim Dror Southern Africa	New Israel Fund (Germany)
Hashomer Hatzair World Movement	New Israel Fund (United Kingdom)
J-AMLAT (Latin America)	New Israel Fund (United States)
JCall Europe	New Israel Fund (Switzerland)
JCall Belgium	Partners for Progressive Israel (United States)
JCall France	Policy Working Group (Israel)
JCall Italy	Reconstructing Judaism (United States)
JCall Spain	Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (United States)
JCall Switzerland	Smol Talk Mexico
Jewish Democratic Initiative (South Africa)	Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights (United States)
Jewish Labor Committee (United States)	Union Jovenes judios Argentinos (Argentina)
Jewish Labour Movement (United Kingdom)	Yachad (United Kingdom)

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ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNERS



IDISHER CULTUR FARBAND

CENTRO LITERARIO ISRAELITA
Y BIBLIOTECA MAX NORDAU

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INTRODUCTION

In response to the Israeli government's Coalition Agreement, dated April 20 2020, which included a proposal to unilaterally annex up to 30% of the West Bank as early as July 1, 2020, J-Link devised a strategy with its many international supporters.

In June 2020, the J-Link Coordinating Committee members, organized delegations to meet with Israeli Diplomats around the world, to express their concerns, as pro-Israel, pro-Peace, pro-2-state solution supporters. Each delegation presented the J-Link Appeal, signed by 50 progressive Jewish organizations worldwide, and asked the Diplomats to forward the Appeal to the Israeli Foreign Minister. This Report provides a brief summary of those meetings, including the Diplomats, members of the various delegations, and the significant outcomes.

AGENDA FOR MEETINGS

J-Link Delegations invited replies from each Diplomat on 4 key questions:

- *Is the annexation part of the Trump Plan?*
- *Is the Israeli government still supporting the two-states policy?*
- *How does the Israeli government see its future relationship with the Palestinian Authority (PA), when the PA completely rejects the Trump plan and any form of annexation?*
- *Is the Israeli government going to grant citizenship to the Palestinians living in the annexed territories?*

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USA & CANADA

SAN FRANCISCO, USA

June 15, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Shlomi Kofman, Consul General for the US Pacific Northwest

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Brian Lurie, New Israel Fund, United Jewish Appeal,
2. Daniel Sokatch, New Israel Fund, Jewish Community Federation
3. Rabbi Andrew Straus, J Street
4. Rabbi Melanie Aron, Congregation Shir Hadash
5. Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan
6. Mel Kronick, Congregation Beth Am
7. Charles Rothschild, Union for Reform Judaism, Congregation Beth Am
8. Susan Rothschild, J Street
9. David Waksberg, Jewish LearningWorks, Ameinu

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

* organizational affiliation for identification purposes only

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MIAMI, USA

June 25, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representatives

- Lisa McClaskey, Director of Political Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in Miami
- Kasa Bainesay-Harbor, Deputy Consul General of Israel for Florida and Puerto Rico

J-Link Delegation

1. David Abraham, Partners for Progressive Israel
2. Rabbi Bradd Boxman, Congregation Kol Tikvah
3. Sarah Pincus, Habonim Dror North America
4. Elianna Cooper, J Street U
5. Jonah Karsch, J Street U

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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LOS ANGELES, USA

June 10, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Hillel Newman, Consul General of Israel for the Pacific Southwest
- Carolyn Ben Natan, Director of Public Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in Los Angeles

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi John Rosove, J Street, ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America)
2. Alisa Katz, Ameinu
3. Karen Shapiro, Partners for Progressive Israel
4. Janet Halpert, J Street
5. Sandy Weiner, Americans for Peace Now
6. Keri Hausner, J Street

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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NEW YORK, USA

June 12, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Dani Dayan, Consular General of Israel in New York
- Israel Nitzan, Deputy Consular General of Israel in New York
- Andrew Gross, Director of Political Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in New York

J-Link Delegation

1. Sam Norich, Ameinu, Forward Association
2. Rabbi Steve Gutow, NYU Wagner School Scholar
3. Stuart Appelbaum, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, Jewish Labor Committee
4. Leah Schwartz, Habonim Dror North America
5. Jessica Brown, J Street NYC

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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ATLANTA, USA

July 6, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Anat Sultan-Dadon, Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Ron Segal, Temple Sinai, Central Conference of American Rabbis
2. Cedric Suzman, J Street Atlanta Steering Committee, AJC Atlanta
3. Jeanney Kutner, J Street
4. Scott Rafshoon, J Street Atlanta Steering Committee
5. Shai Robkin, Atlanta Regional Council of the New Israel Fund
6. Lois Frank, Jewish Council of Public Affairs

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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BOSTON, USA

June 25, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Zeev Boker, Consul General of Israel to New England
- Daniel Agranov, Deputy Consul General of Israel for New England
- Juan Gilces, Chief of Staff to the Consul General of New England

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek of West Newton
2. Rabbi Allison Berry, Temple Shalom of Newton
3. Rabbi Art Green, Hebrew College
4. Geoffrey Lewis, Americans for Peace Now
5. Stephane Acel-Green, New Israel Fund
6. Rabbi Keith Stern, Avodah
7. Rabbi David Lerner, Massachusetts Board of Rabbis
8. Shaina Wasserman, J Street

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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CHICAGO, USA

July 21, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Aviv Ezra, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest US
- Ariella Rada, Consul for Academic and Community Affairs of Israel in Chicago
- Moran Birman, Consul for Public Diplomacy of Israel in Chicago
- Renie Schreiber, Jewish Outreach Director for the Consulate General of Israel in Chicago

J-Link Delegation

1. Rabbi Sam Gordon, Congregation Sukkat Shalom
2. Rabbi Isaac Serotta, Makom Solel Lakeside
3. James Klutznick, Americans for Peace Now
4. Zach Harris, Habonim Dror North America
5. Jeffry Mallow, Ameinu
6. Rabbi Andrea London, Beth Emet

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

TORONTO, CANADA

June 15, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Galit Baram, Consul General of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada and former Director of Palestinian Affairs in Israel
- Nissan Amdur, Deputy Consul General for Toronto and Western Canada

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Barbara Landau, J-Link Coordinating Committee
2. Dr. Karen Mock, JSpaceCanada
3. Ben Murane, NIF Canada
4. Jon Allen, JSpaceCanada, former Canadian Ambassador to Israel
5. Bob Katz, Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date
- Suggested J-Link should have conversations with moderate Palestinians who support two states

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MONTREAL, CANADA

June 17, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- David Levy, Consul General of Israel for Quebec and Eastern Canada

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Barbara Landau, J-Link Coordinating Committee
2. David Cohen, Canadian Friends of Peace Now
3. Michael Morgenteau, JSpaceCanada
4. David Adley, Canadian Friends of Rabbis for Human Rights

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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OTTAWA, CANADA

June 15, 2020

Forum

Phone Call

Israeli Representative

- Eitan Na'eh, Charge D'Affaires at the Israeli Embassy for Canada in Ottawa

J-Link Delegation

1. Jon Allen, J-Link, JSpaceCanada, Former Canadian Ambassador to Israel

Further Meeting Request

- Dr. Barbara Landau, asked that the J-Link Appeal be forwarded to the Israeli Foreign Minister

Outcome

- Offered to meet with a delegation later in July once Israeli policy on proposed Annexation is clearer

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LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

June 23, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Zvi Tal, Ambassador of Israel to Mexico and Bahamas
- Tal Naim, Director of Public Affairs for the Embassy of Israel in Mexico

J-Link Delegation

1. Esther Shabot, Middle East affairs analyst with Excelsior, J-AmLat
2. Mordecai Staropolsky, Avodá, Center for Judaic Studies, The Rabin Group
3. Moisés Salinas, Meretz México, ORT University of Mexico.
4. Salvador Lobatón, Joven Guardia AC (linked to Hashomer Hatzair), J-AmLat Mexico
5. Arturo Duque, Smol Talk (linked to Hashomer Hatzair)
6. Nicolás Trepman, Avodá México
7. José Hamra Sassón, Middle East analyst, J-AMLAT México

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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SANTIAGO, CHILE

June 16, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Marina Rosenberg, Ambassador of Israel to Chile

J-Link Delegation

1. Tamara Benquis, Jewish Progressive Center
2. Marcelo Carvallo, J-AMLAT Chile
3. Carlos Vásquez, Meretz Chile
4. Sara Frenkel, Hashomer Hatzair Chile
5. René Arriagada, Jewish Progressive Center
6. Galo Eidelstein, Jewish Progressive Center
7. Yonathan Nowogrodski, Jewish Progressive Center

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

Meeting Denied

Initial Request

- Sent to Shani Tayar-Rabinovitch, First Secretary to the Embassy of Israel in Brazil

J-Link Delegation

1. Sergio Storch, J-AMLAT
2. Rolande Fischberg, ADAF (Associação David Frischman de Cultura e Recreação)
3. Moises Storch, Amigos Barsileiros Do Paz Agora
4. Mauro Band, ASA - Associação Scholem Aleichem
5. Renato Bekerman, Associação Cultural Mordechai Anilevicz (Rio de Janeiro), Meretz Brazil
6. Mauro Lipman, Mordechai Anilevicz Cultural Center (São Paulo)
7. Beatrice Goldfeld, JpD - Judeus pela Democracia
8. Beni Iachan, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
9. Eduardo Rawet, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
10. Guilherme Cohen, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
11. Juliana Kaiser, JpD (Judeus pela Democracia)
12. Bernardo Furrer, Fascism Observatory (Rio de Janeiro)

Outcome

- No response

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Meeting Denied

Initial Request June 8, 2020

- Sent to Paola Baredes, Assistant to Ambassador of Israel in Argentina

J-Link Delegation

1. Adriana Potel, Women Activate for Peace
2. Ariel Gueiser, Meretz Argentina
3. Dardo Esterovich, Llamamiento Argentine Jewish Appeal
4. Gustavo Efron, Director of the Nueva Sion Newspaper
5. Isaac Roberto Faur, Argentine Friends of Peace Now
6. Pablo Lumerman, J-Link coordinating committee
7. UJJA - Union of Young Argentine Jews

Response June 26, 2020

Outcome

- Refusal to meet on the grounds that annexation had not yet happened
- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Willing to consider a conversation dependent on if Israel moves forward with annexation

EUROPE

BRUXELLES, BELGIUM

Meeting Denied

Initial Request

- Sent to Emanuel Nachson, Ambassador of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg

J-Link Delegation

1. Benjamin Beeckmans, Jewish Secular Community Center (CCLJ)

Outcome

- Refusal to meet
- The J-Link Appeal should be thrown away

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HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

July 2, 2020

Forum

In Person

Israeli Representative

- Naor Gilon, Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Eldad Ben Aharon, Professor at Leiden University
2. Nir Geva, AFI Group Holland
3. Gad Meir Lev, musician and composer

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

June 30, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Benny Dagan, Ambassador of Israel to Denmark

J-Link Delegation

1. Merete Christensen, New Outlook
2. Sigge Korzen, New Outlook
3. Mette Geldmann, New Outlook

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date
- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister
- Will establish a point person for direct channel of communication with J-Link in the future

ROME, ITALY

July 20, 2020

Forum

In person

Israeli Representative

- Dror Eydar, Ambassador of Israel to Italy

J-Link Delegation

1. Giorgio Gomel, JCall Italy, Alliance for Middle East Peace Europe
2. Fernando Liuzzi, Group Martin Buber-Jews for Peace, Rome
3. Daniele Naim, Beth Hillel Reform Jewish Community

Outcome

- Open to continuing the conversation at a later date

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OSLO, NORWAY

June 9, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Alon Roth, Ambassador of Israel to Norway

J-Link Delegation

1. Ervin Kohn, The Mosaic Faith Society

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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BERLIN, GERMANY

June 18, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Jeremy Issacharoff, Ambassador of Israel to Germany

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Micha Brumlik, Professor at Selma Stern Center of Jewish Studies, Jalta magazine
2. Sergey Lagodinsky, Green Party member of the European Parliament, Jewish Community of Berlin
3. Dr. Irit Dekel, Scholar of Holocaust Memory
4. Dr. Susan Neiman, Einstein Forum in Potsdam
5. Amir Theilhaber, NIF Germany
6. Dr. Susan Lourenco, NIF Germany

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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MADRID, SPAIN

June 9, 2020

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Yoav Katz, Spokesman of Israel Embassy in Spain

J-Link Delegation

1. Jonas Benarroch, JCall
2. Marcel Odina, JCall, Plataforma Mozaika
3. Isabelle Pleskoff, JCall, Musée d' Art et Histoire du Judaïsme (Paris)
4. Arnau Pons, JCall
5. Daniela Rosenfeld, JCall, Barcelona Jewish Film Festival
6. Victor Sorensen, JCall, Plataforma Mozaika, Association Européenne pour le Patrimoine Juif (AEPJ)

No Outcome

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PARIS, FRANCE

June 16, 2020

Forum

In person

Israeli Representative

- Delphine Gamburg, Director of Public Relations for Israeli Embassy in France

J-Link Delegation

1. Izio Rosenman, Secular Humanist Jewish Association (AJHL)
2. Anny Dayan Rosenman, JCall
3. Laurent Azoulai, Cercle Léon Blum, French Socialist Party
4. Hélène Papiernik, Medem Centre
5. Tzion Grabarz, Hashomer Hatzair, Peace Now, Zionist Congress (Meretz), CRIF

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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BERN, SWITZERLAND

July 17, 2020

Initial Request Denied

Forum

Video Conference

Israeli Representative

- Jacob Keidar, Ambassador of Israel to Switzerland and Liechtenstein

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Michel Borzykowski, Cercle Martin Buber, JCall
2. Jacques de Haller, New Israel Fund
3. Rachel Halpern, New Israel Fund
4. Dr. Marcelo Kohen, Cercle Martin Buber, JCall
5. Barbara Vogt-Hornick, JCall

Outcome

- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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SOUTH AFRICA & OCEANIA

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Meeting Denied

Initial Request

- Sent to Lior Keinan, Ambassador of Israel to South Africa

J-Link Delegation

1. Prof. David Bilchitz, The Jewish Democratic Initiative
2. Nina Reitenberg, Habonim Dror Southern Africa
3. Rachael Bootcov, Netzer South Africa

Second Request Sent June 11, 2020

Outcome

- Response from Mariette van Door, Personal Assistant to the Ambassador of Israel to South Africa, June 17, 2020
- Refusal to meet

Third Request Sent June 19, 2020

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Meeting Denied

Initial Request June 29, 2020

- Sent to Mark Sofer, Ambassador of Israel to Australia

J-Link Delegation

1. Jo Dixon, Jewish Canberra Peace Forum
2. Matthew Zagor, Professor at ANU College of Law
3. Len Dixon, ACT Jewish Community
4. Naomi Gould, Human rights & community lawyer
5. Michael Platow, Psychology researcher and professor
6. Dr. Dan Rosaeur, ARC DECRA Research Fellow (2016-2019, ANU)
7. Dr. Galia Shy, Canberra-based artist
8. Tim Hollo, The Green Institute; Visiting Fellow, RegNet, ANU
9. Lorana Bartels, Professor at College of Arts and Social Sciences, ANU
10. Assa Doron, Professor at College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
11. Ronit Ricci, Professor at College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
12. Meir Itzchaki, MIBD Strategies, former Diplomat, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13. Dr. Julia Wolfson, Turning Forward

Outcome

- Refusal to meet
- Will forward J-Link Appeal to Israeli Foreign Minister

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WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

Meeting Denied

Initial Request June 3, 2020

- Sent to Itzhak Gerberg, Ambassador of Israel to New Zealand

J-Link Delegation

1. Dr. Margalit Toledano, professor at University of Waikato
2. David Weinstein, NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Tami Louisson
4. Simon Louisson
5. Sarah Cole
6. Annick Jason
7. Hadas Ore
8. Rick Sahar
9. Yael Shochat
10. Laura Zilberberg
11. Denzelle Marcovicci, Sh'ma Koleinu- Alternative Jewish Voices
12. Jeremy Rose, Sh'ma Koleinu- Alternative Jewish Voices
13. Fred Albert, Sh'ma Koleinu - Alternative Jewish Voices
14. Marilyn Garson, Sh'ma Koleinu- Alternative Jewish Voices
15. Sue Berman, Dayenu- New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation
16. Asher Wilson Goldman
17. Ilan Blumberg, Dayenu- New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation
18. Rebecca Kunin, Dayenu- New Zealand Jews Against the Occupation

Outcome

- Refusal to meet on the grounds that annexation has not been finalized or brought up in Knesset

Second and Third Requests

Additional Correspondence

- Ilan Baruch, Policy Working Group to Winston Peters, New Zealand Foreign Minister

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The J-Link delegations met with Israeli Diplomats from 21 different missions; however we noticed several recurring responses. In order to uphold the confidentiality of the meetings, we have summarized some of the most consistent responses and have not identified anyone's name. The following notes and opinions were expressed by Israel's Diplomats. J-Link's views on the proposed Annexation are explicitly stated in the Anti-Annexation Appeal that is signed by 50 progressive Jewish organizations worldwide.

Arguments supporting annexation:

- Israel has the support of its strongest ally, the USA
- Annexation is not a fait accompli
 - The Israeli government has not finalized anything
 - It has not even been brought up to a vote in the Knesset
- Will likely be a limited annexation
 - Seems to be a result of immense international pressure
- Annexation is a good option in line with a Two-State Solution

With regards to Palestinians:

- Palestinians must come to the table and negotiate
 - There is no one to talk to
- Palestinian severance of security coordination is dangerous to their own people
- No clear response as to the legal status of Palestinians on annexed land:
 - Including citizenship, voting rights, home demolitions, etc
 - The outlier includes one senior ambassador, directly related to Israeli leadership, stated that Palestinians living in annexed territories would receive full citizenship rights

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Internationally:

- Israel's relationship with Jordan remains a high priority
- One senior ambassador cited the importance of the United Arab Emirate's opinion in Israeli decision making
 - Our delegations noticed a meaningful slowdown in preparation to annex after the Oped by UAE Ambassador to Washington in the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper

Note on Ambassadors' Responses:

- Israeli Embassies across the world did not have unified knowledge about annexation; several thought it would not happen while many admitted to be speculating responses. Some were not able to answer any of our questions while others gave specific answers, and some contradicted each other. Additionally, Jewish condemnation of the proposed Annexation has varied across and within countries. Most Ambassadors acknowledged that many people had reached out to them about this issue, but several mentioned that the J-Link delegation was the first time they heard of it directly.

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J-LINK COORDINATING COMMITTEE



**Barbara Landau Ph.D., LL.B., LL.M., President, Cooperative Solutions
Toronto, Canada**

Barbara is a Lawyer, Psychologist and Mediator. She is a Board Member and Chairs the Shared Society Committee of JSpaceCanada and is the Canadian representative on the J-Link Coordinating Committee. Barbara participated in 3 Compassionate Listening peace-building missions to Israel and Palestine. She co-chairs the Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM), is co-founder of “Together in Hope”, a Jewish, Palestinian/Arab women’s dialogue group. Barbara is a partner in Givat Haviva’s “Heart to Heart” Alumni Program, whose goal is building shared society for Jewish and Palestinian Israeli youth and their parents.

**Pablo Lumerman, J-AMLAT Spokesperson with J-Link
Cipolletti, Argentina**

Pablo has practiced mediation and peacebuilding for 15 years in different peacebuilding projects. Following Kaufman’s theory on the role of diasporas in peacebuilding, he co-founded Consenso Argentino por la Paz entre Israel y Palestina and J-AMLAT, a Latin American Israeli joint project. An expert in conflict resolution, human rights, and sustainable development, Pablo has been involved in an array of conflict resolution roles such as mediator, facilitator, and strategic process designer, trained by George Mason University Notre Dame and Fundacion Cambio Democratico. Pablo has also been involved in local Jewish community activities as part of the community leadership in Centro Hebraico de Neuquen in Patagonia, promoting an open Judaism based on interfaith dialogue, peace, and human dignity for humankind.



**Kenneth Bob, National President, Ameinu
New York, USA**

Ken serves as national president of Ameinu, a progressive Zionist organization as well as the chair of Project Rozana USA. He is a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel Board of Governors and sits on its Executive Committee. He also serves as the treasurer of the J Street board of directors and speaks widely on topics of interest regarding Israel and the Jewish community.

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Alon Liel, former Ambassador of Israel to South Africa
Tel Aviv, Israel

Alon served as the Ambassador of Israel to South Africa and as the Director General of the Foreign Ministry of Israel. Today, he sits on the boards of several academic institutions and organizations including Israel Academic College, Hertzliya Hebrew Gymnasium, Ir Amim, and Sikkuy. Alon is one of the leaders of an Israeli campaign to advance European recognition of a Palestinian state. Besides his involvement, is considered an expert and has written several books on Israeli-Turkish relations.

Gabriella Saven, Coordinator, Jewish Democratic Initiative
Cape Town, South Africa

Gabi completed her undergraduate degree in Law and International Political Science at the University of Cape Town, where she is currently undertaking her postgraduate degree in International Development Theory. She was a member of Habonim Dror South Africa from 2006-2018, sat on the national executive committee for two years, and was in charge of the Western Cape for 2 years. She is an active Jewish community member, assists Limmud South Africa with its national marketing and currently works for the Jewish Democratic Initiative as their coordinator and administrator.



Giorgio Gomel, President, Alliance for Middle East Peace Europe
Rome, Italy

Giorgio, Italian economist, has been the head of research and international economics at the Bank of Italy. Among the cofounders of JCall, an association of European Jews committed to a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on two states, he is the President of Alliance for Middle East Peace Europe, a coalition of Israeli-Palestinian NGOs working cross border. He was a cofounder of Beth Hillel, a progressive Jewish community in Rome. Beside professional publications, he has written extensively on Israel and Jewish affairs

Lior Ben-Zvi, Administrative Intern, J-Link
New York, USA

Lior recently graduated Rutgers University, with a double major in Middle Eastern Studies and French. Her research focuses on national identities within countries in conflict. She was an active member of Hashomer Hatzair USA, and served as Educational Director and National Youth Coordinator there. Most recently, Lior has been working with NIF on an Israel education curriculum.



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J-LINK IN THE PRESS

Cisjordanie: « Agir au plus vite pour qu'Israël renonce à ce projet d'annexion »

- FRANCE: Le Monde, 18 June 2020 (Trans. "West Bank: 'Acting quickly so Israel gives up on annexation'")

Progressive Jews hail NZ censure of Israeli annexation

- NEW ZEALAND: Scoop, 25 June 2020

Coalition Against Annexation Meets Israeli Diplomats in 18 Cities Worldwide

- ISRAEL: Haaretz, 29 June 2020

Fifty Jewish organisations meet Israeli diplomats to argue against annexation

- UK: The Jewish Chronicle, 29 June 2020

Step Up the NZ Stand on Annexation

- NEW ZEALAND: The Dominion Post, 1 July 2020

La Luce del Diritto e della Ragione

- ITALY: La Repubblica, 2 July 2020 (Trans. "The Light of Law and Reason")

Organizaciones judías de Argentina y el mundo piden frenar la anexión de Cisjordania

- ARGENTINA: 3500 Noticias, 6 July 2020 (Trans. "Jewish organizations in Argentina and in the world ask to stop annexation of the West Bank")

Grupos judíos en Argentina dicen No al plan anexionista israelí

- ARGENTINA: HispanTV, 7 July 2020 (Trans. "Jewish groups in Argentina say No to Israeli Annexation Plans")

Debatte um Annexion in der Schweiz

- SWITZERLAND: Tachles, 16 July 2020 (Trans. "Debate about Annexation in Switzerland")