

Dear JFNH:

By referring to a country named “Palestine,” you are undermining the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The state of “Palestine” does not exist, and acknowledging its existence is wrong for a multitude of reasons. Many people seem to forget that the Palestinian leadership has been presented with an opportunity to create a state of their own on multiple occasions. The 1947 United Nations Partition Plan intended to split the British Mandate into a State of Israel and a State of Palestine.

Contrary to the belief of many, the political root of today’s conflict is not the 1967 border lines, but the Palestinian leadership’s refusal to accept Israel’s existence as a Jewish state, beginning in the year 1947. In the year 2000 at Camp David, Yasser Arafat squandered a chance at Palestinian statehood, refusing to accept a Palestinian state made up of 100 percent of the Gaza Strip and 94 percent of the West Bank. By accepting one of the many offers by the United Nations, United States, and Israel, a Palestinian state may very well exist today.

We must not grant the Palestinians something that they have not earned. In order for a Palestinian state to exist, a terrorist group that calls for Israel’s destruction must not be in power. Hamas has held an Israeli soldier in captivity for five years and continues to hurl rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israeli school buses and kindergartens. If we refer to the state of “Palestine,” the actions of the Palestinian leadership are legitimized and the refusal of the Palestinians to make peace with Israel is forgotten.

In order to further the peace process, the Palestinians must accept Israel as a neighbor. Do not undermine Israeli security and the peace process by referring to “Palestine.” Peace will only come about when the Palestinians learn to live next to Israelis, not when publications wrongly grant the Palestinians statehood. We must do what is right as Jews, and that includes supporting Israel and striving for peace in the most effective way.

Sincerely,

Adam Grodman
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