

**National Interreligious Leadership Initiative
for Peace in the Middle East**
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April 8, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Mr. President,

As Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious leaders, many of whom are present and past heads of national denominations and faith organizations, we have, from the beginning of your presidency, supported your commitment to make Israeli-Palestinian peace a high priority. We support the vision you offered Israelis and Palestinians on your important visit to the region: "Peace is necessary. ... Peace is also just. ... Peace is possible. ... Negotiations will be necessary, but there is little secret where they must lead – two states for two peoples."

Earlier this year, as members of the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace (NILI), we expressed our concern that twilight was falling on the possibility of a two-state solution, the only realistic solution. We noted that bold new U.S. leadership was needed before it is too late. In the wake of hopes raised by your visit, we respectfully renew our request for a meeting with you to discuss a path to Israeli-Palestinian peace and ways we can provide support and help remove obstacles along the way.

Our nation has unique responsibility and credibility in the region. Indeed, no past progress towards peace has occurred in this conflict without U.S. leadership, facilitation and determined support. Once again we need active, fair and firm U.S. leadership to help break the current deadlock and to achieve a two-state Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

The Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious leaders of NILI are committed to mobilizing broad public support for your leadership for peace and, as we have done in the past, will energize synagogues, churches and mosques across the country to affirm bold American leadership.

We know the challenges are daunting, but we believe a new initiative for Israeli-Palestinian peace is urgently needed. We pledge our support and request a meeting at an appropriate time to discuss how we can help.

Sincerely yours,



Theodore Cardinal McCarrick
Archbishop Emeritus
of Washington



Rabbi David Saperstein
Director, Religious Action
Center of Reform Judaism



Dr. Sayyid Muhammad Syeed
National Director,
Islamic Society of North America

Enc: NILI Statement, *Twilight of Hope for Israeli-Palestinian Peace*, with List of Endorsers