

MEMMO

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Arab Support Key for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

As Israel and the Palestinians prepare for a high-level meeting this fall, the support of key Arab states is more critical than ever. Many Arab governments continue to enforce their decades-old boycott of Israel, disseminate incitement and hatred against the Jewish state and support terrorist groups that undermine peace efforts. To help peace talks succeed, Arab states must reverse these policies and provide political and economic support for the Palestinian Authority under President Mahmoud Abbas, recognize Israel, end their boycott and oppose terrorism and incitement.

Arab states must provide real support to the Palestinian economy and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to help peace efforts succeed.

- In a major speech in July on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, President Bush called on the Arab states to use “their resources to provide much-needed assistance to the Palestinian people” and to help improve the economy and humanitarian situation of the Palestinians.
- Bush also called on Egypt and Jordan to open their borders to facilitate increased Palestinian trade and to help bolster the Palestinian economy.
- Arab states should provide Abbas with the political support he will need to make the tough decisions necessary to reach an agreement with Israel and to fight terror.
- Arab states should also reject efforts to initiate a rapprochement between Fatah and Hamas unless Hamas fulfills the three Quartet requirements to recognize Israel, approve previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements and renounce violence.



Arab allies of the United States such as Saudi Arabia need to strengthen Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, isolate Hamas and open relations with Israel.

Arab states must end their boycott of Israel and open relations with the Jewish state.

- Bush also said in his speech that Arab states must support the peace process by “ending the fiction that Israel does not exist ... and sending cabinet-level visitors to Israel.”

- To facilitate peace efforts between Palestinians and Israelis, Arab states must begin to prepare their own people to recognize Israel's right to exist and support a peace agreement with the Jewish state.
- The Arab League boycott of Israel must end in all its forms. While Bahrain and Oman have ended the boycott as part of their free trade agreements with the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Arab countries continue to boycott the Jewish state.
- Arab leaders could make a major contribution to peace by visiting Israel, encouraging trade with it and opening diplomatic ties.

Arab states should reject the extremism of terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hizballah.

- As President Bush made clear in his speech, the Arab states must take responsibility for supporting peace by rejecting the extremism of Hamas and ending anti-Israel incitement.
- Arab states must crack down on their citizens who continue to provide material support to Hamas and other terrorist groups. Saudi Arabia in particular has an obligation to meet the commitments it has made to the United States to stop incitement.
- Arab states such as Syria need to refrain from rearming the terrorist group Hizballah, which launched more than 4,000 rockets against Israel last summer and now reportedly has more rockets than it had before the war.
- The international community needs to make clear to Arab states that the success of Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts requires their active support.

Basic Facts Summary

- Arab states must provide real support to the Palestinian economy and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to help peace efforts succeed.
- Arab states must end their boycott of Israel and open relations with the Jewish state.
- Arab states should reject the extremism of terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hizballah.