

Reflection on the Israel's foreign and internal affairs

After reading the position paper set by an Israeli delegation one of the very first word which comes to mind is disappointment. We are all used to read nicely sounding declaration underlining determination and readiness to solve this long-lasting problem. But how many times already it has been said and nothing has changed? How many times instead of real solutions our politicians propose us some fake but good looking statements? And why nobody says aloud that something is wrong here.

I am proud of having so good willing people governing my country. Our openness and compassion to the situation of Palestinians, especially to the refugees is widely known, but how the heck so many countries around the globe do not appreciate our good intentions? Maybe it is all because the way we speak is not the same the way we behave?

What is easily noticeable in our delegation statement is a deep focus on the security issues. It has become main goal of every single Israeli agenda. Although need of being secure is undisputable the way this security is achieved sometimes may be really controversial.

First and foremost the expenses – how much do we have to spend to feel secure? Why the expenses are bigger and bigger and the level of security is still pretty much the same which means nobody is afraid but nobody feels really satisfied? Why we invest money in a never-ending story called the security fence, the checkpoints all over the west bank and postpones around the settlements instead of developing human to human relations with Palestinian neighbors, economic bonds and common investments? The argumentation that there is lack of trust is reasonable and rational but why knowing this none of our decision makers did not decide to do something in order to change it? Where are special funds and organizations responsible for getting people on “both sides of the border” closer? Where is the vision how to encourage Israelis and engage Palestinians in common businesses, cultural exchanges and other forms of cooperation? Hopefully somebody is working on that because sooner or later we will face this need in our own country when the population of Israeli Arabs will grow almost that big as an Israeli. I hope my kids will grow up in a country which inhabitants are used to cohabitation and peaceful cooperation rather than to tension and force usage.

We are used to complain that world public opinion is against us no matter what we do. True. Public opinion is against us. Did anybody asked why? So I ask: why? By the way is there anybody who thinks he knows why? If yes feel free to contact me and I will write your ideas in the next article.

For now I'll try to answer to it on my own. In my opinion the biggest problem is generated by the settlements. Yes it's nice to care about the history and about close relation with the Almighty but is that really mean we have to get stuck in some ridiculous decisions? Of course some decisions cannot be changed – we surely can't force couple dozens of people to leave their homes and go somewhere else, but the thing we surely can do is to stop developing settlements in the most problematic areas. To decide once and hopefully forever in accordance with our Palestinian partners the status of every single newly build settlement which lies on the recognized Palestinian Autonomy Soil.

Another thing is to keep our forces in the borders of the settlements and in a really close area next to it instead of letting them wander around and in fact doing everything but not helping to achieve peace. It is not the fault of the soldiers that they are exposed to really difficult situations including impression that for many people from around they may be considered as an invaders and occupiers. This is the fault of politicians who are too afraid to say that although religion is important realism needs flexibility.

Answering the request from the Palestinian side. I believe in a solution which maybe won't satisfy our needs totally but which will help both of us live one next to each other in Peace. That's why I respectfully remind you that in some areas evacuation is not a solution. The thing I want to suggest to my government and to you is to include to the negotiation one point which will cover this problem – autonomous status of these Jewish settlements which during the negotiation we decide to not to move. Nothing for free – I hope that donators who support idea of settlement movement will cover all the expenses we agree on.

Peace needs contribution this is obvious, contribution needs flexibility and openness for new surprising solutions and last but not least well thought agenda not for year or two but for at least a decade. From both sides this we have to keep in mind.

One proposals Israelis gave is really interesting. To be honest I did not expect idea of inviting the third country army to keep the borders quiet and safe as one of the main proposals which our delegation came forward with. But it sounds promising. Let's involve world in solving our problem to keep them quiet, and hopefully to make some serious progress after which the achieving of peace will be piece of cake. First – deployment of international forces on both sides of Israeli and Gaza border may really solve the problem of Qassams secondly – borders between Israel and West Bank kept both by Israelis, Palestinians and international forces soldiers may become really transparent so that nobody will accuse Israel of breaking humans rights behavior. Both ideas if become reality may change the climate between us and Arabs and between Israel and the rest of the world.

But statement that other neighboring countries have to help us to prevent terroristic infiltration is a bit not really diplomatic way of saying: "hey guys keep your terrorist away from Israel!" which some may find offending. I am not trying to be picky but well I think we should really keep an eye on what we say in public.

Good that refugee problem was mentioned. What we have to keep in mind is to make it international issue. What is realistic? Solve it with help of international human organizations and in cooperation with countries where the refugees are. But one thing has to be said clearly. Israelis knows exactly how it is to be a refugee (enough to mention approx 1 million of Jews expelled from Arab countries not mentioning the amount of those who escaped from Europe...). It seems that no one understands it better than we, that's why accusations that we did the same to Palestinians are misleading. You can't forget about it when talk about our intentions. You have also to take into consideration that this million of people who were forcefully expelled do not demand right to return because what they understand is that some processes cannot be changed hence Israelis won't discuss this unrealistic vision. Nevertheless we know, we understand and we really want to help those who live now in the refugee camps by creating for them opportunities to participate in the societies of the countries they live in. To achieve that we need international help and engagement of other Arab countries. Therefore we should finally welcome some points from the Arab Peace

Initiative and start implement them – acceptance of the Palestinian sovereignty and withdrawal from the territories yes but as a process not as one time action. We need to prepare our people and make the room for changes, this has to take time. Situation of the settlements I already mentioned. Who knows maybe in the future our societies will be ready to create some kind of union of the liberal and opened democracies on the Middle East?

I had a dream this dream was called united Jerusalem. Quoting Martin Luther King :“I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have *a dream.*” Status of J-Town. Divided Jerusalem is not a solution, united Jerusalem governed by two nations is hard to make it happen, but what else can we do? We have to try. With help of the international community and under one condition that both sides will keep an eye on their most extremists citizens not allowing them to destabilize the situation. But once again this cannot be done at once. It needs to take time. So we have to be patient. Maybe this will be the very first offspring of our good intentions and good future.

Presence at the summit of such a countries like USA, Russian Federation, Egypt and Iran organization like UN and EU promises to make some steps on the way to peace. When reading the Iranian message I expect to see during the conference its representatives which will show that Iran is not the biggest possible threat to the region but one of the true leaders. Which power will influence its followers and supporters to overcome their hate against Israel existence and change it into realism and understanding necessary to achieve some real and long-lasting solution.