

AN OPEN LETTER TO

Our Friends in the Episcopal Church Urging Fair Treatment of Israel:

You are being asked to vote on several resolutions about the Arab-Israeli conflict, one which denies Israel's right to defend its people, more than 1000 of whom have been killed by Palestinian terrorists in recent years. The fence being constructed is an action of last resort, coming after ten years of murderous attacks against children in their beds, commuters in buses and teenagers in cafes. All innocent.



**Committee for Accuracy in
Middle East Reporting in America**

CAMERA, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, is a non-profit, research and educational organization devoted to promoting full, accurate and balanced information about Israel and the Middle East.

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The Israeli government is morally obliged to protect its citizens. But the authors of these resolutions oppose the fence—a passive method of self-defense. Do they think Israel should give free rein to suicide bombers?

And why is Israel, alone among the nations, denied the right of self-defense? Isn't this tantamount to denying Israel's right to exist?

The fence (only 5% is a concrete "wall") has reduced the carnage. Fewer suicide bombings also means fewer Israeli incursions and fewer Palestinian casualties. Thanks to the fence, scores of checkpoints have been removed, giving Palestinians freer movement. Israel has gone to great lengths to minimize the barrier's impact. It has altered the course of the structure to alleviate hardship, provided scores of gates to enable easier passage, and replanted more than 60,000 olive trees for Palestinian farmers. (If Palestinians fought against suicide bombing with the same energy Israeli peace activists apply to protecting the rights of Palestinians affected by the barrier – the barrier would be unnecessary.) Why are these realities omitted from the resolutions before you? How can the authors call for "the eradication of the sin of anti-Semitism" without protesting the continuous inculcation of Jew-hatred that has been standard fare in Palestinian media, mosques and schools for years? These resolutions say nothing about dangerous indoctrination, which pre-dates Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza.

Before you vote, please consider the self-proclaimed goals of Hamas, the violent group now heading the Palestinian Authority. Its charter states:
Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it... Our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious... The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic Waqf consecrated for future Moslem generations until Judgement Day. It, or any part of it, should not be squandered: it, or any part of it, should not be given up... Initiatives, and so called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement... There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors.

Israelis long for an end to the conflict and most favor a two-state solution, but they take Hamas at its word – and Hamas leaders to this day vow the destruction of Israel.

Yet you are presented with resolutions that ignore Hamas' agenda, are predicated on the false idea that Israel's presence in the territories is the sole source of hatred and conflict, and disregard the role and responsibility of the Palestinians and their leaders in fostering the violence that continues today. How do such grave distortions serve justice or peace?

Thank you very much for considering these issues as you debate the resolutions.