

Press Release

20 January 2014

Palestine calls Netanyahu's bluff, Invites Israel to Resume Tripartite Incitement Committee

In order to divert attention from yet more Israeli violations in occupied Palestine, including the announcement of new settlement units, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Lieberman have made baseless complaints to the European Union about "Palestinian incitement".

These tactics are a part of an overall campaign by senior Israeli officials to undermine international efforts, while attempting to lay the blame at Palestine's door. Israeli Defence Minister Yaalon's recent defamatory comments against Secretary Kerry have made this campaign patently clear.

Such tactics are also an attempt to draw attention away from Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, which is the main obstacle to peace. Recent statements made by high-ranking Israeli officials, including Economy Minister Bennett, ("It is our duty to encourage continuous Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria [the occupied West Bank]") and Housing Minister Ariel ("No Jewish town [settlement] will be uprooted. We'll continue building"), among many others, display Israel's true agenda.

Despite our firm belief that these allegations of Palestinian incitement are nothing more than diversionary tactics, we hereby call upon the Government of Israel to accept our standing offer to resume the work of the Tripartite Committee on Incitement.

We also invite PM Netanyahu to tackle the issue of incitement within his own government, beginning with his statements to the settler movement that the Hebron and Bet El settlements, located in the heart of Palestinian districts, are not going to be evacuated under any agreement.

Above all, we demand that Israel end the systematic denial of Palestinian rights and the acts of violence committed against the Palestinian people as a result of its illegal occupation, which is preventing a just and lasting peace.

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