

REMARKS – Sunday, December 2, 2001  
Rally for Israel

I greet you with heartfelt words of deepest sympathy. Again I mourn with you and Israel. Words are not adequate to express how I feel at this time of senseless bloodshed, massive killings by those whose ultimate goal is to destroy Israel. I am outraged!

There are Christians who stand with you today in sorrow and support of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. As one of the founders and as a board member of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, I speak today for myself and for our members.

Many Christians share Israel's deep grief, pain and righteous anger for all the killings of last night in Jerusalem and this morning in Haifa and all the killings these past 14 months. Israel joined us in our grief and sorrow over the burning devastation of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on our men, women and children, a horrendous attack against freedom and democracy.

Israel knows only too well the great sorrow the terrorists— Hamas, Jihad, Hezbollah, Fatah—inflict on its citizens. Suicide bombers have destroyed men, women and children in cafes, pizzerias, discos, buses, shopping malls and markets in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Nehariya, Netanya, Hadera, Afula, Nazareth, Gaza and West Bank communities. No one has been spared, neither civilians nor soldiers nor members of Parliament.

Hence, Israel has a perfect right and duty to protect her citizens; indeed, she must seek out those who aim to destroy her, just as our government is seeking Osama bin Laden and his followers in Al Qaeda.

Israel must never be cautioned to show restraint; in fact, Israel has show enormous restraint! How much restraint would America show if its citizens were threatened and killed on a daily basis?

I ask, “Why is it justice for our government to bomb Afghanistan in search of bin Ladin but a crime when Israel responds to terrorism? Israel has no other choice since Yasser Arafat provokes retaliation on a daily basis by allowing his followers to wreak havoc on Israeli citizens—Jews, Christians and Arabs.

NCLCI shares Israel’s commitment to peace and justice but not at Israel’s expense.

We share Israel’s commitment to destroy terrorism and terrorists.

We share Israel’s determination to rebuild shattered lives, industries and economies.

We share Israel’s determination to build democracy afresh.

We share Israel’s determination to rebuild its tourist industry so that people from all over the world can visit Israel and experience this democratic State of Israel.

With the words of the poet Barbara Wind, I close:

## ISAIAH'S DREAM

Swords to ploughshares remains a dream  
Makers of guns and bombers grow rich  
While bullets in a boy's leg are soon forgotten  
Except by the mother and the crippled son.

Where are today's Isaiahs? Where the Ishmaels  
To share blessings Abraham gave all his kin?  
Why has truth become a sleepless hostage  
Shackled, praying to be redeemed?

How long must Rachel weep for her children?  
When will each man plant his own olive tree?  
When will vain princes cast off their crowns  
And let peace, freedom, justice reign?

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