

# LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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## Another Israeli Unprovoked Attack

**LA Jews for Peace** condemns last week's military fighting between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) that killed 43 Gazans (half women and children) and destroyed Palestinian property and infrastructure. Here is what happened (note that Hamas stayed out of the fighting):

- As part of Israel's ongoing campaign against Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in the West Bank, Israel captured PIJ's leader Bassem Saadi on Aug. 2 (dragging the 62-year-old by his hair). PIJ threatened to attack Israel with rockets.
- Israel closed all crossings into Gaza causing havoc. Gaza's sole power plant ran out of fuel leaving people with barely four hours of electricity a day. Hospitals are desperate announcing that in a few days they will not be able to care for patients.
- On Aug.5 Israel launched a surprise attack on PIJ targets in Gaza, killing the northern Gaza PIJ commander, Tayseer al-Jabari, in his home. A day later the Israel killed the southern Gaza PIJ commander, Khaled Mansour, by destroying an apartment building he was visiting.
- PIJ responded with about 1,000 rockets into Israel.

**LA Jews for Peace** is thankful that Egypt and Hamas negotiated a cease fire that was implemented Sunday night.

Israel politics likely drove this attack; with Israeli elections coming up in November, interim Prime Minister Lapid wanted to look strong. But **LA Jews for Peace** notes that in a larger sense, it is the United States' unwavering support of Israel, including its \$4 billion annual gift, that enabled this attack. Israel relies on U.S. support to continue its occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people that is called apartheid by Israeli and international human rights NGOs.

There is wide support in the United States among rank & file Democrats, about half Jewish Americans, and about half elected Democrats, that the United States should stand up for Palestinian rights as part of its support of Israel. But that view is being marginalized by AIPAC and its allies who are spending millions of dollars to defeat progressive, Israel-supporting Democrats in the current round of primary elections. Michigan's Congressman Andy Levin is the most recent casualty. **LA Jews for Peace** condemns AIPAC and its allies for undermining American democracy and effectively supporting Israel apartheid.