

# LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

Los Angeles, CA. July 18, 2023 Contact: [info@LAJewsforPeace.org](mailto:info@LAJewsforPeace.org)

## Tom Friedman Did Not Go Far Enough

**LA Jews for Peace** agrees with Tom Friedman<sup>1</sup> that US-Israel shared values rest on the “shared fiction” that the occupation is temporary and will lead to a two-state solution and that Israel has an independent judiciary with separation of power. **LA Jews for Peace** also agrees with Friedman that actions of Israel’s current extreme right-wing government have destroyed that US-Israel “shared fiction” that was already weakened by successive Israeli governments over the past decade.

**LA Jews for Peace** rejected the shared fiction years ago because the Israeli government facilitating settlement expansion while destroying Palestinian rights, economy, and wealth demonstrated that Israel had no intention of ending the occupation. We welcome that Friedman has finally acknowledged that truth.

Acting on his new realization, Friedman notes that “Because of that shared fiction, the U.S. has almost always defended Israel in the U.N. and the International Court of Justice in The Hague ...” He says that if US and Israel no longer share values, the US must reassess its diplomatic support for Israel.

**LA Jews for Peace** encourages that reassessment. Based on President Biden’s interview with Fareed Zakaria, Friedman says that reassessment is already taking place. But any reassessment was immediately denied<sup>2</sup> by a White House National Security Council spokesperson and by Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

Friedman’s outline for this reassessment is internally inconsistent. Friedman says the US should withdraw diplomatic support for Israel, but not touch “military and intelligence cooperation with Israel, which remains strong and vital.” But that is self-delusion. The US cannot effectively withdraw diplomatic support without reducing military and intelligence cooperation. For example, UN Security Council Resolution 2334 was adopted in Dec. 2016 with the US abstaining; it called all settlements illegal and urged a stop to settlement expansion. But because there was no penalty, Israel ignored 2334 and continued to expand settlements. The only way that Israel will stop settlement expansion is a Security Council resolution with consequences.

To that end, **LA Jews for Peace** encourages Security Council resolutions that impose sanctions on Israel because it is still expanding settlements, and establish a UN multinational military force in the West Bank to protect Palestinians from Israeli army raids (as occurred in Jenin on July 10-11) and settler terrorist pogroms (as occurred in Huwara on Feb. 26).

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<sup>1</sup> NY Times, July 11, 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/11/opinion/netanyahu-israel-judiciary.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Mondoweiss, July 14, 2023. <https://mondoweiss.net/2023/07/as-the-us-israel-relationship-is-questioned-its-shared-fictions-remain-strong/>