



פורום ארגוני השלום הפלסטיני ישראלי
منتدى مؤسسات السلام الفلسطينية - الاسرائيلية
Palestinian Israeli Peace NGO Forum

27 July, 2009

HE Minister Avigdor Lieberman
Foreign Minister, Government of Israel , Jerusalem

Dear HE Minister Lieberman,

We, members of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace NGO Forum, would like to protest the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' attempt to block donations given to "Breaking the Silence", a legitimate non government organization, working in accordance with Israeli law. Israeli civil society organizations represent a wide diversity of opinions and implement a spectrum of programs, resulting in intellectual pluralism in Israel. These organizations are supported by various donors: private, public and state, from Israel and abroad. These donations allow their existence and unrestricted operation.

Maintaining a public arena which allows for democratic discussion and free expression, including criticism of governmental institutions, is the crucial building block of democracy. It is a source of pride for the Israeli nation, and insures the preservation of its progressive liberal image. Using diplomatic tools to silence opposition opinions that are not in line with the Israeli government's policies and operations is a dangerous phenomenon which must be taken seriously.

The worlds' governments have for a long time acknowledged the importance and value of our work towards dialogue, reconciliation and peace between the two nations. They make these operations possible, by way of financial support. Even though "Breaking the Silence" non government organization is not a member of the Forum, we see it fit to approach you in the name of our members in a call not to exploit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' power, and not to block the donating governments' continued support of us and our work.

Yours faithfully,

Members of the Steering Committee of the Peace NGO Forum
in its members' name

www.peacengo.org

CC: H. E. Ambassador Ramiro Cibrian-Uzal, Head of the Delegation European Commission, Israel

H. E. Ambassador Mr. Michiel Den Hond, Netherlands Embassy in Israel

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