

Press Release and Invitation to the Press Conference
Before it is too late
EJJP calls for a bold European initiative
for a just peace in the Middle East
5th Annual Convention, Berlin, 1 – 3 June 2007

5 June 1967 marked the beginning of the war between Israel and its Arab neighbours, in which Israel conquered the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and the Sinai.

The German Presidency of the EU Council will finish at the end of June. The G8 summit will be hosted by and held under the auspices of the German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel.

By meeting in Berlin on the eve of the 40th anniversary of Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian Territories, European Jews for a Just Peace (EJJP) wishes to demonstrate its concern at the indifference of the EU and the G8 nations towards Israeli violations of international law and the plight of the Palestinians.

In particular, it urges the President and members of the EU Council to take decisive action to bring about an end to the Israeli occupation and allow a sovereign and viable Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem before it is too late for any prospect of peace and stability in the Middle East.

European Jews for a Just Peace takes the opportunity of the German Presidency and the G8 summit to appeal urgently to all those attending to revive the moribund peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The continuation of this conflict is central to the whole region, since Israeli policies fan the flames of political, ethnic, and religious extremism in Arab and Muslim countries.

A proposal for a resolution that expresses the urgency of an immediate end of the military occupation and at the same time underlines the possibility of a just peace in the region will be discussed by the participants of the Annual Convention. There will be crucial demands put to the EU Council President and German Chancellor. Special emphasis will be placed on constructive and feasible contributions requested of Germany as well as of all other EU and G8 states.

Joint Press Conference

EJJP, together with the Initiative of Rolf Verleger, „Berlin Declaration“ Schalom 5767, extend an invitation to a press conference on Monday, 4 June 2007, 10:00 - 11:30 A.M., Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte, 1. Floor Beratungssaal (Greifswalder Str. 4).

Participants:

DROR FEILER (CHAIRMAN EJJP), SWEDEN; RICHARD KUPER, EJJP GREAT BRITAIN; NN EJJP FRANCE; ROLF VERLEGER AND REINER BERNSTEIN, SCHALOM 5767 GERMANY

The final resolution of the 5th Annual EJJP Meeting, including the central demands, will be submitted to the Government of Germany, currently presiding over the EU Council and hosting the G8 summit.

In order to document that an end to the occupation is, in addition, being called for by many German citizens Rolf Verleger and Reiner Bernstein will present the signatures collected in the first half year of the Schalom5767 campaign (December 06 to June 07) to the public.