

Resolutions

of the Emergency Meeting of the Rabbinical Congress for Peace – Pikuach Nefesh

at the Beit Midrash of the Grand Rabbi of Boston *shlit"á*, Har Nof, Jerusalem

7 Iyar, 5776 - May 15, 2016

1. The Rabbis of Israel hereby declare that the Land of Israel, in its entirety, is the exclusive property of the Jewish People, given to them in the "Covenant between the Pieces," made by Creator of the World with the Patriarch Abraham, and is an "eternal inheritance for an eternal people, made by the Eternal G-d." Furthermore, the only way to uproot the current wave of terror in the Holy Land, wrought by the hands of murderous Arabs, is for the Israeli government to forcefully and unequivocally declare that it will entertain no further discussions concerning the "return" of parts of the Land to our enemies, that they express their regret over the previous withdrawals and over the unfortunate declaration of "two states for two peoples." Instead, there must be a clear and forceful declaration that the entirety of the territories of Judah, Samaria, and all of the city of Jerusalem are an intrinsic part of the Land of Israel, without exception, to be build up and settled without interruption.
2. The Rabbis have determined that according to Jewish law, the use of deterrence by Israeli security forces to frighten our enemies, in the spirit of "If your enemy comes to kill you, rise up earlier and kill him first," is our most effective means of combat, and the Torah's path to prevent terrorist attacks. It is precisely through this approach that we can rely upon the Holy One to continually protect each

and every Jew, as it states: “Behold, the Guardian of Israel neither sleeps nor slumbers.”

3. The Rabbis protest the foolish statements of senior governmental and military officials that insult the dignity of the Jewish people and of Israeli soldiers who risk their lives for the protection of Jews in the Holy Land. Such statements contradict the eternal truth of the Torah to “rise up and kill your enemy first.” Every Arab terrorist who leaves his home with the intention of harming Jews forfeits his right to live and should be shot without a second thought, if doing so can save a Jewish life.

The way of the Torah is the most ethical way of life. Nonetheless, “whoever shows mercy on the cruel will eventually show cruelty to the merciful.” Any other approach only leads to an increase in terror attacks and bloodshed. **One who refuses to act along these lines should not serve in any official security position in Israel. “Who is fearful and fainthearted, let him return to his home...”** (Devorim 20:8).

Obviously, it’s important for senior government and military officials to constantly support security personnel in their extremely important role, inasmuch as they endanger their lives daily to protect Jews in Israel. It is even more obvious that it is forbidden for any person – especially a Torah observant Jew – to speak about these security personnel disrespectfully, such as with harsh language or insulting terms, G-d forbid.

4. The Rabbis warn against the inclusion in the Israeli government of any individuals or political parties that explicitly advocate for the “quick resume of negotiations for the transfer of land” to our enemies, G-d forbid. The Rabbis have established that it is forbidden for any member of Knesset, who upholds the laws of the Torah, to support or participate in a government that holds negotiations concerning the transfer of Israel territories.

5. According to Jewish law laid down in the *Shulchan Aruch*, and according to the opinion of the great Jewish leaders of the previous generation, in this crucial matters of life and death, “One who asks should be ashamed.” Rather, each and every Jew should know these laws clearly. The **Rabbinical Congress for Peace – Pikuach Nefesh** will distribute two and a half million copies of the legal decision concerning the prohibition of negotiating over parts of the Holy Land (including explanation), which will include the signatures of Rabbinical Congress Members, in order that this ruling reach every Jewish home in the country.

It is our sincere prayer that we should soon achieve true peace and tranquility for every Jew in the Holy Land, and that the promise “I shall give peace to the Land,” be fulfilled with the arrival of our Righteous Redeemer, soon in our days. Amen.