

HAMAS Delegation, Draft Proposal for a Five-Year Truce with Israel

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This unofficial document drafted by a Hamas delegation working with research institutes linked to the Swiss, British, and Norwegian governments, lays out what would be required of Israelis and Palestinians to achieve a five-year truce [hudna] as a step toward a permanent peace and the establishment of "two states living side by side." Hamas never officially acknowledged the document, entitled "proposal for Creating Suitable Conditions for Ending the Conflict," but the fact that the Hamas delegation was headed by Dr. Ahmad Yusuf, political adviser to Ismail Haniyeh, makes it significant. The text of the document, first published by the PLO news service Wafa on 10 September 2006 and reprinted by al-Hayat on 24 December 2006, was translated by Brian Wood of the Institute for Palestine Studies.

1. Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank to a temporary, agreed upon line.
2. A *hudna* to last five years. No Palestinian attack will be launched inside Israel or on Israelis wherever they are. Similarly, no Israeli attacks will be launched on Palestinian land or on Palestinians wherever they are.
3. Israel will not take any steps that change the status quo in the areas that were not subject to its control on 4 June 1967, nor will it build new housing units in settlements or build new roads or alter natural areas.
4. Palestinians will have unhindered access to East Jerusalem as well as free movement in the rest of the occupied West Bank.
5. Freedom to travel between Gaza and the West Bank and vice versa, as well as to Egypt and Jordan.
6. International supervision: Any breach of points 1-5 above will be considered a breach of the *hudna*.

Rationale:

This *hudna* will serve as a step to calm the atmosphere between Israelis and Palestinians in order to move forward as part of a serious process to establish two states, side by side, favourable to life in the future. This *hudna* will be considered a preparatory and serious step toward reaching a permanent peace agreement with Israel.

It will give both peoples, Israeli and Palestinian, the opportunity to come to trust one another and open future opportunities. If the *hudna* is successful, it will allow the Islamic world to grant the Palestinian government more room and the freedom to investigate ways to solve the conflict with Israel for good.

The Palestinian vision after the *hudna* is as follows: A Palestinian state on all land occupied in 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital while upholding the principle of the right of return.

The Immediate Goal:

[The immediate goal] is an end to the circle of armed confrontation, including all Palestinian and Israeli attacks on each other and ending the international economic and political isolation of the Palestinian government. This will help the Palestinian people and allow them to build their own economy and achieve a measure of economic prosperity.

Palestinian Responsibilities:

1. Honour the *hudna* that
 - a. Will last for five years;

- b. Is obligatory for all Palestinian factions;
 - c. Is applied to all for Israel and the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967.
2. Stop all forms of armed activity inside Israel and end targeting Israelis wherever they are.
 3. Facilitate the establishment of joint Israeli-Palestinian projects and zones (industrial, Agricultural, etc.) between Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel.
 4. Continue normal trade relations with Israel.
 5. Ensure transfer of all international funds to governmental activities and projects, not to Hamas. For this purpose, the government will form an independent committee comprised of Palestinian academics and professionals that will work directly with the international community and submit reports to it. This committee will oversee the usage of government is honouring the international guidelines [for its usage].
 6. Present transparent reports on disbursement of incoming funds from Arab or Islamic sources that should go directly to the Ministry of Finance.
 7. Grant the desired security assurances for the freedom of movement and trade with the rest of the World (such as those in force at the Rafah border crossing).
 8. Complete adherence to international standards concerning democracy, the rule of law, and good governance.
 9. Complete respect for applicable international law, including the Geneva Conventions.

Israeli Responsibilities:

1. Honour the *hudna* that
 - a. Will last for five years;
 - b. Will be honoured by all branches of the Israeli security services;
 - c. Is applied to all of Israel and the Palestinian lands occupied in 1967.
2. Stop all warlike activity in Palestinian land occupied in 1967 and all (targeted) assassinations against Palestinians wherever they are in the World, as well as removing all military checkpoints on Palestinian land occupied in 1967.
3. Freeze all Israeli Construction (settlements, roads, schools, etc.) outside of the area that Israeli controlled on 4 June 1967, including the wall/fence.
4. Free all political prisoners.
5. Ensure freedom of movement and trade between Gaza, the West Bank, occupied Palestinian land, and the outside World.
6. Allow the Gaza International Airport and the sea port to be rebuilt (according to previous agreements) as well as the airport in the West Bank (Qalandia Airport).
7. Allow Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to enter East Jerusalem freely, allow Palestinians with Jerusalem IDs to enter the West Bank and Gaza with their free participation in Palestinian political life.
8. Establish joint Israeli-Palestinian economic projects and zones (industrial, Agricultural, etc.) between Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel and ensure that Palestinian labourers have access to the Israeli labour market.
9. Complete respect for applicable international law, including the Geneva Conventions.

Role of the International Community:

The international Community will work to preserve the *hudna* and participate in building trust between the two parties. It will also play a role in stopping the occurrence of any shortcomings in implementing previous agreements. For this purpose, a multinational force will be formed under the leadership of the Quartet and Turkey whose mission will be to oversee the adherence of both parties to the conditions of the *hudna*. Likewise, [the multinational force] will provide security guarantees, facilitate aid, ensure the implementation of the agreement, and solve disputes related to it, and take punitive measures in situations where the agreement is breached.

Further, it will present reports on a regular basis to the UN Security Council concerning both parties respect for all aspects of the *hudna*