



**UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH  
CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA**  
Institute for Public Affairs

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INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Ehud Olmert  
Prime Minister, State of Israel  
By Facsimile

Dear Prime Minister Olmert,

We hope this letter finds you well.

As the Jewish People throughout the world approach the most holy day of *Yom Kippur*, we write on behalf of our organization and our many synagogues and members throughout North America, to express our deepest concern over recent statements by senior members of your cabinet that your Government is prepared to divide the holy city of *Yerushalayim* and cede portions of it to the Palestinian Authority.

The position of the Orthodox Union and its constituents on this most critical issue is clear. As stated most recently in a Resolution adopted at our 2006 biennial convention which, as you know from your participation, was held in *Yerushalayim*:

*“Yerushalayim represents the cradle of Judaism and has always been its most hallowed site. Our relationship to Yerushalayim is one that transcends time, space and other physical constraints, and our attachment to this holy city remains constant in our psyche, spirit and practices, wherever we may be.... Israel’s miraculous liberation of the Old City in 1967 and unification of Yerushalayim brought with it -- for the first time in centuries -- a guaranty that people of all religions could freely access all of the city’s holy sites....*

*Yerushalayim must forever remain the spiritual, cultural and political center of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and the Orthodox Union is mandated to undertake all efforts that are necessary to secure and maintain Yerushalayim as the eternal and undivided capital of the State of Israel. The Orthodox Union is further mandated to oppose any proposal or plan to relinquish any part of Yerushalayim to any foreign authority.”*

Mr. Prime Minister, we cannot state strongly enough our belief that the Government and people of the State of Israel hold *Yerushalayim* in trust for the Jewish People no matter where they may live, for we all have a share in the holy city.

We insist that you remain faithful to this trust and do not undertake what would be unthinkable to the millions of Jews who, for centuries, could not come to *Yerushalayim*, yet raised their voices at the end of innumerable *Yom Kippurim* gone by to say with full conviction and deep longing *l'shana ha'ba b' Yerushalayim*.

With wishes to you for a *gemar chatima tova*,

  
Stephen Savitsky

  
Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb

  
Moshe Bane

  
Nathan J. Diament