

# A CLARIFICATION OF TORAH DOCTRINE

Issued By  
**THE CENTRAL RABBINICAL CONGRESS OF THE U.S.A. & CANADA**

Consistently, throughout the peace process in the Middle East, various Jewish religious organizations and parties have raised their voices in opposition to the return of territories to the Arabs, issuing statements that, according to the Torah, Jews are forbidden to give up any land in the Holy Land (especially part of Jerusalem).

Accordingly, it has become a commonplace that religious Jews are supportive of stopping the peace process. In the public mind, the policies of these parties became synonymous with Torah Doctrine. Moreover, they are portrayed in the media as "ultra-nationalists" willing to exchange "peace" for "land".

This impression is utterly false. All forms of Zionism, be they secular or religious, are inherently antithetical to the teaching of our faith. The great sages and saints of our people have always been opposed to the existence of the Zionist State. Indeed, when an obscure Viennese journalist first challenged the Torah approach to exile and redemption, over one hundred years ago, he was immediately attacked by the Torah sages of that time. Those orthodox Jews who support the Israeli state and "Greater Israel" are falsifiers of Torah

doctrine. They have abandoned the principles of their predecessors.

The harm of observant Jews supporting the Zionist state is compounded by the Israeli government's consistent, public rebellion against G-d's kingship. It is a state which constantly violates Torah law, and actively seeks to persecute its observers, via, cemetery desecrations, autopsies, drafting of women, etc. Accordingly, when observant Jews wax enthusiastic over the state and its leaders, it creates a monstrous desecration of G-d's name.

Torah true Jews who have remained loyal to their ancestral faith are not "nationalists" who desire land at the price of peace. Throughout history, dating back to Temple days, the faithful Jews have opposed secular, militaristic solutions to Jewish problems. In Israel today these Jews do not participate in the electoral process of the Zionist state, nor do they accept its financial benefits. Frequently ignored by the media, they number in the hundreds of thousands worldwide. Yet, it is they who have remained firmly devoted to Judaism as received and taught throughout the millennia.

## It is in their name that we restate the fundamental beliefs of our faith:

Torah Jewry sees its exile from the holy land as the result of a Divine decree. The land was given to us according to G-D's will, and when our sins accumulated we were exiled from it. This exile is in essence a spiritual state that cannot and must not be remedied by temporal means. Until G-D chooses to redeem us, we are commanded by Him to live as cooperative, law abiding and patriotic citizens in our countries of residence. Accordingly, the Jewish people have no "claim" to the Holy Land at present. They have no right to conquer or to rule over it.

Therefore, we declare that the Zionist state of Israel is not the legitimate representative of our people. Our position on the ceiling of land is quite simple: Any Jewish sovereignty over the Holy Land before the Messianic Epoch is sinful and sure to lead to tragedy. And it is certainly absurd to sacrifice even one human life for this illegitimate state.

May all mankind be worthy of true Redemption when the "Swords will be beaten into plowshares" and G-D's glory will fill the world.

**CENTRAL RABBINICAL CONGRESS OF THE U.S.A. & CANADA**  
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