THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE for Palestinian Human Rights

2435 Virginia Ave. NW • Washington, DC 20037
(202) 342-8347

BULLETIN

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How soon we forget!

The papers say the French position is...the Israelis say...the British want.....The Kiwaitis are...the United States will....

Lumped in those identifications are, in each country, the millions of ordinary, everday citizens anxious to live peaceful lives and the relatively small number of persons who have, by one means or another, arrived at positions of power over the others. Those persons of power are the government. They get all the attention.

How soon we forget that:

- the only morally legitimate role of a government is to provide for the welfare of its constituents,

- those in power are indeed a minority,

- those ruled by that minority can suffer grievous oppression, often without the awareness of the rest of the world,

- the rest of the world <u>does</u> care, witness the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Will we forget that:

- decisions by the United Nations provided the legal authority for military action to free Kuwait from illegal occupation by forces of another nation,

- the same principle (the acquisition of territory by military conquest is inadmissible) was cited in many UN resolutions which have called <u>since 1967</u> for Israel to vacate the lands illegally acquired - West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and Golan Heights,

- the United States has given lip service to those UN resolutions, suggesting little genuine interest in the Palestinian people in the territories occupied and administered by Israel,

- United States taxpayers pay, even during a time of our own financial crisis, a large share of Israel's budget,

- the US law governing such aid to foreign countries requires attention to the human rights practices of recipients,

- our State Department gives the Congress the annual reports it wants regarding other country's human rights practices,

- those reports appear to have <u>no</u> impact.