

## **OBAMA'S WAR ON ISRAEL**

By Caroline Glick – [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com) / March 19, 2010

Why has President Barak Obama decided to foment a crisis in US relations with Israel?

Some commentators have claimed that it is Israel's fault. As they tell it, the news that Israel has not banned Jewish construction in Jerusalem – after repeatedly refusing to ban such construction – drove Obama into a fit of uncontrolled rage from which he has yet to recover.

It is not credible to argue that Jerusalem's local planning board's decision to approve the construction of 1,600 housing units in Ramat Shlomo drove cool Obama into a fit of wild rage at Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Obama himself claims that he has launched a political war against Israel in the interest of promoting peace. On Friday, Obama ordered Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to present Netanyahu with a four-part ultimatum.

**First**, Israel must cancel the approval of the housing units in Ramat Shlomo.

**Second**, Israel must prohibit all construction for Jews in Jerusalem neighborhoods built since 1967.

**Third**, Israel must make a gesture to the Palestinians to show them we want peace. The US suggests releasing hundreds of Palestinian terrorists from Israeli prisons.

**Fourth**, Israel must agree (1) to negotiate all substantive issues, including the partition of Jerusalem (including the Jewish neighborhoods constructed since 1967 that are now home to more than a half million Israelis) and (2) the immigration of millions of hostile foreign Arabs to Israel under the rubric of the so-called "right of return," in the course of indirect, Obama administration-mediated negotiations with the Palestinians.

To date, Israel has maintained that substantive discussions can only be conducted in **direct** negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Obama's ultimatum makes clear that **mediating peace between Israel and the Palestinians is not a goal he is interested in achieving**.

Obama's new demands follow the months of American pressure that eventually coerced Netanyahu into announcing both his support for a Palestinian state and a 10-month ban on Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria. No previous Israeli government had ever been asked to make the latter concession.

Netanyahu was led to believe that in return for these concessions Obama would begin behaving like the credible mediator his predecessors were. But instead of acting like his predecessors, Obama has behaved like the Palestinians. Rather than reward Netanyahu for taking a risk for peace, Obama has, in the model of Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas, pocketed Netanyahu's concessions and escalated his demands. This is not the behavior of a mediator. This is the behavior of an adversary.

**With the US president treating Israel like an enemy, the Palestinians have no reason to agree to sit down and negotiate**. Indeed, they have no choice but to **declare war**.

There are **five explanations for Obama's behavior**. And they are not mutually exclusive. ...

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