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Undermining PA Stability Undermines Israeli Security In its Present Form A Proposed US Legislation Likely to Prove Counterproductive

In his speech to the Herzliya Conference (June 20th) IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, reiterated the conclusion of Israel's security establishment that Palestinian security coordination with Israeli counterparts is good and contributes to Israel's security.

Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS), comprising the overwhelming majority of retired Israeli generals (from the IDF, Mossad, Shin Bet and Police force), concur with that statement.

In Security First [twostatesecurity.org] CIS presented an independent Israeli initiative, comprised of security, civil-economic, and policy clarifying measures, designed first and foremost to upgrade the security of all Israelis, including via continued and enhanced security coordination with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

While implementation of our plan will serve Israeli security and other national strategic interests – including preserving conditions for, and expediting a two-state solution – acting contrary to our advocacy will severely undermine our national security. It will jeopardize the PA's ability to sustain security coordination as it erodes its capacity to govern; increases constituents' grievances and hostility toward it; and undermines the motivation of its security personnel to fulfil their mission.

The upshot of all that will be encouragement to various extremists to seize upon the PA's weakness in order to launch terror activity against Israelis.

For these reasons, CIS calls for channeling the justified, unqualified objection to the PA's glorifying terrorist and funding their families in ways which do no harm to Israeli security.

The proposed legislation, which calls for withdrawing funds from vital economic projects – whether directly benefiting the PA or not – and from NGOs, does not meet that test.

The government of Israel will do well to alert the Washington legislators to the potential adverse consequences of this bill. Their intentions are pure. Their friendship is beyond a doubt. But if enacted, this legislation might undermine PA stability; expand the circle of frustration and hostility; erode the security coordination; and thus hurt Israeli security.

Demanding that the PA ends incitement, continues fighting terror, and upgrades security coordination with our forces – certainly!

Hindering the PA's ability to do all that – absolutely not!

Commanders for Israel's Security

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