

September 26, 2014

Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu – Prime Minister

Israeli Knesset

Re: Palestinian Coalition Government in Gaza

Yesterday we were informed that the Palestinian Authority and the Hamas have reached an agreement that the Palestinian Coalition Government will take responsibility over the Gaza Strip.

We, members of “Other Voice”, residents of Sderot and communities around the Gaza Strip, see this agreement as dramatic turning point and an historical opportunity. We call upon the Israeli government to support this important move.

Residents of southern Israel and those of the Gaza Strip are living on borrowed time and a deceptive temporary quiet. After 14 years of life under threat, it is clearer than ever that forceful means will not bring true quiet. The military actions of the last years clearly show that the Hamas cannot be overthrown with more and more force. Even more, the use of military force which brings about death and destruction in the Gaza Strip only deepens the conflict and pushes back further any possibility of reaching any normalcy.

We do not want another round of horrible violence. Therefore we call on you to defend the residents of the south and the whole country. The only way to achieve this is through dialogue, negotiations, removal of the blockade over Gaza and pursuance of long lasting agreements.

Now more than ever, it is clear that there is a partner to talk with on the other side. Therefore our demand is that you do what is necessary to protect us and promote Israel’s future. Act wisely and with courage and speak to the other side.

The time has come to allow our neighbors what we want for ourselves - independence and dignity.

It will clearly not end until we speak with a different voice!

Signed: Other Voice Movement

“Other Voice” is a group of residents from Sderot and communities around the Gaza Strip that maintain ongoing connections with people in the Gaza Strip and promote dialog and friendship in the region.