

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 24, 2004

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your letter about conflict in the Middle East.

On June 24, 2002, President Bush outlined a roadmap for the Middle East based on a vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. He called upon leaders in the Middle East to abandon old hatreds, fight against terror, and meet their responsibilities for building a peaceful and prosperous region. The President firmly believes that all parties -- Israelis, Palestinians, and the neighboring Arab states -- have an obligation to make progress toward security and peace for Israel, a viable and democratic Palestinian state, and a just, comprehensive peace for the entire region.

The President's efforts are guided by two clear principles: all people in the Middle East deserve to live under free and honest governments, and people who live in freedom are more likely to reject bitterness and terror and to embrace reconciliation, reform, and economic development. In his State of the Union Address on January 20, 2004, President Bush proposed to double the budget of the National Endowment for Democracy and to focus its new work on the development of free elections, free markets, free press, and free labor unions in the Middle East. He has pledged that America will be the active partner of every party that seeks true peace.

Thank you again for writing, and best wishes.

Sincerely



Heidi Marquez  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Presidential Correspondence