The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520  

Dear Secretary Kerry:

On behalf of B’nai B’rith International – the oldest and most widely known Jewish communal and humanitarian organization, with members across the United States and in over 50 countries – we are writing to ask you to make clear a commitment by the United States to oppose, by means of veto where necessary, any United Nations resolution that seeks to impose the terms of a settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict without the agreement of one essential party, Israel.

As you know, the Palestinian Authority has openly spoken of its strategy to “internationalize” the conflict with Israel, and this further politicization of global institutions in the context of an already difficult regional reality is the last thing needed in the pursuit of calm, reconciliation and peace in the Middle East. Sadly, this week, a draft Security Council resolution was circulated that would unacceptably dictate demands of Israel outside the framework of direct negotiations and mutual compromise with the Palestinians. In the event that its inherent ultimatum is not met, the Palestinian Authority has even threatened to import tensions with Israel to the International Criminal Court, dangerously risking impediment to essential counterterrorism efforts. Reportedly, other actors in the international community have also considered advancing their own related proposals at the Security Council.

The UN – along, of course, with the U.S., the European Union and Russia – is a member of the Quartet on Middle East peace, which long ago established that Palestinian-Israeli disputes can be resolved only through serious, meaningful bilateral talks. As a critical element of foreign policy, and a reflection of broad-based bipartisan commitment, the U.S. has consistently stood against the exploitation of the UN as a political tool against our key ally, Israel. It is vitally in the American national interest, and in the interest of a genuine and lasting peace, that the U.S. make known publicly and unambiguously that it will oppose a Palestinian posture of unilateralism and confrontation in global bodies, let alone motions that fail to uphold Israel’s security needs and identity as a Jewish state.

We urge you to communicate America’s intention to decisively oppose initiatives to address the Arab-Israeli conflict outside the bounds of direct negotiations and agreement with Israel.

Sincerely,

Allan J. Jacobs  
President  

Daniel S. Mariaschin  
Executive Vice President