

National Black Church Initiative

P.O. Box 65177
Washington DC 20035
202-744-0184
dcbci2002@gmail.com
www.naltblackchurch.com

Contact:
Rev. Anthony Evans
202-744-0184

September 19, 2011
For Immediate Release

The National Black Church Initiative Supports Palestine's Right to Self-Governance and Urges United Nations To Give Due Recognition

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans fully supports the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) right to petition the United Nations for full recognition as a state.

The Palestinians have suffered the most indignant act of humanity by Israel and by the world. Their blood, sweat, and tears by the tens of thousands who have died for their cause should be recognized by the United Nations. NBCI is in no way condoning the senseless violence Palestine has inflicted on Israel and the Jewish community. Neither are we endorsing Israel's systematic killing of Palestinians over the last 50 years. NBCI has condemned both parties and their needless acts of violence against each other and against interests around the world, and we have repeatedly called for a negotiated settlement between the parties. As a religious organization, we do not take sides. Our job is to stand up for humanity and to echo, voice, and demonstrate the principles of God.

Rev Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says "from the finest tradition of the Black Church, we have always from our birth called for peace and justice for all. On April 4, 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. eloquently articulated at Riverside Baptist church in New York City a call on the United States government to negotiate a peace settlement with the Vietnam people. In his speech Dr. King provoked the biblical tradition on violence and called for no more wars. Like Dr. King, I am calling on President Obama to get out of the way and allow the UN to recognize Palestine's right to exist. With this single act by the UN, it can assure peace for the first time in our lifetime between the children of Abraham and the entire Middle East.

The Palestinian question has been at the core of the deep frustration the Middle East has with the United States, and is also arguably one of the chief root causes of 9/11. So it should make much sense that if you can solve the Palestinian's issue by a simple vote of the UN general assembly, you will stop a generation from hating Israel and the U.S. for years to come. We beg Israel and the United States to give peace a chance and allow this vote to take place."

Rev Evans went on to say that "What we are not saying here is that Palestine has a perfect moral record. However, given the fact that the PLO has demonstrated a willingness to negotiate over the past 30 years and has tried desperately to organize a just peace in the Middle East with the Israelis, that is clear evidence enough that the UN should recognize their petition for statehood."

Israel has one goal and one goal only – to make sure that the Palestinian people are never treated equally and never get to enjoy the freedoms that they themselves enjoy. They have repeatedly ignored UN resolutions when it goes against them in terms of treating Palestine, and they continue to subject them to abject poverty, systematically eliminating their right to work, their right to pray, and their right to sustain their families. This type of oppression only leads to deeper human frustration and a sense of hopelessness that turns into desperation. ***Desperation and hopelessness are the root causes to indiscriminate violence against your enemies.*** No other group in the world should know this truth better than the Jewish population, as they have been subjected to this type of inhumanity for centuries. It boggles the mind that for the past 50 years Israel has used the same brutal inhuman tactics on the people of Palestine that have been employed against their own people.

Jesus said that violence only begets violence. If the UN fails to act, it would undermine the hopes, dreams, and desires of every Palestinian child in the West Bank, Gaza, and throughout the Middle East, and will create within their souls the root cause of violence – desperation and hopelessness, thus turning their bodies and souls into suicide bombers against Israel and the west.

NBCI and other organizations around the country are baffled as to why the U.S. and President Obama, who ran on the concept of Change and won the Nobel Peace Prize, are creating a political roadblock in the UN general assembly to stop the Palestinian petition for statehood. We denounce the United States' move as unethical and immoral. We must give Palestine its right to exist, and the Black Church will continue to do everything in its power to see that this happens.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 800 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by

credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.
Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.