

Dear friends

Thank you for writing to me. I am sorry it has taken me some time to respond. I have been blessed with three children, and the school year is coming to an end, so much to do. I have also recently released a new album, and that too demands much work.

As opposed to other organizations similar to yours, you have not assumed you know what my positions are but rather have the decency to ask me about them, and this is deeply appreciated.

First I would like to relate to the infamous “opened letter” I wrote during the Gaza war. I have since published a clarification regarding it, which I ask that you read. It can be found here:

<http://noa-the-singer.blogspot.co.il/2010/06/some-clarifications-about-my-infamous.html>

I would like to tell you what I see as the basis for peace between our two peoples:

1. RECOGNIZE-

Each side must recognize the rights of the other to life, freedom, independence, identity, the right to flourish, the right to a peaceful existence. This is the first and critical stage of the plan. Without formal recognition, in writing, signed by the recognized leaders of each nation, no progress can be made.

2. APOLOGIZE-

Both sides have done horrible things to each other in the name of this and that ideal. Since the death of one life is parallel to the death of all of humanity, there should be a true and deep remorse for these actions, a heartfelt apology on both sides for the pain and anguish they have caused.

3. SHARE-

Each side should revoke their dreams of a complete ‘anything’. Only through compromise is peace achievable. In this way, on one small piece of land, we can create 2 countries, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully and respectfully alongside each-other.

(please continue to page 2)

I am a full supporter of the two state solution.

I support the Geneva initiative which has already laid the foundations for most of the complicated issues including the right of return. I am sure you are familiar with it, but if not, here it is:

<http://www.geneva-accord.org/mainmenu/summary>

I believe that only with dialogue can our problem be solved, not with unilateral action, not with violence of ANY sort, not with threats. We must eradicate the fear and suspicion; we must marginalize the extremists and bring the more liberal, moderate majority back into its rightful place as leaders and molders of the public agenda. We must work HARD to educate our children, and as much as possible, educate the entire public to open their minds and hearts, to manifest the sentence that exists in every religion mankind has ever invented: "love your brother as you love yourself".

I work closely with many peace organizations, with the goal of strengthening them, and bringing them into the public eye. People must know that not all is black! It is the responsibility of each side to make the voice of its peace camp heard! I am working on my side, and hoping my neighbors are doing the same.

I sang at the peace rally where Rabin was murdered in 1995. In 1996 ( 18 years ago!) I declared I was opposed to the settlements and would not perform in the occupied territories. I have been working for peace with all my might for 20 years. I am a well-known critic of the present Israeli government's policies. For being so outspoken I pay a very high personal and professional price. Having said that I am aware that there is no black and white and our situation is complicated and deeply entrenched in tragedy, trauma and religious fervor, on both sides. These must be dealt with but cannot be the driving force behind every decision we make. We must ALL move and on and focus on creative solutions, many of which already exist...they simply need to be embraced.

Finally, **I am inviting you to meet with me in person.**

There are many issues yet to address, and I believe this can best be done face to face.

I will be in Vitoria between the 16-19. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> I have free time. Please let me know if you would like to meet.

Very sincerely yours

Noa