

# WELLSTONE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL CLUB

## **Stop The Fighting In Israel / Palestine: Cease-Fire Now.**

*The current conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is rooted in the tragic and unacceptable plight of the Palestinian people living in Gaza and the West Bank.*

*Since the 1967 war, the Palestinians of the West Bank have lived under a military occupation that deprives them of basic political and civil rights, and that supports a settler movement that illegally seizes lands and properties intended to provide the basis for a future Palestinian state.*

*In Gaza, which has been cut off from the rest of the world, the people have been granted formal rights of self-governance, but are, in fact, locked into an over-crowded, resourceless prison from which they are not allowed to leave.*

*The spark that ignited the current conflagration can be traced is the Trump Administration's recognition of Israel's claim to the whole of Jerusalem. This threatens to close the door to the goal to the Palestinians' dream of making East Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state. As demonstrated by the current attempt to expel six Palestinian families from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, it encourages an on-going ethnic cleansing process by Israeli nationalists to rid Jerusalem of its Palestinian residents,*

*The decision by the Israeli government to invade the Al-Aksa Mosque on the 1st day of Ramadan, dismantling the loud speaker system used for the call to prayer, was a provocative and profoundly insensitive act. It was done to ensure that the speech of the Israeli President commemorating the conquest of East Jerusalem would not be interfered with by prayer. A humiliating act of raw triumphalism.*

*Since the great majority of the victims of the violence are innocent, non-combatants, and because the current conflict springs from the intolerable conditions of the Palestinian people:*

*The Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club calls upon President Biden to:*

*Call for an immediate cease-fire in Israel/Palestine, and*

*Call upon Israel to end the occupation and negotiate a settlement that can enable the Palestinian people to find a path to self-determination.*