

Statement of Sociologists without Borders Statement on the Middle-East Crisis
July 20, 2006

- I. Recognizing that Israel is in violation of Resolution 242 that requires it to withdraw from territories it occupied in 1967 and is in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention on Human Rights, an agreement that governs wartime rules of engagement, we condemn the United States for violating its own law, specifically the Arms Export Control Act that forbids the U.S. government from giving military assistance to any country that violates internationally recognized human rights laws and treaties.

- II. Recognizing their sustained efforts to advance peace in the Middle East, we also endorse the statement issued by the Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace International (<http://www.ffipp.org/>) - and that Sociologists without Borders amends (in brackets) - which states in part:
 - A. We condemn all forms of violence against civilians in both sides. We hold that there is no justice and never will be peace or security until the Israeli occupation ends. While we consider resistance to occupation legitimate, we promote non-violent practices as the best path for justice and peace.

 - B. We call upon the Hamas led Palestinian government [to recognize the State of Israel and] to declare that its goal is not the destruction of Israel. We call upon the Israeli government to declare its acknowledgment of the Palestinian right to have a viable independent state within the 1967 borders.

Be it resolved, Sociologists without Borders condemns all sides for the escalation of violence, attacks on civilian areas and civilians fleeing the conflict, and the tit-for-tat escalating engagement of hostilities involving the use of deadly weapons.

We further endorse an immediate cease fire, the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, and call on the US to cooperate in diplomatic efforts to bring about a long-term two-state solution, refugee settlement, and the cessation of border conflict.