

Thousands of Israelis Demonstrate for Human Rights

By [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)

Global Research, January 21, 2011

[Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#) 18 January 2011

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [History](#)

Montreal, January 18, 2011 – On Jan. 15, an estimated 20,000 Israelis protested in Tel Aviv against various recent government measures. The proposed inquiry into Israel’s peace and human rights groups and their funding was key among them, but protesters were also angered by the draconian “loyalty oath” and the government’s disinterest in peace negotiations with the Palestinians. These developments and the protest helped spark the Labour Party’s public fracturing on Jan. 17. Party leader Ehud Barak and four other MKs left Labour to form a faction that will remain in the Netanyahu government coalition while three Labour Party cabinet ministers withdrew from cabinet.

On Jan. 5 the Israeli Knesset had voted 41:17 to set up an inquiry into the activities and financing of Israeli human rights organizations monitoring the Israeli army’s conduct in the occupied Palestinian territories. The inquiry is viewed by many as an attempt to intimidate and harass Israeli organizations doing human rights work in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Coalition whip, a Likud MK, said the bill aimed “to prevent a recurrence of the Goldstone report, which is mostly based on material provided by Israeli organizations ...” The bill was opposed by three Labour MKs – including Welfare Minister Isaac Herzog, who said it smelled of McCarthyism.

Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) welcomes the resurgence of an energetic and vocal Israeli peace camp, and urges the Canadian government to heed the camp’s concerns and be more balanced in its Middle East policy. “Since the targeted NGOs already file reports on their financing and activities, the proposed inquiry is clearly intended to attack and intimidate them for monitoring violations of human rights and international law by the Israeli state and its institutions,” says CJPME President Thomas Woodley. CJPME notes the lop-sided nature of the inquiry proposed. Neither violent Israeli colonist groups dependent on donations from Americans, nor the far-right parties allegedly closely tied to the Russian mafia are to be investigated.

The Jan. 15 demonstration was the largest in Israel in many years. Yisrael Beiteinu, the party that sponsored the new bill, said the proposed inquiry is targetting B’Tselem Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, the women’s group Machsom Watch (Checkpoint Watch), and Breaking the Silence, a group of former soldiers collecting testimonies from soldiers. Shalom Achshav (Peace Now) and other groups are also threatened with investigation.

#####

For more information, please contact:

Patricia Jean

Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East

Telephone: 450-812-7781 or 438-380-5410

[CJPME Email](#) - [CJPME Website](#)

The original source of this article is [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)
Copyright © [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#), [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#), 2011

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca