Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to announce your intention to veto the draft resolution currently before the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which attempts to bypass direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians by instead imposing a framework for a peace agreement from outside parties. We strongly believe that peace can only be achieved through a direct, mutually agreed upon solution.

You have frequently indicated that direct negotiations alone can lead to a strong, lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and that the UNSC is not the appropriate forum to address final status issues. We could not agree more. This harmful resolution completely undermines hope for serious peace negotiations in the future by asserting deadlines and contours for an agreement in contravention of this critical, foundational principle. The United States can best play a constructive role in this process by encouraging direct negotiations while opposing these types of unilateral efforts to impose a solution from the outside.

This UNSC resolution will move Israelis and Palestinians further away from peace and security for both sides—a disastrous outcome that would only serve to further destabilize the Middle East and threaten U.S. national security and regional interests. The United States must send a clear message that these counterproductive actions will not be tolerated. We therefore urge you to immediately declare your intention to veto this resolution should it be brought to a vote before the UNSC.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

P. Roskam
PETER ROSKAM
Member of Congress

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