

**English Translation of the Letter sent to Prime Minister Manuel Valls
by the Committee of the Friends of Sabeel France
on Feb. 18, 2015.**

Mr. Prime Minister Manuel Valls,

We are honored to thank you for your public statement of Feb. 16, after the tragic events which took place in the capital city of Denmark and after the foregoing dramatic events in Paris on Jan. 7 to 9, about the necessity of fighting against '*Islamofascism*'. This is the way you spoke about this trend which is going through the whole Arab-Muslim world and is threatening the security of all nations.

But it is our task also to ask you to condemn just as strongly the policy of the State of Israel in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the harm it brings about among the Palestinian people living there. A real *colonialism* has been developing there for years, with the construction and permanent development of settlements, along with land confiscation, house demolition, and a systematic segregation of populations, thus creating an *apartheid* situation.

If it is true that this colonialist policy holds sway on a limited territory, it is nevertheless threatening the international community through its effects. It is producing a spirit of hatred throughout all the Arab countries in the Middle East, which in its turn contributes feeding the Islamist ideology which all of us unanimously denounce and fight.

Some roots of this ideology go back to radical Muslim trends quite older than the Israeli colonization of Palestine. It is obvious however that the permanent conflict situation which has been characterizing Israel, the West Bank and Jerusalem since 1946-47 and especially since 1967 is fueling the radical Islamic extremism.

For this reason, it is important that the nations having friendly relations with Israel undertake whatever is possible to have Israel understand that the colonialist ideology which underlies its policy directly contributes to its own insecurity and draws it into an limitless war process. The democracy Israel says to be proud of cannot be credible as long as it will not integrate the international law in its way of functioning, and as long as it will not recognize a full citizenship to the original inhabitants of this land.

Well aware of the difficulty of your task is and in full solidarity with the Palestinian Christians who give testimony of peace possible in justice, we remain

Yours sincerely, Mr Prime Minister,

For the Friends of Sabeel France :
Its Executive Committee :
Ernest Reichert President
Fred Lucas Vice-President
Guy Fabreguettes Treasurer
Martine Millet Secretary

Copy to : The President of the Republic François Hollande.
Sabeel-Jerusalem.