

I normally prefer to use Facebook as an escape from, and not a platform for politics. I'm making an exception today to express my opinion on the UN resolution against settlements and Kerry's speech, since you asked, Jodi Misher Baretz. I speak as a 31-year citizen of Israel and an incurable Zionist.

The resolution and the speech are the best things to happen to Israel in a very long time. Our silver-tongued prime minister and his witting and unwitting allies would like you to believe that no form of criticism of Israel is legitimate. Netanyahu's masterful rhetoric has hypnotized most supporters of Israel into believing that the settlements are not in an issue in a region that has far greater problems. Don't let him scam you - the settlements outside the big blocs are an existential threat to the Zionist enterprise. If we wish to ensure Israel survives for future generations as a Jewish and democratic state we have no choice but to separate from the Palestinians and to create a state for them alongside Israel. The right has no workable alternative plan and would prefer to sustain this unsustainable status quo for eternity. Do not be tempted by disingenuous suggestions such as annexing Area C and giving the Palestinians Areas A and B. A quick glance at the map will explain how ridiculous this hair-brained scheme is.

Thankfully, President Obama and Sec. Kerry, the only responsible adults on the scene, have finally called out Netanyahu and put the cards on the table. After eight years of coaxing, cajoling and coddling him they finally showed the spoiled child some tough love. Netanyahu's reaction was to spit in the President's face. The same president who signed an unprecedented \$38 billion aid package for Israel. The same president who underwrote the Iron Dome system and helped save countless Israeli lives. The same president who has gone to bat for Israel over and over again at the UN, an organization blatantly biased against Israel. As an American, I take umbrage at this outrageous and insolent insult to President Obama (and that's without even mentioning Netanyahu's sleazy appearance before Congress over the Iran agreement).

Thanks to America's abstention on the UN resolution and Kerry's speech, the issue of the settlements is finally front and center on the international agenda. As an Israeli, I do not wish to see my country's *raison d'être* and character destroyed by its transformation to a bi-national state, and I certainly will not accept a second-class category of citizens with no rights living in our midst. We cannot allow our Jewish and democratic state to be destroyed by a settlement agenda that is clearly incompatible with Israel's future. Don't let the slaughter in Syria, our dysfunctional Palestinian neighbors, ISIS or any other excuses obstruct the facts. As the great rebbe of the New York Times, Thomas Friedman said, "Friends don't let friends drive drunk." President Obama and Sec. Kerry are not our enemies; they're the only true friends we have right now. If I've made you angry, feel free to un-friend me. No offense taken.