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## **EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIR OF PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE TELLS SHALOM TV THAT UNITED NATIONS SHOULD "STAY OUT" OF ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT**

January 9, 2009 (Fort Lee, NJ) -- In a Shalom TV exclusive interview, Executive Vice Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Malcolm Hoenlein contends that the United Nations should not involve itself in Israel's battle against Hamas militants in Gaza.



"The solution could be easy," says Hoenlein. "Israel could eliminate Hamas, but the civilian casualties would be heavy if they carpet-bombed. So it takes longer. Israel needs time. The United Nations should stay out of it. This is not for the [UN] Security Council."

According to Hoenlein, moderate Arab states like Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon are privately telling Israel to destroy Hamas.

"Destroy them! Destroy them!" they're saying. "Don't worry about what we say publicly--we have to play to the street, we have to deal with it, but you have to eliminate it [Hamas]. It's our future, it's the future of the region; this is Iran's front post in terms of its goals to spread extremist ideology, to heat up the Suni-Shiite battle."

For Hoenlein, "this has nothing to do with Israel! These contexts are absent in the way the media reports it [the Israel-Hamas battle] and too many people take simplistic approaches to a very complex problem."

When asked by Shalom TV's Mark S. Golub if things will change in terms of American support for Israel's actions in Gaza after Barack Obama is inaugurated, the Conference of Presidents' Executive Vice Chair responds, "I'm not concerned about January 20."

"The links and the ties and the motivation are not bound by Democrats or Republicans," Hoenlein explains. "It's not a political thing. You see the leadership of both sides of the House and Senate--Republicans and Democrats--coming out strongly. I hope and expect that the regime of President Obama will retain those commitments."

However, Malcolm Hoenlein recognizes that Hamas and other extreme groups exhibit a long-term patience that is not always shared in the West.

"People in the West don't have patience," he notes, "and that's what the terrorists count on. We want everything over in thirty minutes, sixty minutes, at most a mini-series. Nothing longer."

Available in more than 24 million cable households nationwide as a free Video On Demand service, Shalom TV is a mainstream American Jewish network that televises feature films and documentaries, news and public affairs programs, original series on Jewish learning, and shows for young children. The cultural service, based in metro New York City, maintains a Web site at [www.shalomtv.com](http://www.shalomtv.com).

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