

# Paris Call for Peace: Macron Affirms Commitment to Palestinian-Israeli Civil Society at Historic Diplomatic Convening

*Macron Embraces Israeli-Palestinian Civil Society at the Elysees, Affirms Centrality*

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On Friday evening, during a high-level meeting at the Palais de l'Élysée between French President Emmanuel Macron and representatives of Israeli and Palestinian civil society, attendees delivered their concerns to Macron as rocket-alert notifications buzzed on their phones when Iran launched a counterattack on Israel, striking Tel Aviv.

This convergence of violence and diplomacy was part of a historic Paris Call for Peace, hosted under the High Patronage of President Emmanuel

Macron by the Paris Peace Forum and co-organized by the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP). The event brought together hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders, marking the largest gathering of shared civil society since October 7th.

The event was held under the high patronage of President Macron and marked a key milestone in the implementation of the G7's 2024 commitment to institutionalize support for Israeli-Palestinian civil society peacebuilding. France is the first G7 country to operationalize this commitment by formally integrating civil society into international diplomatic efforts.

President Macron, in his remarks to attendees and in [a later post on X](#), affirmed his support for a political solution to the conflict and emphasized the central role of civil society in any lasting



President Emmanuel Macron Addresses Israeli-Palestinian Civil Society at the Elysees. Courtesy ALLMEP

peace process. "If you want to stop war and dismantle the consequences of war," he said, "you have to present, provide and implement a reasonable political hope – which is exactly two states living together, two people respecting each other, and people like you, endorsing the capacity to live with somebody with another story. This is the courage we need to build peace, and this is the courage you have."

"The dissonance was hard to explain," said John Lyndon, Executive Director of ALLMEP. "On the one hand, we were meeting with the French President, in his beautiful residence, hearing him speaking powerfully about the importance of this work, and its essential role in shaping a more peaceful reality. But on the other, it was one of the most dangerous nights the Middle East has seen in decades, with our members stranded in Paris, and their families– both Israeli and Palestinian– in terror, as missiles were raining down."

Despite the escalation, conference participants finalized and presented a collective call to action. Drawing on the input of hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders, the statement emphasized the need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and the unconditional delivery of humanitarian aid at levels commensurate with the needs of Gaza's population. It further called for mutual recognition and a renewed diplomatic process with civil society at its core, aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace.

"It has been an intense few days," said Nivine Sandouka, ALLMEP's Regional Director, who read the statement at the close of the event. "But as one of my colleagues said at the conference, we are condemned to hope. We're grateful for Macron's support of civil society, and eager to see the implementation of these ideas. If we see top-down diplomacy combined with bottom up civil society activism and action, we can help make this the last ever Israeli-Palestinian war."

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