

Israel Advocacy Update

Pursuing More Negotiations

By Heidi Kravitz '17

Supporting the French initiative to broker peace treaties for the Israeli-Arab conflicts, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi delivered an impromptu speech, from Cairo on Tuesday, urging further negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Sisi called upon Israel and the Palestinian Authority to seize a "realistic" and "great" opportunity to reach a peaceful resolution to their decades-old conflict. Sisi reflects on the beneficial 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and Sisi said the amount of hostility between Egypt and Israel that preceded the peace treaty was no different from how the Palestinians and Israelis feel now. Furthermore, Sisi declared Egypt will "make every effort" to aid in reaching a peaceful agreement and Sisi additionally assured warmer ties with Israel if Israel accepts attempts to resume peace talks with the Palestinians.

In response to Sisi's remarks, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu responds with the following statement, "I welcome Egyptian President Al-Sisi's remarks and his willingness to make every effort to advance a future of peace and security between us and the Palestinians and the people of the region. Israel is ready to participate with Egypt and other Arab states in advancing both the diplomatic process and stability in the region. I appreciate President Al-Sisi's work and also draw encouragement from his leadership on this important issue."

The significance of continuing peace agreements is up for debate, but having Egyptian support to reach a settlement encourages both sides to find a solution.