



2833 Smith Ave Ste 225  
Baltimore, MD 21209

t 301.727.2700  
f 410.602.1351  
www.cjvalues.org  
office@cjvalues.org

Rabbi Pesach Lerner  
*President*

Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld  
*Vice-President*

Rabbi Avrohom Gordimer  
*Chairman, Rabbinic Circle*

Rabbi Dov Fischer  
*Western Regional VP*

Rabbi Steven Pruzansky  
*Eastern Regional VP*

Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
*Managing Director*

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary, Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

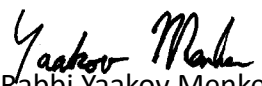
Please accept our appreciation and commendation for rejecting outright the false notion that Israeli settlements in the area known as the West Bank are "illegal." As you said, you acknowledged facts, history and circumstances with this decision.

Recognition of the legality of Jewish settlement in Judea accords with the Bible itself and the historical reality. The record shows that Jews lived in the holy cities of Hebron and Shechem (Nablus), as well as elsewhere in the area, at all times when not forced to leave at the tip of a sword. Most recently, the Jordanian Army expelled all Jews from the territory they captured, which they dismissively called the "West Bank," in 1948. The return of Jewish settlement in 1967 was neither illegal nor an occupation, but the resumption of Jewish life in that part of the Jewish homeland.

By rejecting the idea that Jewish settlement in the region is illegal, you have righted an historic wrong and demonstrated your affinity for fairness, justice, and the Jewish People all at once. For this you have our sincere thanks.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Rabbi Pesach Lerner  
President

  
Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
Managing Director