

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **J STREET RESPONDS TO MCCAIN'S ATTACK ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS**

WASHINGTON—Earlier today, the Presidential campaign of Senator John McCain attacked former Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer for urging Syria to fast-track negotiations with Israel to achieve peace between the two countries.

This, despite the fact that the government of Israel has for a year and a half been pursuing negotiations with Damascus to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two countries.

By 58-42 percent, according to a poll conducted for J Street from June 29 to July 3, American Jews favor a deal with Syria that trades the return of the Golan Heights for full peace with Syria and an end to Syrian assistance to Hamas and Hezbollah.

Jeremy Ben-Ami, Executive Director of J Street, the political voice of the pro-Israel, pro-peace movement, made the following statement in response to the McCain campaign's attacks:

"It's not clear what John McCain gains by attacking both stated Israeli government policy and a leading American Jewish diplomat.

"Is it really John McCain's policy to oppose Israel's efforts to end its conflicts with its neighbors diplomatically?

"American Jews strongly favor Israel's efforts to negotiate peace with Syria. Not only is McCain's position unlikely to win him support in the U.S. Jewish community broadly, it's a policy that runs counter to the national security interests of the United States."

*J Street is the political arm of the "pro-Israel, pro-peace" movement. J Street was started in April of 2008 and has more than 50,000 online members.*