



**THE PRESIDENT**

Jerusalem, August 11, 2009

Jeremy Ben-Ami  
Executive Director  
JStreet

Dear Mr. Ben-Ami,

I want to thank you for your letter of August 4, and for inviting me to participate as a keynote speaker at your Gala dinner at the end of October.

While I am fully aware of the importance of your first national conference, regrettably my commitments prevent me from attending. However, I wish to congratulate you on your initiative to form a pro-Israel-Palestinian and pro-Israeli-Arab peace organization and the support you have garnered on behalf of this mission in the American political and Jewish communities arena is indeed impressive.

The Israel that stretches out its hand in peace is not only an Israel that addresses a geo-political reality and discharges its strategic interests: it is an Israel that acts according to the commands of the conscience and values of the Jewish People. We yearn for peace, so as to live in security, but also to be able to flourish in a state that is democratic and enlightened, and as an expression of our ancient heritage and representatives of the Jewish People.

I wish the organizers and participants of this conference a successful and fruitful event.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Shimon Peres*