

Dear Editor

Israel's decision to build new settlements in East Jerusalem can only be seen as a provocative move, and not conducive to creating a climate of trust, which would enable the peace process to be continued. In my opinion the response of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was fully justified, she said that the move was "deeply negative" for US-Israeli relations. It remains to be seen if Israel will listen to one of its most important friends, and react accordingly.

It is to be hoped that the Obama administration will deal with Israel in a firm and pragmatic manner, making it known that it will not turn a blind eye to actions which can impede the efforts of the international community to bring about a just and permanent settlement to the long standing and difficult issues facing the Middle East.

Gone are the days of the George Bush 'wild west' type justice; welcome to the Obama vision of justice and peace in line with recognised international standards of law. Israel must be made aware that some of their unilateral actions will not be acceptable. There will be no peace without justice.

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