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WE, FRIENDS OF ISRAEL FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE, ARE INSPIRED BY ISRAEL’S FOUNDING MISSION TO BE BOTH A JEWISH HOMELAND AND A DEMOCRACY THAT OFFERS COMPLETE EQUALITY TO ALL ITS CITIZENS.

WE ARE CONCERNED BY AN INCREASINGLY ULTRANATIONALIST TREND IN ISRAEL THAT IS CHIPPING AWAY AT CORE ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY—PRINCIPLES LIKE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, MINORITY RIGHTS, AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY—AND TURNING THE COUNTRY AWAY FROM ITS DEMOCRATIC HERITAGE.

WE ARE DOUBLY CONCERNED THAT THE VERY POLITICIANS LEADING SOME OF THESE EFFORTS HAVE CHOSEN TO BACK OUT OF THE *HAARETZ* DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE. THEIR ACTIONS HAVE INFLAMED DIVISIONS WITHIN ISRAEL AND INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD RATHER RULE BY FIAT AND DEMAGOGUERY THAN ENGAGE IN DEBATE.

WE WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE *HAARETZ* DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE—INCLUDING PRESIDENT REUVEN RIVLIN—FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ENGAGING WITH THESE ISSUES TODAY.

CONSULTATION, DISCUSSION, AND DEBATE ARE THE BASIS OF ANY DEMOCRACY. THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP AND SPEAKING OUT FOR A BETTER ISRAEL.

הקרן החדשה לישראל New Israel Fund

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