

DEAR SENATOR:

The U.S. has recently recognized an independent state of Kosovo, encouraging its separation from Serbia and its march toward self-rule. People around the world, especially in Russia, have mixed feelings about this declaration of independence. Why has President George W. Bush been so quick to back Kosovar independence?

The answer, we're told, is that our country is committed to promoting the freedom, human rights and democracy we enjoy at home. If this is true, I call upon you to apply the same standard to Palestine as the United States has accorded Kosovo. Back full diplomatic recognition of the independent State of Palestine. Recognize the State of Palestine and welcome Palestinians as full members of the international community. They've been waiting for almost 60 years.

TO:  
SENATOR \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of your Senator)

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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DEAR REPRESENTATIVE:

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(name of your Representative)

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515

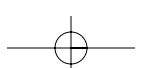
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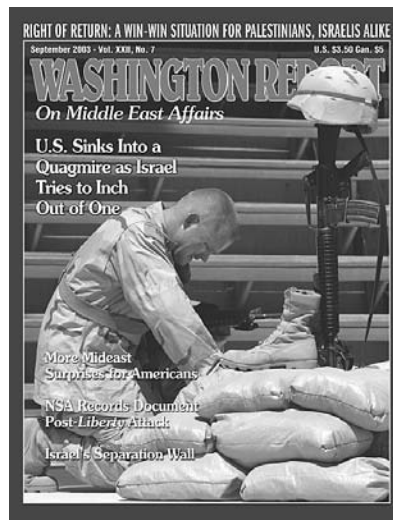
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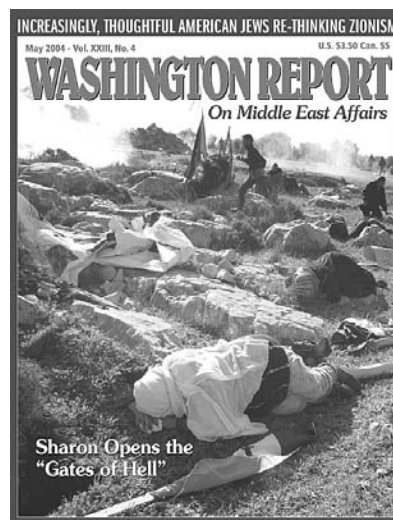
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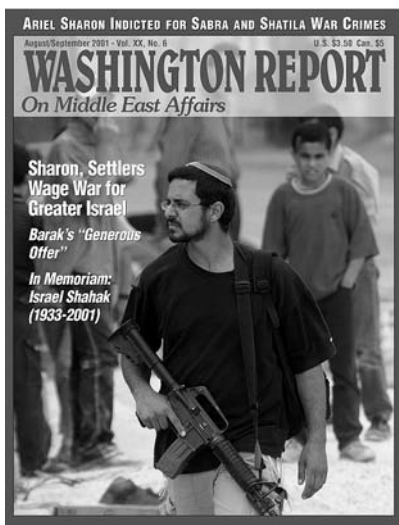
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On Feb. 17, 2008 Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence from the state of Serbia. By the following day, President George W. Bush and the United States accorded Kosovo full diplomatic recognition, despite Russia's and Serbia's opposition,

If Kosovo, then why not Palestine?  
Israel declared its statehood at midnight on May 14, 1948, without officially agreeing to the borders assigned it by the United Nations in 1947. (The U.N. had awarded 56 percent of Palestine to its 650,000 Jewish inhabitants, and 44 percent to its 1,300,000 Muslim and Christian Arab inhabitants.)

If Israel, then why not Palestine?  
The Bush administration has called for an independent Palestine, yet the U.S. seems content to watch negotiations drag on *ad infinitum*. It's time the U.S. acts decisively on its commitment to freedom. Costa Rica formally recognized Palestine on Feb. 5, 2008  
If Costa Rica, then why not the USA?



AFP PHOTO/ORLANDO SIERRA  
A Palestinian Costa Rican, whose country formally recognized Palestine on Feb. 5, 2008.

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