

# Israel's power isn't in its military...

- Israel's Declaration of Independence commits to "...complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."
- Israel's Basic Law guarantees that "the Knesset (Parliament) will be elected by universal, national, direct, equal, secret and proportional ballot."
- All citizens of Israel, including women and minorities, have the right to form political parties and to vote. Israel has over 17 political parties in the Knesset representing every part of society and every political view. Arab-Israelis, who constitute 20% of the population, have 5 parties.
- Election Day is a national holiday, and free transportation is provided to the polling booths. Voter turnout often reaches 97%.
- Arab nations' and Palestinians' Views of Israeli Democracy:
  - *"Israel has proved that for fifty years its real power is in its democracy, guarding the rights of its citizens, applying laws (equally) to the rich and the poor, the big and the small..." (Dr. Talal Al-Shareef, Al-Quds, 5/27/99)*
  - *"I am also envious of...the simple Israeli citizen who can, with one ballot deposited into a small wooden box, humiliate one leader and raise another...I envy them and desire a similar regime in my future state...I respect (their) democratic discussion, debate, decision, the sovereignty of law and freedom of the press..." (Columnist Ata Al-Qemari, Al-Quds, 5/99)*
  - *"Netanyahu, who was nicknamed 'King of Israel,' fell out of power and within half an hour relinquished leadership of his party...Such elections are the result of a democratic regime that accepts change (by means of) elections as the basis of governance." (Dr. Ali Al-Jirbawi, Al-Ayyam, 5/22/99)*

## it's in its democracy.