

# Natan Sharansky

## Quotes

*Peace, People, Literature, Israel, Democracy, Believe, Enemy, Fighting, Real,  
Dissent, Views, Thinking, Evil, Simple, Hatred, Support, Doubt, Squares,  
Country, Japan*

This scepticism is the same scepticism I heard a generation ago in the USSR when few thought that a democratic transformation behind the iron curtain was possible.

~Natan Sharansky

The central premise behind Oslo was that if Arafat were given enough legitimacy, territory, weapons and money, he would use his power to fight terror and make peace with Israel.

~Natan Sharansky

It is not surprising, then, that in the decade since Oslo began, Arafat used all the resources placed at his disposal to fan the flames of hatred against Israel.

~Natan Sharansky

In dictatorships you need courage to fight evil; in the free world you need courage to see evil.

~Natan Sharansky

Japan is not a Western democracy. The Japanese have kept their traditions, culture and heritage, but they have joined the community of free nations.

~Natan Sharansky

It is important to remember that some of the most serious thinkers once thought that democracy was not compatible with the cultures of Germany, Italy, Japan, Latin America and Russia.

~Natan Sharansky

Free societies are societies in which the right of dissent is protected.

~Natan Sharansky

They tried their best to find a place where I was isolated. But all the resources of a superpower cannot isolate the man who hears a voice of

freedom, a voice I heard from the very chamber of my soul.

~Natan Sharansky

As soon as people become a little less fearful, they will also begin demanding more freedom.

~Natan Sharansky

Non-democratic regimes always need to mobilize their people against external enemies in order to maintain internal stability.

~Natan Sharansky

To understand why dictators have a problem with making peace - or at least a genuine peace - the link between the nature of a regime and its external behavior must be understood.

~Natan Sharansky

The message of the free world to any potential Palestinian leadership should be a simple one: Embrace democratic reform and we will embrace you.

~Natan Sharansky

Arafat rejected the deal because, as a dictator who had directed all his energies toward strengthening the Palestinians hatred toward Israel, Arafat could not afford to make peace.

~Natan Sharansky

Will dissent be permitted? The answer to that question will determine whether the society is a free society or a fear society.

~Natan Sharansky

The only peace that can be made with a dictator is once that must be based on deterrence. For today, the dictator may be your friend, but tomorrow he will need you as an enemy.

~Natan Sharansky

Imagine if the United States, in its war against Hitler, had said to Stalin: we don't want your support until you make your country democratic.

~Natan Sharansky

Unfortunately, little attention was paid to how Arafat ruled. In fact, some saw the harsh and repressive nature of Arafat's regime as actually bolstering the prospects for peace.

~Natan Sharansky

By focusing once and for all on helping the Palestinians build a free society, I have no doubt that an historic compromise between Israelis and Palestinians can be reached and that peace can prevail.

~Natan Sharansky

I am optimistic that peace can be achieved in the region because I believe that every society on earth can be free and that if freedom comes to the Middle East, there can be peace.

~Natan Sharansky

When did America forget that it's America?

~Natan Sharansky

Believe me, the drug of freedom is universally potent.

~Natan Sharansky

Of course, there can be serious injustices within free societies.

~Natan Sharansky

I have no doubt that given a real choice, the vast majority of Muslims and Arabs, like everyone else will choose a free society over a fear society.

~Natan Sharansky

Bush explained his fundamental concept to me, that freedom is not an

American invention, but rather a gift from God to all people.

~Natan Sharansky

Free nations generally look for ways to deal with dictators amicably.

~Natan Sharansky

My theory is that security - also against terror - can only be accomplished through global democratization.

~Natan Sharansky

To go again over the history of the struggle of resistance ... and to think 'Where are all these people today Where is the KGB' is very inspiring

~Natan Sharansky

On the other hand, if the free world is concerned with how a new Palestinian leader governs, then the peace process will have a real chance to succeed.

~Natan Sharansky

When a man is afraid and accedes to fear, he will always find arguments to justify his own surrender.

~Natan Sharansky

I was inspired to write this book by those who are sceptical of the power of freedom to change the world.

~Natan Sharansky

Those who warned that Gorbachev was being put under too much pressure were wrong.

~Natan Sharansky

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