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(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

HALA GORANI, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Issa Boulos first came to America in 1986. He's one of some 230,000 Palestinians living in the United States. In addition to a job at the University of Chicago, Issa directs this Middle East music ensemble.

At his home in the Chicago area he says that despite years of violence between Israelis and Palestinians he's still hopeful that a new leadership will mean a fresh start.

ISSA BOULOS, PALESTINIAN EXPATRIATE: Essentially all Palestinians hope that this election will bring new blood to the way the Palestinian leadership has been pursuing negotiations with Israelis on the one hand. And we're definitely hoping for this election to bring peace.

GORANI: And although Palestinians outside the territories can't vote in this weekend's presidential election, Issa says he stays up to date with what's happening back home. But his hopes for peace are tempered with what many Palestinians see as a collective destiny that is not entirely in their own hands.

BOULOS: They can do things underground. They can improve the security situation. They can improve the lives of Palestinians. They can perform better in negotiations. But it comes down to Israel's attitude toward the whole thing.

So far we haven't got really any serious notion that Israel is willing to give up its dreams of keeping the West Bank.

GORANI: And like many Palestinians Issa feels the U.S. is the only broker powerful enough to force a fair solution on all parties if, he says, it has the will to do so

Hala Gorani, CNN Atlanta.

(END VIDEOTAPE)