

**לשכת ראש העיר**

November 20, 2012

Ms. Dagmar Mühlenfeld
Mayor Mulheim An der Ruhr

My friend,

Given the warm ties between our two cities, I felt the obligation and wish to share with you my sentiments regarding the current political and security-oriented situation in Israel.

Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip have chosen to escalate their attacks against Israeli civilians in the past few days.

The IDF counter-operation has already significantly reduced Hamas' strategic capability to harm Israeli civilians. It included:-

1. A surgical strike on Hamas' top commander, Ahmad Ja'abri, who was responsible for the deaths of scores of Israelis.
2. A significant reduction of Hamas' ability to launch Fajar rockets aimed to strike Tel-Aviv and north of the country.
3. A blow to Hamas' capability to launch rockets at southern Israeli cities.

Needless to add, no state would acquiesce to live in a reality whereby civilians are continuously threatened by rockets fired by terrorists.


The diplomatic and political complexity of embarking on such an operation has been taken into account. After the launch of the operation, the Israeli Prime Minister spoke with US President, Barack Obama. The Prime Minister expressed his deep appreciation for US President Obama's support of Israel's right to defend itself. In addition, Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke with US Vice President, Joe Biden, and United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, as well as with other world leaders.

Hamas and other terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip continually use Palestinian human shields to intentionally fire at Israeli civilians, while simultaneously the IDF continues to make the utmost effort to minimize the harm to Palestinian civilians.

As a friend and a local leader, it was important for me to share with you the afore-mentioned information. None of us wish for war and even more so, we pray for the wellbeing of all children, whether Palestinian or Israeli.

I will appreciate if you will pass my words to your emplied at the city menegment and above all to the resiaent of Mulheim.

Yours Sincerely,


Yehuda Ben-Hamu
Mayor

