



Jewish Community Relations Council

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties
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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JCRC Supports Israel's Efforts to Stop Gaza Rocket Attacks

San Francisco — The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) stands with Israel in its military response to continued unprovoked rocket and mortar shell attacks from Gaza threatening the lives of Israeli civilians. While JCRC strongly supports Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians and the creation of two viable states living side by side in peace, no country can be expected to absorb continuous and unrelenting attacks.

JCRC executive director Rabbi Doug Kahn issued the following statement:

"Israel has exercised extraordinary restraint as Hamas, a terrorist organization that controls Gaza, has continued its attacks against Israelis living in cities and towns within range of its rockets. When Israel withdrew completely from Gaza in 2005, it was with the clear expectation that the Palestinian leadership there would not provoke military confrontation, but rather live in peace with its neighbors. Tragically, Hamas, which seeks the destruction of Israel, has used Gaza as a launching pad for attacking the Israeli people. The impact on Israelis who have had to endure nearly daily assaults has been great – deaths, injuries, and long-term physical and mental trauma. No government, including Israel's, could be expected to refrain from responding to protect the lives of their citizens.

As noted Israeli author and peace activist Amos Oz wrote, 'The systematic bombing of the citizens in Israel's towns and cities is a war crime and a crime against humanity. The State of Israel must defend its citizens. It is obvious to everyone that the Israeli government does not want to enter Gaza; the government would rather continue the ceasefire that Hamas violated and finally revoked. But the suffering of the citizens surrounding Gaza cannot go on.'

JCRC is grateful to American public officials, including Speaker of the House Pelosi, for strongly supporting Israel at this time and recognizing that Israel has made every effort to minimize civilian casualties in Gaza, even while Hamas places civilians in harm's way."

The Jewish Community Relations Council is the central public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community, representing more than 80 synagogues and Jewish organizations in the Bay Area on public affairs issues.

Yitzhak Santis, Director of the JCRC Middle East Project and expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is currently in Israel and available for comment. He may be reached at 011-972-54-691-8483 or ysantis@jcrc.org. Please note Israel is 10 hours ahead of Pacific time.

In addition you may contact:

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