



## **Jewish Community Relations Council**

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties  
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# **Media Announcement**

July 16, 2008

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **JCRC Statement on Israel - Hezbollah Prisoner Exchange**

JCRC extends its deepest sympathies to the families of fallen Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, kidnapped by Hezbollah two years ago in an incident that triggered the 2006 war in Lebanon. JCRC supports the dedication of the Government of Israel in bringing home its captured soldiers to their families.

Among the prisoners Israel released was Sami Kuntar, who led a team of Palestine Liberation Front terrorists, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, from southern Lebanon into Israel. Kuntar and his team brutally murdered a four-year-old girl by smashing her skull with the butt of a rifle after drowning her father. The PLF in 1985 hijacked the *Achille Lauro*, and murdered the wheelchair bound American Jewish passenger Leon Klinghoffer.

The contrast between the mourning in Israel over its fallen soldiers who died protecting their fellow citizens and the outrageous hero's welcome in Lebanon given to Kuntar and other released terrorists is a powerful reminder of the continuing seriousness of the Hezbollah threat against Israel.

While serving a life sentence for his atrocities, Kuntar was granted the same rights as other prisoners including the right to marry and pursue a correspondence college education at an Israeli university. In comparison, the slain Israeli soldiers Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser were kept hidden in Lebanon where, in violation of international law, Hezbollah prevented the International Committee of the Red Cross from determining their condition. Furthermore, the families of the fallen soldiers suffered immensely as they waited over two years for any news of their loved ones.

It is our hope and prayer that the Regev and Goldwasser families may now find some peace and be comforted by the tremendous outpouring of grief from around the world over their loss.

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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.