

July 9, 2014

## Bay Area Jewish Community Stands with Israel

*A Joint Statement from the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund and The Jewish Federation/The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.*

As more than 3.5 million people living in southern and central Israel once again face continuous rocket attacks from Gaza, we extend our solidarity and support for the people of Israel and pray for their safety during this difficult time.

According to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), over 475 rockets have been launched towards Israeli population centers from Hamas-controlled Gaza since the beginning of the year, with over 155 rockets hitting Israel in just the past 36 hours. More than 40,000 Israeli reservists have been put on alert as part of Operation Protective Edge, which, according to the IDF, was initiated to “restore quiet to the region and stop Hamas terrorism.”

We are deeply troubled that these rockets are now reaching as far as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and other major central and coastal cities, and are greatly relieved that Iron Dome (anti-missile batteries) has thus far been successful at intercepting many of them.

Sadly, this is not the first time Israeli civilians – Jews and Arabs – have been the targets of missiles from Gaza; Israel’s south has been under siege regularly since Hamas’ hostile takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007. We strongly support Israel’s right as a sovereign country to defend itself from relentless rocket fire, as well as its efforts to prevent further escalation and minimize casualties on both sides. No country would tolerate the continued violent attacks against its citizens from across its border by a terrorist group bent upon its destruction.

Even during these difficult times, we remain committed to the goal of peace and a two-state solution, in which both the Israeli and Palestinian people live securely within mutually recognized and sovereign borders. That day will come sooner if the international community makes clear to Hamas that it will not tolerate further violent attacks directed against Israel.



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