

Sunday, July 20, 2014

To

All our Friends and Partners Abroad

Shalom

For more than a week the entire State of Israel – particularly the southern region - has been under rocket attacks. These attacks are being launched by a terrorist group who are holding the entire region hostage and threatening innocent civilians. As the hostilities continue each day we witness the murderous nature of the terror from Gaza. In addition to the hundreds of rockets that have been fired at Israel, large arsenals of weapons have been discovered ready for launching, and numerous tunnels have been located. These tunnels are meant to allow infiltrations of terrorists into the border settlements with the objective of killing civilians.

Israel has entered a war of no choice, with the objective of protecting her citizens and eliminating the terrorist threat that is at our doorstep. Any sovereign nation would be obligated to do the same, and to protect her civilians.

The citizens of Israel and the home front are behaving with extreme restraint and coping in an exemplary manner. People are adhering to instructions and keeping to their usual routine as much as possible.

The solidarity and mutual caring of people in Israeli society is being demonstrated at its fullest. At times like this, the idea of "All of Israel are comrades" is being put into practice.

Ramat HaNegev has remained the most secure area in Israel. We have had several alerts, but the rockets have fallen in uninhabited areas. We are adhering to our

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usual routine as much as we can, while following instructions of the home front command.

Our main efforts have been devoted to helping families and residents of the Gaza periphery. Hundreds of residents are being hosted in our communities each day. They remain with us for several hours for leisure activities, or stay in one of the kibbutzim in the area for several days according to what they want or need.

Dear friends, Israeli society is offering the Israeli government and the I.D.F. full support, and serving as a moral "iron dome" as they work to ensure our security. We are all dealing with these difficult days. Almost every family knows someone who is involved in the fighting, and we are aware of the pain and the price we have to pay.

All of us pray for our soldiers to return home safely. We wish the wounded a speedy recovery, and join the sorrow of the bereaved families in their deep pain and loss.

Our partnership with you is important to us, and strengthens us. I would like to thank you in the name of all the residents of Ramat HaNegev.



Shmuel Rifman

Mayor

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