

Att:
Mr. Werner Becker-Blonigen
Mayor of Wiehl
Germany

Yoqneam, August the 8th, 2006

Dear Werner,

First of all, I wish to thank you and all the people of Wiehl for your support to the people of Israel and to Yoqneam.

As you know, the state of Israel has been in danger and rejected by all its neighbors since its arising in 1948. For the last tens years, the Hezbollah has been increasing its armament to a no-return point, when its goal is to destroy the state of Israel, or at least, to cause as many casualties as possible, both amongst soldiers and among civilians.

In the past, the Hezbollah has kidnapped soldiers and killed them short after their capture. For many months, they would not let any one know about the soldiers where-about or their situation. The state of Israel, who values life more than anything, has been struggling for a piece of information, and eventually, traded hundreds of terrorists in jail in Israel, for... three corps.

Last month, the Hezbollah stroked again and captured, with no reason and with no provocation from our side, two reserve-army soldiers. Until now, no one knows of their fake or sake, since the Hezbollah has repeatedly refused to let any one, including the International Red Cross, get close to them and visit them, as stipulated in the Geneva Convention. The same day, The Hezbollah killed seven Israeli soldiers within the Israeli borders.

The next day, the Northern cities of Israel started suffering from massive bombings. Up to now, above 3.000 missiles have been thrown upon civilians between Kiriat Shmone to Hadera, killing elders, women and children, sometimes killing several members of the same family.

The Hezbollah does not value any life, not Jewish life nor Arabic life, not ours and not even theirs: for the last few days, several Arabic villages in Israel have been affected and suffered casualties. In addition, the terrorist organization has been deliberately posted the missiles launchers on top of building hosting hundreds of civilians, hoping that the killing of those civilians will touch the heart of the world and help them recruiting favorable public opinion.

In Israel, we do deplore the killing of the Lebanese people, and are heartbroken by their suffering. Unfortunately, the media all around the world minimize the damage and pain caused to the Israeli population: tens of thousands of civilians forced to leave their homes, many others living for the last four weeks in shelters, hundreds of homes destroyed, and of course, the lost of many young lives of people who only wanted to in peace.

Although Yoqneam has not (yet) been directly afflicted by the conflict, we have too suffered from the war; three weeks ago, Shmuel, a young man of 40, the father of a three years old and of a new born (ten days old while his father died), found his death

in one of the missile falls, while working in Haifa. He left a broken-heart wife and two young children who will never know their father. We also have to deplore a young soldier badly injured, probably losing the use of his legs and a young man hit by a missile while passing by Naharia and badly injured as well.

Dear Verner, our struggle – that will leave signs for years to come – is not only the struggle for our survival. It is also the struggle for the defense of the democracy all around the world, the struggle against armament and global terrorism that provides a real threat for the humanity.

Despite our losses, the nights without sleeping, the anxiety of our children, our concern for our families and for our sons fighting in Lebanon, we stand stronger than ever, as a state and as people, helping each other, strengthening each other, strong in our faith and the in the faith of democracy.

Sincerely yours,

Simon Elfassi – Mayor
Yoqneam

CC. Gerhard Hermann
1. Vorsitzender Freundeskreis Wiehl-Joqneam