

NEW HAVEN JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE SAYS

END THE BOMBING

END THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA

END THE OCCUPATION

Israel in Gaza: A Statement by the JVP Rabbinical Council

by Rabbi Brant Rosen July 25, 2014

We are currently amidst “the three weeks” - the annual Jewish period of quasi-mourning that leads to the fast day of Tisha B’Av. This is the season that bids us to look deeply into the soul of our community and examine the ways that our “sinat chinam” – baseless hatred – has led to our communal downfall.

Driven by the spirit of this season, we cannot help but speak out in response to the horrific loss of life currently taking place in Gaza, at the hands of the Israeli military. We deplore the Israeli government’s military crackdown in the West Bank that led to its lethal, military onslaught on the people of Gaza. We mourn the deaths of hundreds of innocent people, including children.

We condemn Hamas’ rockets attacks on Israel and are deeply grieved by the anxiety, injury and death they have caused. But we cannot view this as a war between two equal sides. Israel has unlimited hi-tech weaponry; it dominates Gazan airspace, its borders, its utilities and economy.

Moreover, it was Israel who willfully launched this mission of death on the Palestinian people. Israel hides behind the pretext of avenging the still unsolved kidnapping and killing of three Jewish boys. Rather than seeking recourse through civil, legal means, Israel's leaders have called for vengeance, with terrible consequences.

We cannot stand idly by as the Jewish State acts with such wanton disregard, with such sinat chinam, for the humanity of the mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, children and elders of Gaza.

As Jews, we abhor the abuse of human rights that are standard practice of our fellow Jews in the Israeli government and Israeli military. This is not the path of justice.

As rabbis, we must speak out against collective punishment, the blowing up homes of innocent people, the terrorizing of an entire people, and the killing of innocent children.

This Jewish season asks us to engage in a collective moral accounting; to reckon seriously with the ways our own failings have historically led to our communal downfall. Mindful of this spiritual imperative, we call upon the government of Israel to end its military onslaught, which we believe will only lead to more tragedy for Jews and Palestinians alike.

We stand with all people of conscience who reject the ways of militarism and occupation and who seek a path to a truly just peace in Israel/Palestine. – Rabbi Brant Rosen July 25,2014

*Statements of the JVP Rabbinical Council represent the council as a whole but not necessarily individual members

The US government enables, funds (\$3 billion each year) and condones Israel’s oppression of the Palestinian people.

FRIDAY AUGUST 1, A BRIEFING FOR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES in DC
Leading human rights organizations will document ISRAELI USE OF CHILDREN AS HUMAN SHIELDS.

Contact REP DELAURO, SENS MURPHY and BLUMENTHAL. Urge them to send a staff person

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