

 **Ael Singer**
Mayor of Ramat-Gan



עיריית רמת-גן

ישראל זינגר
ראש העיר רמת-גן

**To: Mr. Albrecht Lohrbacher
Weinheim**

Date: July 27, 2014

Dear friend,

Imagine that a barrage of rockets is now landing on your city, destroying your urban structures and inflicting pain and suffering on your residents.

As a Mayor, I am first and foremost responsible for the wellbeing of my people.

In this capacity, I vow to protect my community and to provide them with the basic daily services which allow them to study, to work, to access welfare services if needed, and more.

Since the beginning of the last round of fighting, thousands of rockets have been launched at Israeli cities, armed terrorists have attempted to carry out mass attacks on border communities and hundreds of mortars have been aimed at kindergartens and schools. Civilians flee to shelters at all hours of the day and night, while our sons are being sent to combat in Gaza, leaving behind sleepless mothers and wives praying for their safe return.

I am committed, alongside my national leadership, to take every precaution to preserve the lives of our civilian population. We painstakingly invest in shelters, provide psychological guidance for children who suffer owing to the current situation, rebuild and reconstruct that which is destroyed, and more. In short, I and my fellow mayors sanctify life above all else. At the same time, I pray for the wellbeing of innocent civilians in Gaza, whose leadership has cynically chosen to sanctify their suffering.



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Tens of thousands of Palestinians have received phone calls, text messages and leaflets, warning them to vacate combat zones. Israeli air force sorties have been cancelled with planes in mid-air due to reports of civilian presence. All this has been done in order to prevent innocent casualties. Hamas, however, has forbidden civilians to leave their homes, placed them on rocket factory rooftops and forced children- their own children- to remain in harm's way. Meanwhile, innocent Palestinian civilians are being treated in Israeli hospitals throughout the country and a protected and well-equipped field hospital has been set up by the IDF in order to provide care for those whose lives have become a mere bargaining chip for Hamas.

It was important to me to reach out to you, personally, in order to attempt to convey to you my pain, alongside my commitment to the lives of my people.

Your support and friendship is, as always, a beacon of light in difficult times.

Warmly,
I. Singer
Israel Singer

Mayor of Ramat-Gan

