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(203) 372-6567, ext. 175*

*Beneficiaries of the  
Annual Campaign Include:*

**ISRAEL & OVERSEAS**

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The Jewish Federations  
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Birthright Israel  
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\* Bureau of Jewish Education  
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Center for Judaic Studies  
Hillel Academy  
Israeli Young Emissaries  
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\* Community Closet  
Jewish Family Service  
Jewish Home for the Elderly  
\* Kosher Hot Lunch and  
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Anti-Defamation League  
\* Community Relations  
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\* **JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**

Community-Wide Activities  
Camp JCC & After-School Programs  
Early Childhood Department  
Health and Wellness Programs  
Host to Local Organizations  
Programs and Activities for Seniors  
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*The UJA/Federation is a division of  
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*The JCCS is a member of:*

The Jewish Federations of North America  
Jewish Federation Association of CT  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

**Statement of Solidarity with the State of Israel**

June 4, 2010

The Jewish community of Eastern Fairfield County, Connecticut stands in solidarity with the State of Israel in the aftermath of the recent violence instigated by the "Free Gaza" flotilla.

As a community that loves and values peace, we regret the loss of life and personal injuries that resulted from this incident, and we wish that this provocation could have been handled in a way that avoided violence of any kind. We wish that Israel had not been forced to assert her internationally recognized sovereignty by needing to intercept an unauthorized set of shipments headed for Gaza. We decry the fact that Israeli soldiers were violently attacked on one of these vessels - with premeditation, lethal weapons and live ammunition - forcing the surprised soldiers to fire back in order to defend themselves. We welcome Israel's stated commitment to investigate these events.

We also grieve for the larger tragedy of the region caused by Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority, after Israel withdrew from the territory. We lament Hamas' incessant attacks upon Israel, and their use of Gaza as an armed base from which to launch rockets and other attacks against Israeli citizens. We wish Hamas would join the PA, Israeli and international efforts to bring peace to this troubled region.

Notwithstanding Hamas's violence against both Israelis and Palestinians, Israel transfers 15,000 tons of humanitarian aid, per week, to the people of Gaza. If only Hamas desired to improve the lives of Palestinians more than they desire to murder Jews and peace loving Palestinians, there would be no blockade on Gaza. It is well documented that Israel has intercepted on numerous occasions huge cache of lethal weapons on the open seas and within underground tunnels. As such, Israel at this time simply cannot allow any uninspected cargo to pass into the Gaza strip.

The flotilla's organizers claimed to be unarmed peace activists. In fact many were armed and dangerous, planned for violence, and were organized by militant-Islamic groups. Israel repeatedly offered to deliver the donated goods through the port of Ashdod, using normal search procedures. The organizers rejected these Israeli offers. The father of Gilad Shalit, the kidnapped Israeli soldier who has been denied every humanitarian right, and who has been kept in secretive silence by Hamas for years, asked the organizers to deliver supplies to his son. Yet, the organizers refused this peaceful, purely humanitarian request as well.



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**Statement of Solidarity with the State of Israel**  
*Continued*

Since 2005, Hamas has launched over 8,000 rocket attacks at communities in southern Israel out of Gaza. Hamas intensively smuggles weapons into Gaza to continue this war, openly opposes any efforts for peace with Israel, rejects all compromise and negotiation efforts, and systematically incites the Gaza public to hate and kill Israelis. Under these conditions, no government would allow deliveries of any kind to such a region, without careful screening for harmful weapons or other contraband. Under normal conditions, no government allows unidentified people and goods to flout border regulations and enter their countries freely. The flotilla effort violated international law, directly attacked Israel's sovereign rights, and was intentionally designed to result in a violent confrontation.

Our hearts go out to the innocent civilians of Gaza and this region, and we stand with the State of Israel as it struggles to cope with these enemies of peace, and protect the lives of its citizenry.

Rabbi Simcha Berger, Dean, Yeshiva Gedola, Bridgeport, CT  
Rabbi Jack Bloom, Fairfield, CT  
Rabbi Colin Brodie, Congregation B'nai Torah, Trumbull, CT  
Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz, Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport, CT  
Rabbi Edward Harwitz, Head of School, Jewish High School of CT  
Rabbi Shlame Landa, Chabad of Fairfield  
Rabbi Jacob Mendelson, Congregation Bikur Cholim, Bridgeport, CT  
Rabbi Shaul Marshall Praver, Congregation Adath Israel, Newtown, CT  
Rabbi James Prosnit, Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport, CT  
Rabbi Mitchell Rocklin, Congregation Ahavath Achim, Fairfield, CT  
Rabbi Dan Satlow, Congregation Beth El, Fairfield, CT  
Rabbi Stephen Shulman, Director of Pastoral Services, Jewish Home for the Elderly, Fairfield, CT  
Rabbi Israel Stein, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Bridgeport, CT  
Andrew H. Banoff, President and CEO Jewish Home for the Elderly, Fairfield, CT  
Laurie Gross, Director of Community Relations and Israel Advocacy, Jewish Center for Community Services Eastern Fairfield County  
Eli Kornreich, President and CEO, Jewish Center for Community Services Eastern Fairfield County  
Harvey Paris, President, Jewish Family Service, Bridgeport, CT