



Berne, Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Israel's Ambassador appeals to the Swiss people

We, Israelis, Lebanese, and Palestinians, we all hate war. It hurts us all alike to see innocent people who pay the price of violent actions and terror attacks of the fanatics in our region.

I can understand if someone demonstrates for peace, or if someone demonstrates for Lebanon, (a country that unfortunately still maintains a state of war with Israel) or a Palestinian State alongside with Israel. But if in the center of Bern, on the Bundesplatz in front of the Swiss Parliament, the democratic organ of a neutral country, people demonstrate with the Swastika in one hand and the flag of the Hezbollah – a well known radical Islamic terror organisation who is responsible for the latest tragic developments – in the other, I think you should be worried. You are witnessing in the heart of your capital the exact reasons for the ongoing violence in the Middle East. It is the total refusal of many in our region to accept an independent Jewish State. The anti-Semites join the Islamic fanatics and use violence and terror to kill Jews and chase them out of Jerusalem, the ancient historical homeland of the Jewish People. There is no “Cycle of violence” in the Middle East. There is war and terror against Israel since 1948 and even before, and there is Israel defending itself and its existence. The fact that we are today stronger than we were 60 years ago has not changed the fact that the cause of Israel is right and justified.

We left Gaza, we left South Lebanon in order to achieve peace, or at least a better and calmer situation, and it is exactly from those areas that our civilians are under constant attacks of those who not only don't like peace, but who say clearly that they want to destroy us by force! The Kalaschnikow on the Hezbollah flag stands exactly for that. The anti-Semitic Swastika and the flag of the Hezbollah are the same unholy alliance that existed between Hitler and Al-Husseini, the Islamic leader of Jerusalem. The one wanted to kill the Jews and the other to destroy the Jewish State. It should worry you the same as it worries me, because after having achieved their aims in the Middle East, they might be after you as well. Don't forget the 3000 km range missiles in the hand of the Iranians, who created the Hezbollah, trained them and gave them the rockets that kill Israeli civilians and destabilize the whole region.

If Switzerland is democratic, if it's peace loving, if it's a champion of preserving international law and if it's aware of what is really going on, then it should be worried of what took place on the Bundesplatz last Friday, because it is not only a misuse of democracy and the freedom of speech in this country, it is simply dangerous, and not only for Jews and Israelis.

Aviv Shir-On
Ambassador of the State of Israel