

May 31, 1997

Dear Miri Sela and Ronit Nachmias,

My apologies for writing in English, but I have not lived in the country long and my Hebrew is still weak.

I wanted to tell you how much your demonstration to bring our soldiers out of Lebanon meant to me. I have long wanted to speak out against the actions in Lebanon but have been stopped by my poor Hebrew and unfamiliarity with the country. Thank you for doing what I and so many mothers and fathers have wanted to do but did not have your courage. Kol Hacqvod. You have said what needed to be said.

My son was in Lebanon for most of his military service, and just got out of the army last week. I share with you the feelings of fear, hope, and frustration about the situation into which our sons are placed. I too have questioned what we are doing there.

I understand how difficult it is for men, who have themselves served, to speak out about the army, even when their sons are serving in a useless action. Mothers need to do what their husbands may not be able to do. I saw in the States how the group "Another Mother for Peace" swelled until they were the strongest group demanding that the U.S. get out of Viet Nam. Mothers in Argentina had a similar effect. Maybe if enough mothers speak out here, our voices can be heard.

I have always believed that individual people can make a difference. Here in Israel, I am told "that's an American notion and very naive." Yet, your demonstration proved that a few people can draw attention to society's ills. Your demonstration attracted attention and made people respond. You made a difference; you took a stand. More people need to follow your examples.

I would very much like to be part of your group, if you are a group, and help in any way I can. Since I live in the Tel Aviv area, I would like to do something in this area. Do you know of any group forming here or any ways in which I can be part of your group from here? If necessary, I would be prepared to join you for a future demonstration in the North.

Please let me know how I can support you. You can write in Hebrew.

Professor Linda Ben-Zvi
15 Hate'ena Street
Nof Yam 46622
tel: 09 9508356

Sincerely,

23-12 2358