

To: Rachel Ben Zvi

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From: Linda Ben Zvi

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Most Honorable Emil Lahaud  
President of Lebanon

Dear Mr. President:

The Israeli-based Four Mothers Movement to Leave Lebanon wishes to express to you, to the people of Lebanon, and to the Othman family our profound sorrow and condolences over the deaths of Nadwa Othman and her six children, the latest casualties in the terrible fighting which has engulfed our region for far too long.

The events of last week bring into stark focus the futility of the present situation: killings and retaliation, which decimate mothers and children, and leave a legacy of further violence and hate in their wake.

As mothers and people working for peace, we say enough; the bloodshed has to stop. We owe it to future generations not to continue the fatal errors and miscalculations which have brought such tragedy to our peoples.

As we have done for the past two years, since our grassroots group was formed by four mothers in the North of Israel, we demand that Israel act upon UN resolution 425 and unconditionally withdraw from the occupation of Lebanon. Toward this end, we continue to demonstrate throughout the country and to meet with government officials.

We take heart that a growing number of Israelis support our position. When we began our movement, we were a minority voice. Over the past year, we have seen our ranks swell, until recently a poll indicates that almost 50% of the Israeli population is for unilateral withdrawal.

In the names of Nadwa Othman and her children, of Keren Chevroni and her unborn twins, of all the civilians killed and injured over the last seventeen years of hostilities, and in the names of our sons--all our sons on both sides--we commit ourselves to working for withdrawal and the cessation of hostilities. We pray that the time will be near when our two nations will be true neighbors and the region will finally know peace, so that mothers from both sides can meet and share in the joy of their families, thriving in freedom in their own lands. The Four Mothers Movement will do all it can to work until this day comes.

Respectfully yours,

Linda Ben-Zvi