



Jewish Community Relations Council

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties
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Media Advisory

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Commentary available on two major news stories happening in Israel:

1. **Iranian and Syrian-backed Hezbollah attacks northern Israel (mortar fire & gun battles) sending thousands of families to bomb shelters**
2. **Prime Minister Sharon's leaving his political party & new elections – what does it mean for peace prospects with Palestinians?**

JCRC Spokespersons available for comment & analysis

*The Jewish Community Relations Council is the **central public affairs arm** of the organized Jewish community, representing more than **80 synagogues and Jewish organizations** in the Bay Area on public affairs issues.*

San Francisco, California – Today **Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon** announces he is leaving his own Likud Party; and Israel's Parliament votes to dissolve itself. **New national elections** will take place in Israel *in just three months*. This is a **political earthquake**.

Also today, the **Iranian-backed and Syrian-supported Hezbollah** has launched a **major offensive** on Israel's northern towns and villages, forcing **tens of thousands** of Israeli families into bomb shelters all along northern Israel.

"Today is one of those rare days when the contrast between a calm democratic process and military aggression has simultaneously come into sharp focus," said Yitzhak Santis, director of JCRC's Middle East Project.

JCRC can provide informed and insightful commentary and analysis on these and other developments, from the perspective of the mainstream Jewish community.

The San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council supports Israel's disengagement plan, which is now in motion, withdrawing the Israeli army and evacuating all settlements in the Gaza Strip, and four settlements in the northern West Bank. JCRC recognizes the courage of the Israeli people and their government in taking this dramatic step, in the hope that it will contribute to peace in the region and enhance Israel's overall security.