



## **Jewish Community Relations Council**

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties  
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### **Media Announcement**

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### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

#### **Local Perspectives on Crisis in Middle East**

## **JCRC Condemns Hezbollah Attacks on Sovereign Israeli Territory; Calls on Beirut to Disarm Hezbollah**

### **Spokespersons available for on-the-record comment and analysis**

San Francisco – In response to today's unprovoked cross border attack from Lebanon on Israel by Hezbollah, in which seven Israeli soldiers were killed and two captured, coordinated with salvos of Katyushya rockets and mortars launched on seven Israeli communities, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) – the public affairs arm of the organized Bay Area Jewish community – issued the following statement:

JCRC unequivocally condemns the unprovoked and illegal rocket and mortar attack by the Iranian and Syrian-backed terror group Hezbollah on Israeli northern communities; we further condemn the cross-border raid by Hezbollah terrorists that attacked an Israeli army patrol in which three soldiers were killed and two captured, followed by an attack on an Israeli tank killing four more soldiers. This attack by Hezbollah is a clear escalation of the current crisis in Gaza, effectively opening a second front.

This attack would not have been possible without the explicit authorization of Hezbollah's two main state sponsors in the region: Iran and Syria. Khaled Maashal, chief of the "politburo" of the Palestinian Islamist terror group Hamas, resides in Damascus under Syrian protection. It is widely accepted that the current crisis in Gaza was touched off when Maashal ordered the operation into Israel in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and one captured. That attack is very similar to today's Hezbollah assault over the Lebanese border. Both attacks bear a "made in Syria label."

We stand steadfastly by Israel in its effort to suppress terrorism to protect its citizens. We call upon the international community to pressure the Lebanese government to do everything in its power to reign in Hezbollah, including disarming the terror group, and deploying the Lebanese army to southern Lebanon along the internationally recognized Israeli-Lebanese border. We call upon the Syrians and Iranians to cease provoking war, and to pursue peace.

JCRC supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, fully supports Israel's efforts to end the conflict. The Hamas-Hezbollah attacks make this goal that much more difficult to reach. We place full responsibility on this most dangerous escalation on Hamas, Hezbollah, and the governments supporting them in Damascus and Teheran.

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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.