



## **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***

## **JCRC GRIEVES OVER LOSS OF LIFE ON BOTH SIDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**

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

San Francisco – It is with profound sadness that JCRC mourns the loss of life on both sides in the current crisis in the Middle East. Whether Lebanese in Qana, Beirut or Tyre or Israelis in Qiryat Shmona, Nazareth or Haifa the current war is taking a horrible toll in human life. Today's tragedy in Qana only underscores the necessity of finding a lasting solution to the scourge of terrorism in the Middle East.

We firmly believe that the primary culpability for this loss of life lies with Hezbollah. This Iranian- and Syrian-backed terrorist organization started this war with its cross border attack on Israel on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Hezbollah has launched nearly two thousand rockets into Israeli cities, towns and villages deliberately aiming at civilian targets; very few Hezbollah rockets have been aimed at Israeli army bases, which are located outside of residential areas.

In sharp contrast, Hezbollah continues to fire its rockets at Israel from within Lebanese villages and towns, storing their rockets and troops in private homes. Video evidence of Hezbollah launching rockets from within the boundaries of Qana have been released by the Israeli military, demonstrating conclusively Hezbollah's use of Lebanese civilians as human shields. The New York *Times* quoted Lebanese Christians fleeing from the south saying, "Hezbollah came to Ain Ebel to shoot its rockets. They are shooting from between our houses." Another Lebanese Christian reported that Hezbollah killed a man trying to flee Bint Jbeil, showing evidence that Hezbollah is forcing civilians into the role of human shields.

We support Israel's 48-hour aerial cease fire, and the investigation into the Qana bombing. We urge against a rush to judgment until all facts have been examined in this matter.

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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.