



October 13, 2015

Dear Members of the Board,

While Israel is going through a difficult period, with citizens being attacked a few times every day, and with both sides suffering losses, I felt that I would like to share with you my thoughts and feelings.

As you probably know, the terrorists who are stabbing innocent people are mostly children. The cause, we believe, is mainly incitement, generated by the Palestinian Authority regarding the situation of the Temple Mount, and picked up in the social networks. The message on social networks is that the Israeli police are murdering Arab children and the fact that these children are stabbing Israelis is not mentioned.

The Israeli government announced many times that the status quo on the Temple Mount will not change but unfortunately the situation is deteriorating. We would have thought that Arab Knesset members would act to pacify the situation but unfortunately this is not the case and we have reason to believe that they also are contributing to the incitement.

The Israeli public is distressed to see young people being killed, but while terror attacks are spreading in Israeli cities, the Israeli police are under orders to minimize casualties and to use deadly force only when faced with a threat of loss of life.

As we see, many Israeli citizens are taking part at the time of an attack in action to detain these terrorists. And to assist the Israelis who are wounded.

We find seriously wounded people from both sides in Israeli hospitals.

It is important to note that a large majority of Israeli Arabs object to this violence and for the first time we see that Israeli Arabs are expressing loudly these objections while indicating that such behavior is causing trouble for both sides.

In his opening presentation at yesterday's Knesset session, President Reuven Rivlin indicated very clearly that Israeli Arabs are equal citizens of the State of Israel and that we see much cooperation between Israeli Jews and Arabs in numerous areas. President Rivlin added that since it is our destiny to live together, we have to develop this cooperation and fight against all forms of violence. I support President Rivlin's position with all my heart and as you know the IAJLJ established a joint committee of Israeli Arab and Jewish lawyers to fight racism

I would like to add that unfortunately we do not see world public figures condemning this violence and calling on the Palestinians to stop the incitement. I think that each one of you can contribute towards this issue in your own countries.