

jews against the occupation

jao
SYDNEY

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Jewish group condemns Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Gaza *10 August 2006*

We are horrified at the slaughter of civilians and destruction of homes and infrastructure that has occurred and continues in Lebanon, Israel and Gaza. The Israeli action constitutes collective punishment of the Lebanese civilian population because of the resistance to the Israeli invasion by Hezbollah. We also condemn the Israeli attacks in Gaza and believe that Israel is undermining the democratically elected Palestinian Government by detaining elected officials. The cycle of violence provokes and sustains hatred.

History has proven that such conflicts have no military solutions and we call for an immediate ceasefire and a return to the path of negotiations. The appropriate response to the capture of Israeli soldiers would have been a negotiated prisoner exchange as occurred in 2004.

We place an equal value on Palestinian, Israeli and Lebanese lives and regard any loss of life as unnecessary and tragic. We mourn the deaths of all civilian casualties. We regard the Israeli action in Lebanon as a violation of Jewish teachings, universal human rights and international law.

We call on the Australian Government to take a positive role in resolving this conflict by seeking an immediate ceasefire.

Ultimately, the only resolution for the whole area is for Israel to sit down with the elected Palestinian Government to negotiate a solution based on human rights and international law.

Jews Against the Occupation, Sydney

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