

16.6.25

UPDATE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much to everyone who has been praying for us and for Israel during these very difficult days! We truly feel your love and support.

By God's grace, **we are safe** – although the stress and lack of sleep are definitely taking a toll. **After much thought and prayer, we made the difficult decision to temporarily close our Aviv Center.** This was not an easy step, but the reality is very different now compared to previous wars with Hamas or Hezbollah. Back then, most rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome, and even those that got through usually caused relatively limited damage.

This time, we are dealing with far more powerful missiles from Iran. **Even a single hit can cause devastating destruction and loss of life.** These attacks are often directed specifically at Tel Aviv, where our soup kitchen is located, since it is one of the most densely populated area in the Land, so that missiles could cause the greatest number of casualties. In addition, Aviv Center does not even have a bomb shelter, so for the safety of our volunteers and visitors, we are pausing operations in it for now. **Thankfully, all our other projects are continuing with minimal disruption.**

We also want to briefly explain why Israel acted first against Iran. The hostility toward Israel, including calls for its destruction, **has been a consistent part of the ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran since the 1979 revolution.** In recent months, especially as Hamas and Hezbollah have been weakened, Iran rapidly accelerated its nuclear weapons program, coming dangerously close to completion. As Prime Minister Netanyahu recently said that for decades, the leaders of Tehran have openly called for Israel's destruction. They have backed up their genocidal rhetoric with a nuclear weapons program, which has become a clear and present danger to Israel's very survival. **Therefore, Israel is not acting out of unjustified aggression, but out of a basic need for self-defense.**

Israel is not a war-seeking nation – and has repeatedly made real concessions in pursuit of peace:

- In 1979, Israel returned the entire Sinai Peninsula – a vast and strategically important territory – to Egypt in exchange for a peace treaty.
- Every year, Israel provides Jordan with millions of cubic meters of water under the terms of a 1994 agreement – without any reciprocal arrangement – simply to maintain peaceful relations.
- The Abraham Accords with the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco are a testament to Israel's continued willingness to build bridges, even when it receives little love in return.
- Even in times of war, Israel has provided humanitarian corridors, electricity, water, and medical aid to Gaza.

These are not the actions of an aggressive people. They are costly steps taken in the hope of peace. And Israel is taking these steps time after time, even though it is constantly fighting for its very existence.

Once again, thank you for your continued prayers! Please keep standing with us, **praying for protection, wisdom, and peace – for Israel, for our neighbors, and for all innocent lives affected by this conflict.**

With deep gratitude,
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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).