

July 17, 2006

Senator John Warner
225 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: Israel's brutality and US acquiescence

Dear Sir,

It is with complete disgust that I watch the suffering that Israel's armed forces are inflicting on the populations of Gaza and Lebanon. The destruction and death is utterly out of proportion to the supposed provocation for each series of attacks.

There is absolutely no justification for bombing a power station in Gaza or the destruction of the airport in Beirut. It is barbaric to drop a 250lb bomb in a residential neighborhood in the hope of killing a Hamas leader but instead kill a family of nine. I saw yesterday that AFP was reporting 85 dead in Gaza and 145 dead in Lebanon as a result of this brutality which is an order of magnitude higher than the number of Israeli casualties.

Before you say "Israel has a right to defend itself", please consider if you would have the same attitude toward an Arab country if the situation were reversed. For example, if some group associated with Israel had killed and kidnapped Syrians and Syria had fired artillery into Israel, sent jet fighters to bomb Tel Aviv airport and if there were many, many more Israeli victims than Syrians, would you still say that "Syria has the right to defend itself"? I suspect not.


Of course, Arabs have not been able to defend themselves from Israel's aggression and greed for land. Rather than have home-made rockets fired at them from Israel, millions of Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli military occupation, those in Gaza live in a giant prison because Israel controls the borders, Syria has part of its territory (the Golan Heights) occupied by Israel and now Lebanon is being torn apart – again – by Israel's military might, much of which we provide.

I urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress to cut off all aid to Israel immediately (though I know you as a group are too gutless to stand up to the pro-Israel lobby). As well as the direct victims of the this terror, my concern is that our blind support of Israel gains us ever more enemies in the Islamic world making another terrorist attack against us all the more likely. I don't want to get hurt.

There will only be peace in the Middle East when the legitimate grievances of the Palestinians are addressed. If instead of throwing \$300 billion into a war in Iraq, we had forced Israel back to its 1967 borders and used the money to compensate those that were expelled in 1948 and to build a secure and prosperous Palestine, people around the world would see that our actions match our rhetoric and we are not engaged in a holy war against Islam.

Also, while I have your attention, it is completely hypocritical of us to protest Iran's covert nuclear program while we remain silent about Israel's. If we work to end one, we must work to end both.

Peter 



July 17, 2006

Senator George Allen
204 Russell Senate Office Building
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5115 Franconia Road, Suite B
Alexandria, VA 22310

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