

# **Warning to Jews**

**WE WISH** to place on record our extreme disquiet at the action of the Israel Defence Force and the Israeli police on the West Bank and in Gaza over the past few weeks. As Jews who have taken considerable pride in the achievements of Israel - not least because of its stated commitment to democratic principles - we are filled with dismay at the reaction to the protest in the territories. We have condemned similar behaviour in South Africa and, as active and identifying Jews, feel compelled to condemn such action on the part of the Jewish state.

As South Africans we have first-hand experience of a system of government in which the rule of law has been eroded steadily over the past forty years and civil liberties have been replaced by increasing repression. From the context of our experience we wish to emphasise that peace and stability can only be achieved by open-ended political negotiation where the parties to the negotiation process have been freely elected by their constituencies.

Any attempt at negotiation, when coupled with repressive measures, is doomed to failure and can only lead to increasingly authoritarian policies.

For this reason, we urge our fellow Jews in Israel not to proceed along the path which has led South Africa into its vicious cycle of civil violence.

This letter has been submitted to the Israeli press.

**JEWS FOR JUSTICE**  
**P O BOX 13026**  
**MOWBRAY 7705**