

THE ARABS IN ISRAEL AND THE WAR IN THE NORTH

The Konard Adenauer Program for Jewish-Arab Cooperation

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TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies

KONARD ADENAUER FOUNDATION



A. From the Editors' Desk

We are pleased to publish a special issue on "The Arabs in Israel and the War in the North," focusing on the implications of the War in Lebanon on Israel's Arab citizens and the fabric of Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.

Since the outbreak of the military confrontation on July 12, the Hebrew and Arabic language press have dealt extensively with the relationship of Arabs and Jews in Israel that had been put to a test by the war. The war brought to the surface acute tensions that had been previously repressed by both two sectors.

The aim of this issue is to provide an assemblage of up to date information on the attitudes expressed by the Arab sector during this period, as a tool for understanding the multiple aspects of the civic and national identity crisis experienced by Arab citizens of Israel in view of the war.

The present compilation is an abridged translation of the special issue, originally published in Hebrew on August 14, 2006.

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The Editors

B. Editorial

The Day After: The Writing is on the Wall

By: Dr. Elie Rekhess

“This we must remember: the writing remains on the wall.” With these words, former Justice Theodor Or, Chairman of the Governmental Commission of Inquiry into the Riots of October 2000, concluded his lecture at Tel Aviv University, delivered on the anniversary of the publication of the committee’s report. His intention was to convey the explosive nature of the relationship between Jews and Arabs that preceded the October events.

It seems that his words even more aptly describe the situation since the outbreak of the war in the north. Numerous comparisons have been made between the October 1973 War and the War in Lebanon of 2006: the surprise, the human toll, the lack of preparedness, claims of incomplete intelligence, awkward management, enervation of the leadership, the shattered image of Israel’s strength in the Arab world, and Israel’s loss of deterrence.

Indeed, the similarities are numerous.

Nonetheless, there is a basic difference in one area, specifically the role of Arab citizens of Israel in the campaign. In 1973, there was a fear that Arab residents of Israel would undermine the Jewish home front (as early as 1950, Yigal Alon stated this possibility as one of the risks of the Israeli Arab population). This fear, however, was never realized in practice.

In 2006, the situation was completely different. The war highlighted the dominant role of Arabs in the northern home front, and the heavy price they paid: 18 fatalities. Presumably, expressions of solidarity between Jews and Arabs, and a deepening internal cohesion based on a sense of shared faith and partnership could be expected. The loss of life and grief, however, did not bring about the expected outcome. The opposite occurred - differences intensified. The statement that “rockets do not distinguish between Jews and Arabs” remained an empty slogan.

The national identity dilemma of Arabs in Israel, on the other hand, grew more intense during the War, as this issue clearly indicates. The acute conflict between their Palestinian and Arab identity, and their Israeli citizenship, deepened and has been patently manifested in a regression in the relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

The Jewish population expected the Arab minority to identify with the State and denounce the Hizbollah, but no such a response was forthcoming. Instead, Arab critics increasingly voiced opposition to the government’s policy which was considered aggressive, bellicose, and an executive arm of American imperialism. Furthermore, the heavy fatalities on the Israeli side and Israel’s inability to defeat the Hizbollah accentuated Nasrallah’s perceived power. The lack of bomb shelters and warning sirens in Arab towns, and a general sense of abandonment only increased frustrations.

Arab spokespersons insisted on their legitimate right to criticize government policy without having their opinions interpreted as their renunciation of the State. A large part of the Jewish population, however, rejected this outlook. In view of the vociferous involvement of Arab MKs, who missed no opportunity to express their opinions and arouse uproar and emotional furor, overt statements were increasingly voiced by the Jewish population, expressing abhorrence, reservations and hostility towards Arabs.

It is sufficient to glance at a list of “talkbacks” containing surfers’ responses to statements by Arab MKs, to understand the extent of the deterioration in Jewish-Arab relations. A record number of readers - 1,240 responses - expressed their identification with Ben Kaspit’s editorial in **Ma’ariv**, entitled “Ahmad, Do You Hear Me?” (for a summary of the editorial, see below)

The question at issue is - What next? In sharp contrast to the October 2000 events where the government rallied quickly to perform civic actions through the Ministerial Committee for the Affairs of Arab Citizens of Israel, the voice of the current government was absent from the public sphere. Although government ministers paid sympathy calls, and meetings were held with officials from the Homeland Command, Ministry of the Prime Minister and leaders of Arab communities, these were merely a drop in the sea. Instead, NGOs tried to fill the gap with their limited resources.

Not a single governmental discussion during the entire duration of the war was devoted to the domestic-Arab issue. Nonetheless, in light of the developments reviewed in this issue, which clearly point to a regression in the relationship of Jews and Arabs, the Arab public and the Jewish public must take stock now. Both sides must decide, here and now, whether the Arabs in Israel are, or are not, part of the State.

I believe that the answer to this question is clear: The Arabs in Israel are here to stay, and therefore, state authorities must take swift action to reduce tensions, neutralize the accumulated anger and rally to rapid rehabilitation, based on close cooperation and intensive dialogue with representatives of the Arab public.

Otherwise, as Justice Or stated, the writing will remain on the wall, in even brighter letters.

C. From the Press

Arabs in Israel – Caught in a Dilemma

Arab journalists and commentators expressed the inner turmoil experienced by Arab citizens of Israel during the war, which sharpened the dilemma they experienced: on one hand, they suffered fatalities and physical damage no less than Jewish residents of the country, but emotionally, they suffered the anguish of the Arab residents of Lebanon. The following excerpts from these articles express the growing identity dilemma of Arabs in Israel, oscillating between their Israeli citizenship and their national identification with the fate of the Lebanese in general, and with Palestinians in Lebanon, in particular .

- Bassam Jaber (editor of the Arab-language weekly published in Taybeh, **Panorama**), *The Trap of Arabs in Israel*: “Don’t expect Arabs in Israel to go out to the streets and demonstrate against Hizbollah or Hassan Nasrallah, and don’t expect them to demonstrate in support of Olmert or Amir Peretz. Instead, you can certainly expect us to be standing in the first row of people who demand to stop the war and call for peace between Israel and the Arab world.”

“The Jewish-Israeli public must treat the Arab citizens in Israel as people who suffer from a complex problem, especially when the state in which they are citizens is warring against the members of their own nation. Sometimes it is the Palestinian people, sometime it is the Arab Lebanese nation.”

“When the Arab public states sweepingly, ‘We are against the war’, this is a respectable position that should be appreciated. We are Arabs. Don’t expect us to say that we are pleased when other Arabs are being killed.” (**Yediot Aharonot**, August 6, 2006)

- Ayman Siksak, *See What a Ridiculous Situation Has Developed, Mister Nasrallah*: “You understand, Mr. Nasrallah, Arabs in Israel don’t have the privilege of revenge: in any case, they are on the side against which they wish revenge.”

“Our enemy is shapeless, it has no face or political affiliation. It can appear as the soldier standing at the check-post in the West Bank, or as one of the rockets you are sending to residential homes in Haifa. When you speak of the enemy, Mr. Nasrallah, the remnants of persons left in Israel are not sure if they should think of the IDF or Hizbollah.” (**Ha’aretz**, August 4, 2006)

- “Anger in the Arab public increases as fighting continues and the number of Arab victims rises [...] of the thousands of katyusha rockets fired on Israel, many have landed in the vicinity of Arab towns and villages [...] The number of Arabs killed is not only high because Arabs constitute 50% of all residents of the Galilee. There aren’t enough shelters in the Arab localities. Many residents who lack shelters oddly resign themselves to their fate [...] Many residents have been forced to find shelter in stairwells or by clinging to walls.”

“These days, every Arab house in the Galilee has the television on. A different reality appears on Al-Jazeera and Lebanese channels [...] Whoever watches the

images on Arab channels obtains a different picture from the one on Israeli channels. While Israeli channels portray the war as difficult but justified, Arab satellite channels show a picture of incessant injury to civilians. The quantity of Lebanese dead bodies shown hourly on the TV screen has a strong effect on the mood of the [Arab] sector.” (Commentary by Yoav Stern, *Arab Katyusha Rocket Victims Voice Their Fury at Israel*, **Ha’aretz**, August 6, 2006)

- Amnon Be’eri-Sulitzeanu (Director of The Abraham Funds Initiatives in Israel) and Mohammad Darawshe (Director of Development, TAFI), *A Joint Future, After All*: “The fabric of the relationship between Jews and Arabs, which can be described as fragile even during periods of calm, is now on the verge of explosion.”

“Many members of the Jewish public feel that the heavy price that the Arab public has paid in lives and property, gives them [the Arabs] an admission card into Israeli society, and that Jewish-Arab solidarity, based on a sense of shared fate, will evolve because of the external threat.”

“But, Arab citizens believed differently. The initial shock was replaced by fury against the Israeli establishment. The fact that the Arab towns lacked public shelters and siren systems, and that information was in Arab was unavailable to the citizens who needed it, led many to conclude that after 58 years of discrimination, the Arab minority was forced to pay yet another heavy price in a war that it did not see as its own.” (**Yediot Aharonot**, August 6, 2006)

- Shalom Dichter (Co-Director of Sikkuy, The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality in Israel), *After the War, Equality Between Jews and Arabs Must be Rehabilitated*: “The post-war period will provide an opportunity that should not be missed for a comprehensive rehabilitation of the economic and social infrastructure of the Galilee. Presumably, some members of the government and the public will again argue, ‘This is not the right time’ for equality between Jews and Arabs, and will try to postpone this ‘political’ issue to other ‘better’ times”.

“For these [people], rehabilitation of the Galilee does not mean increased support for the Arab citizens who live there, because as a rule Arabs should not be strengthened, even if they are citizens of the state. But people who are geared to the interests of the state, its stability and its financial strength, will understand that this course necessarily includes obliterating the socio-economic boundary that discriminately separates Jews and Arab citizens of Israel in the Galilee.” (**Ha’aretz**, August 3, 2006)

Ahmad, Do You Hear Me?

The harsh exchange in **Ma’ariv** between journalist Ben Kaspit and MK Ahmad Tibi (United Arab List – Arab Movement for Change, UAL-AMC) stood out on the backdrop of the public debate on the fragile relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Kaspit’s article, *Ahmad, Do You Hear Me?*, attracted an unprecedented number of responses on **Ma’ariv**’s website, which were evidence that the statements touched the rawest nerves of the debate on Jewish-Arab relations .

- Ben Kaspit, *Ahmad, Do You Hear Me?*: “Say, Ahmad, cross your heart and tell me, do you really believe that Amir Peretz is a murderer? A terrorist? [...] so what is Hassan Nasrallah, in your view? Who is he? We have to work hard for hours, sweat bullets for days, to extract from you the smallest scrap of weak, stuttered, debilitated, hesitant, unspecific criticism of the terror industry that he and other operate against us.”

“Now the katyusha rockets may have landed on you too, but you still don’t get the point. They are killing you too, but still they don’t undermine your thesis [...] the great Arab public feeds off your words, eats out of your hands, is raised and educated on the knees of your heritage of invectives. Your preach hatred, you strew poison and sparks every time you think that the hand of some Jewish individual was behind some plot. But when the show is on the other foot, and most of the time it is, you are suddenly silent.”

“Ahmad, Israeli democracy will not be able to swallow this poison for long. Ultimately, you will be expelled and cast out from it [...]. The time has come for you, too, to decide where you are and on whose side you are. Do you want to stay here? Declare your loyalty courageously. Not interested? Emigrate to Palestine. Leave for Syria. Move to Amman.”

“You will miss us, Ahmad. I am not sure that we will miss you.” (**Ma’ariv**, August 1, 2006. Available online: <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/457/507.html>).

- Ahmad Tibi, MK, in response to Ben Kaspit: “It is not easy to be an Israeli Arab in ordinary times. It is not easy being an Arab MK. But it is difficult, almost unbearable, to be an Arab MK in these days of war. Our every word or uttering against the war and in support of a ceasefire is interpreted as a knife in the back of the state, or a fifth column.”

“This is my homeland, and it will remain so even when I think differently, and even if I feel the pain of the killing of the dozens of children in that house in Qana by the pilots of the ‘most moral army in the world’.”

“Democracy, Ben, is not merely the majority’s right to rule, oppress and alienate - it is primarily the right of the minority to be different yet equal. I am proud of my opposition to the war and I will continue on this course of mine. I will also remain tied closely to the land of Taybeh [An Arab town in central Israel where Tibi lives], and aspire to a full and genuine civic partnership.” (**Ma’ariv**, August 8, 2006. Available online: <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/458/025.html>)

- MK Jamal Zahalka (National Democratic Alliance, NDA): “The Arab MKs have lately become a punching bag. Anyone who seeks to prove his patriotism to Israel looks for the closest Arab MK to pound with his fists.” (**Panorama**, July 28, 2006)
- MK Sheikh Ibrahim Sarsur (UAL-AMC): “The incitement directed against Arab citizens, and especially publicly elected officials, is not foreign to Israelis, either on the official or popular level. [...] The just cause of our people will defeat this policy

and Israel will have no choice but to resign itself to Arab and Palestinian justice. Otherwise, its fate will be one that no reasonable Jew would accept.” (**Sinara** [Arab-language weekly published in Nazareth], August 4, 2006).

- MK Azmi Bashara (NDA): “Recently there has been incitement and distortion against Arab MK in the Knesset. New MKs, whose names I do not even know, participate in this campaign, in which they hurl accusations at us as if we were a ‘fifth column.’ It is beneath my dignity and I will not respond, in order to prevent them from gaining media coverage.” (“*I am not a fifth column*”, available online: <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3284858,00.html>, August 2, 2006)
- MK Effie Eitam (Ichud Leumi – Mafdal): “If Tibi decides that he supports Hizbollah and Ahmadinejad, his end is close as is theirs.” Ahmad Tibi, MK, in response: “I do not rule out the possibility that concrete threats will be carried out under the present circumstances.” (**Kull al-Arab** [Arab-language weekly published in Nazareth], August 4, 2006)
- Danny Atar, Head of Gilboa Regional Council: “It is possible that Arab MKs assisted Hizbollah.” (**Israeli**, August 2, 2006)
- Close security for MK Tibi following threats: “The threats and invectives directed at me are unprecedented,” said the MK after two security guards were detailed to guard him. “They want to force me to be part of the consensus. They want me to dance according to the drums of war, but my answer is a big ‘NO’.” (www.ynet.co.il, August 2, 2006)
- Dozens of residents of Acre verbally attacked MK Abbas Zakkur (UAL-AMC) who visited the city’s neighborhood where a katyusha rocket had landed. Residents were furious over the MK’s refusal to their demand to denounce the Hizbollah. Eyewitnesses reported that the residents also suggested that MK Zakkur transfer to “the Syrian Parliament.” (www.nrg.co.il, July 23, 2006)

On Israel’s Motives

Since the hostilities in the north began, and more strongly after the Qana village incident, Arab MKs have increasingly criticized Israel’s “blood-thirsty” policy in Lebanon, and argued that the government instigated the military campaign to ensure its own political future.

- MK Sheikh Abbas Zakkur: “Israel is using its Arab citizens as a shield while it bombs Lebanon” [...] “The Israeli army is using the Arab towns and villages in northern Israel as bases for its tanks that fire incessantly at south Lebanon.” (www.panet.co.il, August 7, 2006)

- MK Ahmad Tibi: “Olmert and Peretz would like to continue the war in order to bestow some kind of achievement to Israeli society, in order to soothe its traumatized soul that was affected by the events in Gaza and Lebanon.”
“Olmert and Peretz understand that a lack of military achievement poses a threat to their political future and therefore they will save no effort to extend the war, based on a hope to achieve military progress that entrenches their status.” (**Sinara**, August 4, 2006)
- MK Bishara views the fighting in Lebanon as an American war using Israeli tools: [...] “In this war there is a meeting of interests between Israel’s security agenda and the American political agenda [...] I have no doubt that the war did not break out because of the kidnapping of two soldiers, but because of an American vision and Amir Peretz’s inexperience.” (“*I am not a fifth column*”, available online: <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3284858,00.html>, August 2, 2006)
- MK Hanna Sweid (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, DFPE): “The war that is now taking place is a bloodbath of innocent civilians as a means to put pressure on politicians and members of the military to hand over the captives. This is unacceptable [...] Negotiating based on international legitimacy is the course that can be adopted and that can lead to peace and calm for the nations of the region.” (**Panorama**, July 21, 2006)

Opinions on the Arab Street – Opposition to Israeli Policy

- “Adalah”, The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, appealed to Attorney General Menahem Mazuz, claiming that “Israel’s military operations against civilian targets in Lebanon are in complete contradiction to international humanitarian law and are defined as war crimes.” (www.ynet.co.il, August 13, 2006)
- Massive attendance at an Islamic Movements demonstration in Taybeh against the aggression in Palestine and Lebanon. (**Kull al-Arab**, August 1, 2006)
- Demonstration of Arab attorneys in Haifa: “We are examining the option of suing Israel for war crimes committed in Lebanon.” (**Sinara**, August 4, 2006)
- In a demonstration at the Taybeh-Tira Junction [in central Israel], demonstrating against the attack on Lebanon and the massacre in Qana, protestors carried signs saying: “Organized State-sponsored Terror – Washington-Tel Aviv-London” and “Stop the evil war in Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq” (**Panorama**, August 4, 2006)

- Hundreds of protestors against the war in Haifa and Tel Aviv: Over one hundred persons demonstrated against the continued fighting in Lebanon. The protestors, carrying flags of Palestine, called Olmert “a killer.” A similar demonstration was held in Umm al-Fahm, attended by several thousands. In Tel Aviv, Hadash [DFPE] and Gush Shalom members, protested the killing in Qana village, alongside Meretz members who demonstrated in support of negotiations. (www.ynet.co.il, July 30, 2006)
- Father of the two children who were killed by missile in Nazareth thanks Nasrallah for his apology: “We see the Israeli government as the factor directly responsible for the death of my two children.” (**Fasl al-Maqal** [Arab-language weekly published in Nazareth], July 28, 2006)
- The Islamic Movement issued a disclosure condemning Israel’s war against Lebanon and Gaza: “The Israeli invasion into Lebanon should be condemned from start to finish [...] It is clear to any reasonable person that Israel is bombing people, buildings, and bridges based on a pre-determined plan [...] Israel is conducting itself in a reprehensible and objectionable manner by intentionally destroying entire families” (**Panorama**, July 21, 2006)
- Statement by Ittijah (Union of Arab Community Based Organizations): “The Arab blood shed in Haifa tonight joins the list of crimes by the Olmert-Peretz-Halutz triangle, who are responsible for every drop of blood shed by the terrible bloody aggression and the war barring no holds against the Lebanese and Palestinian nations.” (www.panet.co.il, August 7, 2006)

Arab Expressions of Sympathy for Hizbollah

- At the conclusion of a rally of Arab religious leaders in Jerusalem, Sheikh Raid Salah (head of the northern faction of the Islamic Movement in Israel): “The residents of Lebanon are the victors, because they are on the side of truth. Olmert and Bush have been defeated because they are on the side of the lies.” (**Sinara**, August 11, 2006)
- Muslim Arab citizens from the north are shifting from the Sunni to the Shiite school [...] One noted that their conversion will remain highly confidential due to the sensitivity of the matter from a security perspective, in view of the war, “and it should be stressed that our decision signifies our support and reinforcement of Hizbollah and the General Secretary Hassan Nasrallah, who restored dignity to the Arab and Islamic nation. This recalls the path of Salah a-Din, and is an expression

of our refusal to [accept] the position of the Mufti of Saudi Arabia who called to refrain from supporting Hizbollah.” (Sinara, August 11, 2006)

- Statement by Ittijah: “We emphasize that the Arabs of Haifa, similar to our entire Palestinian society in Nazareth, Mugar, Iblin, Majd al-Kurum, and Arab al-Aramsha [...] are not in the same boat with Israel’s leaders [...] but are in the same boat with the Lebanese and Palestinian nation, and we are paying the price of Israel’s aggression.” (www.panet.co.il, August 7, 2006)

- S., 27-year-old actor and director and Haifa resident: “When I heard about the kidnapped soldiers, I did not think that Hizbollah had made a mistake. [...] It is not that I feel joy, because things are complicated, but there is a sense of ‘Israel deserves it.’ I do not mean that ordinary people, citizens, deserve it, but that the army, the government and the decision makers deserve it. They deserve to get it once from someone who will give them the bitter taste of arrogance, conceit and inhumanity”.

“I have no problem if Israelis interpret my statements as treason. When I see a society that supports destruction and killing of civilians, I have no wish to be part of it [...] Arab MKs? I support them and their statements. If they had behaved differently I would have been filled with shame, I would have been disappointed and would have lost my faith in them.” (Ha’aretz, August 7, 2006)

Opinions of the Arab Street – Support for Israeli Policy, Opposition to Hizbollah

- Several Arab Israelis applied to sign up for the IDF: “We are proud of Israel and of its just struggle, and we are willing to perform any task that the IDF assigns us,” wrote several young Arabs to the Minister of Defense. They said that their request came in response to Nasrallah’s ranting diatribe. (<http://news.msn.co.il>, August 10, 2006)

- Riad Ali (TV personality and journalist), *In the Name of Allah*: “This is the place to turn to Arab citizens of the State of Israel and tell them that the time has come for them to decide which side they are on. And it is not for the Jews that they should do this, but for themselves. For the values they wish to impart to their children.”

“It is apparent to all that a Palestinian state headed by Hamas, and Lebanon under the control of Hizbollah, will not engender democratic societies where political and social pluralism prosper. It is clear that in regimes of this type, the law, civil rights, freedom of religious and worship, women’s rights, freedom of creativity, freedom of movement, freedom of expression and thought - will be foreign and contemptible [concepts], to say the least.”

“Those Arab citizens of Israel who genuinely believe in the solution of two states for two nations, and those who believe in a liberal democratic society - should ask themselves whether the Islamist current that is currently leading the war against Israel and the west, under the disguise of a war against the occupation and against infidels, really represents their aspirations.” (**Ha’aretz**, August 9, 2006)

- Ali Zahalka, elementary school principal in Kufr Qara [Arab settlement in central Israel], *They Don’t Represent Me!*: “I, an Arab citizen of the State of Israel, explicitly state: The Arab MKs do not represent me. They are leading an extremist policy and are causing harm to Arabs in Israel.”

“We the Arab citizens of Israel, unfortunately, have not yet decided who and what we are: are we legitimate citizens of the State of Israel, or are we Palestinians who are living in the State of Israel temporarily [...] Our MKs are exploiting this deliberation, and are leading us all to the most extremist policies possible. They have assumed control of the representation of Arabs in Israel in the media, and for most of the Jewish public, they actually represent all Arabs in Israel.”

“The Arab MKs are turning us into ‘enemies of the Jews in Israel’, so much so that we find it difficult to walk around in Jewish towns, and they, the Jews, refrain from entering our towns. Our security is diminished, our economy is damaged, and our status is damaged.” (**Ma’ariv**, August 7, 2006)

- M, 27, born in Nazareth, and living in Haifa for the past 5 years, holds a BA in criminology and masters degree in social work: “[...] I don’t see what Nasrallah is doing as an achievement. What achievements has he gained? He sent a rocket against a warship? He shot some rockets in Haifa? [...] And what about Lebanon? When I saw the pictures of the Lebanese refugees, they reminded me of pictures of the Arabs who fled Israel in 1948.”

“Deep inside I agree that Hizbollah must be uprooted, but not this way. Hizbollah does not only threaten Israel, it threatens the entire Arab world. Hizbollah is an extension of Iran.” (**Ha’aretz**, August 7, 2006)

- N, 30, born in Arabeh, has been living in Haifa for 12 years, works in an Arab-Israeli non-profit organization: “[...] I am against what Israel is doing in Lebanon. It’s not humane. But what Nasrallah is doing to his own people, that’s not humane either [...] In my opinion, he is like the corrupt regimes in the Arab world and is not really coming to save the Lebanese people, he involved them in a war. I hear the Arab MKs who support Hizbollah, and I think that they are acting irresponsibly towards the public that elected them. How can they support a leader that brings disaster onto his own people?”

“This war has caught the Arab public in Israel in a state of poverty and unemployment. Israel is ignoring this and discriminates against the Arab public, is impervious to its suffering. So we constantly feel a sense of revenge of against Israel, and the Arab society is looking for a reason to express its anger, so then comes an figure of an Arab leader, why wouldn’t they support him and follow him blindfolded?” (**Ha’aretz**, August 7, 2006)

- Dozens of residents of Haifa, Arab-Israelis, amassed at the entrance to Rambam hospital and demanded to see their relatives that had been injured in the fatal rocket attack. Some of them criticized Islam and the Secretary General of Hizbollah: “Why can’t Israel take Nasrallah out and eliminate him once and for all?” (www.ynet.co.il, August 6, 2006)
- Attorney Milad Talhami of Ussefiya: “I and my ‘sane’ friends say ‘Enough!’ to the wickedness of Hizbollah, supported by Syria and Iran, before it is too late. (**Ma’ariv**, August 2, 2006)

D. Background Data

The war in the north commenced on July 12, 2006. Until the ceasefire entered into effect on August 14, 2006, 39 Israeli civilians had been killed by katyusha rocket fire on Israel's northern towns: 21 Jews and 18 Arabs. The number of fatal incidents in which Arabs and Jews were killed was identical: 10 incidents in each sector.¹

Table 1: Jewish and Arab Fatalities by week

<u>Week</u>	<u>Jewish fatalities</u>	<u>Arab fatalities</u>
Week 1 July 12-18	13	0
Week 2 July 19 - 25	1	4
Week 3 July 26-August 1	0	0
Week 4 August 2-8	7	11
Week 5 August 9-14	0	3
Total	21	18

Table 2: Arab Fatalities by Date and Residence

<u>Date of incident</u>	<u>Number of people killed</u>	<u>Place of residence</u>
July 19, 2006	2	Nazareth
July 23, 2006	1	Iblin
July 25, 2006	1	Mughar
August 3, 2006	3	Tarshiha
August 4, 2006	1	Mughar
August 4, 2006	2	Majd al-Kurum
August 5, 2006	3	Arab al-Aramsha
August 6, 2006	2	Haifa
August 10, 2006	2	Deir al-Asad
August 13, 2006	1	Ya'ara
Total	18	

Table 3: Arab and Jewish Fatalities by type of town

<u>Type of township</u>	<u>Jewish fatalities</u>	<u>Arab fatalities</u>
City/urban settlement	20	9
Town/village/rural settlement	1	9

¹ For a complete list of casualties, see: <http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3288289,00.html>