

## From Rabbi Yoav Altman

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At a time of daily press and TV reports of new incidents of terrorism here in our historic homeland, our hearts shrink and words of condolence and sympathy are no longer enough.

Like many others, I believe that we have a more important task before us. I have been in touch with all my loved ones in Eretz Israel, and I have witnessed the terrible grief of those who escorted their dead to the cemeteries and whose ears are still ringing from the shellings. They were all prepared to make every possible concession, but discovered that no concessions would guarantee peace and tranquility. I have heard the victims of terrorism, hate and anti Semitic threats, and I have heard the voices who call on us to mobilize and stand shoulder to shoulder at this difficult time -- when the Palestinians and the Arab countries have declared a sophisticated war on the State of Israel and its people -- in the knowledge that unless we stand fast, no one will come to our support.

I have received and compiled a number of statements made in Israel by these and other figures.

I feel that their voices oblige us all to answer their cry; and organize accordingly.

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### **LET MY PEOPLE LIVE**

When the Jewish people recovered from the Holocaust, it decided to take its fate into its own hands. It appealed to all Jews not to bury their head in the sand and tackle the existential problems of the Jewish nation.

It did the same in its fight for national independence and its just demand to be allowed to return to its national homeland in Eretz Israel, and it did so again in the War of Liberation and in defense of its borders. It did so when it mobilized against the onslaught of the eight hundred million-strong combined armies of the Arab countries, and again in its struggle to liberate the Soviet Jews and the distressed Jews in Arab countries.

And now the Jewish nation is once again threatened, and its very existence is in danger. The Palestinians, acting as the spearhead of the Arab people, have challenged Israel's existence. For some reason the Jewish world has not internalized this threat so far, and has not realized that this is not a question of one incident or another, but of all-out war aimed at the annihilation of the Jewish State and the Zionist entity.

This is moreover a war waged by the Arab world against anyone who does not belong to that world. And we are their primary target.

We would therefore ask certain questions, which must be answered in order to clarify the situation to ourselves and to the world at large.

Did you know that the State of Israel was established in the ancient, historic homeland of Eretz Israel -- the Land of Israel?

Did you know that the land was laid waste, consisting only of deserts and swamps?

Did you know that the Arab population that came to Eretz Israel emanated mainly from the descendants of the various occupying armies from Arab countries, or consisted of share-croppers who came here to tend the lands for their masters in Egypt, Syria, or the Ottoman rulers?

Did you know that the people who lived here ran away in their masses in 1948, abandoning their homes, because the Arab leaders had promised that the Jews would be destroyed, and that they would be amply rewarded -- not because they were expelled by Israel?

Did you know that so long as the Arabs controlled the territories of the Palestinian population, neither Egypt, nor Jordan recognized any Palestinian right to autonomy?

Did you know that the Arabs of Eretz Israel collaborated with the Nazis in World War II, preventing Jews from returning to the Land of Israel?

Did you know that Israel was the only country that was prepared to acknowledge the Palestinians' rights, and therefore conducted negotiations with them?

Did you know that Israel is the only country that has accorded autonomous rights to any Arab minority - unlike Syria, Iraq, Iran and others ?

Did you know that the Palestinians signed contractual commitments to conduct their struggle by means of negotiations and abstain from future wars?

Did you know that the Palestinians have not honored even a single clause of the contracts signed with them?

Did you know that from the earliest days of the Palestinian entity, their schools and educational institutions have brain-washed children and youths to hate Jews and to kill and destroy the Zionist entity?

Did you know that parents teach their children to become shaheeds (martyrs) and die for the struggle, and that the families receive payment in return for their children's lives?

Did you know that every time the Arab countries were called on to assist in the confrontation between Palestinians and Israelis, they never once supported any of Israel's demands, no matter how justified?

Did you know that it was the Palestinians' strategic decision to mount an organized terrorist campaign against Israel in order to harm the morale of its people?

Did you know that it is a strategic Palestinian decision to encourage friction and attacks against its citizens, particularly against children, in order to use such incidents in its international propaganda campaign?

Did you know that, from its inception, the Arab nation has attempted to seize and conquer every strip of land in the Mediterranean Basin area, as a part of its philosophy?

Did you know that these attempts included Crete, Rhodes, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria and the Balkans, and that the Arabs managed to insert a wedge in each of these countries between their authentic local populations, and attempted to take the areas by force?

Did you know that, strategically speaking, the fight against Israel is just a bridgehead for further fights in other countries, where Islamic fundamentalism plans to establish itself and expand, threatening the local population?

Did you know that the religious heads of the Palestinian leadership call the Jews pigs, dogs and apes in the official media of the Palestinian Authority?

Did you know that the Palestinian religious leaders assure the murderers of Jews of eternal life?

Did you know that the religious leadership promises every shaheed willing to sacrifice his life that sixty-four virgins will await him in paradise?

If you did not know these things, you obviously do not realize that what is happening here is a total war for the destruction of the Jewish state, the annihilation of the Jews as a nation and as individuals, and aimed at future takeovers of other places and countries throughout the world.

Therefore it is our duty to organize and form a popular movement of Jews and non-Jews who fear the sweep of this fundamentalism. We have conducted a previous struggle under the slogan: LET MY PEOPLE GO. Now we must conduct a struggle to LET MY PEOPLE LIVE..

We are all involved, and time is pressing.