



# VILLAGE OF KIRYAS JOEL

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July 1, 2009

Hon. Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You have set out to stop the senseless bloodshed in the Middle East and to bring equitable and lasting peace to millions who have sadly never known it. As an American of the Jewish faith, and as mayor of the largest village inhabited by Orthodox Jews, I am writing to support your noble efforts.

Life is Judaism's most precious commodity; its preservation and the prevention of bloodshed are its most central tenet. When life is in jeopardy all commandments that guide Jewish life must be set aside in order to preserve human life. My heart therefore aches over the endless loss of innocent life just to hold on to lands inhabited by ones enemies. I therefore deeply respect and support you and pray that divine providence guides your every move.

Some Israeli politicians resist relinquishing any part of the 'holy land' claiming religious prohibitions. This is wholly fallacious! In fact, after the destruction of Israel in 69CE, Jews were commanded to await divine redemption and prohibited from conquering the land. To this day Jews yearn and pray for the divinely inspired return to Jerusalem. Israel retained its Almighty-bestowed holiness despite almost two millennia of Jewish Diaspora and despite being ruled by a plethora of empires.

The modern State of Israel stands in contravention of the Almighty's prohibition. Its efforts to cloak itself in religion are a means of continuing the contravention the Almighty is laughable if it weren't so sad. If it seeks righteousness it should cease sacrificing human life so flippantly, for the sake of land, in contravention of the Almighty.

Mr. President, likeminded Orthodox Jews and I stand behind you and your efforts, and we pray for your success. May G-d's blessings be upon you and your family.

Respectfully,

Abraham Wieder

Mayor

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