

لنوقف الحرب  
STOP THE WAR  
עצרו את המלחמה

28 July 2014

Dear partners and friends of Sindyanna,

Once again, our region wallows in the blood of the Palestinian people. It is like a sequential film: less than two years have passed since Operation Pillar of Defense, we are in the middle of Operation Protective Edge, and once again, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promises ceasefire for years to come. Many people are asking what happened to the pillar that was supposed to ensure happiness and prosperity. The missiles and the "code red" sirens muddle thoughts, and it is not easy to understand why and how we have again stumbled into war, and how we can get out of it.

Israeli government did all it could to waste the valuable time it had, preferring to maintain a right wing coalition over reaching an agreement with the Palestinian Authority (PA). Even before the last war, The Gaza Strip was on the brink of humanitarian disaster, and Hamas' situation was desperate: 40% unemployment, 16 hours daily of power outages, lack of potable water, and some 45,000 government employees without wages.

The trouble is that the Israelis do not see what happens in Gaza when missiles are not fired from there. That is why it is so easy for the Israeli government to lead them to believe they are exposed to an existential threat from Gaza's population, which even justifies a devastating attack such as the one we are witnessing today. The abyss created by this war between Israelis and Palestinians is much deeper than the tunnels that were discovered in Gaza, and healing it will not be easy.

We Sindyanna of Galilee, a Fair Trade Association, are aiming to build bridges between Israelis and Palestinians. We believe that only by joint forces of Jews and Arabs, we could build a fair and just society here. As long as there is a division between Jews and Arabs, the Israeli right will continue to deride us, dragging us into pointless wars that no human society should countenance.

We would like to share with you a message we have received these days from our Palestinian partner, [BFTA from Bethlehem](#): "... Unfortunately, it feels like all we can do is hope and pray that this conflict ends soon, and peace with justice can be finally realized in the region. However, at this time we do want to share a small but significant sign of hope in this situation. With our Israeli fair trade partners, 'Sindyanna of Galilee' we maintain our work through the 'Fair Trade Fair Peace' projects we have developed together. We will continue to work to bring out the message of peace and justice, which we jointly share as organizations. We stand alongside each other as we seek to overcome this hurdle that has been presented to us, and are in regular contact as we work towards a different, more hopeful and peaceful future."

We call on you to join us in protesting this war, whether en masse in the streets or by whatever means you can, in order to stop this humanitarian tragedy and to reach at last a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Sincerely,

Hadas Lahav

Sindyanna of Galilee CEO