

## Security Update

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear friends of the Ramat Negev Regional Council,

I feel the need and desire to bring you up to date and share with you news of what's been happening in our region, in light of the state of alert and the grave security-related incidents that have occurred recently on the Egyptian border.

The most recent alert warns of an Islamic Jihad terror cell moving from Gaza into Sinai with the intention of committing terrorist attacks inside Israel.

Since the fall of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, the Sinai Peninsula has become a "no man's land" where terror cells from various organizations have been operating freely. In order to counter these cells, Israel has permitted Egypt to go beyond the scope of the existing peace agreement between our two countries and to introduce armed troops into Sinai.

We trust in the IDF's professionalism and its ability to guard and defend the border and protect our citizens against any attempt to harm our security and well being. Nonetheless, a high alert has been put into effect in the four Ramat Negev communities that are

situated closest to the Egyptian border: Be'er Milka, Kadesh Barnea, Kmehin, Nitzana and Ezuz. Certain roads have been closed and residents have to take alternative routes. The IDF has reinforced its troops in the region and inside these four communities. Our main mission now is to maintain the routine lives of our citizens while being prepared and on constant alert.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> we opened the school year in our entire education system (pre-K to high school). The IDF aided us in guarding and accompanying the buses that transported the children to school in the morning and home at the end of the day.

I hope that peace and tranquility will return to our region soon.

At this time I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a good, healthy and successful new year.

Shmuel Rifman  
Mayor

