

15 אוקטובר 2023

Oct. 15, 23

Dear friends of Israel,

Amiad
Amir
Ayelet Hashahar
Baram
Dan
Dafna
Gadot
Gonen
Hagoshrim
Hulata
Kadarim
Kfar Blum
Kfar Giladi
Kfar Hanassi
Kfar Szold
Lehavot
Habashan
Maayan Baruch
Mahanaim
Malkia
Manara
Misgav Am
Naot Mordechai
Sasa
Shamir
Snir
Sdeh Nehemia
Tzivon
Yiftach
Yiron

As you probably know, we in Israel and the Upper Galilee are going through difficult times. The Upper Galilee is a regional council in northern Israel, consisted of 29 kibbutzes – Israel's unique form of cooperative-community agricultural settlement. We are the only region in Israel that is consisted of kibbutzes only, bordering with Lebanon and Syria. The Upper Galilee spreads across approximately 75,000 acers of land and its population is approximately 25,000 residents. For over the last 40 years, we have had a strong partnership with the district of Ludwigsburg. A deep bond of friendship, cooperation, and shared vision. A connection that keeps getting stronger through the best days, and through bad ones.

Now, all our kibbutzes, our whole region, are under threat. Since the beginning of the war, most of our residents have evacuated due to operational and security needs, and they will not be able to return to their homes in the coming days. The kibbutzes closest to the border are nearly empty of people. Right now, our biggest challenge is the funding of their accommodation arrangements throughout the country, wherever we can find them a place to stay. The cost of the existing solutions is approximately 350,000-400,000 NIS (100,000 EUR) per night for 500 families and is only expected to grow as more residents are expected to evacuate. Furthermore, amongst the evacuated communities are babies, children, youth and the elderly, and we need help in supporting them. For example –transportation, hot meals, educational and social activities, medicine, mental and social support etc.

On behalf of the Upper Galilee regional council and our residents, I thank you for your support. Your concern and sympathy not only warm our hearts, but they also strengthen us.

Sincerely,

Giora Salz

Chairman of the Upper Galilee Regional Council

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