



11 E. Adams St
Suite 707
Chicago, IL 60603

312-341-1205 PHONE
312-341-1206 FAX

www.btvshalom.org
info@btvshalom.org

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
Diane Balsler

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Aliza Becker

OFFICERS

Marcia Freedman
PRESIDENT

Jen Klein
VICE PRESIDENT

Aaron Ahuvia
SECRETARY

Elliot Figman
TREASURER

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

As an American Jew, I urge the US, in concert with the international community, to pursue substantive diplomatic efforts to intervene immediately in order to achieve a ceasefire and the release of Israeli soldiers in the ongoing Mideast crisis.

With the US on the sidelines, the ferocious cycle of violence in the region has escalated rapidly over the past weeks, including the kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers, the subsequent Israeli military actions in Gaza and Lebanon that have caused incredible loss of civilians lives and damage to infrastructure, and the hundreds of rocket attacks in the western Negev and northern Israel. Without US engagement, such as sending a high-level envoy, working closely with UN or other international mediators, or supporting an international peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, this crisis is in danger of expanding into a war that could engulf the entire region.

The history of the region demonstrates that military solutions will not resolve the underlying conflicts. It is time for the US and the international community to stand-up, so the increasing numbers of parties to this conflict can stand-down and can get back to the serious business of saving lives by negotiating a comprehensive, tenable resolution to this conflict.

Sincerely,