



To the Members of the Political Security Cabinet

On Tuesday, at 16:00, the State Comptroller will publish the report on Operation Protective Edge. The report will consider the degree of Israel's readiness for the 'round' (the euphemism for war) of 50 days hostilities which took place during the Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014 – a report of countless pages, criticism and counter accusations.

**We are here to say to you – we are not ready! We are not ready to prepare for the 'next round'.**

**Leave the politics and the accusations – the time has come to listen to us!**

We are Women Wage Peace, tens of thousands of women, civilians from all over the country – mothers, daughters, young girls, students, grandmothers; some of us from the centre of the country, others from the peripheries; from the North, the Centre and the South; some of us from the city and others from the Moshav, from developing towns, from the kibbutzim; secular, traditional, religious, Jewish, Arabs; some of us are mothers of soldiers in the regular army or in the reserves, some of us are mothers of young children, some of us are retired grandmothers.

Some of us are bereaved women – mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, grandmothers, who have lost their loved one in one of Israel's wars. Some of us have lost dear friends. We are all working, active, leading women who are contributing to the Israeli society in all walks of life.

Some of us have money and others find it hard to make ends meet; some are married and some are single; some support the parties on the left and others the parties in the centre or on the right; some of us have lived many years in the country and others are new-comers –

**But we all love Israel and want what is best for its people! We all woke up after Operation Protective Edge to say to you that we are not prepared! We are not prepared to sit idly by or get ready for the 'next round'.**

We are not prepared to say that 'it must be so' or that 'there is no solution', that 'we cannot reach an agreement' or that 'there is no partner' or that 'it won't happen in our lifetime'. We are not prepared to live in fear, in dread, in hate, or be paralysed by complete hopelessness.

The State Comptroller's report will not relate to us – we who all through the 50 days of war in the summer of 2014 worried nonstop about our children, we who stared for hours at our telephones waiting for a message from our son, brother, father. We who ran with our children to the shelter, trying to protect their bodies and spirits, afraid of any knock on the door, of the next news bulletin with its report of casualties and dead.

The report will not describe the funerals, the parents who had to say Kaddish, in broken voices, at their children's graves, the cries of the wounded, the men and women who came back home with scarred souls, the tears on the parents' pillows during sleepless nights, thinking if their sons are warm enough, or whether they have managed to sleep, eat, shower, and whether they will survive the hell they have found themselves in. Will they come back to us in one piece? Will these children, whom we raised for 18 years, ran after in the park to make them eat their bananas, held their hands on the way to kindergarten and helped with their homework at school, took to various activities, watched them grow and mature – will these soldiers come back to us at the end of the war? How can we protect our children? Are we doing all we can for them, for their future?



The report will also not consider the fear that a red alert and the sound of the siren causes. The report will not tell the story of hundreds of thousands of children in Israel, and Gaza too, who were frightened by rocket explosions, by the Iron-Dome explosions, by the sound of the sirens, of the war planes, by the reality of the underground tunnels, by 'their' booms and 'our' booms.

The comptroller's report will not recommend solutions to the decade-long madness of a conflict, a conflict that has left us all in a steady state existential vulnerability, without security, without hope for peace. Security is not just force and more force, more planes and more war methods; we know that it is not possible to win wars.

We are here today to insist on no more acceptance of the status-quo.!

**We are here to tell you that we are ready to act, day and night, without stopping, without despair, full of hope and belief in the possibility of a political agreement with the Palestinians, because this conflict can be solved. Conflicts can be solved. It has happened in many places in the world throughout history; it can happen here too.**

Israel has always been a brave country, a country founded on courage and imagination; we know that we all, the State of Israel and its people, its leaders and we as women, have the strength to lead our country towards an agreement and a solution.

We believe that the present leadership can lead to a solution **and we demand from the Prime Minister, from the government, from the Knesset members, from all those who make decisions – to make the right decision this time and to put this urgent issue at the top of the national agenda. Stop the counter accusations and the politics. It does not interest anyone – you must join forces to ensure that there are no more casualties. You must take action towards a political agreement.**

This is the obligation of each and every one of you. The most important task you have is to find diplomatic solutions before military ones.

**We will support you. We will not give up. We will be everywhere. This is the obligation of each and every one of us.**

We who came into being as a movement as a result of that 2014 war, we who fasted for 50 days in the summer of 2015 to mark the one-year anniversary of Operation Protective Edge, we who marched hundreds of kilometres the length of the country in the fall of 2016, **we won't stop until we have a diplomatic agreement and solution to the conflict.**

**Tens of thousands of women are calling on you today – let's not start preparing ourselves for the next round of warfare– let's create a willingness to act for a political agreement which will put an end to wars!**

We have no other country and we do not wish to live in "a land that devours its inhabitants"; indeed, 'this is where we were born and where we live', and 'this is a country where the land is sweet and the saltwater beaches turn to tears'.