



Israeli soldiers talk about the Occupied Territories

3/23/2015

To:

The Chief of General Staff of the IDF, General Gadi Eizenkot
Sent to the email address: l_ramatkal@idf.gov.il

Greetings,

Subject: Meeting with the organization Breaking the Silence regarding soldiers' testimonies from Operation Protective Edge

Breaking the Silence is an organization of soldiers who served in the IDF and gave testimony about their military service. For over a decade, the organization has documented the routine of the IDF's activities in the territories, as it is reflected in the testimonies of hundreds of soldiers who served in the IDF, from the outbreak of the Second Intifada and to this day. The mission that we have taken upon ourselves is to expose the public to the reality in the territories, in order to stimulate public debate about the moral and societal price entailed in such action.

With the completion of Operation "Protective Edge," we began to gather testimonies from soldiers and officers who took part in the operation, regarding what took place throughout its duration. In the testimonies, the combatants describe hundreds of incidents that took place throughout the operation, in every combat zone.

With the completion of the first stage of gathering testimonies from the combatants from Operation "Protective Edge," and in light of the severity of the facts described in the [testimonies], we ask to present these findings to you, urgently.

We are reaching out to you prior to the publication of the testimonies, due to their severity and due to the troubling systemic picture that arises from them. Alongside this, given that the public has a right to know, and the public importance of the information gathered, we will not be able to wait for a long time before publishing the testimonies, and as such, we ask to hold the meeting as soon as possible.

We have no doubt in our hearts that the testimonies that we heard from the soldiers need to arrive, first and foremost, to the leaders of the State and the IDF, and to every house in Israel, in order to begin a public discussion that is genuine and serious about them.

Regards,

Yuli Novak, Director
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