



July 2018

Dear Friend of Israel,

There have been ongoing tensions along Israel's border with Gaza in recent weeks. Hamas has sent thousands marching towards the barrier fence, threatening to cross into Israel. **What has been presented by Hamas and by so much of the international media as a civilian protest, has actually been armed terrorists mixed with civilians, posing a serious threat to Israel's borders, its safety and its ability to protect its citizens.** Israel's response was measured and consistent with the threat.

But when the marchers did not succeed in entering Israel, **Hamas tried a new tactic. They sent burning kites over the fence to land in Israel's fields and forests causing enormous economic damage.** Acres of produce were destroyed as well as forested areas. Thank G-d, no one was hurt but the fires came dangerously close to residential areas and even a local college.

And then towards the middle of June, there were a few days of rain, including floods in the areas right near the Gaza border. It never rains in June in Israel and this was indeed a very rare occurrence. People talked about global warming and unusual weather patterns but **all I could think of were the burning kites and the fires that were avoided because the fields had become wet. I truly felt that G-d was stepping in and putting out the fires for us, protecting us against the devastating incendiary attacks.**

Unfortunately, the rain was short-lived and the terrorists resumed their lethal attacks, adding fire balloons to their arsenal. **The IDF is gearing up for a more aggressive approach even as the UN condemns Israel and ignores the attacks by Hamas.**

Israel recently celebrated 70 years but every one of those years included murderous attacks by our enemies against us. Those attacks were often mounted with planes, bombs, rockets and soldiers. The terrorists perfected the use of knives, Molotov cocktails, rocks and most recently, a slab of marble thrown from a rooftop which killed an Israeli soldier. **Today, they are using kites and balloons. Their motivation has not changed – just the tools have varied.**

But G-d has protected us throughout. Whether by sending a bizarre summer rainstorm or by granting our IDF commanders and fighters the wisdom and courage to respond, **G-d “neither slumbers nor sleeps, the guardian of Israel.” But we dare not sit back and wait for G-d to act. We each have a job to do, a role to play in helping protect Israel.** Through CFOIC Heartland, you, too, can help protect Israel, by making a donation to purchase emergency equipment to protect the people of Judea and Samaria. We know that G-d is our ultimate protector but He expects us to expend our best efforts to protect the people. And when we do what we can, we can trust G-d to step in and finish the job.

Sincerely,

Sondra Oster Baras
Director, Israel Office

P.S. Brittany, you can help protect Israel, by making a donation today to purchase emergency equipment to protect the people of Judea and Samaria. When you help protect the people of Israel, you are partnering with G-d. Thank you for being there for us.