

June 24th, 2017

Mayor Muller,

This past week a lecture by a Knesset Member from Yesh Atid was violently disrupted by radical anti-Israel activists at a university in Berlin. A few days later demonstrators marched through your city proudly displaying photographs of the leader of an anti-Semitic terrorist organization. As the son of a Holocaust survivor I was deeply disturbed that in the same week that a group of Jews are targeted, anti-Semites are given the freedom of the city.

We have stood in solidarity with Germany when you were hit by brutal terror attacks. We did that because we identified deeply with the pain caused by terrorism and we wanted to express our support for the people of your city. We cannot fight terrorism alone. Terrorism is global and so is the fight against it. We must share intelligence, share experience and develop the methods which work. Before all else, we must fight back against the attempt by terrorists to take advantage of democracy and freedom of speech to advance their criminal agenda.

The leader of Hezbollah, whose image was held aloft in your streets, delivered his Al Quds day speech in Lebanon this week while crowds chanted "Death to Israel". When people march in the streets of Berlin holding up photographs of the leader of Hezbollah, they celebrate the murder of our families and of our children, they celebrate the attempt to destroy the fragile coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Israel. They celebrate terror. Freedom of expression doesn't extend to the glorification of murder. Freedom of expression doesn't extend to incitement.

Hezbollah is no different to ISIS or Al Qaeda in their attitude towards us. They hate Jews and they hate Christians, they hate women and they hate the LGBT community, they hate us and they hate you. Someone who is willing to carry the image of the leader of Hezbollah on the streets of Berlin is someone who is willing to murder on

M.K. Yair Lapid

ח"כ יאיר לפיד

the streets of Berlin. The people who marched in your city on 'Al Quds Day' aren't just our enemies, they are yours.

Mr. Mayor, your decision to remain silent in the face of this incitement and hatred is a grave mistake. Allowing the glorification of terrorism in your city won't appease extremists, it will embolden them. We would never allow a parade celebrating the murder of your citizens, why do you allow a parade celebrating the murder of ours?

Sincerely,



MK Yair Lapid
Chairperson of Yesh Atid
Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense committee