



Last update - 17:58 21/08/2006

TEXT: Protest petition by IDF reservists back from the war

By Haaretz Service

The following is the text of a petition signed by IDF reservists who served in the Spearhead Brigade in Lebanon, sent to Defense Minister Amir Peretz and IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz in protest at the handling of the war by the government and senior military officials:

We, fighters and commanders at the Spearhead [Hod Hachanit] Brigade, were called up to enlist under an emergency mobilization order [Tzav 8] on July 30, 2006. Our attendance was complete in all battalions.

As we were signing on the battle equipment and weapons, we knew that we were signing for much more. We left behind wives and children, girlfriends and families. We put aside our jobs and livelihoods; we were prepared to carry out our mission under the most difficult of conditions, in heat, thirst or hunger.

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At the back of his mind, each and every one of us knew, that for the just cause of protecting the citizens of Israel, we would even put our lives on the line.

But there was one thing we were not and would not be willing to accept: We were unwilling to accept indecisiveness. The war's aim, which was not defined clearly, was even changed in the course of the fighting.

The indecisiveness manifested itself in inaction, in not carrying out operational plans, and in canceling all the missions we were given during the fighting. This led to prolonged stays in hostile territory, without an operational purpose and out of unprofessional considerations, without seeking to engage in combat with the enemy.

The "cold feet" of the decision-makers were evident everywhere. To us the indecisiveness expressed deep disrespect for our willingness to join the ranks and fight and made us feel as though we had been spat on, since it contradicts the principles and values of warfare upon which we were trained at the Israel Defense Forces.

The heavy feeling that in the echelons above us there is nothing but under-preparation, insincerity, lack of foresight and inability to make rational decisions, leads to the question - were we called up for nothing?



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IDF reservist troops returning to Israel after fighting in southern Lebanon earlier this month. (AP)

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We are now on the day after, and it seems that the immorality and the absence of any shame are the fig-leaves to be used in order to cover up for the blunders. The blunders of the past six years and the under-preparation of the army have been carried on our backs - the backs of the fighters. In order to face the next battle prepared - and this may happen soon - a thorough and fundamental change must take place.

The crisis of confidence between us as fighters and the higher echelons will not be resolved without a thorough and worthy investigative commission under the auspices of the state. When the commission completes its task, conclusions must be drawn both on the level of strategic planning and national security, and on the personal level of the parties involved.

We paid a heavy price in order to fight and come out of the battle victorious, and we feel this has been denied of us. We will all attend calls to enlist in the future for any mission we will be required to complete, but we would like to know that these missions will be part of a clear objective and will be carried out by striving to engage in combat.

As soldiers and citizens we expect a response at your earliest convenience,

We the undersigned

Fighters and officers of the Spearhead Brigade

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1.	Weak-hearted Politicians are undermining Israel's potential...	08:21 Mike	21/08/06
2.	Soldiers Complaints	09:00 Jack	21/08/06
3.	Something missing	09:10 S	21/08/06
4.	The blunders of the past six years	09:19 sh	21/08/06
5.	to the IDF	09:20 Gus	21/08/06
6.	Petition	09:24 RAE	21/08/06
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8.	Tactics	10:38 David Latter	21/08/06
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12.	This is a military?	11:11 Natallie Durson	21/08/06
13.	Mr Han barboot thank you	11:11 Gus	21/08/06
14.	Reservists insurrection	11:17 Davis	21/08/06
15.	"the just cause of protecting the citizens of Israel" ???????????	11:27 fritz	21/08/06
16.	Soldier`s letter	11:31 Proud Zionist	21/08/06
17.	"historically the best peace can be made with a strong adversary"	11:33 fritz	21/08/06
18.	What a shame, no David-Star over Beirut ??	11:36 Dino	21/08/06
19.	Reservists	11:37 fk	21/08/06
20.	look on the bright side: isnt it good to "lose" in a small scale?	11:42 Albert Fischer	21/08/06

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[23:00 Iran refuses UN inspectors access to underground nuclear site](#)

[22:46 Reservists rally in Jerusalem as protests over war snowball](#)

[02:30 IDF paratroopers shoot 3 Hezbollah militants near border](#)

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[23:07 Peretz-appointed panel suspends investigation into conduct of war](#)

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21.	gus#5 better pause for breath	11:46 harzion	21/08/06
22.	gus i understand what you are saying	11:49 harzion	21/08/06
23.	War for all the wrong reasons.	12:00 John	21/08/06
24.	Stalling for time on expense ofl lives	12:02 annonymus	21/08/06
25.	DINO In your haste to denigrate,you become incomprehensible.	12:07 PETER SM	21/08/06
26.	soldiers-narrow minded as they are needed	12:17 michael	21/08/06
27.	Valid criticisms and demands	12:45 Dror	21/08/06
28.	FRITZ Those Israeli is are too dumb, give your priceless advice to	12:47 PETER SM	21/08/06
29.	reservists	12:55 Mike	21/08/06
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31.	These are the true heroes of Israel!!	13:38 Ben Uziel	21/08/06
32.	Most of Israel no under attack	13:56 Marilyn	21/08/06
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34.	John	14:19 sh	21/08/06
35.	Dino."A little bit of mockery etc"Try it with the Arabs	14:25 PETER SM	21/08/06
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37.	To sh	14:48 John	21/08/06
38.	be patient	15:15 nasser	21/08/06
39.	text	15:19 Alan Stulman	21/08/06
40.	Excuses for failure	15:29 bc	21/08/06
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45.	too many loonies post here	15:53 Dror	21/08/06
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65.	No other country...	18:57 Aaron Levitt	21/08/06
66.	In other words...	19:01 Nadir	21/08/06

67.	Not strong enough and missing too much detail	19:04 ahb	21/08/06
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