

## **Words of the Israeli Ambassador in Sofia**

### **at Bourgas victims' memorial service**

#### **Central Synagogue - Sofia**

08/28/2012

1. "The candles extinguished completely", the flowers were picked in their full blossom and the lives of people full of power, joy and innocence were stopped on their move, they were cut before time with cruelty by a suicide fanatic terrorist in the evening of - 18/8/12 at Bourgas airport. At home the families left bereaved, with the pain, sorrow and sadness. Itzik, Maor, Elior, Amir Kohava and Mustava, which are no longer with us

2. - President of Bulgaria Mr. Rossen Plevneliev;

- Honorable Vice Prime Minister of Israel and Minister of Strategic Affairs, former IDF chief of staff Mr. Moshe Bogy Yaalon;

- Honorable Ministers of the Government of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian parliament

- President of the Jewish community in Bulgaria "Shalom" Mr. Maxim Benvenisty

- Distinguished representatives of bereaved families from Israel and Bulgaria

- Honorable Mayor of Sofia Mrs.Fandakova

- Distinguished colleagues diplomats and ambassadors and their representatives

- Honorable leaders of Jewish organizations and institutions from around the globe and Israel: Chabad - Rabbi Solomon, B'nai B'rith, Hashomer Hatzair, Joint

- My friend and my brother in sorrow – the Mufti of Bulgaria Mustafa Hadjy.

- Members and friends of the Jewish community and Israeli business community in Bulgaria.

- The team of the Israeli Embassy in Bulgaria,

- Precious and distinguished audience!

3. The evening here in the Great Synagogue of Sofia we gather as big and united family, Israeli and Bulgarian to remember and remind us of the despicable terrorist attack that took place on the evening of 18/7 at the airport of Bourgas. It took us six deaths and wounded more than 37 people, some of which are still fighting for their lives in hospitals in Israel. From this stage I wish them fast and full recovery.

4. It is clear to everyone that this event and the others forced us to a new and different way of life as we have known before. The efforts of the executors of fundamentalist terror and their arms were targeted recently and are targeting now intensively and continuously, and more than any previous period to carry out and cause casualties, damages and destruction against Israelis and members of other communities without distinction between states or individuals. The event in Bulgaria is not different from this on the Egypt-Israeli border. They hoped to succeed in Turkey, Baku, Cyprus, Toulouse, Kenya and many other places around the globe.

5. The despicable and disgusting terrorist attack in Bourgas was done by a monster, which knew to integrate in the airport with the calm human environment drown in the joy of the anticipated delight of many tourists who were supposed to conquer the wonderful landscapes of Bourgas, the sun and the golden sands, the blue waters and delighting hotels. Unfortunately this didn't happen. The joy was cut right from the beginning - few minutes after they arrived. The power of the pain, the grief and the damages caused were understood immediately by everybody - the families, the countries, Bulgaria and Israel.

6. The Bourgas' attack is one of a sequence of attacks or attempts committed recently. Its characteristics and the way of execution are indicating the determination of the Islamic extreme terrorist organizations, their ideology toward Israel and the rest of the world. They will justify any way and will seek to incorporate other means to carry out additional deadly and destructive attacks. It is only a matter of time and opportunity to make a decision having strong tailwind from their supporters, especially when distress is expected in the countries on the axis of evil. The axis, which feeds the terrorism and its executors, mentors, trains, funds and gives ideological fuel – countries as Iran, Syria and others.

7. Distinguished Guests, Dear families,

Since the incident up to this day with the full cooperation and with full shared responsibility, the state of Israel, the Israeli Embassy and the Bulgarian government are working together tirelessly and joining forces of police, security and intelligence exploring the attack, its impact and ramifications on airports and hotels in a responsible and professional way. As one, who is deeply involved I can assure you that a profound work is done here by the Bulgarians, which deserves admirations. Many lessons have been learned and most of them are already implemented on the ground and the sense of security is back to normal all across the country.

8. We must not show signs of anxiety and fear from this terrorist incident. We must not allow the terrorism to take control on our lives, affect our quality of life. We all need in Israel , with Bulgaria and other countries to strengthen the cooperation and friendship

between us in a variety of important areas as economics, culture, tourism, security and diplomacy and thus to give the correct answer to the terror. It is important to denounce it and it is very important to fight it - today and tomorrow.

9. At the end of my speech allow me to offer my deep respect and esteem to:

- The Bulgarian President and the Prime Minister for their support and involvement in managing the event, including the visit at the sight and the injured in hospitals.
- The Ministers of Bulgaria - five ministers who were with us at the scene for more than 25 consecutive hours, helped and supported the coordination and the answer to every problem or need (Ministers of Interior, Foreign affairs, Health, Tourism, and Transportation).
- The Police, the rescue forces and the hospitals working with appraisable determination and professionalism to evacuate the wounded and to give medical treatment, the decisiveness on to evacuate the seriously injured, which de-facto saved lives.
- Thanks to all Israeli and Jews factors, who helped and worked for the wellbeing of the non-injured Israelis and wounded then and for the hospitality provided by the Jewish community – “Shalom”, Habad organization, Pepsi, GTC, Slavik and Giron.
- Thanks to all my colleagues, ambassadors and others for expressing sorrow and solidarity with us in this hard event.

Be the soul of the murdered Israelis: Maor Arush, Elijor Price, Kohava Shriky, Itzhak Idan Kolangi and Menashe Amir and murdered Bulgarian Mustafa Kiosov chained in the chain of life.

Israeli Ambassador in Sofia

Saul Kamisa Raz

Translation from Hebrew – Ivan Bassan