

# Executive Council of Australian Jewry

הועד הפועל של  
יהודי אוסטרליה

## The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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Ms Georgina Perry  
President  
Amnesty International Australia  
Locked Bag 23  
BROADWAY NSW 2007

25 August 2006

Dear Ms Perry

On behalf of the Australian Jewish community, I write to express concern about Amnesty International's press release of 23 August 2006 regarding the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

While I acknowledge Amnesty gives an appearance of even-handedness by observations such as "Civilian victims on both sides of this conflict deserve justice", this document is almost entirely devoted to listing and elaborating on a wide range of actions allegedly committed by Israel. In contrast, there is literally no mention of Israel's human casualties, displacement of its civilian population and destruction of homes and infrastructure due to Hezbollah's indiscriminate bombing.

Our community notes Amnesty's call for a comprehensive, independent and impartial inquiry into violations of international humanitarian law by both sides in the conflict. What concerns us is that both the content and tone of Amnesty's press release pre-empt the results of any such inquiry by clearly depicting Lebanon and its people as the only victims of the conflict. I would suggest to you that a more honest statement would have equally acknowledged the terrible suffering on both sides of the border.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GJ Leonard', written in a cursive style.

Grahame J. Leonard  
President