Enclosed is an "Observer" article about something that can be considered as a first step towards heeding to the calls upon Israeli soldiers to disrupt the Israeli war machinery in order to prevent war crimes and to promote peace.

These calls should be supported, widely distributed and made known. Even the publication might have a certain deterring effect upon the Israeli leadership, who gives criminal orders.

Shraga Elam

http://www.arendt-art.de/deutsch/palestina/texte/aufruf_israelische_soldaten_kriegsverbrechen_stoppen.htm

A call on Israeli Soldiers to stop war crimes - Germany

A call on Israeli Soldiers to stop war crimes

We, peace supporters from Germany, call upon Israeli soldiers to do all in their might to stop war crimes against Palestinians and Lebanese and help to look for ways for just peace.

We know from the history of our own country what dangers await a society that loses its moral standards.

There is an urgent need for more radical action to stop ongoing and ever escalating Israeli war crimes. They endanger the whole population of Israel/Palestine and Lebanon.

Israeli soldiers with a conscience can stop the dangerous and immoral process that continues in their country. We call on them to find new ways to interfere with the efforts of the Israeli army to commit these crimes.

Today, in the computer age, there are possibilities of active resistance that have actually not existed until now. High dependence on IT systems makes the Israeli army very vulnerable to interference from within. Certain members of the armed forces have to have access and know their way around. They can and should prevent crimes!

Flagrantly illegal orders not only should be disobeyed but their implementation should also be prevented!

the implementation   This insight was demonstrated by the military intelligence officer who prevented of an order that targeted innocent Palestinians .

This is an appeal to Israeli soldiers to fulfil their moral duty to prevent war crimes!

International Call:

A call on Israeli Soldiers to stop war crimes

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----- Original Message -----
From: Zalman Amit
To: ALEF
Sent: Sunday, August 06, 2006 9:48 PM
Subject: [alef] Israeli pilots deliberately miss their targets

http://observer.guardian.co.uk/world/story/0,,1838437,00.html

Israeli pilots 'deliberately miss' targets

Fliers admit aborting raids on civilian targets as concern grows over the reliability of intelligence

Inigo Gilmore at Hatzor Air Base, Israel
Sunday August 6, 2006
The Observer <http://www.observer.co.uk>
At least two Israeli fighter pilots have deliberately missed civilian targets in Lebanon as disquiet grows in the military about flawed intelligence, The Observer has learnt. Sources say the pilots were worried that targets had been wrongly identified as Hizbollah facilities.
Voices expressing concern over the armed forces' failures are getting louder. One Israeli cabinet minister said last week: 'We gave the army so much money. Why are we getting these results?' Last week saw Hizbollah's guerrilla force, dismissed by senior Israeli military officials as 'ragtag', inflict further casualties on one of the world's most powerful armies in southern Lebanon. At least 12 elite troops, the equivalent of Britain's SAS, have already been killed, and by yesterday afternoon Israel's military death toll had climbed to 45.

As the bodies pile up, so the Israeli media has begun to turn, accusing the military of lacking the proper equipment, training and intelligence to fight a guerrilla war in Lebanon. Israel's Defence Minister, Amir Peretz, on a tour of the front lines, was confronted by troubled reserve soldiers who told him they lacked proper equipment and training.

Israel's chief of staff, Major-General Dan Halutz, had vowed to wipe out Hizbollah's missile threat within 10 days. These claims are now being mocked as rockets rain down on Israel's north with ever greater intensity, despite an intense and highly destructive air bombardment.

As one well-connected Israeli expert put it: 'If we have such good information in Lebanon, how come we still don't know the hideout of missiles and launchers?... If we don't know the location of their weapons, why should we know which house is a Hizbollah house?'

As international outrage over civilian deaths grows, the spotlight is increasingly turning on Israeli air operations. The Observer has learnt that one senior commander who has been involved in the air attacks in Lebanon has already raised concerns that some of the air force's actions might be considered 'war crimes'.

Yonatan Shapiro, a former Blackhawk helicopter pilot dismissed from reserve

duty after signing a 'refusenik' letter in 2004, said he had spoken with
Israeli F-16 pilots in recent days and learnt that some had aborted missions
because of concerns about the reliability of intelligence information.
According to Shapiro, some pilots justified aborting missions out of 'common
sense' and in the context of the Israeli Defence Force's moral code of
conduct, which says every effort should be made to avoiding harming
civilians.

Shapiro said: 'Some pilots told me they have shot at the side of targets
because they're afraid people will be there, and they don't trust any more
those who give them the coordinates and targets.'

He added: 'One pilot told me he was asked to hit a house on a hill, which
was supposed to be a place from where Hizbollah was launching Katyusha
missiles. But he was afraid civilians were in the house, so he shot next to
the house ...

'Pilots are always being told they will be judged on results, but if the
results are hundreds of dead civilians while Hizbollah is still able to fire
all these rockets, then something is very wrong.'

So far none of the pilots has publicly refused to fly missions but some are
wobbling, according to Shapiro. He said: 'Their target could be a house
firing a cannon at Israel and it could be a house full of children, so it's
a real dilemma; it's not black and white. But ... I'm calling on them to
refuse, in order save our country from self-destruction.'

Meron Rappoport, a former editor at the Israeli daily Haaretz and military
analyst, criticised the air force's methods for selecting targets: 'The
impression is that information is sometimes lacking. One squadron leader
admitted the evidence used to determine attacks on cars is sometimes
circumstantial - meaning that if people are in an area after Israeli forces
warned them to leave, the assumption is that those left behind must be
linked to Hizbollah ... This is problematic, as aid agencies have said many
people did not leave ... because they could not, or it was unsafe to travel
on the roads thanks to Israel's aerial bombardment.'

These revelations raise further serious questions about the airstrike in
Qana last Sunday that left dozens dead, which continues to arouse
international outrage. From the outset, the Israeli military's version of
events has been shrouded in ambiguity, with the army releasing a video it
claims shows Katyusha rockets being fired from Qana, even though the video
was dated two days earlier, and claiming that more than 150 rockets had been
fired from the location.

Some IDF officials have continued to refer vaguely to Katyushas being
launched 'near houses' in the village and to non-specific 'terrorist
activity' inside the targeted building. In a statement on Thursday, the IDF
said it the air force did not know there were civilians in what they
believed was an empty building, yet paradoxically blamed Hizbollah for using
those killed as 'human shields'.

Human rights groups have attacked the findings as illogical. Amnesty International described the investigation as a 'whitewash', saying Israeli intelligence must have been aware of the civilians'.

One Israeli commander from a different squadron called the Qana bombing a 'mistake' and was unable to explain the apparent contradiction in the IDF's position, although he insisted there would have been no deliberate targeting of civilians. He said he had seen the video of the attack, and admitted: 'Generally they [Hizbollah] are using human shields ... That specific building - I don't know the reason it was chosen as a target.'

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