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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
The Knesset Hakiryah
Jerusalem, 91950
I S R A E L

29 March 2009

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

We are delighted to write this letter of congratulations to you and the Likud party on the formation of your new government.

We are particularly proud of the way in which the vast majority of members of the Likud list - and particularly the front benchers - have behaved with decorum and refreshing selflessness in being passed over for ministerial graces in service of the greater good of a working coalition.

We have seen you receiving the agenda for the first 100 days of Likud rule. Whilst we are sure these are all worthy aims and projects, we would like to ask you to take action on something we feel is vital to Israel's image in the outside world. That is to stop Israeli hotels from hanging the Ha'aretz English newspaper, by default, on the handles of guestrooms up and down the country.

Ha'aretz's recent libel of the IDF for 'war crimes' in Gaza was scooped up into banner headlines here in the UK and much of Western Europe and the USA. Now that the story been largely debunked, we can expect no retractions to be published other than in the Blogosphere.

As a paper written in English, Ha'aretz (whose former editor suggested to Condoleezza Rice that Israel needed to be raped) is effectively poisoning the mind of every visiting Westerner. This goes beyond 'freedom of the press' and borders on treachery to the State of Israel. Your new minister of tourism needs only to write one letter and the hotels will hopefully comply.

We hope you will be able to go further to curb the activities of Betselem and Machsom Watch who do the most enormous damage to Israel's image abroad. The Israel-bashing media hang on their every utterance, taking them as entirely legitimate because they are spoken by Israelis. At the very least, these groups should have their 'amutah' status and other privileges very closely reviewed for the political organisations they truly are.

I hope you will use your powers and influence to neutralise these active saboteurs of the Jewish state.

Wishing you and the whole team Hatzlacha Rabbah and Chag Sameyach.

Very truly yours,

Eric Graus (President)

Zalmi Unsorfer (Chairman)