

New York Attorney and Jewish Leader Calls on Israel to Strip General Gazit of His Rank for Likening Kippot to Swastikas

Harry Levinson, the renowned New York attorney and Jewish community leader of Monsey, N.Y., during his visit to Israel last week for the naming of his granddaughter Rena had his joy turned to pain when he read in the Israeli newspapers a statement by General Shlomo Gazit comparing Israeli soldiers who wear yarmulkes to the Nazis.

Mr. Levinson responded by writing to the editors of the Jerusalem Post and the Algemeiner Journal and to General Gazit.

"We need to hear more voices like Mr. Levinson's, his friends said. "You all know that when we are united G-d smiles at us, and divided he cries for us."

Here is Harry Levinson's letter:

Words are inadequate to express the revulsion, anger

and outrage that every person of every persuasion feels at the vile and vicious anti-

reported in the Jerusalem Post of March 8, 1998 – "comparing the kippot worn

soldiers.

The kippah, for hundreds of years, has served as a symbol of Jewish life and of Judaism generally. Who amongst us can ever forget the pictures of Jews wearing kippot murdered during the Holocaust or of soldiers in kippot standing in awe at the Western Wall at its liberation in 1967? To equate a kippah with a swastika worn by Nazi soldiers hits a new low in obscenity even in our time where immorality and perversion are prevalent.

Gazit's inane and patently insincere "apology" to President Weizman and Chief Rabbi Lau came about only as a result of the firestorm that his words aroused in all sectors of the Israeli public. I submit that the appropriate response to this outrage is to strip Gazit of any rank in the IDF and to expunge his name from the rolls of the IDF.



Harry Levinson and General Ariel Sharon

Semitic statement made by Shlomo Gazit, the former head of IDF Intelligence – as by some IDF soldiers to the Nazi swastika worn on military uniforms" by German