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## State's pols sign on to ad backing Israel

By [Jesse Noyes](#)

Boston Herald Business Reporter

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Massachusetts political and business leaders have placed an advertisement in the Herald and the Boston Globe today supporting Israel's right to defend itself as it continues to launch an ongoing military campaign in Lebanon.

### Middle East conflict:

The ads, which were endorsed by more than 130 state politicians and business people, were taken out by Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston.

Under the headline "We Stand With Israel," the ad expresses support for Israel's actions in Lebanon.

advertisement

"We firmly support Israel's right to defend her population against unprovoked acts of terror, including the missile attacks launched against Boston's sister city, Haifa," the ad states. "We express our heartfelt concern for the safety of innocent people, Israeli, Palestinian, and Lebanese."

The ad is signed by numerous political leaders, including Gov. [Mitt Romney](#), Boston Mayor [Thomas M. Menino](#) and the state's congressional delegation, except for U.S. Reps. Michael Capuano and William Delahunt. It's also signed by gubernatorial candidates Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey, Attorney General [Tom Reilly](#), Chris Gabrieli, Deval Patrick and Christy Mihos.

Nancy Kaufman, executive director of JCRC of Greater Boston, said the ad was created after numerous members of the Boston community asked how they could show support for Israel.

But the ad offended some members of the local Lebanese community, who rallied yesterday at Copley Square, and called Israel's military actions "disproportionate" and "unjustifiable."

The ad is offensive because it doesn't even tell half the story, said Loai Naamani, who is president of the Lebanese Club at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and whose family lives in Lebanon. "It's a story not just half told, it's a story maybe 1 percent told."

Israel began its military actions after Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers. Hezbollah has fired rockets into Israel resulting in 29 deaths in the country as of yesterday.

Kaufman said the ad isn't meant to offend local Lebanese. "We have no issue with our Lebanese brothers and sisters in Boston," she said. "Israel is not at war with Lebanon . . . Israel is doing what the Lebanese government couldn't" in fighting Hezbollah.

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