

**Justice for Lebanon Concert II**  
**A Benefit Concert for the Lebanese Red Cross**  
Kresge Auditorium, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA  
Sunday, August 13, 2006 at 8:00pm

***Humanity, Offended***

donation pitch by Loai Naamani  
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There are two things I hate about donation pitches, especially tonight's pitch:  
First, is that we keep asking *you* for money, the same 'you's... each and every  
one of *you*:

*You* who have stood up and supported this cause from the very beginning.

*You* who have never failed to show up for a single call for a rally, for a vigil, or  
for a concert.

*You* who ask us to organize more and more events in which you can give more  
and more of your time and of your energy and of your money.

*You* who have generously given and are still giving.

*You* to whom the people of Lebanon, government of Lebanon, and friends of  
Lebanon are already eternally grateful.

*You* who are now the dearest people to us in this city.

It weighs on us that we have to ask you, yet again, to give more and more of  
the very much you have for Lebanon, when we very well know that you'll be  
more than willing to go there and help with your arms and with your eyes if  
you could.

And this is why it is *you* who deserve a standing ovation tonight for your efforts  
and commitment to this cause. So please join me in thanking *you* from the very  
bottom of our hearts...

*[standing ovation by audience to the audience]*

Now, the other thing I hate about those pitches is that we require our speakers, including myself, to “stay away from politics and stick to a humanitarian message”... whatever that means, and how difficult I find it to do.

I have never thought before as much as I did in the past few weeks about the boundaries of what is political and what is humanitarian and where and how do you draw the line between both

Whether calling for a “ceasefire” is political or humanitarian?

Whether a UN can really consider itself the best structure for all united nations of all human beings on this planet and be unable or unwilling to demand in lip service, not to mention impose, an end to the bloodshed of more humans?

Whether the new humanity in a so-called New Middle East can justify shoving more and more sand into more and more eyes of the children of Lebanon in the name of self-defense, in the name of defending other, better humans of a ‘better God’?

Whether this new humanity accepts to see the full scale of its capacity get reduced to Olmert’s Humanitarian corridors and Olmert’s red and green lights of when and what aid can pass, if any ever does?

Whether it is humanitarian to know that there is a big Israeli elephant in the room, but only help the humans being crushed under its weight, yet stay away from pointing to the elephant or calling its name?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To *be* human, is to *remain* human.

And to *remain* human, is to celebrate humanity anywhere and everywhere.

And I assure you that celebrating it in Lebanon, for one, will only begin when we see the last Israeli elephant leave our land... Whether they choose to leave now or whether they are made to leave soon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Humanity in Lebanon has been offended.

It has been wronged.

It has been scarred.

We are not here to “send hope” to the humans of Lebanon, for hope is what they have. Hope is what they master. Hope is what the rest of the world – including us – should learn from them.

We are here to send them the means to translate their hopes into a new reality, a new Lebanese reality.

A reality in which – I hope – there will be no need to co-exist, because they will simply *exist*.

A reality in which – I hope – there will be no need to unite, because they will simply be *one*.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is not a plea, and that’s not because we are too proud to plea.

But because we take pride in a humanity of yours that we are yet to see.

It is our right to ask this of you and it is your duty to let us be.

- *Loai Naamani*