

September 19, 2007

This week between the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur is a time of deep reflection for Jews individually and for our community and an opportunity to commit ourselves to working for peace and dignity for all our communities.

I have been deeply moved by the outpour of support from so many different communities throughout NYC for the Khalil Gibran International Academy and founding principal Debbie Almontaser, whom I know personally and for whom I have the utmost respect. All our communities have come together to say that we will not permit anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hatred and bigotry to go unchallenged. What happened is a moral outrage, and we will not be silent.

I hope the decision-makers at the DOE will search their souls and then do what is right by inviting Debbie Almontaser to resume her position as principal at the KGIA. She, the school, and all of us deserve nothing less.

*Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, NYC*