



Advocacy Update

Sent July 13, 2010

Urgent Alert

Anat Hoffman, the director of the Israel Religious Action Center and leader of Women of the Wall, wrote from Jerusalem yesterday afternoon, “Today appeared to be an excellent day for the ultra-Orthodox hegemony here in Israel. Before 9 AM, I was arrested for carrying a sefer Torah on the women’s side of the Western Wall. At the same time just miles away, the conversion bill - that would change forever the definition of who is a Jew in Israel - passed its first vote in the Knesset.”

The Women of the Wall website includes a video and extensive coverage of Anat being arrested. For additional background on both issues, scroll down this page to 5/5/10 and 3/10/10 for information on the conversion bill, and to 1/19/10, 1/8/10, 1/6/10, as well as 12/30 and 12/2 in 2009 for previous Women of the Wall encounters with the police.

Hoffman asserts that yesterday’s events will invigorate progressive Jews to take a stand, noting that she and the other leaders of the Israeli Reform Movement will deal with police, courts, and Knesset issues, but she urges Diaspora Jews to protest the conversion bill.

This is an issue that threatens the very unity of the Jewish people. Send a letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu, calling on the Israeli government to listen to our united voice calling for a Judaism of openness and tolerance. Or, make your voice heard by signing a petition to Netanyahu and forward this urgent call to all sisterhood members, as well as your friends and family.