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**IOCB PRAGUE**

Ústav organické chemie a biochemie  
Akademie věd České republiky, v. v. i.  
Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry  
of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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Prof. Jan Konvalinka, Ph.D.  
Director

Prof. Shulamit Michaeli Goldberg  
Vice President for Research  
Bar Ilan University,  
Ramat Gan, Israel

Prague, November 2, 2023

Dear Shula,

In these turbulent times me and my colleagues are following the situation in the Middle East with great concern. I am terribly troubled by the current situation in your country. I am even more troubled by the reaction towards the Hamas barbarism in many European and American cities that is difficult not to describe as anti Israeli or even anti-Semitic. By this personal letter, I would like to assure you and your colleagues at Bar Ilan University of the support from our Institute as well from myself personally.

As you know, Czechs historically contributed to the defense of the newly created state of Israel in 1948. We are very proud of this legacy and we understand very well that there are times when freedom, democracy or even the very existence of a nation needs to be protected by the power of arms.

We always admired the way Israel has survived and preserved its democracy in a very dangerous neighborhood and developed into a prominent center of technological innovation, excellent research and impressive high education. This summer I personally had a chance to witness the Israeli democracy in working: the sincere and peaceful struggle of concerned

Israeli citizens against political measures they found dangerous for the democracy. I have no doubt that people of Israel will be able to defend the values of humanity and freedom even in these troubled days.

We in Czechia often view Israel as an inspirational role model showing that even a small country can excel and succeed despite adversity. To show our support, we are flying the Israeli flag, together with the Czech one, in front façade of our institute.

Dear Shula, please extend our best wishes and offer for help to all your colleagues at the Bar Ilan. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you. We stand with you.

Wishing you all the best,



Prof. Jan Konvalinka,  
Director of IOCB Prague

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