10 July 2020

Recommendation for the The Mozes S. Schupf Fellowship Program – Netanel Flamer

In this letter, I would like to recommend on Mr. Netanel Flamer, a PhD student at the Faculty of Jewish Studies, for the Mozes S. Schupf Fellowship Program. To my impress, Mr. flamer fits perfectly to the Program's goals and he will represent its values well.

On the academic aspect, Mr. Flamer is about to start his final year of a long and challenging journey. His PhD dissertation topic is interesting and innovative in the circles of Middle Eastern Studies as well as Security, Intelligence and Terrorism Studies. In all those fields there is a lack of research on the topic of intelligence activity conducted by terror organizations. One of the main reasons for that is the complexity of finding reliable and high-quality sources and in sufficient quantity. Mr. Flamer has found some creative methods to fulfill this gap and his dissertation is progressing to his supervisor, Prof. Eliezer Tauber (an esteemed researcher in the international Middle Eastern Studies community, who has guided dozens of students in MA and PhD thesis) full satisfaction.

During his Academic studies, Mr. Flamer has always excelled. His teachers and supervisors appreciate his intellectual abilities, seriousness, determination, and diligence together with his high ability of expression, both written and oral. That is why he has recently been chosen by his department's chair to be a lecturer in a course of a special B.A. program for Israeli Armed Forces, a mission he has accomplished perfectly. Both the academic staff and students praised the way the course was delivered by him. In addition, the professors (among others Prof. Amnon Rubinstein and Prof. Liav Orgad) which Mr. Flamer works with as a teaching assistant at the IDC Herzliya, are fully satisfied from his professional and dedicated work.

It is no coincidence that Mr. Flamer chose a PhD topic which will contribute not only the academic discourse, but to security of Israel as well. On the personal aspect, Mr. Flamer characterized by honest care to the state of Israel and its society. That is why he served almost ten years as an intelligence officer at the IDF and right after his release turned to the educational field. Even today, parallel with his academic career, he is still working for an educational venture that its main goal is to take care of the week layers in the Israeli society. Mr. Flamer also chose to be a teacher in a secular high school, although he is a religious man who dedicated more a few years for learning Torah in pre-military Mechinat "Otzem" and Yeshivat "Shavei Hebron" after graduating high school. Despite of the differences, and without giving up on his beliefs, he succeeded in creating great relationship with teachers, pupils and their parents by real love and care.

Mr. Flamer have also a reach experience in leading positions. He served as an officer for almost 8 years, tow of them as a commander and course coordinator of the Intelligence Officers Training at the IDF. He also developed a unique program for leadership, that is still being studied during the training, and led a big change in the training concept. In addition, he is a dominant student at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. He is the department's representative on "open days" for new students and he always raises initiatives and ideas for upgrading the department activity.

Mr. Flamer awarded, so far, the honored "Kohelet" full scholarship and I think that he is the perfect candidate for The Mozes S. Schupf Fellowship Program from both professional and personal points of view. I see a significant importance in supporting outstanding doctoral students from our faculty, and Mr Flamer is certainly one of them. Participating this program will really help him to finish soon his dissertation and continue with his important social activity and academic career, which fuses "Torah and science" as ideology and way of life.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Yaron Harel,

Faculty of Jewish Studies, Dean

Bar-Ilan University