



Avishay Levin
Mayor

Ganey Tikva, July 13, 2011

Mr. LUTZ URBACH
Mayor of Bergisch Gladbach
GERMANY

Dear Mayor Urbach,

The Head of the International Relations Division of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI), Ms. Ruth Wasserman-Lande, has forwarded to me the kind letter you sent to our Embassy in Berlin, asking for a twinning city in Israel.

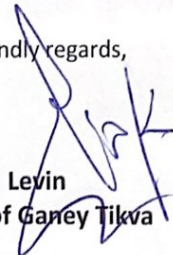
I am pleased to inform you that after considering your request, we have decided to proceed with this important and unique joint project of trilateral friendly relations between your city, Bergisch Gladbach, Ganey Tikva and the Palestinian city of Beit J'ala.

Ganey Tikva is located about twenty minutes from Tel Aviv and has today a population of 15,000 inhabitants. The City Council has initiated a wide program of development of the city. We are a cultural and sport regional center and are now finishing a high school based on ecological and modern management principles. The socio-economic level of the population is high and the city has been awarded the national prizes of education and environmental protection.

As a first step, we suggest to begin with cooperation in the field of **youth empowerment**. In this framework, we wish to promote activities in many different ways such as youth exchanges, establishment of "green" schools in each one of the three cities, which will contribute to a global awareness, exchange of teachers, child psychologists and other professionals dealing with youth and their problems, and not less important, seminars on multiculturalism in educational research and more.

Please inform us whether this is an acceptable model for your city and Beit Jala prior to future steps towards twinning.

With friendly regards,


Avishay Levin
Mayor of Ganey Tikva