



Cpl. Yousef Moadi



January 5, 2009 – Cpl. Yousef Moadi, 19, of Haifa, was killed in an IDF friendly-fire accident during combat in the Gaza Strip.

Samir Moadi said that he spoke with his 19-year-old son for the last time on Saturday afternoon, shortly after he entered Gaza with his comrades. "He told me quietly, 'Dad, we are getting on buses, you will be proud of me,' and we really are very proud of him," the father said.

Samir added that despite the pain of losing their son to an Israeli shell, "We believe in fate and this must be his fate."

Monday night an officer arrived at the Moadi family's house in Haifa to deliver the bad news of their son's death. Shortly afterward the family set off to Yarka in the western Galilee where their extended family resides. Tuesday morning hundreds of friends and family arrived to give their condolences.

Yousef's father Samir, who works in the Ministry of Agriculture, and his mother Wafaa, a teacher, have lived in Haifa for the past few years where they worked and raised their children.

Yousef's cousin Nadim said the soldier had a promising future ahead of him in the army. "He consulted with me before recruitment whether to go to Golani or another unit, and I recommended he go for Golani," the cousin said.

"He was a good guy, a good soul, and a very serious and brilliant person. I was sure he was going to go very far, not just as common soldier, but beyond."

Family members said that since the fighting broke out in Gaza Yousef has been on his parents' minds. "Yesterday the two of them had a bad feeling," Nadim said. "Both the mother and father were very worried. She had a bad feeling in her gut. A very bad feeling, and she told Samir she was very worried about her son's fate.

"Then we heard rumors of fatalities, and my brother called his unit to find out what happened, and if something happened to Yousef. They avoided him, they were afraid to tell him the truth."

The Moadis are a well respected family among the Druze community, and Samir's cousin, Sheikh Jaber Muadi served in the past as a Knesset member.

Cpl. Yousef Moadi was laid to rest in the Yarka cemetery. He leaves behind his parents, a brother, a sister and grandparents.

