Mya Hanna

The warning sirens came blaring through the town and it was a terrifying sound. Everyone was on edge when they heard the noise. They knew what it meant. Possible dangers of war. There were some protests rising up out of fear.

I was visiting Israel with my family. It was our summer trip and we were all so excited to see our family members. The 14 hour flight was endless but we did it every other year because the experience was worth it. The plane landed and we were greeted by all our family. We all shed tears of joy.

Something about reuniting with family never gets old. Even though the culture is different and they live a more traditional way of life, there's still an instant sense of belonging and acceptance. To me family is everything and the thought that there's a constant danger surrounding them is disturbing.

When the first warning siren echoed through the city I was frozen in fear. All I could think about was my family and our safety. When I saw how calm my family was I realized what resilience really was. What I learned from this experience now plays into how I am today.

The tension faded and the threat seemed further away there was time to reflect.
What if bombs fell? What if there was a real outbreak of war? How was my family so put together and prepared?

Being at a specific place at a specific time made me see what the world is really like today. You have your family and friends but there is bad in this world too. I got to witness some of the bad that day, as well as the good that can come out of the bad. I hope that by seeing this, I, myself can try my best to do my part in making the world a little brighter. This experience makes every time that we go more special because now I appreciate the good times that much more.

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