

October 16, 2023

On October 7th, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, ISIS-inspired terror organizations, launched an appalling, barbaric slaughter of babies, children, elderly, along with young adults celebrating peace and joy at a music festival. This atrocity was conducted on the sovereign land of Israel, a beacon of democracy, humanity and liberalism in the Middle East. It directly affronts all who support these moral values globally.

We, the Israeli National Academy of Science in Medicine by the Israeli Medical Association, physicians and scientists of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim backgrounds, are deeply shocked by the tragic loss of life and the merciless acts dismantling the very foundations of our human society. Over 1,200 innocent civilians lost their lives in their own homes, a proportionate equivalent to 40,000 lost lives if this had occurred in the United States, marking this as the deadliest massacre ever witnessed in a Western nation. We pray for the safety and lives of more than 150 of our people taken hostage, including vulnerable populations such as babies, frail elderly people, and Holocaust survivors. As professionals dedicated to saving lives, we believe that these unprecedented events demolish the very basis of humanity.

The leadership of universities, academic and professional organizations, journals, and conferences must strongly condemn this horrific act of violence. **The brutal, deliberate cruelty against innocent civilians requires a firm stance; there is no place for neutrality. Silence is a disgrace. Silence supports those monstrous terrorists** beheading babies, raping women in front of their families, tearing embryos from their mother's uterus, and burning people alive. They are not "freedom fighters", they are despicable criminals. **Make no mistake, this evil, as clearly declared by Hamas-ISIS, is directed against all free liberal people, and is therefore contrary to the values upheld by academia.**

We are therefore extremely alarmed to hear of events in which students and staff members dare to publicly support Hamas-ISIS, using their institutional names. We are shaken by the echoing lack of immediate and unequivocal denunciation from the leadership of their institutions. While freedom of speech, diversity, and pluralism are cornerstones, there must be a line where advocacy for extreme violence and shameless hatred is not acceptable.

This is a tragic moment of historical magnitude for the Israeli people and humanity at large. One should take a side in supporting the fundamental values of dignity, morality, and respect for human lives, and against this horrifying ISIS-Inspired, Nazi terror attack.

We strongly urge you to take a moral stand and speak up immediately and with no hesitation, to oppose and expel anyone promoting evil.

As Israeli Jewish and Arab physicians and scientists, we stand united in the battle against terrorism and malevolence, and we are determined in our commitment to foster coexistence, mutual respect, and collaborative efforts until peace prevails in this region.

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