

October 7, 2023

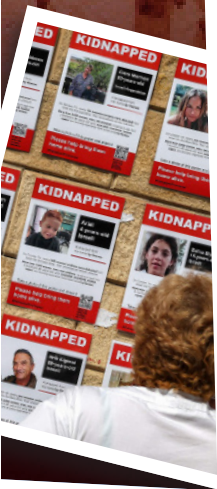
On a serene Saturday morning, Oct. 7, as Israeli families slept on Shabbat, Hamas broke its ceasefire with Israel and committed the most horrific terror attack in Israel's history.

More than 1,200 Israelis were massacred — raped, tortured, burned alive, beheaded — by a terrorist group openly committed to killing all Jews. Hamas kidnapped more than 240 people, including babies as young as 9 months old and an elderly, disabled Holocaust survivor.

Israel is responding to ensure Hamas can never carry out such an attack ever again. Hamas has already vowed to do so again if it can.

This war is painful, on both sides. Israeli soldiers must fight above and below ground in a dense urban setting. Hamas, with its 40,000-strong army, has deliberately embedded itself among innocent Palestinian civilians, using them as human shields.

This isn't a war Israel sought, but it's one that it must win. And America must have its back.



WE CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED ON OCTOBER 7.



PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN
OCTOBER 10, 2023

"There are moments in this life – I mean this literally – when a pure unadulterated evil is unleashed on this world.

The people of Israel lived through one such moment this weekend [at] the bloody hands of the terrorist organization Hamas – a group whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews."



ISRAELI PRESIDENT ISAAC HERZOG
OCTOBER 9, 2023

"Not since the Holocaust have so many Jews been killed on one day."

"Pure Unadulterated Evil."

- More than 1,200 Israeli men, women and children were systematically slaughtered in ISIS-style raids across Israeli communities. More than 5,000 were injured, and more than 240 civilians and soldiers were taken hostage into Gaza. At least 35 Americans were killed, and others were taken hostage into Gaza.
- This is the population equivalent of more than 50,000 Americans being slaughtered in the streets and their homes.
- The images of Hamas' brutality are gruesome — reminiscent of the worst of Al-Qaeda, ISIS and the Taliban. Women were raped until their bones broke; a pregnant woman had her fetus cut out from her belly and killed while still attached by the umbilical cord; children were raped, tortured, burned and beheaded.
- Israelis have faced more than 13,500 rockets and missiles and countless additional infiltration attempts from Iranian proxies in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria since the devastating attack began on Oct. 7.



A blood-soaked child's bed in Kibbutz Kfar Aza in the aftermath of the Hamas assault on Israel on Oct. 7.



A 22-year-old girl's lifeless and naked body was further brutalized by Gazans as she was paraded through the streets of Gaza with signs of having been raped. She was subsequently beheaded. (Screenshot of Hamas video on Oct. 7)



Hamas terrorists burned Israelis alive in their brutal massacre, including civilians who were trying to escape in their car in the community of Be'eri.

ISRAEL MUST DEFEAT THIS TERROR THREAT, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.

Israel's Obligation to Its People

- Israel is responding to this barbaric, unprecedented and unprovoked attack by working to drive Hamas from power in Gaza, destroy Hamas' terror capabilities, and prevent a similar attack from ever happening again.
- Israel is simultaneously working to locate and free the roughly 130 hostages, including children, women, men and the elderly, currently being held in unimaginable circumstances in Gaza.
- This wasn't a war of Israel's choosing, but a war Hamas made unavoidable. It was an unprecedented assault that requires an unprecedented response by Israel.
- No country would be expected to accept the existence of a genocidal terrorist organization along its borders, threatening its citizens and its existence, as Hamas has repeatedly demonstrated its desire to do.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is responsible for the civilian casualties in Gaza?

Hamas is solely responsible for the loss of civilian lives that results from its decisions to attack Israel and use civilians as human shields. As Secretary Blinken said, "I hear virtually no one saying, demanding of Hamas that it stop hiding behind civilians, that it lay down its arms, that it surrender. This is over tomorrow if Hamas does that."

Why does Israel operate in civilian areas?

Israel does not target civilians. Despicably, Hamas has turned civilian areas into legitimate military targets. Over the past 15 years, Hamas has turned Gaza into a militarized fortress — terror tunnels beneath buildings and schools, fighters hiding among civilians, buildings used as both apartments and for terrorist headquarters — systematically using civilians as human shields.

How does Israel minimize Palestinian civilian casualties?

Contrary to Hamas' disregard for Palestinian civilians, Israel goes above and beyond to avoid civilian casualties in Gaza — warning Palestinian civilians to evacuate prospective targets through text messages, phone calls and by dropping leaflets, even though it inevitably means also warning the terrorists. Hamas has tried to prevent civilians from leaving conflict zones with roadblocks and armed terrorists.

How should we view civilian casualty numbers in Gaza?

Any civilian casualty is a tragedy, but casualty figures from Gaza should be viewed with great skepticism. The "Gaza Health Ministry" is controlled by Hamas, and the information it releases cannot be trusted. As President Biden recently said, "I have no confidence in the [casualty] number that the Palestinians are using."

Why is it wrong to call for a ceasefire?

There was a ceasefire in place on October 6, before Hamas' barbaric and unprovoked attack. Senior Hamas officials have repeatedly made clear that they would carry out additional October 7 attacks if given the chance. Israel must be given the time and space needed to defeat Hamas and ensure the terrorist group can never again threaten Israeli families. A premature ceasefire would allow Hamas to survive, regroup, and continue murdering civilians.

As Secretary Blinken said, "Everyone would like to see this conflict end as quickly as possible. But if it ends with Hamas remaining in place and having the capacity and the stated intent to repeat October 7 again and again, that's not in the interests of Israel, it's not in the interests of the region, it's not in the interests of the world."



SECRETARY OF STATE
ANTONY BLINKEN

OCTOBER 22, 2023

"The attack of October 7th, the slaughtering of men, women, children, the rocketing of Israel that continues to this day — no country — no country — could accept that. And so Israel has not only the right, as we've said, but the obligation to defend itself."



An Israeli soldier shows one of Hamas' terror tunnels found underneath Shifa Hospital in Gaza, on Nov. 22, 2023. Shifa Hospital was used by Hamas to hold Israeli hostages kidnapped during the Oct. 7 massacre, and as a command-and-control center for terror operations.

AMERICA MUST CONTINUE TO STAND WITH ISRAEL.

Our ally Israel must be given the time, resources and diplomatic support necessary to achieve its goals.

Stand with Israel



Support the emergency security assistance package for Israel.

AIPAC strongly supports the president's \$14.3 billion funding request for Israel, and we urge Congress to approve it expeditiously to ensure Israel remains strong and can win this war.

Calls for adding new political conditions on vital security assistance to Israel are dangerous and wrong, especially while our ally is fighting a war to defend its citizens and defeat terrorism.



Continue to publicly stand with Israel against Hamas.

In addition to providing direct military support, America's leaders must provide Israel the time and diplomatic support needed to protect its families and drive Hamas out of Gaza.

America's support for Israel must be consistent, loud and unequivocal.



Oppose calls for a ceasefire until Israel has achieved its objectives.

Congress must reject any calls for a ceasefire now. A ceasefire would allow Hamas to stay armed and in power in Gaza, ready, able, and emboldened to continue attacking Israel.

Hamas is using Palestinians as human shields to maximize civilian casualties so that the narrative flips as soon as Israel takes action. Calls for a ceasefire play into the narrative that Hamas is no longer the aggressor and is now the victim.