

NOLA STANDS WITH ISRAEL



What you can do

- 1) Jewish Federations have opened a fund to support Israel. Please donate here: <https://jfeds.org/israelfund2023> or through our website at jewishnola.com
- 2) Tell your elected officials and representatives to support Israel: <https://jfeds.org/OperationSwordsofIronActionAlert>
- 3) Learn how to discuss the talking points
- 4) We will continue to reach out through email, social media and our website - www.jewishnola.com
- 5) If you wish to get involved email: elizabeth@jewishnola.com

How do we talk about what's happened?

On October 7, 2023, during the holiday of Shemini Atzeret, Hamas terrorists launched an unprecedented attack on Israel from Gaza, firing thousands of rockets, breaching the country's borders, murdering hundreds of Israelis, and wounding thousands more. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel was at war to defend itself and gave the order for the IDF to commence "Operation Swords of Iron." In one incident, 260 people attending a Sukkot concert were brutally murdered, and still others were kidnapped and are being held hostage by Hamas.

Updated on: October 9, 2023

Our New Orleans Jewish community stands in solidarity with Israel, which has every right to defend itself and protect its citizens.

- Israel has the right to defend its sovereignty and its citizens from terrorism, rocket fire, and incursions. Jewish Federations stand behind our Israeli brothers and sisters.
- Hamas, an Iran-backed terrorist organization that seeks Israel's destruction, launched this unprecedented and unprovoked attack on Israel during the holiday of Shemini Atzeret. This is the most significant attack on Israel since the Yom Kippur War, which was launched 50 years ago.
- The terror group has fired over 2,500 rockets toward Israel's major population centers, breached Israel's borders, infiltrated Israeli communities, and kidnapped over 100 civilians and soldiers. The attacks have killed hundreds of Israelis, injured thousands, and inflicted significant damage on border communities.
- In response, Israel launched Operation Swords of Iron to defend its sovereignty and its citizens. According to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "Israel does and will do everything possible to prevent harm to non-involved people, but the terrorist organizations knowingly operate from within the civilian population, committing double war crimes - indiscriminately shooting at civilians, while using the residents of the Gaza Strip as human shields."
- **Hamas:** Hamas is an Iranian-backed Palestinian terrorist organization that controls the Gaza Strip and openly seeks the destruction of Israel. Since 2005, Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza have launched over 20,000 rockets and mortars at Israel, carried out more than one hundred suicide bombings, and dug dozens of terror tunnels into Israeli communities—all at the expense of the people of Gaza.
 - [Why Does Hamas Fire Rockets into Israel?](#)
 - [Hamas's Control Over Gaza](#)
 - [AIPAC Briefing 1-pager on Hamas](#)
- **Iran as largest state sponsor of terror:** Iran views Hamas as a proxy and uses the terrorist organization to pursue its ultimate goal of destroying Israel. Iran and Hamas work together to prevent Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation. In recent years, Tehran has contributed upwards of \$70 million per year in financial and military support to Hamas.

How do we talk to our children about what is happening in Israel?

- **This is a great resource for parents:**

<https://educator.jewishedproject.org/content/teaching-about-israel-time-crisis>

- **See also:** <https://www.jewishvancouver.com/israel-children>

Jewish Federations and other NGOs are responding, working with core partners on the ground to support victims of terror, help rebuild damaged infrastructure, and address the immense levels of trauma caused by this horrific attack.

- Jewish Federations' abiding support through our annual campaigns make it possible for our primary partners The Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and World ORT to respond immediately when emergencies like this take place.
- The Jewish Agency's Fund for Victims of Terror (FVOT) is often the first non-medical responder for families and individuals who have been impacted by acts of terror and violence, providing immediate grants to rebuild homes damaged by rocket fire, and providing for long-term rehabilitation and post-trauma care. They are already estimating the need for significant additional funding given the scope of the crisis.
- The Jewish Agency is part of the government's emergency roundtable and is ensuring the safety of thousands of Olim in dozens of absorption centers, caring for the thousands of residents in Amigour senior housing, and is in touch with the thousands of Masa participants, and participants in the Agency's pre-army academies and youth villages.
- The Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) is working closely with the IDF's Home Front Command and local authorities to help address immediate needs and will be sharing a situational assessment shortly.

How Jewish Federations and Jewish Partner Organizations are Responding

- **Support for terror victims:** Jewish Federations' partners, including the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC, and the Israel Trauma Coalition, are addressing needs on the ground. The Jewish Agency's Fund for Victims of Terror is providing immediate financial support to families whose homes were directly hit by rocket fire and is helping them with urgent needs. The Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC) reports that close to 60% of residents living near the Gaza border have

temporarily left their homes and are staying in areas further away from the conflict.

- **Support for Israel's defense capabilities:** Jewish Federations of North America are proud to continuously support Israel's right to defend herself through [U.S. military aid](#) to uphold Israel's Qualitative Military Edge and missile defense funding – including necessary [supplemental aid for Iron Dome](#).
- **Urging elected officials to make public statements of support for Israel:** Jewish Federations have launched a wide-ranging action alert to engage elected officials at every level of government to stand in solidarity with Israel and her right to defend herself. Communities can take action by [clicking here and sharing the link widely](#).

These are the statements that were sent by Majority Whip Scalise and Congressman Carter.

Congressman Scalise:

"The United States will always stand with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. This is war, not an isolated terrorist attack. Israel must defend itself, and I will firmly back them as they take all steps necessary to eradicate these terrorists. We must work to make sure Israel has what it needs to destroy Hamas and any others involved in this attack while deterring other threats to its security. Let me be clear: this is a deliberate, unprovoked and evil attack by Iranian-backed terrorists who want nothing more than to destroy Israel, and America will not stand by idly. Israel has our full support and prayers."

Congressman Carter:

"I am horrified by the attacks against Israel by the hands of hateful terrorist groups like Hamas that have taken innocent lives. I am praying for all who are victims of this tragedy. America stands with Israel.

You can see a list of Members of Congress who have spoken up for Israel, [here](#).

Some highlights:

- [President Joe Biden](#): Today, I spoke with [@IsraeliPM](#) about the appalling Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. I offered our support and reiterated my unwavering

commitment to Israel's security. @FLOTUS and I express our heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost loved ones.

- [Statement from Jewish Members of the House of Representatives](#) Condemning Terrorist Attacks in Israel: Reps. Nadler, Schneider, Schakowsky, Raskin, Auchincloss, Balint, Bonamici, Cohen, Frankel, Goldman, Hottheimer, Jacobs, Landsman, Lien, Magaziner, Manning, Moskowitz, Phillips, Schiff, Schrier, Sherman, Slotkin, Wasserman-Schultz, and Wild
- [Sen. Jacky Rosen \(D-NV\)](#): I unequivocally condemn Hamas's violent and unprovoked terrorist attacks. Israel has the right to defend itself and respond to the brutal murder and kidnapping of its citizens. The United States and the American people stand with Israel.
- [Sen. James Lankford \(R-OK\)](#): The US should stand strong with our ally Israel as they defend themselves after a full scale terrorist attack and multiple kidnappings from Gaza. I am praying for peace & safety for our friends.
- [Rep. Kathy Manning \(D-NC\)](#): I'm devastated and appalled by Hamas' horrific, unprecedented attacks against Israel, firing thousands of rockets against civilians and terrorizing communities. I stand with our ally Israel and support its right to take the actions necessary to defend itself against terrorism.
- [Rep. Brad Schneider \(D-IL\)](#): The US stands in solidarity and strength with our ally Israel—with our families & friends—as they are attacked by Hamas. Hamas has started a war with terrorist attacks targeting civilian communities with rockets and infiltrations, as well as reportedly taking prisoners into Gaza.
- [Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick \(R-PA\)](#): The United States will continue to stand with our friend and ally, and ensure that Israel has the resources to defend itself and defeat genocidal terrorists. I stand with Israel. Horrific scenes of unprovoked attacks by Hamas terrorists on innocent Israeli civilians, including children.
- [Rep. Brian Mast \(R-FL\)](#): On a peaceful Shabbat, despicable terrorists launched a full-scale war with Israel and called for a complete wipe-out of the only Jewish homeland on Earth. The choice is clear: the United States must stand with Israel in its existential fight against Hamas.