

Statement by the Jewish Federation of Delaware in Support of the Biden Administration’s Position on a Ceasefire with Hamas

Dateline: December 19, 2023

Delawareans of all faiths and politics may appreciate a reminder of the underlying facts regarding Hamas’ horrific massacre of Jews on October 7:

The Hamas Covenant, enacted in 1988 and stating its basic principles, is titled “The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement.”¹ Like Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*, Hamas calls for death of all Jews. Article Seven of the Hamas Covenant states: “The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.”

Many fellow Delawareans may have seen the billboard on I-95 in Chester reading “Let’s be clear, Hamas is your problem too.” Why? Because Hamas doesn’t believe that the undefined lands it calls “Palestine” (which would include all of Israel and parts of bordering Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria) should include Jews, Christians, or any other differing faiths. Article Eleven states “Palestine is an Islamic Waqf land consecrated for Moslem generations until Judgement Day.” To be clear, Hamas does not believe in killing Jews only, but includes domination of Christians and other non-Muslem faiths as well. Article Fifteen states: “It is important that basic changes be made in the school curriculum, to cleanse it of the traces of ideological invasion that affected it as a result of the orientalist and missionaries who infiltrated the region following the defeat of the Crusaders at the hands of Salah el-Din (Saladin) [in 1187].”

The founding principle of Hamas is that Jews have no right to exist anywhere in their undefined area of “Palestine.” Hamas’ founding principle is that there is no possibility of a two-state solution, or any other compromise that recognizes a peaceful Palestinian state alongside a state with Jews. Article Thirteen states: “There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors.”

Israel left Gaza in 2005. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly after the withdrawal, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stated: “This week, the last Israeli soldier left the Gaza Strip and military law there was ended. ... Now it is the Palestinians’ turn to prove their desire for peace. The end of Israeli control over and responsibility for the Gaza Strip allows the Palestinians, if they so wish, to develop their economy and build a peace-seeking society.”²

¹ https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

² <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-196496/>

Hamas bloodily ousted the secular Palestinian Authority and took over Gaza in 2007. Did Hamas turn Gaza into a prosperous Palestine state at peace with its neighbors? It did not. Instead, it made Gaza a base for continued rocket and tunnel attacks on Israeli civilians.

Then came October 7, 2023. On that day Israel was invaded by thousands of Hamas terrorists, in a sophisticated and well-planned attack. Consistent with the Hamas Covenant, the purpose of the attack was to kill, rape, and kidnap as many Jews as possible. The purpose was to show the people of Israel, and the people of Israel's allies like the United States, what Hamas meant by "Palestine will be Free." It means death to Jews. As stated in Article Twenty-Eight: "Israel, Judaism and Jews challenge Islam and the Moslem people. 'May the cowards never sleep.'"

Hamas implemented their Jew hatred by actions that should outrage any person with even the slightest amount of humanity. As reported in a December 4 New York Times article, detailing a presentation to the United Nations about sexual violence by Hamas on October 7³:

The body of one woman had "nails and different objects in her female organs." In another house, a person's genitals were so mutilated that "we couldn't identify if it was a man or a woman." [] Shari Mendes, a member of an Israeli military reserve unit tasked with preparing the bodies of fallen female soldiers for burial, said her team saw several who were killed on Oct. 7 "who were shot in the crotch, intimate parts, vagina, or were shot in the breast." [] Others had mutilated faces, or multiple gunshots to their heads. [] But ample evidence has been collected, like the bodies of women found partially or fully naked, women with their pelvic bones broken, the accounts of medical examiners and first responders, videos taken by Hamas fighters themselves, and even a few firsthand witnesses like a woman, in a video made public last month by police officials, who said she had watched Hamas terrorists take turns raping a young woman they had captured at a music festival, mutilate her and then shoot her in the head.

Most Delawareans and Americans are rightfully appalled by Hamas, support Israel's right to exist, and its fundamental right to defend itself against terrorists who seek its destruction and the murder of its Jewish population. We gratefully acknowledge the support shown by the Biden Administration, Delaware's congressional delegation, and overwhelming bipartisan support by most of the United States Senators and Representatives.

We support the statements of Secretary of State Blinken when he addressed the members of the G7 on November 8, 2023:⁴

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/04/world/middleeast/israel-hamas-sexual-violence-un.html#:~:text=In%20a%20statement%20on%20Monday,they%20first%20came%20to%20light.%E2%80%9D>

⁴ <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-a-press-availability-41/>

All of us want to end this conflict as soon as possible, and meanwhile, to minimize civilian suffering. But as I discussed with my G7 colleagues, **those calling for an immediate ceasefire have an obligation to explain how to address the unacceptable result it would likely bring about: Hamas left in place, with more than 200 [now 150] hostages, with the capacity and stated intent to repeat October 7th – again and again and again.**

Ultimately, the only way to ensure that this crisis never happens again is to begin setting the conditions for durable peace and security, and to frame our diplomatic efforts now with that in mind.

The United States believes key elements should include no forcible displacement of Palestinians from Gaza – not now, not after the war. No use of Gaza as a platform for terrorism or other violent attacks. No reoccupation of Gaza after the conflict ends. No attempt to blockade or besiege Gaza. No reduction in the territory of Gaza. We must also ensure no terrorist threats can emanate from the West Bank.

We must also work on the affirmative elements to get to a sustained peace. These must include the Palestinian people’s voices and aspirations at the center of post-crisis governance in Gaza. It must include Palestinian-led governance and Gaza unified with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority.

We agree with President Biden when he says: “As long as Hamas clings to its ideology of destruction, a cease-fire is not peace. To Hamas’ members, every cease-fire is time they exploit to rebuild their stockpile of rockets, reposition fighters and restart the killing by attacking innocents again.”

We are alarmed by the rise in overt anti-Semitism since October 7. This is a threat not just to Jews, but to the fundamental principles of the United States. It is even more dangerous when it emanates from people who do not condemn Hamas but instead adopt its goal of “Liberate Palestine.” It is extremely disappointing when, as stated in the December 4th New York Times article, “Israelis and many Jews around the world say they feel abandoned by members of the social justice community — women’s groups, human rights groups, liberal celebrities, among others — whose causes they have supported in crises around the world.” It is frightening when an Ivy League professor addresses students at a rally by describing Hamas’ butchery and rape of Jews as “It was exhilarating. It was energizing.”⁵ It is distressing that some people who call themselves “progressives” would advocate for a “ceasefire” with Hamas without recognizing Israel’s right to self-defense against Hamas’ promise of repeated future attacks on Israel and Jews.

⁵ <https://cornellsun.com/2023/10/16/cornell-professor-exhilarated-by-hamass-attack-defends-remark/>

It is with all this in mind, we find it offensive that a member of the Delaware House of Representatives attacks President Biden for his position on a ceasefire, without offering any recognition that her version of a “ceasefire” leaves Hamas in place, leaves hostages in place or killed, does not recognize Israel’s right to self-defense, and offers no chance for peace or a two-state solution. We are disgusted that this elected official posts and reposts on social media such things as:

--- “Try him in The Hague for every single war crime committed with these weapons. #GenocideJoe”⁶;

--- a video of her on December 11 interrupting the Vice President’s holiday party remarks by yelling “***Did you know in Bethlehem, baby Jesus is under rubble? Why won’t you call for a cease-fire?***” with the hashtag “#FreePalestine.”⁷

While we sincerely hope for an end to the fighting in Gaza as soon as possible, a call for a unilateral “ceasefire” (with links to #FreePalestine and #GenocideJoe) is a rejection of any chance for a two-state solution, and is just acceptance of a world where Hamas keeps the hostages, rebuilds, and attempts more acts of mass murder, rape and kidnapping. We reject these posts as unworthy of a member of the Delaware General Assembly and offensive to those Delawareans she purports to represent.

As heart-rending as the current situation is, the support of President Biden and the United States on the terms for a ceasefire provides the only realistic possibility for a two-state solution and achieving a lasting peace for the people of the region.



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⁶ <https://twitter.com/MadinahForDE/status/1728428794497610084> (November 25, 2023)

⁷ <https://twitter.com/madinahforde?lang=en> (December 11, 2023)