

**To:** Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger,  
President of the International Committee of the Red Cross  
19 Avenue de la Paix 1202 Geneva Switzerland

**Date:** October 12, 2023

**Dear Ms. Spoljaric,**

We, the undersigned, express our profound concerns regarding the current atrocities perpetrated by Hamas and other terrorist organizations within Israel. We respectfully urge the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to act in accordance with its mandate to prevent the ongoing breaches of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Commencing from the morning of Saturday, 7th October, Hamas and other terrorists affiliated with various extremist groups from the Gaza Strip have infiltrated Israeli territory, resulting in the mass murder and abduction of hundreds of civilians and soldiers. This ongoing terrorist assault represents a blatant and persistent violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, including customary law and Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions.

The data regarding this ongoing conflict is both alarming and unequivocal, resulting in the tragic loss of over 1,300 innocent lives and the abduction of more than 150 Israelis, including women, children, the elderly, and other individuals granted special protection under IHL. These abductions were carried out violently within their homes. Moreover, more than 3,000 individuals have sustained injuries. Notably, over 5,000 rockets have been indiscriminately launched towards Israeli citizens from the Gaza Strip, a clear violation of fundamental IHL rules. Evidence is also emerging of a pattern of gross human rights violations, including torture, dismemberment, beheadings, the use of rape as a weapon of war, and the desecration of victims' dead bodies and the use of the abducted as human shields.

The ICRC was established precisely to safeguard and assist victims of armed conflicts and ensure compliance with IHL. As part of its mission, the ICRC is obligated to actively contribute to the application of the law in armed conflict scenarios.

In light of this, we respectfully request that the ICRC undertake the following actions, integral to its mandate, to protect the rights of those being abducted, injured, killed, and targeted by Hamas and other terrorist groups:

**1. Locate and establish communication with kidnapped Israelis:**

- Locate and establish communication with the Israelis held hostage in the Gaza Strip, ensuring their treatment and living conditions align with IHL.

**1. Enforce compliance with IHL by Hamas and other terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip, specifically:**

- Cease the murder of civilians and soldiers.
- Halt the indiscriminate launching of missiles and rockets.
- Stop targeting civilians and groups protected under IHL.
- Cease the heinous acts of raping and sexually abusing Israelis.
- End the use of human shields to cover military targets, including buildings such as hospitals and schools.
- Put an immediate stop to the horrifying practice of exhibiting and mutilating the bodies of those murdered by them.
- Return Israeli hostages taken into the Gaza Strip, including Hadar Goldin, Oron Shaul, Avera Mengistu, and Isham Al-Sayed.

We are aware of the recent statement issued by the ICRC and we trust that, in line with its mission and commitment to humanity and IHL, the ICRC will urgently and effectively address these critical matters to alleviate the suffering and uphold the rights of those affected by this outrageous situation.

**CC:** Fabrizio Carboni, ICRC regional director for the Near and Middle East  
Alessandra Menegon, Head of the Delegation of the ICRC in Israel and the Occupied Territories

Signed,



Jerusalem Institute of Justice



Acción y Comunicación sobre Oriente Medio



Act.IL



Anti-Defamation League



Alleanza Per Israele



Beth Haverim Shir Shalom



Canadian Antisemitism Education Foundation



Canadian Institute for Jewish Research



Center for Combatting Antisemitism



Center for Jewish Impact



Combat Anti-Semitism Movement



Congreso Judío Latinoamericano



Con Israel y por la Paz



Eagles' Wings



Emunah



End Jewish Hatred



European Union of Jewish Students



Federación de Estudiantes Judíos de España



Glen Rock Jewish Center



Herut Canada



International Alliance for Israel



The International Legal Forum



Israel Allies Foundation



Israel Christian Nexus



Israel Defense and Security Forum



Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs



Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey



The Jewish Leadership Project



Kaplen JCC on the Palisades



The Lawfare Project



The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law



Make their Memory Shine



Med Israel for fred



Milton Friedman Institute



Middle East Forum



North Jersey Board of Rabbis



NGO Monitor



Palestinian Media Watch



Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights



StandWithUs



Temple Beth Rishon



Temple Emanu-el of Closter

Signed,



Temple Emanuel of North Jersey



Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley



The Blue Card



UK Lawyers for Israel



World Jewish Congress



World Union of Jewish Students



Zachor Legal Institute