



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

MEDIA RELEASE - Israel

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The Milwaukee Jewish Federation is shocked, outraged and horrified by the surprise, ongoing terrorist onslaught launched by Hamas against Israel today, on Shabbat and Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret.

At this moment, at least 100 Israelis have been reported killed and at least 800 reported wounded in an unprecedented infiltration of dozens of terrorist gunmen into communities near the Gaza border and a barrage of indiscriminate rocket fire against Israeli cities. On the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, Hamas — the terrorist government ruling Gaza — has launched more than 2,500 rockets from Gaza on cities across central and southern Israel, reaching as far as Jerusalem, while terrorists infiltrated communities in the country's south by land, sea and air.

Terrifyingly, dozens of Israelis have reportedly been kidnapped and taken hostage. Many are still trapped in their homes waiting desperately to be saved, as live combat in many border communities is ongoing. Israel is in a state of war and national emergency.

We stand with the people of Israel as they face yet another war seeking the demise of Israel. Since its inception, Hamas has pledged to destroy Israel, but they will not succeed.

We will do everything we can to ensure the complete and total success of Israel's efforts and we will act immediately and comprehensively to support our brothers and sisters as they defend Israel.

The prayer for the State of Israel we recite in synagogue every week — including this morning — says *ונתת שלום בארץ ושמחת עולם ליושביה* - "Grant peace in the land and happiness to all its residents." On this day, which is the holiday of Simchat Torah in Israel — we literally sing and dance with simcha — with happiness. Today is not a day of simcha in Israel, but it is a day of solidarity, determination and utmost seriousness.

We know this is a deeply distressing moment for all of us – especially for the many members of our community who have family and loved ones in Israel, and for our staff and partners in the region. Israel will prevail and the Jewish people will stand together as we always do. Am Yisrael chai.