



**OCTOBER 2023
ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR
ACTIVISM RESOURCES**

MY  IS
WITH ISRAEL

TALKING POINTS

- 1. Hamas invaded Israel beginning the morning of October 7 and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity.**
 - Over 1,000 Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israeli towns and communities in the south.
 - They used bulldozers to penetrate the border wall and fence in more than 22 locations. They also attempted to infiltrate via sea but were caught by Israel.
 - They attacked from the air including thousands of indiscriminately fired rockets aimed at civilian areas, and terrorists hang gliding and paragliding over the border.
 - The terrorists killed over 1,400 civilians and kidnapped more than 200 people that were taken back to Gaza and their status is currently unknown. The hostages include women, children, elderly, and at least two holocaust survivors.
 - The terrorists went door to door slaughtering Israelis including women, children, and elderly. They set houses on fire with entire families trapped inside, they beheaded children in front of their parents. They indiscriminately raped women and children.
 - They raped women next to the bodies of their dead friends and then celebrated the desecrated bodies in the streets of Gaza.
 - They killed at least 260 people at a music festival dedicated to peace. Civilians were shot at point blank range. Grenades were thrown into packed bomb shelters. The brutality is unimaginable.
 - They filmed and documented all these crimes while broadcasting the slaughter live on the internet.
- 2. You can't fight for human rights while excusing the genocide of Jews.**

Supporting Hamas' attack and finding justifications for the barbarism they inflicted simply shows that you value Jewish lives less than others.
- 3. Blaming Israel for the massacre that Hamas waged against Israeli civilians is equivalent to blaming Jews for being killed in gas chambers by the Nazis.**
- 4. Israel has an obligation to defend herself. Hamas has existed since its founding for the sole purpose of destroying Israel.**

This existential threat to the existence of Israel must be eliminated.
- 5. Terrorists in Gaza are actively working against Palestinian civilians.**
 - Hamas leaders have instructed civilians to remain in their homes, in neighborhoods that Israel has warned will be targeted. After Israel opened humanitarian corridors for additional Palestinians to evacuate from the north to the south, Hamas snipers targetted the evacuees. People are not pawns and engaging civilians in combat is a war crime.
 - Hamas has created propaganda videos that show children in military attire

learning how to use rifles. They also show Hamas digging up water pipes from the ground and turning them into rockets. They use cement and other building materials from the UN to construct weapons and terror tunnels instead of schools and hospitals, or instead of investing in Gazan infrastructure.

- Hamas uses human shields to inflate their numbers of wounded and dead. Terrorists hide military equipment and command centers in mosques, schools, hospitals, and residential buildings to force Israel to strike civilian centers.
- UNICEF first aid kits, some of the humanitarian aid given to Gaza, were brought with the terrorists when they infiltrated Israel on October 7, to treat their wounded fighters.
- Hamas' goal is to kill as many Israelis as possible. Hamas has never hidden their desire to destroy the State of Israel. Israel has never had a policy of destroying the Palestinian people and only ever targets Hamas terrorists.
- Hamas diverted several days' worth of fuel away from a hospital and to their command centers.
- Hamas reported on October 17 that Israel bombed a hospital in Gaza City, and it was estimated to have killed over 500 people. The attack was immediately blamed on Israel by global media sources. After a thorough investigation there is irreputable evidence of the following:
 - The rocket was not fired by the IDF but rather from Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza, that misfired and landed within Gaza.
 - It was a hospital parking lot that was struck, and the casualties are likely in the dozens and not hundreds.

6. We must stand with Israel now more than ever as they are vilified on a global stage for acting in self-defense. No one called for de-escalation or restraint on September 12, 2001.

7. Typically, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is complicated. This is not. The current situation is terrorists against civilians. You either stand with Israel or you support mass rape, torture, and murder of Jews.

GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS:

ZIONISM

The belief that Jewish people have the right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland.

ANTISEMITISM

A certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestation Full definition including all examples can be found [here](#).

Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not expected or demanded of other democratic nations.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

JIHAD

Defined as a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam. The word is invoked by Islamist extremists to justify acts of violence and terrorism against western nations and civilians.

HAMAS

Internationally designated terrorist organization that governs the Gaza Strip. The Islamic extremist group elected in 2007, then seized full control to create authoritarian regime following a violent civil war between political parties Hamas and Fatah. Hamas has a history of persecuting minorities and political opponents.

GAZA STRIP

Small piece of land along the Mediterranean Sea located to the southwest of Israel. Shares its southern border with Egypt. Was encompassed in land that Israel acquired during the 1967 defensive war efforts along with the Sinai Peninsula. Following the conflict Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt in which they returned the Sinani territory to Egyptian control, but Egypt rejected the offer to include Gaza. In 2005, all Israeli military and civil presences were unilaterally removed.

ETHNIC CLEANSING/ GENOCIDE

The deliberate and systematic destruction of a group of people because of their ethnicity, nationality, religion, or race. Indicates a decrease in the population numbers. For example, the population of Jews worldwide before WWII was 16.6 million and after it was 11.5 million.

FATAH

A political party that represents the views of Abu Mazen and his followers. Represents Palestinian nationalist and social democratic party. Civil control over West Bank areas A and B. They competed in election with Hamas in Gaza strip in 2006 and lost. Many were killed as opposition leaders when Hamas came to power.

WEST BANK

A portion of territory on the eastern border of Israel. The name refers to the fact that the land encompasses the west bank of the Jordan River. This territory was controlled by Jordan until 1967 when it was taken over by Israel. Following the Oslo Accords in 1993, the PA came under sovereign control of areas of the West Bank, while Israel has maintained security control over much of the territory due to terrorism against Israeli civilians.

APARTHEID

A policy or system of institutionalized racism or discrimination based on race. The term comes from the Afrikaans word for "separateness" and refers to the South African government segregation from 1948 through the early 1990's.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (PA)

The governing body of the West Bank and all Palestinians living there. Mahmoud Abbas, also called Abu Mazen, was elected president in 2005 to a four-year term. Since then, he has become an authoritarian power, refusing to hold any additional elections.

PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD (PIJ)

Part of a global Islamic Jihad movement. Represents radical Islamic extremist organization inspired by the Iranian revolution in 1979. Their ultimate goal is to create an Islamic state encompassing much of the land in the Modern Middle East. They advocate for the destruction of Israel and against a two-state solution.

INTIFADA

An Arabic word that means “shaking off.” Has become a term representative of violence uprisings of Palestinians against Israel. There were two periods called First and Second intifada that consisted of larger terror campaigns and suicide bombings of Israeli civilians. Does not refer to nonviolent resistance movement but rather violent uprisings aimed at killing and injuring civilians.

OCCUPATION

Holding and controlling an area by foreign military force. The possession, use, or settlement of land by a group that is not the indigenous population.

1948

Israel declares its independence and is immediately attacked from all sides by 5 different nations: Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq. The ensuing war was won by the new State of Israel and is referred to as the War of Independence. Palestinians refer to this war as al-Nakba, which translates to catastrophe in Arabic. Israel gained some territory formerly granted to Palestinian Arabs under the United Nations partition plan, which Israel had accepted in 1947 but Arabs rejected. Egypt and Jordan retained control over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank respectively. Many Palestinian Arabs left their homes during this, either because they were located in combat zones, or because Arab leadership encouraged their evacuation. Simultaneously, Jewish communities across the Arab world were exiled from their homes and fled to Israel, in approximately the same numbers as fleeing Palestinians.

1967

The Six Day War is triggered by disputes between Israel and Egypt over the rights of Israeli shipping to pass through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. After consistent threats of violence from Egyptian President Nasser Israel launched a preemptive strike against the Egyptian air force, destroying nearly the entire fleet of aircraft. Israel fought this war on three fronts: Northern border against Syrian army, eastern border against Jordan-occupied West Bank, and southern border against Egypt. Israel gained control of the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula (which was eventually returned to Egypt in a peace treaty). After six days of intense fighting, the UN brokered a ceasefire.

1973

In efforts to gain back territory lost in the previous war, the Arab coalition jointly launched a surprise attack against Israel on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. After facing difficult surprise forces from Egypt and Syria, Israel was able to mobilize reserve troops and mount a counterattack. When it became clear that Israel would win this war, the UN implemented a ceasefire.

QUOTES FROM HAMAS OFFICIAL CHARTER:

“There is no solution for the Palestine question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors. Palestine is an Islamic land.”

“The Islamic Resistance Movement is a distinguished Palestinian movement, whose allegiance is to Allah, and whose way of life is Islam. It strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine.”

“Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.”

“The day the enemies usurp part of Moslem land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Moslem. In the face of the Jews' usurpation, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised.”

“Zionism scheming has no end, and after Palestine, they will covet expansion from the Nile to the Euphrates River. When they have finished digesting the area on which they have laid their hand, they will look forward to more expansion. Their scheme has been laid out in the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion'.”

“If the Palestinians lay down their weapons, there will be peace. If the Israelis lay down their weapons, there will be a massacre.”

Statement by Golda Meir,
Former Prime Minister to Israel



COMBATting COMMON TROPES AGAINST ISRAEL:

“Israel is an apartheid state.”

Israel is a sovereign nation recognized by the United Nations and the global community. All citizens have equal rights across all religions and ethnicities. About 20% of Israel’s population is Arab, encompassing Druze, Christians, and Bedouins, many of whom volunteer to serve in the IDF. An Arab political party was a member of the former Israeli government coalition. Arab representation is active across Israeli society from doctors and nurses to judges and lawyers.

“Palestine is occupied.”

Palestine is comprised of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, from which Israel withdrew in 2005. Israel maintains a security presence in the West Bank due to ongoing terror activities. Following the Oslo Accords, Palestinians maintain their own governmental bodies that oversee leadership and municipal responsibilities. The Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank, and Hamas in Gaza, are corrupt and ineffective governing bodies, stealing humanitarian aid for acts of terrorism including building rockets out of water pipes, using schools and hospitals to store weapons, and launching rockets out of heavily populated civilian areas. They also pay salaries to the families of terrorists who have killed Israelis in a program that has been unofficially termed “pay to slay.” Even though Palestinians have been failed by their municipality, that does not indicate Israeli apartheid.

“Israel targets Palestinian civilians and therefore is no better than Hamas.”

The death of every Palestinian civilian in Gaza is a tragedy, especially the many children who have no choice in where they live. There is no question that Palestinians have suffered immensely from violence between Hamas and Israel. However, there is a significant moral difference between the two sides of this conflict. Israel takes many precautions to avoid civilian casualties in Gaza including warning residents to evacuate prior to strikes and using precision guided munitions. Hamas, in contrast, specifically targets Israeli civilians. In some cases, terrorist rockets from Gaza also misfire and kill Palestinian civilians. Due to the density of the population in Gaza, and the use of their own people as human shields by Hamas, civilian casualties are an unfortunate reality of war. Hamas instigated this war by massacring more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and effectively sanctioned Palestinian civilian deaths as a result.

“Israel is committing war crimes and genocide.”

Hamas' founding principle is based on the destruction of the Jewish people. Israel's goal has only ever been to exist. Hamas targets civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. Their goal is to murder as many Jews as possible. Israel's army is called the Israel Defense Forces for a reason. Their only operations, since the founding of the state, have been in defense of their right to exist. The air strikes in Gaza, by the Israeli Air Force (IAF), are targeted attacks against terrorist infrastructure, which Hamas strategically places in civilian areas in accordance with their policy of using human shields. The IAF even warns civilians to leave the area before striking. It is not a common practice for a nation to warn the civilians in their enemy's territory prior to an attack. Genocide is the deliberate targeting of a large group of people due to their nationality or ethnic group. Israel does not target Palestinian civilians and has called off operations when collateral damage is deemed too high of a cost in relation to the target.

“Violence against Israel is justified in the name of resisting the occupation.”

Rape, torture, and beheading can never be justified for any reason. Hamas does not exist to “resist the occupation” or to help Palestinians achieve justice and peace and their own independent state. The terrorist group's goals are clear: murder Jews, destroy Israel, and replace it with a brutally oppressive Islamic extremist regime. The current leader of Hamas has said their goal is to, “wipe out Israel” and threatened to, “take down the border and tear out their hearts from their bodies.” Hamas also receives significant funding and operational support from Iran's regime, which regularly threatens Israel with annihilation. A major short-term goal of this war for Hamas and their Iranian sponsors is reportedly to prevent Israel from making peace with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

“Israel is a colonial power that is ethnically cleansing the Palestinians.”

Ethnic cleansing typically indicates an official policy of erasing a people and their culture. Colonialism typically indicates language and religion being forced upon a native population. Palestinian rates of population growth are among the highest in the world according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Along with immense population growth, Palestinians continue to practice their chosen religions and speak Arabic. Israel represents a decolonial state as a living example of an indigenous people regaining independence in their ancestral homeland. Calling Jews living in Israel “colonizers” is part of an effort to dehumanize them, rewrite history, and justify terrorism. No one can “colonize” their own home.

“Israel’s occupation has caused the humanitarian disaster in Gaza.”

Israel unilaterally withdrew all civilian and military presence in Gaza in 2005 as a gesture toward peace and cannot accurately be described as occupying Gaza since that time. It is important to note that Israel and Egypt have both participated in what has been called a blockade. The reason is self-defense. After 2006, when Hamas was elected and took control of the Gaza Strip, there was an increase in terrorist activity from Gaza. To protect the innocent civilians in Israel and Gaza, borders have been strictly controlled and monitored. Rather than using humanitarian assistance for hospitals and schools, Hamas built tunnels and rockets. Even in the current war, Hamas is actively stealing UN humanitarian resources from hospitals in Gaza and using civilian centers as command posts that they know will be targeted by Israel.

“You can’t be pro-Israel and pro-Palestine.”

Supporting Israel’s right to self-defense does not eliminate compassion but rather it speaks to one’s humanity. Both Jews and Arabs deserve to live in peace and safety, and Palestinian people have been neglected by their leadership for too long. Hamas does not work towards better living conditions and independence for Palestinians, while Israel has consistently indicated willingness to trade land for peace. Palestinians have historically rejected any peace treaty offers that include the existence of a Jewish State. Many Israelis themselves support the Palestinians’ right to self-determination. Many of the residents of Israeli communities along the Gaza border, which were brutally attacked on October 7, were peace activists who volunteered to bring resources to the Gaza Strip and to drive Palestinians to Israeli hospitals for medical care. There is no limit to the support we can offer each other, and the only way to drive out hate is with love.

“Anti-Zionism is different from antisemitism, and this isn’t about Jews.”

To claim this is simply about Zionism without having anything to do with antisemitism is just a blatant mischaracterization. If this were simply about protesting Israel’s government policies, demonstrations would be held outside Israeli embassies and consulates worldwide, rather than outside synagogues and Jewish museums. Swastikas would not be held up next to Palestinian flags at pro-Palestine rallies. If one does not support Jewish self-determination in our historical homeland (Zionism) one can be called antisemitic. We have seen these acts before and they preceded the mass extermination intended to wipe out all European Jewry. Anyone refusing to acknowledge this is showing that they simply do not care about the facts, and they value Jewish lives less than non-Jewish lives.

GUIDELINES FOR DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS:

How do I talk to my friends who don't even want to hear another point of view?

A good strategy is trying to find one idea where you both agree. Often, if you start with something more controversial, people will get defensive and refuse to listen to any other perspectives. When you start from a point you both agree on, it becomes easier to have a more productive conversation from there. For example, you can agree with someone that civilian casualties are painful for everyone but disagree on the “proportionality” of Israel’s defense.

A great acronym that can help facilitate these conversations is ARM. ARM stands for Address, Reframe, and Message. When someone says or posts something that you disagree with, the most important first step is to address what they are saying and highlight any points where you agree. Once you’ve established some common ground, you can reframe the conversation by introducing new facts or perspectives. Reframing helps challenge people to think more openly. After you add facts and perspectives to the conversation, it’s important to convey the overall message you are trying to get across and highlight the parts you agree with.

Remember that not everyone will be willing to have a conversation, and some people don’t share common values of peace and safety. It is completely ok to walk away from those situations. Your safety is most important!

How do I counteract all the misinformation and fake news on social media?

The best way to counteract false information is to post your own content that will change the narrative. If you see something that contains false information, you can research and amplify the posts that show what is actually happening. You can also follow grassroots activists that show the perspectives on the ground. To show that your news is not fake, it can be helpful to back up your posts with multiple reputable sources. Because there are so many lies that spread on social media, it can feel impossible to counteract all of it, but any amount of posting or activism that you do is a push in the right direction.

How do I remind people that this is hard for us as our family and friends are hiding in bomb shelters and waiting for kidnapped loved ones to be rescued?

If you can share the experiences of your friends and family, it is a really good way to remind people of the human cost of this conflict. People who don't know anybody involved can easily disconnect, and it can be very significant to remind them that there are real people on the ground who are experiencing trauma because of this conflict. Use specific language and describe what it's like to have to run to bomb shelters within 15-30 seconds when the Red Alert sounds. Tell them about the dozens of funerals people in Israel have been attending daily.

I feel alone and scared to share my opinion.

You are not alone. In addition to your social circles, there are lots of resources for you to turn to including the IAC. Your local rabbi or youth group advisor is a valuable source as well. It's not easy having these conversations but we are here to help you with resources and support however we can.

RELIABLE RESOURCES (INCLUDING NEWS SOURCES, THINK TANKS, EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND MORE):

- [AIPAC](#)
- [Stand With Us](#)
- [Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting & Analysis \(CAMERA\)](#)
- [Honest Reporting](#)
- [Middle East Media Research Institute \(MEMRI\)](#)
- [Washington Institute for Near East Policy](#)
- [Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)
- [124 News](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\)](#)
- [Jewish Insider](#)
- [Stop Antisemitism](#)
- [American Jewish Committee \(AJC\)](#)
- [Foundation to Combat Antisemitism](#)
- [Unpacked](#)