

Principal and administrators,

This is not the first letter I have written on behalf of a traumatized community. Americans have not recently experienced War within their own borders, the only comparison one can make is the horrible terrorist attack that occurred on 9/11. Israeli citizens were woken up to sirens, again. This time followed by swarms of Hamas death squads infiltrating their towns and cities. This massacre of upwards of 700+ innocents can be compared only to the Holocaust in scope. Without reiterating my previous note, what I am trying to say is that your efforts to date have not been enough to ensure that our Jewish and Israeli students feel safe in light of what is happening in Israel. Our children are terrified of going to school.

Our families are broken as parents witness their families and friends slaughtered or kidnaped to the Gaza Strip. They are trying desperately to contact lost loved ones and wait with bated breath to hear from friends as to who has been found alive or not. Children are witness to this whether they understand the scope of what is happening or not. This is not the time to hesitate in the care provided for our children. In addition, these children and young adults are surrounded by hate speech in the form of antisemitic and pro-Hamas rallies and social media posts and responses.

These children, some of whom may not even truly comprehend the scope of the atrocities that weigh on the people of the state of Israel, need to know that they are safe. They need shelter from the endless hate filled antisemitism and Israel hatred that we are now seeing on social media and on the streets. Despite endless videos, texts and audio reports depicting Hamas death squads murdering innocents, abducting children from their beds, raping young women, taking entire families' hostage, and burning homes with innocent civilians still inside – some people are finding capacity to justify this behavior. Ignorant and hateful individuals are using this as a platform to discriminate against our Israeli children and young adults as they support their loved ones who are fighting for survival. Let me be clear, Hamas is a terror organization. It has committed heinous crimes against humanity. To support Hamas is to support terror.

I reach out, once again, to provide information and education on the current war, but also to insist that support is offered to our Jewish and Israeli students. School counselors, teachers, and administrators, we demand that the adults in **STATE** schools be made aware of what is currently happening in Israel and the repercussions resonating across this country.

Online and in the streets Jewish and Israeli people are already being targeted. We demand that you maintain vigilance in ensuring all students have a safe environment to learn, regardless of religion or national origin.

Respectfully,

NAME RD/RM