

9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

24<sup>th</sup> Tishrei, 5784

## **JDI condemns the ongoing violence in Israel-Palestine**

As we monitor the situation – talking to friends and family in Israel-Palestine, watching and reading the various media and mourning the fallen - we are left bereft by the senseless loss of life, the trauma and the tragedy.

Already over 1,500 people have lost their lives in a catastrophic and savage Hamas attack and consequent outbreak of war. More than twice that number are wounded. Thousands more severely traumatised. At this point there is no end in sight with all sides issuing bellicose statements promising escalation rather than moderation.

Do we accept that lives have and will be lost in vain? Mere collateral damage in a never-ending conflict? Are we entitled to ask why this is happening? How the most devastatingly successful attack against the State of Israel in 50 years can occur despite the much-vaunted capability of the IDF and other security services?

Do we react by simply re-affirming our support for a State that's only response is resorting to more violence thereby inviting further retaliation? A State that perpetually depends on military might to assure its existential mission.

Part of the answer has to be that the policies and tactics of the State of Israel need urgent revision.

And this requires all Jews internationally to question their own values and convictions.

A fundamental reassessment and recalibration of our relationship with Israel-Palestine is overdue.

Praying for peace is insufficient. We need to raise our voices in support of our Jewish State that understands that investing in peace is the only policy that can earn the dividend of peace.

Through our tears and heartbreak, we must find the space to support those in Israel-Palestine who work to craft a long-lasting resolution to the conflict over rights and territory in a Jewish Homeland equitably shared with all who live there.