



15/October/ 2023

5784 –Tishrei-30

To our colleagues, national society leaders and friends around the world,

These are difficult times for humanity and for the struggle to prevent disease and save life.

We thank you for the support and concern we have already received from many of you.

As you are aware, early last week Hamas carried out an unusually brutal and violent attack primarily against civilians, within Israel. While the leadership of some Academic institutions has issued public condemnations, we learned that in others this has been regarded as just “one more event” in the ongoing conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, which can be understood from multiple perspectives.

We would like to emphasize that this is far from the truth. This was an act of singular barbaric violence which must be thoroughly renounced. To show why this is so, we will need to share some truly disturbing details, as referred to in President Biden’s speech and now coming to light in the international press. We know that these will disturb you no less than they have shaken us.

During this violent attack Hamas terrorists brutally massacred women, children elderly and young families at their homes and slaughtered young kids attending a peace music festival. Hundreds of peace activists, elderly people in their 80’s and toddlers were killed on the spot and others including young children were taken captive and brought into Gaza. Horrific videos posted by Hamas from Gaza show cruelty to children, taunting of the elderly, rape and torture.

All this as hundreds of Israelis were injured or killed by indiscriminate rocket fire, which hit both Jewish towns and Bedouin and Arab villages.

Let’s be clear. This is not “war as usual” There are not “good people on both sides” Hamas and Islamic Jihad have proven themselves to be cruel, barbaric organizations reminiscent of the Taliban and the Islamic State. We have heard of initiatives undertaken by faculty and students in some countries outside of Israel to support Hamas and Islamic Jihad activities and we understand that there has not always been a clear response from academic leadership to such signs of support. We hope that you will agree with us that there can be no support for terror organizations in western democratic societies, just like there can be no support for purposeful massacres of civilian populations, or for taking civilian hostages.

As leaders of societies and organizations dedicated for elimination of disease and death and prevention of atherosclerotic consequences in **all humans** We must condemn and prevent all forms of violence and terror and continue to fight our common enemy which is: disease and suffering of all humanity.

Dov Gavish MD FESC,
Chair

Elena Izkhakov MD,
Secretary

Ronen Durst, MD Prof,
Treasurer