

From the Desk of Rabbi Barry Silver
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Message From the Rabbi: October 7, 2023: Hamas must be destroyed.

On October 6, 1973, a coalition of Arab nations launched a surprise attack against Israel on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur. As a result of this vicious attack, Israel was almost wiped off the map and the dream of a modern Jewish state was almost extinguished. Had the Arab armies been victorious, they would not only have annihilated the Jewish state, they also most certainly would have taken as many Jewish lives as they could, which unfortunately has been the goal of many of Israel's neighbors since its inception, too often with the acquiescence of a silent world.

Today, 50 years after that horrific attack, comes another surprise attack against Israel, this time launched by Hamas, which in Hebrew means violence. As of this writing in the early morning hours of Shabbat, October 7, 2023, we do not yet know the full extent of the attack, and who besides Hamas may be involved, but we already know enough to see that Israel and the free world are not safe with terrorist organizations running governments.

To keep democracy and the world safe, America, Israel and other freedom loving nations must declare war against Hamas, defeat them militarily, and its reign of terror forever.

When America was attacked by al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001, we did not merely launch a counterattack, we set out to destroy al-Qaeda. As horrific and shocking as the September 11 attack was for America, today's attack against Israel reflects an even greater existential threat to the nation of Israel. We do not know the full extent of the attack in these early days, and who, if anyone, may be allied with Hamas in carrying it out, but we know enough to realize once again, that Israel and the free world are not safe as long as terrorist groups like Hamas exist, who make no secret of their goal and actions seeking to end the Jewish state of Israel forever.

It should be clear to any fair-minded person that Hamas must no longer be permitted to exist and a coalition of Israel, America and other freedom-loving countries should join this coalition to eradicate this world from terrorist groups like Hamas.

Sadly, the Palestinians voted for Hamas to represent them when Israel magnanimously returned Gaza to the Palestinians after capturing Gaza in a war of self-defense. However, with a terrorist group that throws its enemies off the top of buildings, one cannot say that the election of Hamas represented the will of the Palestinian people. In fact, just as with the defeat of the Nazis, the people who will benefit most from the eradication of Hamas will be the Palestinian people, who along with the Israelis, also have the right to live free of violence, fear and oppression.

We stand in solidarity with Israel.

With shalom, Rabbi Barry Silver