

Science Calls for "Never Again"

We take a stand against anti-Semitism and for democracy, freedom, and human rights.

On the morning of October 7, 2023, more than 1,200 people were killed in southern Israel, more than 240 were taken hostage, and countless others were wounded. The perpetrators used bestial violence; they tortured and raped; they killed with weapons, bare hands and burned people alive. The perpetrators wanted to inflict maximum suffering, including on infants, children, women, the elderly. The terrorist attack is the largest pogrom against Jews since the Shoah. The radical Islamic group Hamas, which has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2005 and openly propagates the destruction of Israel and the murder of all Jews, is responsible. Still hundreds of hostages are in the hands of the terrorists, and Hamas is firing rockets at Israel.

We condemn the terror of Hamas. Protecting their own people from attacks and terror is a fundamental duty of all states. Israel must and may defend itself against the terror of Hamas, including by military means. We recognize the suffering and misery of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, and we call for humanitarian aid. However, we are resolutely opposed to using the suffering of the people of the Gaza Strip to relativize Hamas' terror and deny Israel the right to self-defense.

We believe the overwhelming majority are on the side of Israel, on the side of the people of the Jewish faith. But much louder than this majority is currently a minority that expresses hatred of Israel, of everything Jewish, including Jews in our respective countries. It is legitimate to take to the streets for the creation of a State of Palestine. But it is not legitimate to call for the destruction of the State of Israel or the death of all Jews. Such demands are deeply despicable. Calling Hamas a group of freedom fighters and blaming the victims of the October 7 terrorist attack for the war in the Middle East is a bizarre distortion of the truth.

In Nazi Germany, the terror against Jews reached its first sad climax on November 9, 1938. The terror of the anti-Semites of that time led to the Shoah, to the murder of more than six million Jews. In today's society, the maxim "Never again!" applies. Anti-Semitism, i.e., rejecting, insulting, discriminating against, or persecuting people because of their Jewishness, has no place in our society. Let us be vigilant that distortion or omission of facts about October 7 does not fuel anti-Semitism, and let us recognize that Israel, like any other country, has the right and duty to defend itself against terrorist attacks and to protect its citizens.

As scientists, we dedicate ourselves to researching the causal relationships and laws in nature, technology, society, and thinking. Science leads the way, it contributes to the benefit of society, and this across borders of countries, cultures, religions, and genders. This is what drives us to lead the way and take a stand here as well.

We may have different views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but we are united in our rejection of all forms of anti-Semitism, whether from the left or the right, whether from natives or migrants. We stand in solidarity with the Jews in all countries, the victims of terror and their families, with the State of Israel and with all people around the world who stand up for democracy, freedom, and human rights.