

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

PRODUCED BY

CHRISTIANS
UNITED FOR ISRAEL ON CAMPUS



The purpose of this resource is to provide short answers to difficult questions about Israel. This booklet also concisely addresses common questions unique to Christian support for Israel.

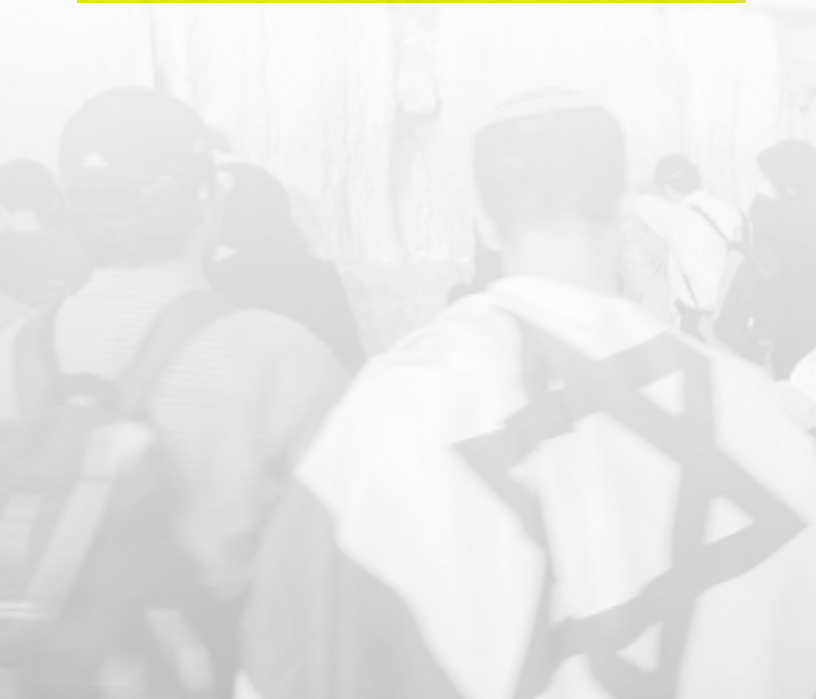


TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Section 1: Christian Support for Israel

Section 2: Israel's Founding

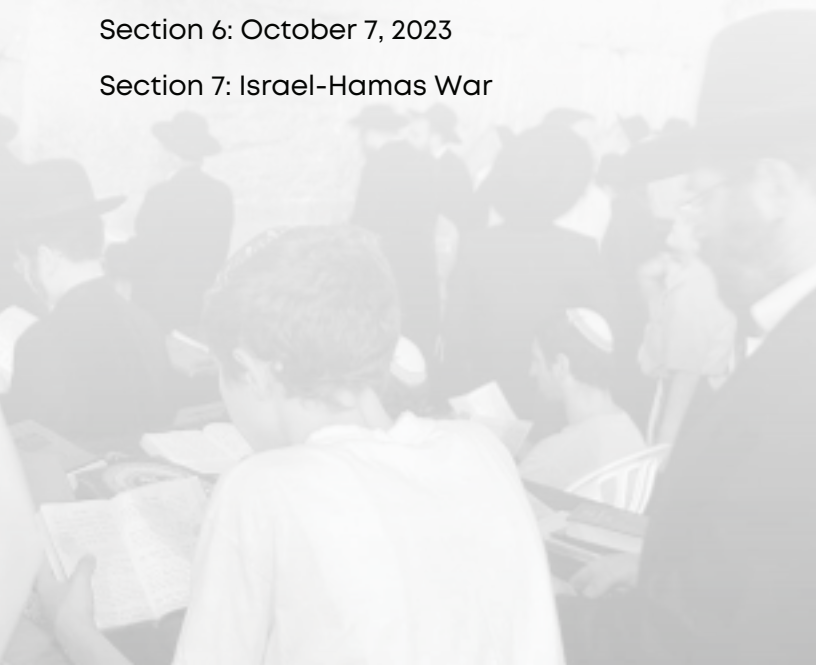
Section 3: Israel & the Nations

Section 4: Israel's Right to Exist

Section 5: Israel's Treatment of Palestinians

Section 6: October 7, 2023


Section 7: Israel-Hamas War



SECTION 1: CHRISTIAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL




1. IF GOD IS PROTECTING ISRAEL WHY DO WE NEED TO DO ANYTHING?



“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?”

James 2:14 asks us. What good is it to have faith that God will protect Israel but not show our belief through our action? We are called to put our faith to action.



2. ISN'T CHRISTIAN SUPPORT FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE CONTRADICTORY TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

While God loves all people passionately, He has a special role for the people through whom he has chosen to reveal himself to the world. A false doctrine called Replacement Theology arose shortly after the time of Christ teaching that the Church is the new Israel. Proponents of this false theology are also those who justify antisemitism by claiming, "The Jews killed Jesus." But Jesus himself is recorded in John 10:18 as saying, "No man takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own accord." Romans 11 teaches that Christians are grafted into the faith history of the Jewish people and that God has not rejected his people, the Jewish nation. Christian support for Jewish people is not only NOT contradictory, it is one of the most natural out-workings of the Christian faith.




3. SHOULDN'T CHRISTIANS SUPPORT CHRISTIANS?



Christians who want to support Christians should support Israel. Israel is the only place in the Middle East where Christians are protected. There is one place in the Middle East where Christians worship freely without fear of violence. That place is Israel. In Israel Christians can gather, worship and practice their faith openly. While the Christian population in other Middle Eastern countries is shrinking because of persecution, it is consistently growing in Israel.



4. SHOULDN'T WE BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT SPREADING THE GOSPEL AND NOT POLITICS? GOD CALLS US TO LOVE EVERYONE. WE SHOULDN'T BE PICKING SIDES IN A CONFLICT.



Engaging in politics is not contradictory to our command to share the Gospel but rather supplements our efforts. Jesus himself even made commentary on political issues (Mark 12:13-17). Christians have been commanded to share the good news of the Gospel, we've also been commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). But as James 2:12-17 instructs us, faith has to be accompanied by actions. At times, this requires us to be involved in politics. Moses, Nehemiah and Esther are revered for their political activities and advocacy for the Jewish right to self-determination.

5. HOW DOES THE BIBLE CALL CHRISTIANS TO SUPPORT ISRAEL? WHY ISRAEL?

The Bible is clear: we are to pray for Israel and support the Jewish people. God even inspired self-determination movements of the Jewish people. These movements are recorded throughout the Bible. God promised to turn Abraham's descendants into a prosperous nation. In Genesis 12:1-3, God said everyone who blessed that nation would be blessed. In Psalm 122:6-9, readers are instructed to pray for the eternal capital of the Jewish people - Jerusalem.



SECTION 2: ISRAEL'S FOUNDING



1. WASN'T THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL UNFAIR TO PALESTINIANS?




Arab leadership violently rejected the partition proposal that would have allowed for a Palestinian state to be established alongside Israel. In 1937, the Peel Commission recommended a partition of Palestine to make two states for two people. The Arab leaders coldly declined. In 1948 another opportunity to create a Palestinian state presented itself and was declined as well. It is not Israel's fault Palestinian leaders decline opportunities to create a state and have done so on numerous occasions.

2. ISRAEL IS A EUROPEAN COLONIZATION PROJECT. AREN'T JEWS IN ISRAEL EUROPEAN SETTLERS?



The state of Israel was birthed out of an empowerment movement for the self-determination of indigenous people- the Jews. The historic connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel was legally recognized by the precursor to the United Nations, the League of Nations, in 1922 in the Mandate for Palestine. The Mandate for Palestine established the legal right to self-determination of the Jewish people in their homeland. While the Romans expelled the Jews from the land in 70AD, there has been a continuous Jewish presence in the land of Israel for thousands of years. Israel is not composed of European settlers but an indigenous people returning to their homeland.

3. DIDN'T ISRAEL ETHNICALLY CLEANSE ARABS OF THE LAND AND CAUSE GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS?




When Israel declared itself independent, citizenship was offered to the Arabs living within its territory. Today, the descendants of those Arabs live in Israel as citizens. This is not genocide. In 1948, when the surrounding Arab states attacked Israel many Arabs in the region were displaced. The majority of Arab displacement in 1948 was a symptom of the war taking place around them and encouragement by their leaders to leave. A small percentage of the Arabs in Palestine were forcibly removed by Jewish militias in villages that were strategic targets in a war instigated by Arab states surrounding Israel. Had the enemies of Israel not attacked to prevent its establishment or agreed to a two-state solution those people might not have been displaced.

SECTION 3: ISRAEL & THE NATIONS



1. WHY DOES THE USA GIVE SO MUCH MONEY TO ISRAEL WHEN WE HAVE SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DOMESTICALLY?



Aid to Israel is more than just aid, it's a strategic investment. Israel, a beacon of stability in a volatile region, is a steadfast ally that America relies on for crucial cooperation in intelligence, counterterrorism, homeland security, and cyber warfare. By standing at the forefront against shared threats like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Iranian regime, Israel not only stabilizes the region but also reduces the need for American troops on the ground, a mutual benefit that underscores the value of our aid.

Additionally, the investment stimulates the American economy by creating jobs, as 75 percent of security assistance provided to Israel is spent in the United States, supporting thousands of American jobs across the country.


Aid to Israel constitutes less than 0.1% of the federal budget and about 6% of the U.S. foreign assistance budget.

2. DON'T AFRICAN AMERICANS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO STAND WITH THE PALESTINIANS AND AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS WHO ARE SYSTEMATICALLY OPPRESSED BY ISRAEL?

Likening the hardships of black Americans to Palestinian nationalism is an offensive comparison. Palestinian hardships are a direct result of the Palestinian leadership's corruption, intransigence and support for terror – not Israeli self-defense efforts. Palestinian leaders consistently choose to tear down Israel rather than build up Palestinian society. This is drastically different from the situation of black Americans.



3. EVERYONE KNOWS ISRAEL HAS NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. WHY SHOULDN'T IRAN ALSO HAVE A NUCLEAR BOMB?



Israel is a liberal democracy and Iran is a state sponsor of terror. A state sponsor of terror that openly discusses genocide should not be given tools to achieve that goal. Israel maintains a policy of nuclear ambiguity, wherein their alleged weapons are not even acknowledged and therefore cannot be used to threaten anyone. A nuclear armed Iran would destabilize the Middle East. Conversely, Israel is a stabilizing force in the Middle East.



4. WHY DOES THE USA PROTECT AND SUPPORT ISRAEL AT THE UN? IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE AMERICANS PROTECTING ISRAEL AT THE UN, THERE WOULD BE A PALESTINIAN STATE BY NOW.



A Palestinian state could have been established five times by direct negotiations with Israel. Palestinian leaders have declined every Israeli offer of peace. If a Palestinian state were to be established, many details would need to be sorted out between Israelis and Palestinians. These issues would need to be addressed by direct negotiations, not a vote at the United Nations.



5. AREN'T BOYCOTTS, DIVESTMENTS AND SANCTIONS OF ISRAEL THE BEST WAY TO ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISRAEL?



BDS is the punishment of businesses, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations based on their affiliation with Israel - the world's only Jewish state. Institutionalizing boycotts of the only Jewish state represents the systematic mistreatment of a social identity group. There is no place for delegitimizing and demonizing a people group in political debate, and that is precisely what the BDS movement does.



SECTION 4: ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST



1. DOES ISRAEL'S JEWISH IDENTITY PREVENT IT FROM BEING A DEMOCRACY?



Israel's Jewish identity does not undermine its democratic character or negatively impact non-Jewish citizens and visitors to Israel. Non-Jewish citizens of Israel enjoy full civil, social and political rights. There is no difference in status between Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of Israel.




2. ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-ZIONISM ARE DIFFERENT, RIGHT?

Zionism is a Jewish empowerment movement for self-determination and autonomy of the Jewish people. To be anti-Zionist is to be against the empowerment movement and autonomy of a minority group, Jews. Anti-Zionism is opposition to Jewish self-determination, Jewish empowerment and thus is inherently antisemitic.




3. JUDAISM IS A RELIGION NOT A PEOPLE GROUP. WHY SHOULD JEWS HAVE THEIR OWN COUNTRY?



The Jews are indeed a people. A nation is a united group of people who share emotional, spiritual, cultural and historical ties. The Jewish people, however diverse, share ties, making them a nation. Over thousands of years, Jewish people have continued to remember their heritage in their homeland and maintained their nationhood.



4. DO WE NEED A JEWISH STATE?



Jews have a right to exist as a people in their ancestral homeland. Moreover, prior to Israel, Jews lived as a persecuted minority in many parts of the world. There was no safe haven to welcome Jews when the persecution became unbearable until Jewish self-determination was realized in 1948 and Israel was established.





SECTION 5: ISRAEL'S TREATMENT OF PALESTINIANS



1. THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IS ASYMMETRICAL, ISN'T IT? ISRAEL USES DISPROPORTIONATE FORCE DURING WAR.



Israel takes great effort not to harm civilians during conflict. In stark contrast to Israel's behavior, Palestinian terrorists have engaged in mass-rape, mass-murder, kidnapping, and indiscriminate rocket fire towards Israeli population centers from Palestinian population centers.

Israel seeks to protect all civilians; Palestinian terrorists hide behind Palestinian innocents while trying to kill Israeli innocences.



2. WHY WON'T ISRAEL MAKE PEACE WITH THE PALESTINIANS? ALL THEY WANT IS A PALESTINIAN STATE.



Five times Israel has agreed to or proposed a two-state solution only to be rejected by Palestinian leaders. In 1937, 1948, 1967, 2000 and 2008 Palestinian leaders were offered and rejected the opportunity for a state. Israel has supported a two-state solution since the beginning and still desires peace.



3. WHY DOESN'T ISRAEL JUST END THE OCCUPATION?

When Israel first gained control of the West Bank in 1967, Israel offered the territory as a potential Palestinian state. The Arabs responded by declaring they would not make peace with Israel, negotiate with Israel or recognize Israel. Since then, Israel has offered the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and portions of Israel proper in exchange for peace, only to be rebuffed every time.




4. SETTLEMENTS ARE THE OBSTACLE TO PEACE AND ILLEGAL, AREN'T THEY?




Palestinian terror predates Israeli settlements. In addition, when Israel removed every settler and soldier from the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians responded with more violence, eventually culminating in the 10/7 Massacre which resulted in the unspeakable atrocities, the murder of 1,200 people and the kidnapping of another 250. Negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians will be successful when Palestinian leaders stop destroying – not when Israel stops building.



5. WHY DID ISRAEL BUILD A GIANT WALL TO KEEP PALESTINIANS OUT?



As a result of Palestinian terrorism in the Second Intifada, a security barrier was built. The security barrier in Israel is a legal and legitimate means for self-defense. The barrier in Israel is 440 miles and approximately 95% of it is a multi-layered fence. Less than five percent of it is a tall concrete wall – and this portion was built this way to prevent sniper attacks. Every year the security barrier was being built, suicide bombings and casualties dropped by nearly fifty percent.



6. IS ISRAEL AN APARTHEID STATE?

Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are governed by their own leaders. They are not and do not want to be Israeli citizens. Within Israel's borders, all Israeli citizens have equal rights. Arab citizens and other minority groups are able to openly criticize Israeli policies without fear of violence or persecution. In this way, Arab citizens of Israel have more liberty than their counterparts living under Palestinian rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli Arabs enjoy full civil rights. They participate in society in the same manner as their Jewish co-citizens.




7. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHECKPOINTS? THEY'RE DEHUMANIZING.



Checkpoints are a result of Palestinian terrorism. If terrorism was no longer an issue, checkpoints would no longer be an issue. They are not meant to dehumanize or humiliate Palestinians any more than TSA checkpoints are meant to dehumanize or humiliate airplane passengers. Checkpoints deter terrorism and keep people safe.



8. WHY DOES ISRAEL MAKE LIFE HARD FOR PALESTINIANS BY EVICTING THEM FROM THEIR HOMES AND STEALING THEIR WATER?



Eviction in Israel is not dependent on ethnicity or religion. If someone feels their eviction was illegal or unjust they can take their case to Israel's courts. The Palestinian Authority is responsible for Palestinians in the West Bank. Infrastructure challenges in the West Bank are a direct result of Palestinian Authority corruption and support for terror.



9. WHY DO SOME ISRAELI-ARABS NOT SUPPORT ISRAEL?

Criticism of the state is a part of a healthy democracy. There are Israeli-Arabs who enjoy the benefits of living in Israel and even prefer life in Israel over other places in the Middle East. But that is not to say all Arabs in Israel completely support all Israeli policy or even celebrate living in a Jewish state. Just like in the US, people have differing political opinions and are free to voice them as they see fit.



**10. WHY DOES ISRAEL
KEEP POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN
CONDITIONS THAT
VIOLATE HUMAN
DIGNITY? THEY EVEN
TAKE CHILDREN AS
POLITICAL PRISONERS
AND TREAT THEM
POORLY.**



In Israel people who are involved with terrorism and violent crimes are sent to prison after being convicted in a court of law. People in Israeli prisons have religious liberties and receive medical treatment. They are free to meet with an attorney.



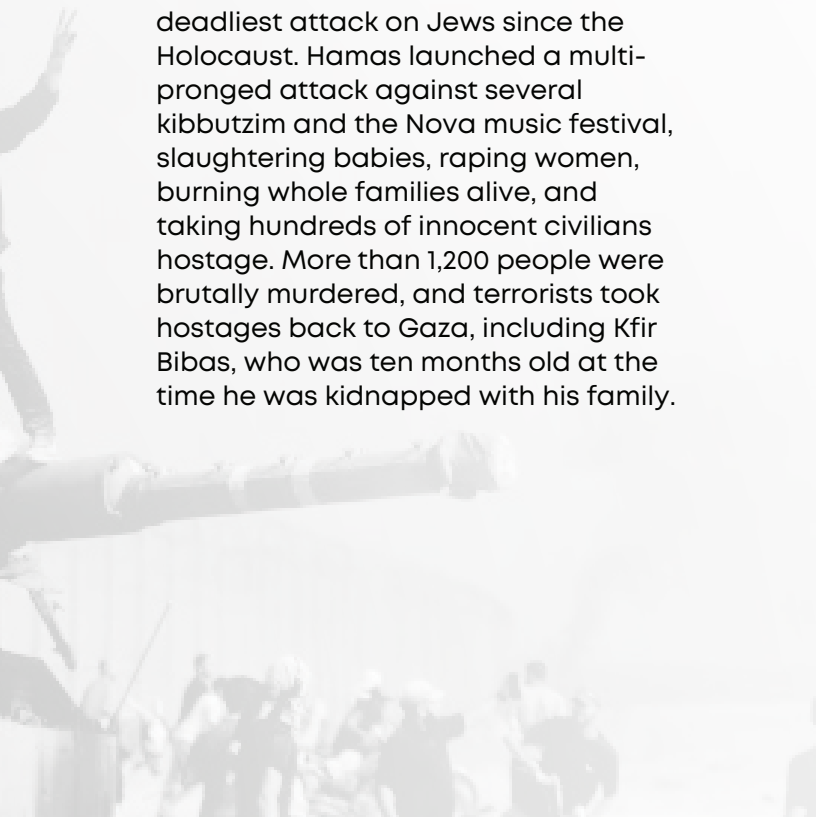
SECTION 6: OCTOBER 7, 2023



1. WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED ON OCTOBER 7, 2023?



On October 7, 2023, on the Jewish Holiday of Shemini Atzeret, Hamas and its terrorist allies launched the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust. Hamas launched a multi-pronged attack against several kibbutzim and the Nova music festival, slaughtering babies, raping women, burning whole families alive, and taking hundreds of innocent civilians hostage. More than 1,200 people were brutally murdered, and terrorists took hostages back to Gaza, including Kfir Bibas, who was ten months old at the time he was kidnapped with his family.

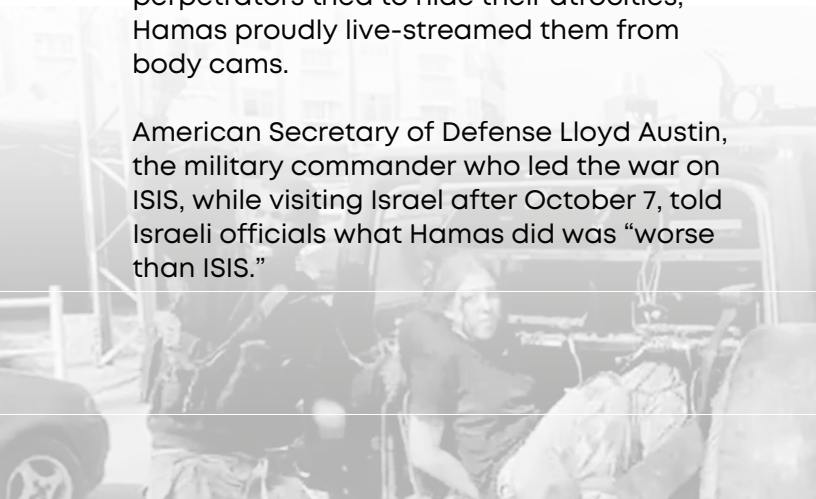


2. DID THE MEDIA GO TO EXTRA LENGTHS TO CONCOCT GRUESOME X-RATED VERSIONS OF THE OCTOBER 7 ATTACK?

No, while some activists and commentators with absolutely no evidence have repeated lies, such as no sexual violence occurred, the fact remains that numerous independent bodies have verified the brutality of the attack.

Unlike previous massacres that have taken place throughout history where the perpetrators tried to hide their atrocities, Hamas proudly live-streamed them from body cams.

American Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, the military commander who led the war on ISIS, while visiting Israel after October 7, told Israeli officials what Hamas did was “worse than ISIS.”



3. WHAT DID ISRAEL'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE KNOW IN ADVANCE ABOUT WHAT HAMAS HAD PLANNED? WHY DIDN'T THEY STOP IT?



Documents reveal that the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and intelligence agencies knew the potential of a Hamas attack. There was no specificity on the date of the attack, but it was understood that Hamas was training for the type of attack that occurred on October 7, 2023.



4. HOW WAS THE IDF NOT PREPARED FOR THIS ATTACK IF THEY HAD INDICATORS BEFOREHAND?

The multi-pronged attack caught Israel off guard, striking on a Jewish holiday, and Shabbat added to that, similar to the multi-pronged attack on Israel in 1973 on the holiest of Jewish days, Yom Kippur. In a *New York Times* investigative report, Amir Avivi, IDF commander and former deputy head of the Gaza Division, said, “There was no defense plan for a surprise attack.” Former National Security Advisor Yaakov Amidror added, “The army does not prepare itself for things it thinks are impossible.”




5. WAS OCTOBER 7TH A “FALSE FLAG” STAGED BY THE ISRAELIS – LIKELY WITH HELP FROM THE AMERICANS – TO JUSTIFY GENOCIDE IN GAZA?

The October 7 attack was among the most well-documented terrorist attacks in history, including evidence from smartphone and GoPro cameras of Hamas terrorists. Yet, conspiracy theories emerged within days, stating that the attacks did not occur or were false flags. The claims first began emerging on Reddit subforums and in anti-Israel publications in addition to being adopted by Holocaust deniers. The claims of it being a false flag operation are based on cherry-picked information to push misleading narratives. The evidence of what took place on 10/7 is overwhelming; thus, many have compared 10/7 conspiracy theories and denial to Holocaust denial.



6. ARE HAMAS'S ACTIONS PART OF THEIR RESISTANCE AGAINST OPPRESSIVE COLONIZERS?



In short, no. Hamas's covenant states that it is its goal is the eradication of Israel and the murder of every Jew in the world. Concerning the massacre on October 7th, Hamas came from the territory of Gaza, which Israel left in 2005, uprooting every single Israeli in the hope of peace. Hamas's actions were an aggressive attack primarily targeting civilians. Under no circumstances can we or should we consider rape and the murder of babies resistance; to do so is abhorrent.

In addition, the Jewish people are not colonizers in the land of Israel. Historically, it was called Judea and Samaria in the time of Jesus; the Arab conquest only came to the Holy Land in the 7th century. The rebirth of Israel in 1948 was the return of a people to their land that they had been expelled and forced out of throughout history.



SECTION 7: ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR




1. WHY DID ISRAEL START A WAR AGAINST HAMAS?



On October 6, 2023, Israel was not at war with Hamas. It was only after the massacre on October 7 when Israeli hostages were taken captive in Gaza, that Israel launched a war to bring its people home and destroy Hamas just as any nation under attack in such a brutal way would respond.



2. IS ISRAEL TARGETING CIVILIANS IN GAZA?



While this erroneous claim continues in news outlets, all evidence points to the contrary. Israel is going to lengths never seen before in modern warfare to prevent civilian casualties. Media outlets continue to rely on the Hamas-controlled Gaza Ministry of Health for their casualty figures, whereas Hamas does not distinguish between deaths of civilians or Hamas terrorists. John Spencer, who is the chair of Urban Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute (MWI) at West Point and spent 25 years as an infantry soldier, which included two combat tours in Iraq wrote, “All available evidence shows that Israel has followed the laws of war, legal obligations, best practices in civilian harm mitigation and still found a way to reduce civilian casualties to historically low levels.”



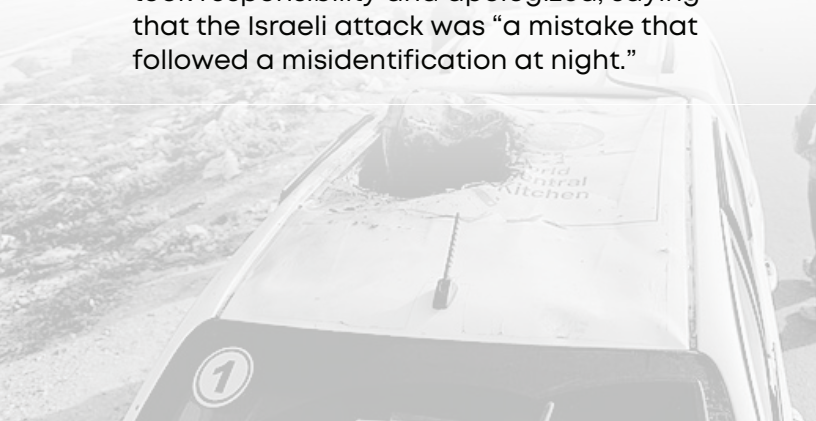
3. WHY HAS ISRAEL BEEN STARVING THE PEOPLE OF GAZA? WHY WON'T ISRAEL ALLOW HUMANITARIAN AID TRUCKS THROUGH?

Israel has gone to great lengths to ensure aid is finding its way into Gaza, where food shortages are occurring. The issue is not whether or not food is permitted to enter Gaza by Israel. Rather, the issue is that aid is stolen or disrupted once it is inside Gaza. But the blame for that rests squarely with Hamas. Hamas is using the starvation narrative to demonize the Jewish state.



4. WHY DID ISRAEL ATTACK THE WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN?

The World Central Kitchen strike was a terrible tragedy and accident. Sadly, in the fog of war, these incidents do occur. On April 1, 2024, Israeli drones targeted a three-car convoy belonging to the World Central Kitchen in the Gaza Strip, killing seven aid workers. All too often in the history of modern combat, tragic accidents happen. In Israel's war against Hamas, multiple IDF soldiers have died in "friendly fire" incidents. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the World Central Kitchen attack as a tragic incident where Israeli forces unintentionally hit innocent people. The IDF took responsibility and apologized, saying that the Israeli attack was "a mistake that followed a misidentification at night."



5. IS ISRAEL HOLDING PALESTINIANS HOSTAGE?

Since Hamas took over 200 hostages from Israel into Gaza and people all over the world called for their release, anti-Israel activists, in an attempt to downplay the horror of Hamas taking hostages, have spun a narrative of Israel holding Palestinian hostages. These so-called hostages are people arrested for terror-related offenses; there is zero equivalency. A person in prison in America for attempted murder is not a hostage; in the same way, Palestinians arrested for terror offenses and trying to murder Israelis are not hostages, and to assert so is outrageous. This narrative is a cynical attempt to downplay Hamas's kidnapping and counteract international attempts to free the hostages held in Gaza.



6. IS HAMAS TREATING ISRAELI HOSTAGES WELL?

If a thief walked into your home and stole everything but washed a cup he used, no one would be focused on cleaning the cup. Similarly, to make this argument that Hamas is treating the hostages well after it murdered their families, destroyed their homes, and kidnapped them out of their beds is bizarre and shows the lengths individuals are going to justify the Hamas massacre. But this aside, the testimonies of hostages that have been released or rescued have stated how they were beaten, starved, and tormented, with widespread reports of sexual abuse and much more. In addition, Hamas has denied requests by the Red Cross to visit the hostages to check on their welfare.



7. WHY WON'T ISRAEL CEASE FIRE?

Israel has made repeated cease-fire offers to Hamas, all of which have been rejected. Moreover, at any time, Hamas can release the hostages and lay down their arms and the war will end immediately. However, no democratic nation would engage in a unilateral cease-fire or empower a terrorist organization by agreeing to absurd terms.



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