

## Statement from the International Study Group on Antisemitism

We strongly condemn the murder, maiming, and abduction of hundreds of Israeli civilians and soldiers during an unprovoked attack by Hamas terrorists. The scale of this terrorist attack is unprecedented in recent history. It can only be viewed as a pogrom.

We quote from Alan Johnson, editor of *Fathom*:

*Hamas hunted Jews in southern Israel, burning them out their houses, shooting, killing, and abducting men, women and children. Hamas moved through towns and villages, slaughtering. At least 250 people were massacred at a music festival for peace, the executions carrying on for hours. One victim was paraded semi-naked in the back of a Hamas pick-up truck as militants sat on top of her and jeered....Other murdered women were stripped naked and paraded through the streets with cheering men crowding round to spit on them. An elderly woman, a Holocaust survivor, was dragged away by a Hamas terrorist in her wheelchair. ...Children were kidnapped. Canadian peace activists were abducted. Entire families were taken. (In Fathom, 8 October 2023)*

In its founding document, the Hamas Charter, Hamas states that is committed to waging Jihad, or holy war, in order “to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine”. Its stated goal is to eliminate the Jewish state and kill Jews. It must be made clear that the terror against Israel is not motivated by economic, geographic, or political conflicts: all of Israel is considered a holy land that must not be defiled by the presence of "infidels", whether Christians or Jews. One must be very clear that the statement of freeing Palestine from occupation, “*From the River to the Sea*”, reveals a clear intent to eliminate the State of Israel.

We as psychoanalysts can identify the dehumanization of the Jewish population that is being displayed by the horrific massacre on the 7th of October. It is only this process that gives license to such unleashed cruelty. How can the humanity of both peoples be recovered so that a dialogue can take place? It does not seem possible in the near future.

We hope that in due course it will be possible to find strong leaders on both sides who will have the courage to meet and negotiate Peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

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