

VOICES FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE  
PRESS RELEASE  
October 13, 2023

Voices for Justice in Palestine is a nonpartisan social-justice nonprofit based in Durham working for a just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine for Jews and Palestinians alike.

Voices for Justice in Palestine unequivocally condemns the horrific attack by Hamas militants against Israeli civilians on Saturday, October 7. There is no excuse for such barbaric violence. It is indefensible. That said, this violence didn't come out of nowhere. It was a response to the grievous history of Israeli oppression of the Palestinian people that has gone on for 75 years. This is not to justify it, but to understand it. And to realize that if we want the guns to fall silent, and the bombs to stop, if we want every Israeli and Palestinian life to be safe, we must address the root of the violence.

We also unequivocally condemn Israel's retaliatory bombardment and total siege of the Gaza Strip, cutting off all electricity, food, water, and medical supplies. It is a crime against humanity, and there is no excuse for such barbaric violence. The United States' greenlighting of Israel's genocidal violence is indefensible. It is opening the gates of hell, and must be stopped immediately. Every human life is precious, and we mourn the deaths of Israelis and Palestinians caused by these tragic cycles of violence and retaliation, and call for an immediate ceasefire.

What is needed now more than ever is not more bloodshed and destruction, but a shared determination to pursue a different direction: address the root causes of the violence, and seek pathways to a just peace based on freedom, security, and equal rights for Israelis and Palestinians in complete and equal measure. War is not the answer.

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