

## **Q&A ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

### **WHY IS ISRAEL RESPONDING TO THE HAMAS TERROR ATTACK BY DECLARING WAR?**

- Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish state.
- Israel has a responsibility to defend its citizens – Jewish and Arab – from any threat, including terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah.
- No country would be expected to endure the murder of its civilians without responding. Imagine that the death toll in the U.S. on 9/11 had been 40,000 people and the U.S. had not responded.

### **ISN'T ISRAEL'S RESPONSE DISPROPORTIONATE?**

- Israel's goal is to eliminate the Hamas terrorist organization, just as the U.S. and its allies sought to destroy Al-Qaeda and ISIS. Unfortunately, civilians are caught up in any war.
- Israel does not target civilians. On the contrary, Israel goes to great lengths to warn civilians of impending military action.

### **WHY IS ISRAEL CUTTING OFF SUPPLIES LIKE ELECTRICITY AND FUEL?**

- Hamas is the governmental authority in the Gaza Strip. Hamas is known to divert supplies provided for civilian and humanitarian services to military purposes to attack Israel.
- In general, Israel only supplies 10% of Gaza's water and 50% of its electricity.

### **WHY ARE SO MANY MORE PALESTINIANS KILLED THAN ISRAELIS?**

- Israel makes it a priority to protect its citizens. Israel has built bomb shelters throughout the country to provide protection from rocket and missile attacks.

- Hamas does not protect its citizens. International aid intended for civilians has been commandeered by Hamas to pursue its military agenda against Israelis. Hamas also demands that civilians stay in their homes even after a warning of any Israeli strike. Hamas also bases its rocket batteries and military weaponry in civilian areas, ensuring that when Israel targets those military locations, civilians are killed.
- Much of the weaponry used by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad is unsophisticated. Rockets fired from Gaza do not always reach their intended target in Israel, instead falling in Gaza and killing innocent Palestinians.

### **WHAT PRECIPITATED THIS ATTACK?**

- The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is complicated, with history and geo-politics playing a large role.
- There was no immediate action by Israel that precipitated this unprecedented terror attack against Israeli citizens.
- The Palestinians in the Gaza Strip DO NOT live under Israeli occupation. Israel unilaterally withdrew its military and civilian installations from Gaza in 2005. Hamas took over the Gaza Strip from the Palestinian Authority in 2007.

### **SYMPATHY FOR INNOCENT PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS**

- Of course we sympathize with innocent Palestinian civilians.
- The loss of all innocent human life is tragic. Innocent Palestinians who are killed in this conflict had every right to live their lives in peace. So did the more than 1400 innocent Israelis who were killed in the unprecedented and unprovoked Hamas terror attack on October 7.

### **WHAT CAN INDIVIDUALS DO TO HELP?**

- Contribute to the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City's Annual Campaign and Israel Emergency Campaign.
  - The Federation's Annual Campaign is important to provide ongoing funding to our partners in Israel – in Ramle and the Gezer region. The "regular" needs in these communities will intensify and continue beyond the emergency.

- 100% of funds raised in the Israel Emergency Campaign will be used to meet urgent humanitarian needs. 90% of the funds will be sent to the Jewish Federations of North America who will allocate those funds to trusted partner organizations in Israel. 10% of the funds will be allocated by our local Federation directly (via JFNA) to our partner communities in Ramle and the Gezer region.
- Reach out to friends and family in Israel. Let them know the Jewish community stands with them.

### **IS IT SAFE TO GO TO JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS?**

- The Jewish Federation oversees a central Jewish community security initiative. The security team is in close contact with local and federal law enforcement and with our local Jewish institutions.
- Security measures have been enhanced since October 7, 2023.