



Jewish Community
Relations Council
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

**The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation
is Outraged by the Deadly Spree of Terrorist Attacks in Israel and
the Seeming Apathy of the Global Community**

October 14, 2015

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is incensed by the escalating wave of terrorism in Israel yesterday - in four separate terrorist assaults three people were killed and dozens wounded.

The past ten days have seen a massive increase in the frequency and intensity of violent attacks, including more than a dozen independent incidents of stabbings. Mass riots have occurred in multiple locations (including Jaffa, next to Tel Aviv), civilian vehicles have been pelted with stones and boulders in dozens of incidents causing damage, injury and death, and rockets have been fired at Israel from within Gaza.

This continued wave of violence by terrorists must end. The violence and terrorism across Israel is profoundly disturbing and the seeming lack of response from the international community to this rising campaign of terror being waged against innocent Israelis is unacceptable.

Additionally, an Israeli teenager attacked and wounded three Palestinian men and a Bedouin Arab in the southern Israeli city of Dimona. To be sure, while no equivocation can be drawn between these incidents, the JCRC condemns this misguided terrorist act which has no place in any modern democracy, such as Israel.

The attacks of late seem the work of widespread Palestinian incitement but at present do not seem to be coordinated by any national group. Several groups have claimed responsibility for some of the attacks. While Israeli sources have debated if this indicates the start of a third Intifada (popular violent uprising) on the part of the Palestinians, the Palestinian terror groups have not minced words. Hezbollah, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad have all called for an intifada. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has recently attempted to "lower the flames" in hopes of preventing the escalating violence from spiraling out of control.

However, many blame the recent escalation (at least in part) on Abbas's recent speech at the General Assembly of the UN, where he claimed the PA would no longer be bound by the Oslo Accords. Others blame Israel's supposed intention to expel Palestinians from the Temple Mount and to destroy al-Aksa Mosque. However, that claim is not true. Prime Minister Netanyahu has ordered Jewish members of the Israeli Knesset (not Muslims) to refrain from visiting the mosque and declared before the UN General Assembly that Israel has no intention to try to take it over. Moshe Dayan, who served as Israeli defense minister during the Six-Day War, relinquished control of the mosque to the Muslims immediately after Israel reclaimed the old city in 1967. Jews have been allowed to visit it but not to pray there ever since.

We appreciate yesterday's statement from the U.S. Department of State condemning in the strongest terms today's terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians. We urge President Barack Obama to support the Israeli government's security efforts without reservation and ask him to call on the Palestinian Authority to use all possible measures to end this violence now.

The Jewish Federation of North America's Jerusalem office and our JCRC are keeping a close watch on the situation, including liaising with the Israeli government. Your JCRC will continue to provide updates as the situation unfolds. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.



Elana Kahn, Director
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