



**Statement of ASIL President Gregory Shaffer  
Regarding the Attack on Israel, the Gaza War, and the Protection of Civilians**

October 13, 2023

The intentional mass killing by Hamas of Israeli civilians and the abduction of dozens of hostages constitute gross violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law. Among those murdered and abducted are children, women, the elderly, and the disabled. These acts constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, and they must be condemned. As required by international law, the hostages must receive proper treatment and be released immediately.

All parties to armed conflict must comply with international law, and in particular international humanitarian law, which prohibits both targeted as well as indiscriminate killing of civilians, and imposes other critical requirements aimed at protecting civilian populations. These are core principles of international law embraced by the American Society of International Law. These principles apply to all parties, Israel's armed forces and Hamas alike.

We express our solidarity with the families and friends of all victims of this violence—Israelis, Palestinians, and others—and urge all States and the international community to condemn international law violations. Lawful measures to deter violations must be taken to protect the lives and security of innocent people.

International law provides the foundation for peace, stability, and human flourishing. All parties must comply with their legal obligations so that a just and lawful peace may follow.

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