

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 1

A-57

From: Stephanie <stephanie.hopping@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Please issue a resolution supporting Israel's right to exist and condemning terrorism

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On October 7, 2023, Israel was invaded by Hamas terrorists who tortured and slaughtered over 1,400 innocent men, women, and children, including infants and the elderly, in unspeakably evil ways that easily rival and exceed the horrors of Hitler's Holocaust, and they took over 200 innocent people as hostages -- including children, the elderly, **and American citizens**. This unprovoked sneak attack also included the firing of thousands of rockets into southern Israel. No words can adequately convey the horror of such utterly barbaric and gruesome crimes against humanity. **No grievances or injustices, whether real or perceived, justify these atrocities. The Board of Supervisors should strongly condemn this horrific attack.**

In the wake of this horror, we have seen further horrors in the form of demonstrations in many countries and in the US, especially on college campuses, that are overtly anti-Semitic, calling for the destruction of Israel. the killing of Jews in general, and supporting Palestinian terrorist organizations. The *Santa Barbara Independent* has reported on recent local demonstrations that included the chant "From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free" -- which is widely acknowledged as a call for the destruction of Israel as a state and the extermination of all Israelis. **This is an endorsement of genocide, and it should be condemned.** The *Independent* has also reported that, at UCSB, posters showing Hamas' kidnapping victims have been torn down. Just today it has been reported in national news that an elderly Jewish man has died from injuries incurred during a demonstration involving supporters of Israel and pro-Palestinian supporters. (A pro-Palestinian demonstrator hit him on the head with a megaphone, causing him to fall.) This happened in Westlake Village -- next door to us --- in Ventura County.

There have been numerous incidents of violent threats against Jewish people in general, violent attacks on Jewish individuals, attempted attacks on Jewish students on campuses, attempted attacks on Jewish institutions, and just this past weekend, violent pro-Hamas demonstrations in Washington, DC. Overseas Jewish communities have been targeted with yellow stars painted on their places of residence, are being told to stay home and hide for their safety, etc. I never thought that in my lifetime we would be reliving certain aspects of what the 1930s and early 1940s were for the Jewish community in Germany and other parts of Europe during the rise of Hitler's National Socialist Party (Nazism)! Yes, I'm sure there have been some ugly and evil incidents targeting innocent Muslims (such as the horrendous murder of the little Palestinian boy), but the vast majority of hate crimes, threats, and acts of violence seem to be occurring against the Jewish community in our country. **Both anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim actions should be strongly condemned by the Board of Supervisors.**

The Hamas Charter, other Palestinian terrorist groups, Hezbollah, Iran, etc. explicitly call for the destruction of Israel and genocide against the Jewish people. **Any entity, movement, or activity that calls for, or supports, the elimination of Israel or any other form of genocide against the members of a nation; or the members of any political, ethnic, tribal, or religious community should be strongly condemned by the Board of Supervisors.**

Israel is not a "colonizer" or "occupier." There has been a continuous Jewish presence in Israel (formerly called Judea precisely because of the Jewish presence) for thousands of years, long before there was an Arab or Muslim presence there. Israel was actually granted a much larger territory under the earlier British colonial mandate than it currently has. It has had to give up a considerable amount of territory. Upon gaining independence in 1948, it did not "kick out" non-Jews. They were invited to stay, but the surrounding (and at that time, very hostile) Arab nations encouraged non-Jewish Palestinians to leave Israel, promising them that they would destroy Israel (which they have unsuccessfully tried to do a few times), and then they could return. At one point Jordan took in a lot of Palestinian refugees, who soon tried to overthrow the Jordanian government. After that, Lebanon took in a lot of Palestinian refugees, who soon fomented a long and very bloody civil war in Lebanon. Since then, most Palestinian refugees have been consigned to the UN refugee camps in the West Bank region, and no other Arab nation has since offered to take them in, although they pay lip service to their concern for them and exploit them as a convenient political weapon against Israel. **In a bid for peace, Israel gave the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians for self-rule in 2006.** The Palestinians there promptly elected to be ruled by Hamas, which soon turned the Gaza Strip into the impoverished hellhole it currently is (despite receiving lots of humanitarian aid) and have not allowed any further elections. Hamas' priority has been using Gaza as a base for launching numerous violent attacks on Israel.

Israel is the only parliamentary democracy in the entire region, has been a refuge for persecuted Jews worldwide, and is our best friend and ally in the Middle East. **Please issue a resolution supporting Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation, to coexist peacefully with all other nations, and to defend itself against unprovoked aggression.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Stephanie Hopping
Goleta

Katherine Douglas

From: Linda Foster <swanlake805@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 2:32 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Fwd: Please issue a resolution supporting Israel's right to exist and condemning terrorism

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stephanie** <stephanie.hopping@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 7, 2023 at 1:27 PM
Subject: Please issue a resolution supporting Israel's right to exist and condemning terrorism
To: <sbcob@countyofsb.org>

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