



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE ESTONIAN, ISRAELI, LATVIAN, AND LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENTS

16 October 2023

We, the chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Knesset and the Baltic parliaments, unequivocally denounce Hamas and its barbaric and inhuman acts of terrorism inflicted upon Israel and its citizens. The actions perpetrated by Hamas lack any justification, legitimacy, or rationalization, and as such, they warrant global condemnation. These attacks represent an ideology whose sole objective is to erase the State of Israel from the map.

We affirm and uphold Israel's legitimate right to defend its nation and citizens from violent acts of terrorism.

We call on the international community to make clear to the axis countries (Iran, Syria, and Lebanon) and to organizations in the region, primarily Hezbollah, to avoid participating in the war. They must not promote, encourage, or allow for an additional front against Israel. Such actions will be met with a firm and lethal Israeli response.

We recognize that much of the violence against Israel and its citizens—both past and present—has been directly funded and supported by Iran. We are firmly united in our conviction that Iran represents a grave global threat, not only as a leading purveyor of terrorism but also as a relentless underminer of stability in both the Middle East and the wider global arena. We call on the international community to take coordinated action to further isolate Iran with severe sanctions.

We call upon like-minded nations to officially designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. The malevolent, bloodstained fingerprints of this group are ubiquitous worldwide.

We voice our deep concern over Iran's advancements in its nuclear program, as well as its persistent lack of transparency with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The prospect of an unchecked, nuclear-armed Iran is a scenario that the global community cannot tolerate. We urgently implore the international community to unite in a resolute and coordinated effort to avert this impending threat.

We note with alarm the recent rise in antisemitic incidents and bigotry, which is becoming more brazen and dangerous, particularly in the immediate aftermath of Hamas' attacks on Israel. Many across the world were shocked to see the widespread glorification and justification of violence against civilians by activist groups in European and North American cities.

We are committed to the realization of Israel's peaceful coexistence with its neighbors in the region and welcome the accelerated expansion of the Abraham Accords—a pivotal and profound strategic realignment in the Middle East. We strongly encourage more nations to join the circle of peace, acknowledging the substantial benefits it offers to all the peoples of the region.

We observe with deep concern the growing collaboration between Russia and Iran on the battlefield within Ukraine as well as in deepening contacts with Hamas, a development that presents a profound threat to the security of Israel, the Middle East, and Europe.

We unequivocally affirm our unwavering support for the Ukrainian people and stand resolute in our steadfast commitment to assisting Ukraine. This commitment is firmly anchored in our deeply held conviction that it not only reflects the morally imperative course of action but also aligns with our collective interest in confronting totalitarian regimes on the international stage.

We condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and believe that Russia's brazen expansionist policies and actions constitute an assault on Europe's broader security architecture. We are acutely aware of the threats posed to the countries on the frontier of this stand-off between democracies and authoritarian regimes. In light of this, we are convinced that it demands an unwavering and cohesive response from the international community to safeguard global security and uphold the rules-based international order.

We are committed to strengthening the cooperation between our countries and committees through an ongoing and honest dialogue on current regional and global challenges facing our respective nations. We can mutually share and benefit from a wealth of knowledge and experience in diverse fields, and we consider it essential to unite in addressing regional threats.

We are resolutely committed to persisting in our collaborative efforts to pursue these objectives and aspire to institute a B3+1 dialogue at the parliamentary level.

**Rihards
Kols**

Chairman of the
Foreign Affairs
Committee

The Saeima of
the Republic of
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**Marko
Mihkelson**

Chairman of the
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Chairman of the
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**Yuli Yoel
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Chairman of the
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The Knesset of
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