



## **Israel's pro-democracy groups mobilize to aid those in need after Hamas attack**

### ***Protest movement helping locate the missing, collecting and distributing food, clothing, equipment and medicine, and more***

TEL AVIV, Israel \_ Oct. 10, 2023 \_ At 6 am on Saturday, Oct. 7th, the Iran-backed terrorist organization Hamas perpetrated from Gaza a murderous and unprovoked attack, launching thousands of missiles at Israeli cities as hundreds of terrorists forced their way into the country. They massacred many hundreds, wounded thousands, and abducted back into Gaza scores of civilians, some of them wounded, including women, toddlers, and the elderly. They raped women, burned to death families in their homes, decapitated babies and celebrated their cruelty on video with chants of "death to Israel, death to America."

With these atrocities Hamas declared war on Israel, and war they shall have. This is Israel's 9/11 – on steroids: a game-changing onslaught against defenseless civilians by forces of destruction opposed to all modernity and progress. Hamas, ISIS, Hezbollah, the mullahs of Iran – they are the same nihilistic scourge under different names, driven by hate and single-mindedly focused on opposing Western civilization in its entirety, chiefly the United States and Israel.

The Israel Democracy HQ (IDHQ) is an umbrella organization uniting over 270 NGOs, local chapters, and grassroots groups, championing the pro-democracy resistance movement in Israel. Those groups have now come together to provide volunteer assistance to the frontline on Israel's south, supported by the IDHQ.

The assistance center is locating the missing and helping identify the captives, and collecting and distributing food, clothing, medicine, hygiene products and other supplies. We are providing transportation, securing needed equipment for fighters, receiving displaced families and finding temporary homes for them, and providing medical and mental care to the many thousands touched by the disaster.

So far, countless specific aid operations have been carried out in this civilian effort to ease the lives of those affected by this war, and to provide what backing we can to soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces, including the hundreds of thousands of reservists who have been mobilized over the span of 48 hours.

The IDF reservists who have been protesting the anti-democratic actions of the government all enlisted immediately to defend the country. Those who have borne the security burden for generations, since the establishment of the state, defend it again, on all fronts. So does the entire pro-democracy movement, composed of patriotic Israelis whose message to Israel's enemies is clear: *Do not mistake our internal conflicts for weakness that can be exploited militarily, for we remain resilient, steadfast and united in crisis.*

“We demand the immediate release of the abducted Israelis. And we call on global observers and leaders to stand with us and support our obligation to defend ourselves, because the terrorist scourge targets all free people,” the IDHQ said in a statement.

“After we eradicate this evil, we will resume our struggle against the self-defeating and utterly unacceptable authoritarian overhaul project launched by Benjamin Netanyahu’s government, which has so incompetently led Israel for almost a year.”

As of Oct. 10, over 900 Israelis are known to have been murdered, over 2,500 were wounded, and 150 people are believed to have been abducted to Gaza as hostages.

**About the Israel Democracy HQ:**

IDHQ is an umbrella organization of over 270 NGOs, local organizations, and grassroots groups representing specific sectors, such as the tech community, reserve soldiers, women’s rights, doctors, academics, lawyers, and more, as well as pro democracy groups from across Israel. The HQ was launched in January, shortly after the new Israeli government announced its “reforms” program. It has provided funding, logistical, media, and legal support, facilitated coordination, and supported the transformation of a massive civil society non-violent effort into a powerful resistance movement. Above all, it fights to preserve a free, democratic, and secure Israel.

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