



St. Anna Colleg – Statement on the events in Israel

On 7 October 2023, 1,200 people were brutally murdered in a terrorist attack in southern Israel: babies, children and their parents, young people, including many who had just attended a music festival, old people ... In a single day, about as many Jews were killed as on 9 November 1938 during the Reichspogromnacht ('Kristallnacht'). Why? Simply because they were Jews!

It is well known that this terrorist act was perpetrated by the radical Islamic organisation Hamas. The founding document of this organisation, the so-called Hamas Covenant or Charter, readily accessible on the Internet, contains statements such as: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it." And: "The Day of Judgment will not come about until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them. Then, the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out: 'Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew hiding behind me – come and kill him.'"

Such statements are reminiscent of the blindness of the Western world at the time of the rising tide of National Socialism. Hitler, too, had spelt out in "Mein Kampf" exactly what would later become a reality – but no one took it seriously at first.

The mass murder of 7 October therefore followed a pre-announced plan. This massacre was not about resistance against an occupation, but about the extermination of the Jews.

Although this will to exterminate has been known for decades, vast amounts of aid money – including from Germany and the European Union – have been channelled into the Gaza Strip. Instead of using this money for the intended purpose of improving the conditions of the civilian population, in the hands of Hamas it became 'money for murder': to produce weapons, to build tunnels, to pay pensions to the families of killed terrorists. Humanitarian support from the West has thus not prevented terror, but rather, indirectly fostered it.

A journalist summed up the situation in Israel a few days ago: "If Israel were to lay down its arms, it would be destroyed the next morning. If Hamas were to lay down its arms, there would be at peace."

Only one State exists for Jews in the entire world. In all other countries, they are only – more or less welcome – guests. Even in Germany, they are no longer safe, as the anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic demonstrations and attacks in recent weeks show.

In the Jewish state of Israel, minorities such as the approximately 20 % Arab Muslims are able to live and enjoy equal rights. They can practise their culture and religion and occupy responsible positions in society and in politics. By contrast, there are no Jews in the Gaza Strip or in states such as Lebanon and Syria, and no Jews could live in a future Palestinian state either.

Israel's war in Gaza is not a war against the Palestinians, but rather, a war seeking to bring about liberation from a terrorist regime, comparable to the liberation of Germany from the Nazi regime in 1945.

A prominent Palestinian, Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of a Hamas founder, recently confirmed this on American television: "Israel is doing the Palestinians the greatest favour by liberating them from Hamas."

At St Anna Colleg, we condemn Hamas's inhumane aggression against innocent Israeli citizens, which was also an attack on Western civilisation as a whole. Israel is on the front line when it comes to defending the fundamental values and social order of the free world.

We therefore consider Israel's efforts to destroy this terrorist organisation to be justified and necessary.

We are appalled by the anti-Israeli demonstrations in German cities, and the hate slogans directed against the State of Israel and against Jews.

In the light of history, we believe that a special obligation rests on Germany towards Israel, on Christians towards Jews. We therefore unconditionally support Israel's right to exist and the right of Jews to a safe and secure life in Germany.

As a school, we see it as our task to provide our pupils with a comprehensive knowledge of history, especially the history of the Third Reich, the Shoah and Israel, and to put into practice with them the values that have grown out of the Jewish-Christian tradition.

This is why the Israeli flag has been flying over Villa Eggenberg for several weeks now. At its centre is the star, the biblical symbol of enlightenment and redemption.

Israel's anthem is called Hatikva, which means "The Hope". We share this hope and longing for a country in which Jews can live safely as a free people – because it serves the good of the entire Western world.

Icking, 9 November 2023, on the 85th anniversary of the Reichspogromnacht

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