



Solidarity with the people in Israel and Palestine. Solidarity with all those affected worldwide.

We strongly condemn Hamas' inhumane attack on the people in Israel. Harming, murdering and taking civilians hostage is unjustifiable. We extend our most profound sympathy to the survivors, to all those who have lost someone and to all those whose loved ones have been kidnapped by Hamas and whose fate is still unclear.

We are at the same time shocked by the unbearable suffering of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, by the bombardments as well as the blockade, which is contrary to international law and has catastrophic humanitarian consequences. We extend our most profound sympathy to the people of Gaza who are suffering from war and terror, to all those who are worried about their loved ones and to all those who have lost loved ones.

The murder of innocent people - no matter their ethnic or religious background - can never be justified and we condemn it in the strongest sense possible.

From where we stand, it is impossible to be in solidarity and show empathy only with Palestinians or Israelis in the face of this conflict, which is embedded in a complex geopolitical situation and has been going on for decades. The civilian population suffers from the violence of terrorist organizations and the state - in Israel and in Palestine. We support and stand in solidarity with all people who are engaged in non-violent and anti-militaristic resistance because an escalation of violence cannot be a path to lasting peace.

We also observe with concern how the current situation is being handled.

We are concerned about the massive increase in anti-Semitic incidents. We condemn the attacks on Jewish people and Jewish institutions in Germany and all over the world as well as the relativization of the massacres of October 7th and we strongly oppose any anti-Semitic attitude and action.

We are equally concerned that the anti-Semitic actions of a minority are being used to discredit the entire Palestinian solidarity movement. We also observe with concern that all Palestinian people and their supporters are denied their fundamental right to express their opinions. It is of enormous importance to us that protests and statements must always be non-violent and must not (re)produce anti-Semitism.

We oppose the frequently observed instrumentalization of anti-Semitism to create sentiment against Muslim people and people perceived to be Muslim. The claim that anti-Semitism is exclusively a problem of the Muslim and Palestinian population is simply false. Statistics clearly show that the overwhelming majority of anti-Semitic crimes are committed by non-Muslim, right-wing extremist Germans. We likewise clearly condemn anti-Semitism within the left-wing movement.

Anti-Semitism has been, still is and remains a major problem in Germany and throughout the world. Racism must not be an answer to it, especially in times when racist and anti-Semitic policies are increasingly normalized by right-wing populist parties, organizations, groups and individuals.

We stand with determination against anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim racism, against anti-Semitism and against oppression of any kind. We call for an immediate ceasefire, an end to war and terror, and hope for a diplomatic, non-violent and anti-militaristic peace in the region.

Federal Board, Service Civil International - German Branch e.V.

| 26th October 2023

Also signed by: SCI France