

# LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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## **LA Jews for Peace Condemns Israel's Attack on Jenin**

**LA Jews for Peace** condemns Israel's July 2, 2023, military attack on the Palestinian city of Jenin, including the crowded Jenin refugee camp. The 1AM attack included about ten drone missile airstrikes and over 1,000 troops in a brutal and wide-ranging military invasion. At least eight Palestinians, including children, were killed.

In direct attacks on Palestinian civilians, Israel's attack caused water and electricity to be shut off in Jenin, blocked ambulances from reaching injured Palestinians, attacked journalists, bulldozed homes and roads, and even attacked the Jenin Freedom Theater, where Palestinian families were seeking refuge.

This was the largest Israeli military attack in the West Bank in over 20 years, since the April 2002 attack on Jenin as part of Israel's attempt to suppress the Second Intifada. And that was the largest Israeli attack on the West Bank since the 1967 war.

Sunday's attack followed a recent wave of violent attacks by Jewish Israeli settlers against Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank. Hundreds of settlers descend into a Palestinian village where they attack residents and burn houses and automobiles. An example is the Feb. 26, 2023, attack on the village of Hawara. These attacks are referred to as "pogroms" because they mimic the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup>-century violent, organized massacres of Jewish people in Russia and eastern Europe. In both cases the attacks were carried out by civilian militias, but tolerated by the government.

**LA Jews for Peace** demands President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken go beyond saying they are "monitoring the situation [Sunday's attack] closely." In the short term, they must bring a resolution to the U.N. Security Council to authorize the creation of a U.N. force to protect Jenin's civilian residents from continued Israeli military attack.

In the long term, the United States must seriously act to end the 56-year illegal Israel occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Ending the Occupation will not be easy for anyone, but the longer it goes on, the more Jenins and the more Hawaras there will be.