

# LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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## **United States is Complicit in Israeli Slaughter of Gaza**

Sadly the massacres carried out by Hamas fighters on Oct.7, 2023 killed 1300 mostly civilian Israelis. It was an atrocity and human tragedy. It was not justified by the immeasurable killing of Palestinians by Israelis over the past 75 years. It is rightly condemned by most people and governments in the world.

Israel surely has the right to defend itself and its people from future such attacks by retaliation against those who carried out that crime, namely Hamas leaders and fighters. But Israel does not have a right to massacre Palestinians in revenge. Hamas' war crime does not justify Israel attacking the 2 million mostly civilians Israel and Egypt imprisons in Gaza. War crimes shouldn't be avenged by more war crimes. Unfortunately, that is exactly what is happening.

Israel's retaliation has been inhumane; it has gone far beyond what is condoned under International Law. Israeli is knowingly committing war crimes in its bombardment and starvation of Gaza by targeting civilians, infrastructure, hospitals, and property.

Among many other actions in the week since Hamas' attack, Israel dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza (more than during the 5-week 2014 war) killing over 2500 mostly civilian Palestinians, lied about Hamas doing despicable acts on Israelis, and bombed a group of seventy Palestinians trying to escape the slaughter. And a ground invasion is imminent. Israel's actions border on genocide.

It pains us to report that the United States has abandoned any pretense of being an unbiased arbiter of world order. U.S. political and media leaders full-throated support and encouragement of Israeli retaliation enables Israel's war crimes, and makes the U.S. complicit in those crimes.

President Biden said that the U.S. is working with Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the UN, to facilitate aid to Gaza "to ease the humanitarian consequences of Hamas's attack, create conditions needed to resume the flow of assistance, and advocate for the upholding of the laws of war." Sadly, that is just talk. The best way for the US to ease the developing humanitarian disaster is to demand an immediate cease fire, to stop resupplying Israel with weapons, and for Secretary Blinken to retract his statement that Israeli's actions are "not retaliation."

Will the US and Israel ever learn that there is no military solution to Israel's problem with the Palestinians and that legitimate and illicit resistance organically emerges in response to occupation/apartheid?