

ICIP statement on the violence in Israel and Palestine

In the face of the violence in Israel and Palestine, ICIP (International Catalan Institute for Peace) joins the appeals of the United Nations Secretary-General and many countries and social organizations that call for the **respect of international humanitarian law** and, therefore:

- An immediate ceasefire
- Allow access to humanitarian aid in Gaza.
- The release of all hostages.

The statistics of the number of victims of the conflict are appalling and cannot convey the level of pain and suffering. On the one hand, the Hamas attack on the civilian population on 7 October was completely unjustified and of an unprecedented magnitude. On the other hand, Israel's response has been completely indiscriminate.

The Israeli army is attacking refugee camps, schools, hospitals and places of worship, thus violating the very rules of war. In one month of military offensive, more civilians have been killed in Gaza than have died in eighteen months of war in Ukraine (1). At the same time, the chronic violence perpetrated by Jewish settlers against the Palestinian population of the West Bank has only increased.

The timid response of the European Union and the United States to the massacre of the Palestinian population greatly weakens the already weak international mechanisms of conflict prevention and management, and fuels the incomprehension, anger and frustration of people around the world who perceive a double standard on the part of Western countries. This is a threat to peace and world security.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is long-standing and is getting worse with the passage of time. However, there are three criteria that remain valid:

- **Security:** There will be no security as long as all parties involved and affected by the conflict do not feel secure.
- **Dialogue:** There is no military solution to the conflict. The use of force only complicates a political solution.
- **Human rights:** A political solution must be based on the coexistence of all the people living in this land with equal rights for all.

This conflict is fueled by social and political forces opposed to peaceful coexistence. Members of both the government of Israel and Hamas stoke a genocidal rhetoric. In the face of growing polarization, **there is no need to choose between Israel and Palestine** because both entities are mutually dependent and necessary. We therefore make a call to:

- Reject all violence, wherever it may come from.
- Listen to and support the people of Israel and Palestine who work for peace and coexistence.

- Prevent and combat anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim attitudes around the world.
- Accompany in their pain all people affected by violence.
- Demand that public authorities – specifically the European Union and its member states – align themselves with the United Nations and the compliance of international law, and deploy all the diplomatic means at their disposal to achieve peace.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/09/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-11-september-2023>

Barcelona, 13 November 2023