



**ISPP**  
International Society  
of Political Psychology

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Dear Colleagues,

The International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), as an international body of concerned scholars with members from throughout the world, believes that international peace, stability, and security are possible through mutual dialogue. In November of 2023, following the Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israeli civilians, which resulted in the killing of over 1,200 Israelis and the kidnapping of over 250, and the beginning of the Israeli government's military response in Gaza, we expressed our concern regarding the unfolding situation. Our concerns were parallel to those we have highlighted in other contexts marked by grave injury to human rights and basic freedoms, such as Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine and the Turkish government's persecution of academics in recent years.

At the time, we condemned the senseless violence and expressed "our concern for the wellbeing of our colleagues and their families on all sides who suffer the devastating realities of intractable social conflict." We urged steps to de-escalate the conflict and prevent suffering and loss of life. In particular, we spoke out to "condemn in the strongest possible terms deliberate attacks against noncombatants and any and all actions that fail to respect international law and human rights."

Almost two years on, the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Palestine, and Israel has only become more appalling. International observers, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Médecins Sans Frontières, have described the human toll in increasingly dire terms and pointed toward grave violations of human rights. Since 2023, unrelenting military action has resulted in the death of an estimated 62,000 Gazans (a high percent of which are estimated to be civilians). The war has also led to famine, hunger, disease, and the displacement of over 2 million people in Gaza, Israel, and other parts of the region, as well as extensive destruction to civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, educational institutions, and religious institutions. As a scholarly organization with a long history of scientific collaboration across cultural boundaries, ISPP is especially troubled by the destruction of Palestinian institutions of higher education in Gaza and the impact of months of bombings of Israeli cities on Israeli students and academics, with all this implies for our colleagues' safety and academic freedom, and the ability to provide access to university education.

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In light of the humanitarian crisis that has transpired since our last statement, ISPP feels compelled to speak out once again. To this end, we call for the following:

- An immediate end to the violence and to all actions in the region that run counter to international law, violate human rights, and interfere with the provision of food and other humanitarian aid, as well as the immediate release of all political and civilian prisoners and hostages, including Israeli hostages still held in Gaza;
- An end to attacks on civilians and civic institutions, including those of higher education, and to all interference with the academic freedom and freedom of speech of all who speak out on the conflict; and
- A lasting, just, and peaceful solution to the underlying conflict, through mutual dialogue, that provides for the security, human rights, and national aspirations of all, and puts an end to injustice, denial of human rights, and unceasing violence.

In speaking out, we reiterate our opposition to all forms of prejudice and dehumanization, including both antisemitism and Islamophobia. As political psychologists, we seek to foster better public understanding of the situation in Palestine and Israel and respond in ways that reflect social-scientific knowledge. In this spirit, we continue to believe that international peace, stability, and security are possible through mutual dialogue, and we stand against aggression, domination, suffering, and loss of life whomever they affect.

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