

Neighbors for Peace Condemns Terrorism Committed by Hamas

This past weekend the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas, which espouses destruction of Israel as a core tenet, engaged in horrific violence against the people of Israel. They perpetrated war crimes as they indiscriminately murdered civilians of all ages—from toddlers to respected elders—on the joyous Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. Hamas took some 150 hostages and continues to lob rockets haphazardly into Israel with the desire to cause terror and to maim and kill.

We at Southborough Neighbors for Peace, who are from a number of different faiths, unequivocally denounce these acts.

As Israel responds to the Hamas attacks, more lives are being lost on both sides of the Israel-Gaza border. Hamas hides among innocent Palestinian civilians—civilians who cannot leave the Gaza Strip, and who now have no access to food, water, or electricity as Israel's government implements a siege in the fight against Hamas. Each one who dies—Israeli, Palestinian, and those of other nationalities caught up in the crossfire—is a loss for all of us. Each person on our planet bears unique gifts that can help all of us move toward a better life. When this gets twisted—when other persons are seen only as animals incapable of any good—peace is hard to find. Yet we still continue to believe in the goodness of others to come together across difference to make a way forward that enhances the lives of everyone.

As this conflict unfolds—and as other conflicts continue in our world, most notably in Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine—we pray and work for peace. For all people to be treated with respect and dignity. For the ones who mourn and for those whose lives have been forever changed. For those who have died. For the safe release of all hostages. For no more loss of life. And for the safety of those who are innocently caught in the fighting no matter which side of a border they live on. We pray for peace and for the end of all violence.

Please join us for a candlelight vigil on Sunday, October 22 at 6:00 pm on the corners of Routes 85 and 30 in Southborough as we remember those whose lives have been lost, for those caught in the violence, and for the quick end of this and other conflicts as we continue to believe in the power of peace to change our world for the better.