



## **Letter of Condemnation of the Attacks by the State of Israel on the Palestinian People**

Inspired by the teachings and example of Jesus, who preached to love one's neighbour as oneself, and Buddha, who taught compassion, kindness, and non-violence, we highlight in this letter the urgency of halting the intensified violence against civilian populations in conflict zones. Considering religious and philosophical principles that value life and advocate for peace, along with historical civil proposals for the defense of human rights, we condemn the attacks perpetrated by the State of Israel against Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran, which have been escalating for over a year, subjecting civilians in these regions to devastating and disproportionate violence.

In the name of religious and humanistic values that uphold life and promote peace, we repudiate all acts of violence against civilians. We also reject the violence committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which victimized Israeli and foreign civilians, without ever overlooking the disproportionate response in attacks perpetrated by the State of Israel, which, for over a year, has inflicted destruction upon Palestinian civilians.

The Palestinian issue, in turn, is marked by a history of territorial expropriation. After World War II, Palestine underwent a process of fragmentation and occupation, resulting in successive territorial losses with blatant and severe violations of its people's rights, often facilitated by international agreements, worsening the situation with the tacit and explicit consent of those who should objectively mediate peace. These conflicts have also expressed a disparity in military power, forcing Palestinians into a vulnerable state of poverty and exclusion.

Israel State resorts to military practices that disregard the consequences for civilian populations. The fight against terrorism should not be used as justification to decimate entire families and civilian communities, leading them to complete destruction. Motivated by political and geopolitical reasons, such attacks cannot be understood as representative of the Jewish people, who, above all, carry a memory of suffering due to the Holocaust, when millions were persecuted and murdered under the Nazi regime. This historical tragedy suffered by the Jewish people should be handled with care and serve as a motivator for reflection so that the Israeli state would take an exemplary role in compassion and peace, not the opposite.

Today, we regret seeing attacks intensifying on residential areas, schools, universities, hospitals, and essential spaces for human survival, affecting civilian populations struggling simply for food, shelter, and security—an outright affront to universal human rights. The use of lethal weaponry against these targets exceeds any defense justification, striking children,



families, and communities in a true indiscriminate massacre. These actions, far from resolving conflicts, perpetuate a cycle of terror and dehumanization.

Therefore, we vehemently repudiate the ongoing violence and call for a return to sensibility and peace. We categorically reject silence and complacency in the face of the decimation of lives and affirm the need for dialogue that respects human coexistence in all its forms. We urge international and religious leaders to intervene to uphold the ethical and human values that underpin a just and supportive society. Peace among peoples can only emerge from understanding and mutual respect.

Valinhos, November 4, 2024.

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