



Australian Council of Christians and Jews

Room 312, 619 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004 Email: ccjvic@bigpond.net.au ABN: 43 144 362 171

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Statement on the War in Israel

We view with deep horror the recent murders and kidnapping of Israeli civilians.

We mourn the lives lost and the continued suffering of those involved in these events.

Israel, as a nation that has been egregiously attacked, has the right to defend itself.

The Australian Council of Christians and Jews stands with Israel's acts to defend itself.

We fear that a nation that has been so attacked will take terrible vengeance and that ultimately there will be a huge cost in civilian lives on both sides.

We are especially deeply saddened about months of intercommunal violence between Jews and Arabs in the cities of Israel and on the West Bank.

We note with anguish the voices that are calling for ethnic cleansing and reactive measures against Palestinians and Arabs within Israel and the stoking of communal tensions by irresponsible actors in both Israeli and Palestinian political life.

We support those Israelis who have been protesting for many weeks in the face of efforts to diminish the role of the judiciary in Israeli life.

As an organisation dedicated to interfaith understanding we view with some hope the fact that there remain organisations even within the current context of violence which seek to bring Jews and Arabs together in the pursuit of mutual understanding.

We stand with them in their pursuit of justice and peaceful resolution of conflict.

We pray and call for an immediate cessation of violence and a commitment by all concerned to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, dialogue, and negotiation.

Media Comment

Dr Ron Hoenig

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