



19th October 2023

To:

Prof. Robert Rosner, APS President
Prof. Young-Kee Kim, APS President-Elect
Prof. Frances Hellman, APS Past President
Prof. David Seiler, APS Treasurer
Prof. Robert McKeown, Speaker of the APS Council
Prof. Jonathan A. Bagger, APS Chief Executive Officer

RE: Your letter to the APS Community Regarding the War in Gaza

We, members of '[BaShaar](https://www.bashaar.org.il/) – Academic Community for Israeli Society*', read your message to the APS community concerning the recent events in Israel. We were appalled to find out that you did not deem it necessary to condemn the heinous atrocities committed by Hamas in Israel and referred generally to shared 'shock and grief' of both sides. No clear condemnation of Hamas inhumane atrocities nor a single word expressing compassion for the victims of the brutal massacre carried out by Hamas terrorists.

We appreciate your intention in writing the letter, however, there is a major thing we cannot accept: the **symmetry you suggest between the two sides**.

What has happened on October 7th is not another clash between Israel and Hamas. Hamas terrorists butchered and slaughtered more than 1000 civilians: old people, men, women, pregnant women, elderly, children and babies. Parents were tortured in front of their children, babies and children were tortured and their bodies mutilated. They were shot, beheaded, burned alive, women raped and then murdered, families burned and corpses then triumphantly displayed to cheering ecstatic crowds – all in the inhuman ISIS tradition. More than 200 Israelis were taken hostage, amongst them elderly sick people, men, women, children and babies and Hamas is cynically using them together with Gaza civilians as human shields. **This is PURE EVIL and one cannot and should not stay within the realm of "politically correctness" vis-a-vis these atrocities.**


What Hamas has done is similar to the atrocities committed by the Nazis against the Jews during the Holocaust or the atrocities of ISIS. **Therefore, we find the absence of any condemnation, as well as the symmetry you present between both sides morally wrong.**

By failing to explicitly denounce these atrocities, you are effectively sending a message to villains worldwide that they can continue their inhumane acts with impunity, as the world silently accepts it.


There is a profound and moral difference between Israel's efforts to avoid harming civilians, and Hamas's deliberate strategy of targeting and inflicting terrible suffering upon as many civilians as possible in Israel as well as in Gaza. We deeply regret the loss of Palestinians innocent civilian lives in Gaza. We support a peaceful and just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One can **support Palestinian rights and at the same time firmly denounce in a clear voice the inhuman brutality of Hamas.**

We urge you to re-think, rectify, take a morally clear stand and explicitly condemn Hamas' atrocities.

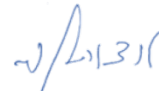
Hoping for Better days,



Prof. Hagit Meser-Yaron
Chairperson BaShaar



Prof. Shimon Yankielowicz
Chairperson of the Forum
for Higher Education, BaShaar



Dr. Vered Ariel Nahari
CEO, BaShaar

***BaShaar – Academic Community for Israeli Society** is an Israeli registered non-profit and non-government organization, established in 1999 by academic leaders. BaShaar lists over 2,000 senior faculty members from all institutions of higher education in Israel, including former presidents and rectors, Nobel Laureates, laureates of the Israel Prize and other prestige awards.