



19th October 2023

To:

Prof. Nemat "Minouche" Shafik, President of Columbia University

**RE: Your message to the Columbia University community
Regarding the Massacre in Israel**

Dear Prof. Shafik,

We, members of '[BaShaar](#) – Academic Community for Israeli Society*', read your message to the Columbia University community concerning the recent events. We were appalled to find that you did not deem it necessary to condemn the heinous atrocities committed by Hamas in Israel. You referred generally to the 'violence that is affecting so many people', thus implying a **symmetry between the two sides**. Further, there was not a single word expressing compassion for the victims of the brutal massacre carried out by Hamas terrorists.

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. **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 around the world 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. **Supporting Palestinian rights is fundamentally the opposite of supporting the brutality of Hamas.**

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

Hoping for Better days,

Dr. Vered Ariel Nahari
CEO, BaShaar

"[BaShaar](#) – Academic Community for Israeli Society" is a 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.