

25th October 2023

To: **EASA - European Association of Social Anthropologists**

Prof. **Ana Ivasiuc** – President

RE: EASA Executive Statement on the Situation in Gaza

We, members of '[BaShaar](https://www.bashaar.org.il) – Academic Community for Israeli Society'*, have just read your "[Statement on the situation in Gaza](#)".

We are appalled and saddened by your **totally biased and distorted** "**Statement on the situation in Gaza**". We share the immense grief of innocent civilians and fully support the already ongoing efforts, with Israel's consent, to provide humanitarian aid and establish a safe zone. We hope that the humanitarian aid reaches only the innocent civilians and not Hamas – in this respect it is worth noting that Hamas has confiscated all the diesel fuel supplies from UNRA intended for hospitals in Gaza. We also share the hope for a just and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

What we find contemptable is that you did not deem it necessary to even mention Hamas by name, nor to condemn in clear and explicit terms Hamas's horrible atrocities. Not a word of compassion toward the Israeli victims of the inhumane Hamas massacre and the abduction of innocent civilians including babies, children and the elderly to Gaza. The first thing you should have done is to categorically deplore Hamas massacre! There is an abundance of verified evidence of the crimes against humanity performed by Hamas which you are surely aware of. Such inhuman brutal atrocities on innocent civilians should never be justified or overlooked – but you, scientists that are committed to the facts and the truth, chose to ignore.

What has happened on October 7th is not another clash in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas. Hamas terrorists butchered and slaughtered more than 1400 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, fetuses cut out brutally of their pregnant mothers, women raped and then murdered, families burned and corpses then triumphantly displayed to cheering ecstatic crowds – all in the inhuman ISIS tradition. 250 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. **These unspeakable acts of terror by Hamas are PURE EVIL that a moral society cannot and should not ignore or justify under no circumstances.**

What Hamas has done is in line with the atrocities committed by ISIS, not to mention the crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis against the Jews during the Holocaust. **Therefore, we find the absence of any mention of Hamas, any explicit condemnation of Hamas atrocities, as well as the one-sided bias in your statement MORALLY WRONG.**

There is a profound and moral difference between Israel's efforts to avoid harming innocent civilians, and Hamas's deliberate strategy of intentionally targeting and inflicting terrible suffering upon as many civilians as possible in Israel as well as in Gaza. We support a peaceful and just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; however, **one can support Palestinian rights and at the same time firmly denounce in a clear voice the inhuman brutality of Hamas. You failed to do it.**

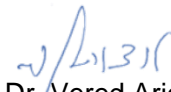
We urge you to re-think, rectify, take a morally clear stand and explicitly condemn Hamas' inhumane crimes.

Hoping for Better days,

Sincerely yours,



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



Dr. Vered Ariel Nahari
CEO, BaShaar

Copy – EASA Executive Committee Members: Prof. Alexandra Oancă, Prof. Hege Høyer Leivestad, Prof. Roger Sansi Roca, Prof. Dominic Bryan, Prof. Hayal Akarsu, Prof. Monica Heintz, Prof. David Mills

***BaShaar – Academic Community for Israeli Society** is an Israeli registered non-profit and non-government organization, established in 1999 by academic leaders amongst them the Ex- Presidents of the Technion and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 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. BaShaar operates both as an Educational Framework and a as a platform for critical discussion and free debates on issues of higher education and the Israeli society. <https://www.bashaar.org.il/about-bashaar/>