



26th October 2023

To: **The University of Amsterdam – Executive Board**

Prof. G.T.M. (Geert) ten Dam – President
Prof. P.P.C.C. (Peter-Paul) Verbeek – Rector
Drs. J.W. (Jan) Lintsen MBA – Vice President

**RE: Statement from the Executive Board about the Conflict Between Israel
and the Palestinian Territories**

We, members of [BaShaar](https://www.bashaar.org.il) – Academic Community for Israeli Society*, have just read [your statement](#) about the Conflict Between Israel and the Palestinian Territories

We appreciate your intention in writing this statement, however, there is a major thing we cannot accept: **the equivalence or symmetry between the two sides implied in your letter**. There is no mention of Hamas nor explicit condemnation of Hamas heinous and unspeakable atrocities.

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 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. **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 in line with the atrocities committed by ISIS, not to mention the the crimes against humanity committed by the Nazis against the Jews during the Holocaust. **Therefore, we find the absence of any explicit condemnation, as well as the symmetry implied between both sides 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 deeply regret the loss of Palestinians innocent civilian lives 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.**

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

***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, laurates 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/>