

NAACP

San Luis Obispo County Branch

INDIVISIBLE
RAPID RESPONSE TEAM SLO COUNTY

Open Letter to Congress

Topic: A Call for Peace in The Middle East

Contributor: Sari H. Dworkin, Ph.D., A member of the Jewish Community

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Martin Luther King

On October 7th, 2023, Hamas launched a vicious attack on Israel: they raped women, they killed people, and they took hostages. Israelis were stunned and Jews across the world were shaken to the core. Many Jews alive today have parents and grandparents who were either killed in or survived the Holocaust or pogroms in Eastern Europe or Russia. When Israel became a state in 1948 Jews in the diaspora now felt that whatever happened around the world there would always be a place where Jews would be safe. Israelis were told that Netanyahu would keep them safe. October 7th changed that belief. Most Jews as most people around the world felt that after the October 7th attack Israel had the right to respond and defend itself.

However, as President Biden has stated, that response is now “over the top.” More than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed, most of them are women and children. The survivors have been repeatedly displaced. They need food and medicine. Egypt will not take in Palestinian refugees and in fact, are currently building a border wall. This is a humanitarian crisis.

Secretary Blinken, himself a Jew, stated: “Israelis were dehumanized in the most horrific way on Oct. 7. The hostages have been dehumanized every day since. But that cannot be a license to dehumanize others. The overwhelming majority of people in Gaza had nothing to do with the attacks ... we cannot, we must not, lose sight of that. We cannot, we must not, lose sight of our common humanity.”

Many Jews currently state: NOT IN OUR NAME. Israel’s response to the October 7th attack has not made Israel nor the Jews of the world safer. The indiscriminate bombing has created sympathy for the terrorist group Hamas where once there was condemnation. As Martin Luther King stated: “The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate.”

There must be a CEASEFIRE NOW and RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES NOW.

Contact your Congressman. Share your thoughts.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta (CA-19)
North SLO County

Online: www.Panetta.house.gov.

Email: CA20JP.Outreach@mail.house.gov
jimmypanettaforcongress@gmail.com

Phone Numbers:

D.C. Office, (202) 225-2861

Paso Robles Office (805) 854-2580

Mailing address:

Rebecca Schultz (She/Her)| Legislative
Correspondent

Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building |
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Salud Carbajal (CA 24)
South SLO County

Online: <https://carbajal.house.gov>

Email: noreply.carbajal@mail.house.gov
info@saludcarbajal.com

Phone Numbers:

D.C. Office (202) 225-3601

SLO Office (805) 546-8348

Mailing address:

1411 Marsh St.
Suite 205
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401