While countries like the US, UK, France, Germany, and Italy support Israel in a joint statement, there have been protests worldwide favoring Hamas, contributing to hatred and antisemitism in Jewish communities outside of Israel.

ON OCTOBER 7TH, ISRAEL WAS HIT HARD BY AN ATTACK FROM HAMAS, A GROUP BASED IN THE GAZA STRIP. THIS DAY WAS A TRAGIC ONE FOR ISRAEL, WITH OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE LOST, COUNTLESS INJURED, AND MANY TAKEN HOSTAGE. ITS BECOME ONE OF THE BLOODIEST DAYS FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SINCE THE HOLOCAUST.

CURRENTLY, ISRAEL IS DEALING WITH THE CONTINUOUS THREATS FROM HAMAS. PEOPLE IN BOTH NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ISRAEL OFTEN HEAR AIR RAID SIRENS BECAUSE OF ROCKETS FROM GAZA AND LEBANON. ONE CONCERNING TACTIC BY HAMAS IS PLACING THEIR MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN AREAS WHERE CIVILIANS LIVE, WHICH WAS EVIDENT WHEN THEY TARGETED THEIR OWN HOSPITAL.

SEVERAL GLOBAL LEADERS, LIKE THE US PRESIDENT, GERMAN CHANCELLOR, AND BRITISH PM, HAVE VISITED ISRAEL, SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION.

HOWEVER, THERE'S BEEN A NOTICEABLE RISE IN ANTISEMITISM WORLDWIDE, FUELED BY FALSE NARRATIVES AND MISINFORMATION, ESPECIALLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS. THIS HAS LED TO REAL-LIFE CONSEQUENCES: JEWISH SCHOOLS IN PLACES LIKE LONDON AND AMSTERDAM HAVE HAD TO CLOSE TEMPORARILY. THERE'S ALSO BEEN AN UPTICK IN ATTACKS ON SYNAGOGUES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE JEWISH. OTHER INCIDENTS, LIKE SOME TERROR ATTACKS IN EUROPE, SHOW A CONCERNING TREND IN EXTREMIST ACTIONS.

JEWISH STUDENTS GLOBALLY FACE CHALLENGES BECAUSE OF THESE TENSIONS. WITH SO MUCH INCORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT ISRAEL ONLINE, SOME ARE CAUTIOUS ABOUT EXPRESSING THEIR JEWISH HERITAGE, FEARING POTENTIAL NEGATIVE REACTIONS. THIS SURGE IN BIASED POSTS AND ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS CAN LEAVE MANY JEWISH TEENS FEELING ISOLATED, BUT IT’S ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER: YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

THE GLOBAL JEWISH COMMUNITY STANDS FIRMLY BEHIND ISRAEL AND ITS SECURITY FORCES DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME.

GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD SHOULD CONDEMN HAMAS RECOGNIZING IT AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND SHOW CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL’S RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE.

THERE HAS BEEN A TROUBLING RISE IN ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE IN THE DIASPORA DUE TO THE CONFLICT, AND GOVERNMENTS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MUST TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND STUDENTS.

HAMAS INITIATED THIS ATTACK WITHOUT PROVOCATION FROM ISRAEL, AND IT PRIORITIZES HARMING ISRAELI CITIZENS OVER THE WELL-BEING OF GAZA'S POPULATION.

IT’S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE PEOPLE OF GAZA ARE NOT ISRAEL'S ENEMIES, BUT RATHER, IT IS HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS OPERATING AMONG CIVILIANS THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE. ISRAEL TRIES TO MINIMIZE HARM TO INNOCENT CIVILIANS, WHILE THESE GROUPS DELIBERATELY USE THEM AS SHIELDS.

HAMAS IS PUSHING A NARRATIVE ON PLATFORMS LIKE INSTAGRAM AND X, TRYING TO WIN THE ONLINE "INFO WAR". IT’S IMPORTANT TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU SHARE. TRY TO STAY OFF SOCIAL MEDIA, AND AVOID SPREADING UNVERIFIED PHOTOS OR STORIES - STICK TO TRUSTED, OFFICIAL SOURCES FOR INFO.