



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

March 29, 2024

Greater Philadelphia ZOA responds to New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy's demand that Israel ceasefire:

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America has issued the following statement in response to Gov. Phil Murphy's anti-Israel call for a ceasefire:

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The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America – which includes much of southern New Jersey -- calls on New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy to retract or amend his despicable one-sided, factually inaccurate statement demanding that Israel ceasefire in its quest to protect its citizens and vanquish the genocidal anti-Jewish Hamas organization. Gov. Murphy is wrong, and his statement damages his credibility!

Gov. Murphy's one-sided missive about suffering in Gaza fails to place the blame squarely on Hamas. Today Hamas holds captive more than 130 men, women and children. Most of the captives are Jewish, and at least five fellow Americans are still being held. Murphy does not even make the release of the captives a prerequisite for a ceasefire. Why would Gov. Murphy want to bolster Hamas?

Murphy's statement laden with moral equivalency is offensive to New Jersey's Jewish residents – whom he does not mention in his statement. Israelis and Jews worldwide are not only suffering from the Palestinian-Arabs' Oct. 7 attack – they suffer from the explosion of Palestinian-Arab-led Jew-hatred and attacks in the aftermath of Oct. 7. Yet Gov. Murphy's statement mentions "a time of deep pain and despair" for the Garden State's "Muslim, Arab American, and Palestinian American neighbors"

Let's be clear: It was a Hamas-led mass-murder, mass-rape, mass-barbaric attack predominantly against Jews in Israel on Oct. 7 that forced Israel to do what it deems necessary to once and for all vanquish Hamas. Hamas and other Palestinian-Arab terrorists slaughtered more than 1,200 Israelis including many Americans, and raped and wounded thousands more.

Israel's responsibility is to protect Israelis. Israel did not initiate any of this.

Hamas constructed a massive military tunnel system beneath hospitals, schools and residential areas to maximize casualties and suffering among Gazans – knowing full well that sooner or later Israel would have to respond to Hamas' incessant attacks. Hamas has fired some 30,000 rockets at Israeli civilian communities.

It is Hamas who is causing starvation in Gaza – not Israel. Polling by Palestinian-Arab organizations demonstrate that the Gazans still have widespread support for Hamas, support Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre and favor violence against the Jewish people.

Only an immediate and unconditional surrender by Hamas can stop Israel's righteous efforts to eradicate Hamas from Gaza.

While Gov. Murphy notes in his statement that "as long as Hamas remains in power, it is impossible to imagine long-term peace in the region," surely he realizes that a ceasefire by Israel will only serve to reward and save Hamas.

Gov. Murphy: Stop appeasing murderers of Jews, anti-Jewish terrorists and their supporters. Let Israel fight and win this battle.

Greater Philadelphia ZOA specializes in education and advocacy in its mission to fight Jew-hatred, promote Zionism, support Israel and bolster the mutually beneficial U.S.-Israel relationship. ZOA, which dates to 1897, is America's oldest pro-Israel organization.

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