

Temporary safe havens for Gazan women and children – NOW!

A proposal to the State Security Cabinet of Israel

The heinous terrorist attack on Israeli civilians on 7 October by Hamas must be countered by an all-out war against this ISIS-like organization. Terrorists cannot be allowed to go on ruling the Gaza Strip and holding hostage the lives of millions of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

But while we are waging a just war, we must abide by universal human and Jewish values. Our struggle against a monster must not result in inflicting unnecessary harm on defenseless people. Israel should demonstrate, to itself and to the world, that we behave very differently than Hamas, that has placed itself beyond the pale of universal human norms, as well as beyond the pale of Islamic ethics.

Since other countries are reluctant to accept and protect Palestinian civilians, we propose that Israel will invite the international community to establish temporary safe havens for them at appropriate locations *on the Israeli side of the border*. These safe havens inside Israel will accommodate Gazans – women, children, elderly people and hospital evacuees – displaced or at threat from the fighting.

The safe havens will be run by the United Nations and the Red Cross and financed by the international community. Safe from the war, the people sheltered there will be housed in temporary shelters and provided with food, water and basic medical care. Israel will safeguard the havens from without. After the end of the fighting, the displaced Gazans will return to their home in the Gaza Strip.

Safe havens have been established in the past by international forces. All that Israel is called upon to do, is to allot uninhabited areas for these havens and make sure that they will be (a) erected and financed by the international community; (b) vacated within an agreed span of time; and (c) safeguarded only by Israeli forces.

The establishment of the safe havens will fulfill Israel's moral duty to protect the lives of Palestinian civilians; and will simultaneously aid the IDF to prosecute the war by reducing the number of civilians caught up in the combat zone, thereby helping to save the lives of Israeli soldiers.

The establishment of the safe havens will begin once the Red Cross has been given access to the Israeli hostages held by Hamas, and has ascertained their condition.

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