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A Letter to midwives leaders around the world

Dear esteemed colleagues and midwifery associations around the world,

With a shattered heart we want to share with you what has been going on in our country.

On October 7th, 2023, Israel faced an unprecedented nightmare and horrifying new reality etched in the annals of history. Hamas, a terror organization, attacked Israel by launching 3000 rockets, murdering over 1300 innocent civilians, injuring thousands more, and kidnapping 200 civilians including infants, women and children, elderly people, and entire families, whose fates are still unknown as we write these words.

Hamas left in their wake a wave of chaos, terror and unspeakable horrors. Entire communities in the southern border regions were decimated and innocent lives brutally cut short, with evidence of violence beyond comprehension.

We, as healthcare professionals, call upon all midwifery, nursing, medical, and humanitarian associations to unequivocally denounce Hamas, and condemn its heinous attacks. <u>Hamas is ISIS</u>!

The very essence of our medical profession demands that we stand firmly on the side of humanity and justice. We must come together with one voice to demand the safe return of kidnapped innocent Israeli civilians. We, as midwives who vow to uphold the essence of our profession and protect life, strongly condemn any harm to the innocent, both on the Israeli and Palestinian side.

Medicine transcends politics. We need to unite and demand justice, denounce terror, and promote humanity. Be the voice against terror.

The Israeli Midwives Association would like to extend a profound thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, to the midwives from around the world who have fearlessly reached out demonstrating support, sending prayers and condolences, along with offers for assistance during this challenging time. We cherish this fundamental sisterhood of human dignity that is an integral part of our profession.

In the name of all the Israeli midwives, wishing peaceful days for all human beings,

Yifat Rubanenko

President of the Israel midwives association.