



October 13, 2023

**Amander Clark, President, ISSCR**

Dear Amander,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Israel Stem Cell Society (ISCS), friends and colleagues.

We would like to thank you for your '[Message from the President](#)'. Indeed, we are facing extremely difficult days in which innocent Israeli citizens among them babies, children and old people have been slaughtered in an unprecedented cruelty. However, this message does not capture the violence that we have faced, the horror, the atrocities, and, as [President Biden put it](#), the “act of sheer evil”.

This was not another act of aggression. This was not a part of an “escalating war” between Israel and Hamas. This act was not another “troubling event on top of many recent attacks against innocent lives around the world”. What Hamas did on Saturday morning, October 7, will forever be enshrined in the bloodiest pages of humanity. It was a mass scale terror campaign against innocent, defenseless civilian population of mothers, children and the elderly.

We will not enumerate here the entire depravity of Hamas’s actions, including torture, decapitation, burning people alive; taking children and elders as captives, and much more, which we cannot bring ourselves to describe. In terms of the scale of the crime, in comparison to the total population of Israel, it is tantamount to 33,000 dead compared to the size of the US population, with tens of thousands of additional wounded.

There are very few moments in history when, to quote President Biden again: “unadulterated evil is unleashed on this world”. This was one of those moments. The world has not seen such evil since the atrocities committed by the Nazis during WWII, except that here the murderers and torturers had Facebook Live to screen their heinous and terrifying acts to the rest of the world, to intimidate and terrorize it. We saw glimpses of such brutal acts and methods committed by ISIS, but Hamas took it a whole new level. Confronted by Hamas in the South and Hizballah in the North, Israel is currently under an imminent existential threat, and must defend itself. As long as these terrorist organizations exist, Israel will forever be threatened.

Thank you very much, and we all hope for better and saner days.

Eran Meshorer, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Head, ISCS

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