

Motion for a resolution

submitted by the SPD, CDU/CSU, Alliance 90/The Greens and FDP parliamentary groups in relation to the Federal Chancellor issuing a policy statement on the situation in Israel

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following resolution:

I. The German Bundestag notes:

The State of Israel has been confronted with an unprecedented wave of terrorist attacks since the early hours of 7 October 2023. Never before in its 75-year history has the State of Israel been subjected to such terrorist violence and brutality. The attacks on Israel must be stopped immediately, and all those kidnapped must be immediately released.

Nothing can justify arbitrary executions or the abduction of innocent people. Under international criminal law, these are war crimes and even crimes against humanity. The German Bundestag utterly condemns these barbaric acts of violence and, in the face of this dreadful attack, stands by Israel and its people with solidarity and resolve. Israel has a right to defend itself. Israel's right to exist cannot be relativised.

The thoughts of the Members of the German Bundestag are with the victims of the attacks, those who have lost loved ones and all those fearing for their lives and safety. Their solidarity is with the people of Israel and the world's only Jewish and democratic state. Israel's security is part of Germany's *raison d'être*. That is particularly true in the face of the hefty attacks of recent days. For the Members of the German Bundestag, Israel's security and right to exist are non-negotiable. Accordingly, Germany must - on the basis of international law - provide Israel with everything it needs and desires for its defence.

In a long-prepared operation, the Palestinian terrorist organisation Hamas has fired thousands of rockets at Israel, bringing death and destruction over Israel. Parallel to this, around a thousand heavily armed terrorists belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad have invaded Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip and deliberately murdered hundreds of innocent Israeli citizens, including women, children and adolescents, as well as nationals of other states. Additionally, hundreds of people have been abducted by Hamas terrorists. Their fate is unknown.

The German Bundestag is horrified at these cowardly acts of terrorism against the State of Israel and its people. The German Bundestag is profoundly appalled at the scale of inhuman violence to which Hamas terrorists have been and still are subjecting Israeli civilians.

The German Bundestag likewise condemns the attacks that Hezbollah has launched against Israel from Lebanon. Israel has the right, enshrined in international law, to defend itself against all attacks and to bring those responsible for them to justice.

The German Bundestag is deeply concerned that repeated Hamas terrorism will lead to a long war bringing with it violence, suffering, destruction and bloodshed. One thing is clear: those who suffer most from armed conflicts are first and foremost the civilian population on both sides, especially families, women and children. Responsibility for the current escalation and its consequences lies

solely with Hamas, which has already brought far too much suffering on the people in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Part of the intention behind the latest attacks on Israel is to prevent Israel's rapprochement with its Arab neighbours. The agreements – the Abraham Accords – that have already been concluded with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and the Sudan as well as the rapprochement with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states have the potential to foster peace and stability in the region. That development is a thorn in the eye of the Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist networks and those behind them.

The destabilising role and aggressive conduct of Iranian revolutionary guards, militias, terrorist organisations and political groups in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen represent a danger to the entire region and especially to Israel. The Bundestag resolutely opposes that threat.

It is abhorrent to use the horrific events in Israel and the Palestinian territories as an excuse for violence and antisemitic hate speech in Germany. Derision directed against the victims must be clearly condemned and must have consequences. Hate is not an opinion. Hate speech and violence in all their forms will be met with the full force of our laws and of our constitutional state. The German Bundestag is resolute in its advocacy for the protection of all Jewish people and Jewish institutions and for the unconditional freedom of Jewish life in Germany. The visibility of Jewish life is a self-evident part of our society.

The German Bundestag notes at this difficult time that Germany and Israel are bound together more closely than ever by a dense web of political, economic, academic, cultural and civil-society ties. This needs to be safeguarded and expanded in the face of the great human suffering that has come down on Israel in recent days.

The objective must remain to lay the foundations, mutually agreed by Israel and the Palestinians, for peaceful coexistence in two states.

II. The Bundestag calls on the Federal Government

1. to show Israel complete solidarity and every support in the light of the brutal attacks on its land and innocent citizens;
2. to continue to actively defend the existence and legitimate security interests of the State of Israel as a central principle of German foreign and security policy and to reinforce efforts in pursuit of a negotiated two-state solution, in line with the internationally shared consensus that this offers the best chance of a viable peaceful solution, with the objective of ending the recurring violence and enabling the people on the Israeli and Palestinian sides to live in security, freedom and dignity, enjoying equal rights;
3. to resolutely oppose, including in its dealings with other states, all forces in the Middle East and beyond which by aggressive rhetoric or even deed cast doubt on Israel's right to exist or jeopardise and threaten its security; this also and particularly applies to states and non-state actors that provide terrorist organisations like Hamas and Hezbollah with financial, material or ideological support;
4. to continue to use all suitable means to increase the pressure on Iranian revolutionary guards and effectively combat their destructive activities at home and abroad as well as to work with our partners to push for the use of additional sanctions and actively and vehemently to advocate that the EU class the Iranian revolutionary guards as a terrorist organisation in view of the Iranian funding behind the terrorist attacks on Israel from Lebanon;
5. on the basis of international law to protect Israel and its legitimate interests within international organisations from biased attacks;

6. to protect and foster the diverse Jewish life that has re-established itself and its institutions as an important component of today's Germany, resolutely apply the rule of law to prohibit declarations in Germany of solidarity with the inhuman attacks of Palestinian terrorists and bring those responsible for them to justice, and continue in future, with great determination and all the tools available to a democratic constitutional state, to resolutely combat antisemitism whether it arises in Germany, Europe or other parts of the world;

7. following the association ban issued against Hezbollah on 30 April 2020, also to issue bans on certain activities and, as appropriate, on the organisation as a whole against Hamas and its supporters as well as affiliated and front organisations in Germany and against Samidoun, and to work to see the Hamburg Islamic Centre closed;

8. to work to see the occurrences on the streets of Neukölln in Berlin and elsewhere on the evening of 7 October 2023 investigated and met with punishment under criminal law; all means available under the rule of law must be deployed here, which can include residence-related measures;

9. continuing to acknowledge previous practice in terms of regular and careful evaluation of the Federal Government's allocation of funds, and in light of the dreadful and unprecedented attacks, to undertake a further and repeat review of all funding; until that review is concluded, no new obligations should be entered into and any outstanding payments for the Gaza Strip should be put on hold, with the exception of humanitarian assistance to meet fundamental needs essential to life.

The long-term objective must be to provide vital support to the people of the occupied Palestinian territories for such things as food aid and healthcare, exclusively fostering positive development prospects, strengthening human rights-based currents in civil society and thereby contributing to the long-term resolution of the conflict and to stabilisation in the region while at the same time preventing those funds being misused either directly or indirectly to fund terrorism. The Bundestag must be swiftly informed of the review findings;

10. to provide the families of German victims of the attacks with every possible consular assistance and to offer German nationals, such as school groups and tourists, the necessary support to enable them to leave Israel;

11. to support Israel and its international partners in their efforts to secure the release of those abducted.

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