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ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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OC HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MOURNS WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY AND DENOUNCES ANTISEMITISM

Santa Ana, CA (11/9/23) The Orange County Human Relations Commission unequivocally condemns and denounces the horrific acts of terror including murder, rape, and kidnapping committed against Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023 by Hamas. Entire families were taken hostage by Hamas just days after Israel marked the holiest days on the Jewish calendar, murdering 1400 human beings.

This single greatest attack on Jews since the Holocaust came just after this commission's 2022 Orange County Hate Crime Report revealed that Jewish residents of Orange County continue to be the primary target of faith-based hate incidents (87%). This hateful attack sparked a dramatic increase in antisemitism in the United States, resulting in our Orange County Jewish community experiencing harassment and fear of violence where they live, work, pray, and go to school. As Elie Wiesel said, "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness."

We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Jewish community who have been affected by the horrendous events of October 7th. We are resolute and unwavering in our stance against hate, and we stand committed to fighting antisemitism in Orange County. We urge all Orange County residents to treat our Jewish neighbors with respect and continue to hope for an Orange County where fear and violence yield to understanding and coexistence for all its residents.

The mission of the Orange County Human Relations Commission is to "seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance and attempt to eliminate those causes."

If you have been a witness to a hate act or have been victimized, please report via the following ways: Online: <https://hatecrime.211oc.org/>; Call: 211, press #6; Text: OCHATEACTIVITY to 898211.