



Dear Colleagues,

As you no doubt have seen in the news, Israel is at war with terrorist groups in Gaza, who have mounted an unprecedented offensive that has already killed at least 40 Israelis and injured hundreds. Jewish Federations of North America are assessing the situation, in close touch with our partners at the Jewish Agency, JDC, and local Federation partners. Eric Fingerhut is in Israel, coordinating with Rebecca Caspi and our Israel office on the response.

In the coming hours, we will send a more comprehensive update to the system, including an announcement for a webinar update to be held tomorrow. We are also developing a toolkit with talking points and social media posts, and working to open a system-wide mailbox to address the significant needs that are developing.

In the meantime, we have released [the following statement](#) showing our full solidarity and support of Israel.

Once again, on a holy day of the Jewish calendar, the people of Israel have come under attack. Once again, the brave military forces of the State of Israel are responding and will defend our beloved Jewish state. And once again the Jewish communities of North America stand in total and complete solidarity with our Israeli brethren. We pray for their safety and will do everything we can to ensure the complete and total success of their efforts. And once again the Jewish Federations across North America will act immediately and comprehensively to support our brothers and sisters as they defend Israel.

*The prayer for the State of Israel we recite in synagogue every week - including this morning - says **ונתת שלום בארץ ושמחת עולם ליושביה** - "Grant peace in the land and happiness to all its residents." On this day, which is the holiday of Simchat Torah in Israel - we literally sing and dance with simcha - with happiness. Today is not a day of simcha in Israel, but it is a day of solidarity, determination and utmost seriousness.*

Israel will prevail and the Jewish people will stand together as we always so. Am yisrael chai.