

Dear Principal **NAME** and administrators,

I write to you with urgency and beg you to respond to this growing crisis in our community. Americans have not recently experienced war within our own borders, but this situation could be described as Israel's September 11 in the scale and barbarity of the attacks. Thus far, my Jewish and Israeli classmates have been disappointed with your efforts to keep us safe from bullying and harassment. Given this war, we need your commitment now more than ever.

We have broken hearts as our community watches this play out at home. Parents are being slaughtered in front of their children. Hundreds of young people at a music festival were stabbed and shot at point blank range by Hamas terrorists. Women were raped and then paraded around the streets of Gaza with blood gushing from their bodies. Over 100 hostages have been taken back to the Gaza Strip and their status is currently unknown. Hamas has threatened to begin executing hostages if Israel continues to attack military targets in Gaza. We are watching our parents trying desperately to contact loved ones and waiting with bated breath to hear from their friends if they are safe.

No one should ever have to experience that with which Israel is currently dealing. As young people, we are traumatized watching kids our age be shot in their beds or laying in ditches to avoid incoming rockets. Simply witnessing these atrocities from afar, especially when they are happening in our homeland, is immensely upsetting, let alone imagining the experiences of those on the ground.

Meanwhile, in the US and across the world, rallies are being held protesting Israel's self-defense. Swastikas are helped up next to the Palestinian flag in our major cities. This is antisemitism plain and simple. Our classmates are posting anti-Jewish comments and misinformation on social media. We have received personal threats targeting us simply because our Jewish and Israeli identities are publicly known. We are scared to confront these people in-person at school, particularly when we do not know that we can count on the unwavering support of our faculty and staff.

It is incumbent upon you, as the leaders of our school, to maintain a safe and secure learning environment for all of us, no matter our background. There will inevitably be difficult conversations in school, but these may not be allowed to turn into hate flinging shouting matches.

We need to know that we are safe. We need emotional support and Trauma-Informed care. We need to know that our teachers and administrators have our backs. Finally, we need to be confident that our school community condemns this terrorist activity, despite pro-Palestinian groups' attempts to justify these war crimes.

We are reaching out directly to you, as your students, to beg for your support and protection. We demand that school counselors, teachers, and administrators in **STATE** schools be made aware of what is currently happening in Israel and the hate-fueled reverberations across this country that could cause violence.

Please treat this with the utmost urgency. We would appreciate a response outlining the steps you are taking to keep us safe in schools.

Respectfully,

NAME of STUDENT(s)