



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

In its early hours, October 7, 2023, quickly became a day of unimaginable horrors for the people of Israel. Hamas terrorists began the most vicious attack on the Jewish people that they have suffered since the Holocaust. Hamas slaughtered innocent civilians en masse; abducted hostages, including women, children, and the elderly; set fire to large swaths of Israel's territory; and desecrated human remains.

Israel is under threat like never before. Last November, I visited Israel, where I saw firsthand the carnage caused by Hamas. Meeting with displaced Israelis, including many families, and visiting with victims recovering in a hospital in Tel Aviv, it was sheer evil and savagery unmatched by anything I've ever seen. What we have seen is gut-wrenching acts of war committed by Hamas.

The State of Israel is right and, moreover, *righteous* in pursuing the elimination of Hamas, and the State of Texas will do everything in our power to support the Jewish people here in Texas and in their defense of their homeland.

As Governor of Texas, I have been proud to strengthen our deep and enduring bond. I signed a law banning all Texas state agencies from engaging in business or investments with companies that boycott Israel, awarded \$14 million in grants to bolster the security of houses of worship like synagogues, directed all Texas state agencies to refrain from purchasing goods produced in or exported from the Gaza Strip and from any organization or state actor with ties to Hamas, and established the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Committee.

Antisemitism will never be tolerated in Texas. Some educators, elected leaders, and media personalities, however, remain vocal in their support of Hamas, making excuses for the terrorists and couching their atrocities in vague, empty rhetoric. But let's be clear: Hamas is evil, and those who support Hamas—whether explicitly or implicitly—are supporting evil.

On this solemn one-year anniversary, I ask my fellow Texans to remember those taken too soon and to recommit to the shared values that unite Texas and Israel. At 7:00 a.m. on October 7, 2024, I invite every Texan to join me in a moment of silence for the people of Israel and for the seven Americans still held hostage: Edan Alexander, Itay Chen, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Gadi Haggai, Judith Weinstein Haggai, Omer Neutra, and Keith Siegel.

During this observance, flags of the State of Texas and the United States of America will be lowered to half-staff, and many entities across the state will erect moving displays featuring empty chairs to symbolize the Americans kept from their loved ones. I also ask all religious leaders at their next service to light a candle in remembrance of this solemn day. On this anniversary and hereafter, I pray that this war will be brought to a swift, victorious conclusion for the Jewish community. Texas will always stand with Israel.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim October 7, 2024, to be a

Day of Observance for Israel



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 7th day of October, 2024.


Governor of Texas