



## LAZARUS UNION

UNION CORPUS SAINT LAZARUS INTERNATIONAL

ECOSOC General Consultative Status (632158), ZVR: 023914681

### STATEMENT OF THE LAZARUS UNION ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAMAS TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL

On 7 October 2023, Israel experienced the most tragic attack on its population and territory since 1948. This attack, in which the largest number of Jews were killed in one day since the Shoah, represents a drastic historical tragedy. The Lazarus Union, as a non-governmental organisation with general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, strongly condemns this act of terror and would like to commemorate the victims of this attack and express our deepest sympathy to the affected families and communities.

The attack by Hamas, which is classified as a terrorist organisation by numerous states and international organisations, is not only an attack on Israel, but also a breach of the most fundamental rules of the law of war. Hamas deliberately violates international humanitarian law by using civilian facilities such as schools, hospitals and residential buildings as cover or a base for military action. This constitutes a disregard of the principle of distinction, which clearly differentiates between combatants and civilians.

In addition, Hamas violates the so-called combatant privilege in that its fighters do not wear a clearly recognisable uniform or marking to distinguish themselves from the civilian population. This is a violation of Article 44 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.

Furthermore, the Lazarus Union criticises Hamas' practice of taking non-combatant civilians hostage, sexually abusing them, holding them captive and murdering them. These heinous crimes violate not only the fundamental principles of international law, but also the basic values of humanity and dignity, which must apply universally.

Despite these clear violations by Hamas, the Lazarus Union emphasises the necessity that Israel's reaction must also be measured against the standards of international humanitarian law. In particular, the principles of proportionality and protection of the civilian population apply. Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorist attacks, but in doing so, measures must be taken to minimise civilian casualties and maintain proportionality. This is all the more true given that Hamas deliberately uses civilians as human shields, which significantly complicates the challenge for Israel in its military response.

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