



# **PAX CHRISTI**

## **FRANCE**

### **Pax Christi France facing the apocalypse hitting Gaza and Israel**

Pax Christi press release

The terrorist attacks hitting the State of Israel and its population are sowing terror well beyond the country's borders. Our first reaction is that of strong and unhesitating condemnation of these actions and their perpetrators, and of compassion towards the victims.

Lucidity requires us not to put the aggressors and the victims on the same level. These are not only the Israelis who fell under bullets or kidnapped but also the Palestinians taken hostage by the errors of their leaders – extremists who hold power in Gaza – and who suffer the fratricidal struggles which divide them.

However, it is relevant to question the sequences that lead to such a tragedy. Many voices are being raised, including in Israel, to analyze and deplore the successive failures of the policies implemented since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the shift towards radicalism which kills all hope of a political solution for the Palestinians.

The policies of separation, isolation and colonization, to which the silence of Israel's traditional allies has for too long responded, create situations of despair in the

populations concerned in Israel, in the territories it controls and in Gaza, of indifference to the fate of people who are foreign to them, of anger or hatred that the extremists of each camp exploit to contest the other's right to exist on this singular territory.

Currently, populations are tempted to radicalize and the voices of moderates are having difficulty being heard. Current postures can only lead to new tears and new dramas.

The choice of revenge is unacceptable and the international community must raise its voice to prevent a collective punishment of Gaza and its inhabitants as illegal and immoral as the assassinations to which it is supposed to respond. The unfailing commitment to fighting terrorism must not put in the background the legitimate aspirations for peace of Israelis and Palestinians and the necessary political construction which must lead to the creation of a state for the latter, multi-confessional, open and peaceful.

Pax Christi supports the efforts of local actors to make the voice of reason and just peace heard and calls on all parties, first and foremost the United Nations, to seriously promote viable political solutions that meet the legitimate aspirations of the populations concerned.

**Pax Christi France**

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