



Musée Holocauste Montréal  
Montreal Holocaust Museum

## MUSEUM STATEMENT ON THE CONTINUING CONFLICT IN ISRAEL

**Montreal, Quebec, November 15th, 2023** - The past few weeks have been excruciatingly painful for our Museum community. We have seen the worst terrorist attack committed against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, an escalating war in a place that many of us call a second home, images of extreme violence, the proliferation of hate propaganda, and the terrorizing of Jews around the world.

We share the pain of the Israeli and Palestinian families, equally victimized by the cruelty of Hamas. We are heartbroken thinking of the innocent hostages being held by these ISIS emulators, and we pray for their immediate release back to the loving arms of their Israeli families.

Our ultimate wish is for an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and we continue to hope for a just and lasting peace where both peoples can live side by side, free from the Salafist-jihadist threat, in sovereignty, peace, dignity, and security.

We have seen horrifying displays of antisemitism right here on the streets of Montreal, mere blocks away from our Museum - a place that tells the stories of those brutally murdered because of this same ancient hatred.

Every day brings its share of antisemitic acts to our city: calls for murder from a self-proclaimed imam, radical Islamist and apologist for the Taliban, attacks on Jewish students on university campuses and shootings at Jewish community schools. History has shown us that antisemitism may start with words, but that it can lead directly to extreme violence. We must punish these despicable words and deeds with the utmost force.

In this respect, we salute the firmness of the governments of Canada and Quebec and the words of the Mayor of Montreal, Valérie Plante, as well as the actions of the Montreal Police Department.



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Hatred is a virus, it infects, mutates, and becomes invisible, all while it devours its host. It must be rooted out whenever confronted. Whether antisemitism, islamophobia, racism, or intolerance of any kind - we must speak up loudly whenever we see it. It is the only cure, and the only way to defend our democracy.

The tragic events of the past few weeks remind us that our work as a Holocaust Museum is more relevant than ever. We remain committed to ensuring the history of the Holocaust is neither diminished nor denied. The mission of our Museum, as defined by the Holocaust survivors who founded it, remains as relevant as ever: to inform and educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, as well as antisemitism, racism, and hatred of all kinds. Together, we will shape enlightened citizens who will stand up against hatred and prejudice in their own backyards, and around the world.

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