



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

On Saturday, October 7, the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel. A barrage of thousands of rockets served as the prelude to an armed invasion in which, as reported in the *New York Times*, “militants infiltrated 22 Israeli towns and army bases and took civilians and soldiers hostages.”

Hamas has been rightly and thoroughly rebuked for its actions around the globe. I add my voice to all who condemn these acts of violence and terrorism.

Hostos stand with the people of Israel. We stand for peace and the use of non-violent means to resolve the complicated issues surrounding Israeli / Palestinian relations. We hope for a rapid conclusion to the hostilities. We grieve for the innocent bystanders, regardless of their political affiliations.

The tragic events occurring in Israel have direct and indirect ramifications around the world, and if you need assistance in coping with them, the Carlos L. González Counseling Center (C-Building, Room 330) is here to help.

I'll close this missive with “Kaddish,” a poem by Marge Piercy, included in her collection *What Are Big Girls Made Of?*

Look around us, search above us, below, behind.
We stand in a great web of being joined together.
Let us praise, let us love the life we are lent
passing through us is the body of Israel
and our own bodies, let's say amen.

Time flows through us like water.
The past and the dead speak through us.
We breathe out our children's children, blessing.

Blessed is the earth from which we grow,
blessed the life we are lent,
blessed the ones who teach us,
blessed the ones we teach,
blessed is the word that cannot say the glory
that shines through us and remains to shine
flowing past distant suns on the way to forever.
Let's say amen.

Blessed is light, blessed is darkness,
but blessed above all else is peace
which bears the fruits of knowledge
on strong branches, let's say amen.

Peace that bears joy into the world,
peace that enables love, peace over Israel
everywhere, blessed and holy is peace, let's say amen.

In solidarity,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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