

Where is the Outcry? Why is it so Hard to Condemn Open Hatred of Jews? Why Don't Jews Count

By: Nina Gilbert

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After October 7, I realized that in the minds of some, Jews really don't count.

The first thing I saw online the morning of October 7 were videos of Israeli girls my age and younger, Shani Louk (22) and Naama Levy (19), who were kidnapped, raped, and murdered by Hamas. Footage went viral of Louk's lifeless naked body in the bed of a truck paraded and spat on down the streets of Gaza. Louk was kidnapped from the Nova Festival of Life and Peace on the morning of October 7th and later her head was found [decapitated](#) in Gaza. Levy appeared terrified on [footage](#) with blood rushing from her head and private parts while being dragged by her hair into a car by a Hamas terrorist.

"They raped girls. Burnt them just after that. All the bodies outside were burnt," Yael Richert, Superintendent of Israel police, [told CNN](#). "There were girls with broken pelvis due to repetitive rapes, their legs were split wide apart in a split," Richert quoted one survivor of the Nova music festival massacre as saying.

"Our team commander saw several female soldiers who were shot in their crotch, intimate parts, vagina, or shot in the breast. There seems to be a systematic genital mutilation of a group of victims," she added, Shari Mendes, an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reservist [told CNN](#).

“A Hamas video from a kibbutz shows terrorists torturing a pregnant woman and removing her fetus. Our forensic scientists have found bodies of women and girls raped with such violence that their pelvic bones were broken,” Michal Herzog, Israeli First Lady, [wrote](#).

“They bent someone over and I understood he was raping her, and then he was passing her on to someone else, she was alive, she stood on her feet and she was bleeding from her back. I saw that he was pulling her hair. She had long brown hair. I saw him chop off her breast and then he was throwing it toward the road, tossed it to someone else and they started playing with it,” an anonymous eyewitness from the Nova festival [told CNN](#). The witness added: “I remember seeing another person raping her, and while he was still inside her he shot her in the head.”

I am not the same woman I was before learning about the horrors of October 7 and I will never be the same woman after hearing the deafening silence that followed from women’s rights organizations across the globe. Despite this sadistic mass sexual violence against Israeli women, human rights organizations worldwide have remained silent while some even question the veracity of these events or worse said it was justified.

Nearly 50 days after October 7 and immense outcry over their silence, UN Women finally issued a statement condemning Hamas and their attack.

Their initial statement, posted on UN Women’s Instagram page, read “We condemn the brutal attacks by Hamas on October 7 and continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.”. However, soon after it was deleted and replaced its condemnation of Hamas and only called for the release of hostages.

The same organizations that taught me about how a rape victim’s assault goes well beyond the incident itself, i.e. “she had it coming with that outfit” or “prove it” are the same organizations refusing to explicitly condemn sexual violence against innocent Israeli children, women, and elderly. Or worse, that it was “justified resistance” and that being alive and Israeli meant they “had it coming.”

#MeToo movement where are you?

Red Cross where are you?

UN Women where are you?

After October 7, I now find that I don't count in the eyes of some of the ideologies and human rights movements I passionately defend. The same

organizations and movements that I believed would return such protests to the mass murder, rape, and mutilation of my people, are the same organizations and movements that have stayed silent or legitimized the mass murder, rape, and mutilation of my people.

“The very essence of gender equality and women empowerment groups worldwide is to assist victims of such atrocities. A pregnant woman was cut open and her unborn baby was shot. How could anyone stay silent when faced with such horrific acts?” Orit Sulitzeanu, executive director of the Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel, [told the Times of Israel](#).

After October 7 I now wonder who on my college campus or in my city or my country would legitimize my rape, torture, and murder for being a Jew. My sense of security and dignity as an American Jew has collapsed beneath my feet. I feel diminished. I feel the earth shifting under my feet.

Why don't Jews count when it comes to calls for genocide?

Why don't Jewish victims of sexual violence count?

The silence I am witnessing from women's rights organizations everywhere about the Jewish women and girls who were violently raped during their last breath has left me shattered.

When it's Jews who are the victims, rape is resistance.

When it's Jews who are the victims, torture is liberation.

Why don't Jews count when it comes to outright condemnation of mass murder, rape, and terrorism?

It wasn't just the execution of these families on October 7, but the brutal and deliberate manner in which they were dehumanized during their last breaths.

“I don't know what kind of evil, devil, can create that kind of an operation because they [Hamas terrorists] thought about everything, it was well organized and the world needs to know that, right now,” an Israeli paramedic and first responder at Kibbutz Be'eri, Linor Attitas [said](#).

At Kibbutz Be'eri families were murdered one after the other or while tied together according to Israeli paramedic Linor Attitas. “They tied up the kids (an eleven-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl) and the parents were tied up and killed in front of their kids. They shot them. So much blood,” Attitas said. “There was a little girl, 10 or 12, they cut off her head,” Attitas [told CNN](#)..

“The body hardened and, unfortunately, appeared to have also swollen... and really, the heating element of the oven was on the body itself”, Asher Moskowitz, Israeli first responder, [said](#).

“The terrorist shot open the door, threw a grenade, the last thing my dad said was that he lost his arm, and then my mom died on top of me,” Rotem Mathias, 16, from Kibbutz Be’eri [said](#).

No, this does not permit Israelis to do to others what has been done to them, absolutely not. Yes, the Palestinians are suffering terribly today and have been brutalized by the current conflict. They lack freedom of movement, resources, and the opportunity to create a better life for themselves. But, it's not because the Jews came home that Palestinians are used as political pawns and human shields trapped in horrible circumstances. It's because of the extremists who will always choose the blood of their enemy over the peace of their people and are persistent in their efforts to stoke conflict and destroy any possibility of peace between Jews and Palestinians.

The root of this conflict stems from a misconception of who the Jewish people are. Despite archeological records, genetic evidence, and written history across nations confirming our origin, people still try to rewrite history in real-time. After the Jews were exiled from Israel by the Roman Empire we lived as a minority amongst the many nations of the world. Our communities remained tightly knit and somehow found ways to prosper under harsh circumstances. Again, and again, and again. Preservation and the hope of return became a pillar of the Jewish identity. However, this success led to jealousy, which turned to hate, which turned to violent persecution. Again, and again, and again. Leading up to the Holocaust which taught us we would never be safe at the mercy of our non-Jewish nations.

Since October 7, there has been a 388% increase in antisemitic-related harassment, vandalism, and assault in the United States compared to this time last year, says Rabbi Jonah Steinberg, the New England Regional Director at The Anti-Defamation League.

The worst manifestations of outward Jew-hatred have exploded on the campuses of elite institutions across America. At Cornell a [professor](#) called October 7 "exhilarating" and "energizing." Like thunder follows lightning, a Cornell [student](#) said he was going to “shoot up a Kosher dining hall and stab and slit the throat of any Jews he sees on campus”, to "rape and throw off a cliff any Jewish females”, and “bring an assault rifle to campus and shoot all you pig Jews.” At my own university, University of Massachusetts

Amherst, on the path I take twice a week to my night class, students were shouting on megaphones, "Intifada, intifada, intifada." Do they know what they're calling for? Do they know what happened on October 7?

As a Jewish college student, I am painfully disoriented, fearful, and outraged.

On October 24 students at [George Washington University](#) projected the words "Glory to our martyrs" onto a campus building. On October 8 a speaker at a rally held on [UPenn's campus said](#), "I think we should all give applause right now, to Hamas, for a job well done." Like thunder follows lightning, an academic building at [UPenn was defaced with a swastika](#).

As Jonathan Schanzaer, Senior Vice President for Research at The Foundation For Defense of Democracies [said](#), "This is a microcosm of what is happening throughout the country."

In Los Angeles, [Paul Kessler, a 69-year-old Jewish man](#), died after being struck in the head by Loay Alnaji, a professor from California, who [previously shared pro-Hamas social media posts](#). The [synagogue](#) that received bomb threats resulting in evacuation on November 19 in Needham, Massachusetts, is just 10 minutes from my house.

Beyond the U.S. we are seeing antisemitism explode in Europe. In [Melbourne, Australia](#) an elderly care facility housing Holocaust survivors was defaced with swastikas. In [Siegen, Germany](#), a school was vandalized with graffiti, including "Kill all Zionists!", and a crossed-out Star of David. In [Sydney, Australia](#), two days after October 7, crowds gathered cheering "gas the Jews." Among the most painful: in [Warsaw, Poland](#) "protesters" holding signs that read, "Keep the world clean" showing the Star of David in the trashcan.

Signs like these make me feel dirty. Signs like these held up on the same grounds as the largest Nazi ghettos during the Holocaust. Signs like these held up on the same grounds where families of Jews who didn't starve to death, die from disease, or get murdered in cold blood were sent to Auschwitz.

Across the globe, I have become aware of the same antisemitic fear-mongering propaganda that allowed for the elimination of 1/3 of my people, in my grandfather's lifetime. During this time we must remember it was rhetoric like this that turned the general public, neighbors, and even friends of Jews against us.

We are Jews of the diaspora, the Jews who thrived in Israel for over a thousand years before most of our forefathers were exiled from their homeland by the Roman Empire and scattered around the world.

The most common antisemitic trope is to tell Jews to “go back to where you came from” or that “you aren't from here.” At the same time, we are one of the oldest populations of people. Jew hatred is the world’s oldest hatred. No matter how much we have to prove we have a right to exist, that we’re from where we're from, it’s a fight we have fought for centuries.

There are Jews from everywhere. Jews from Yemen, Ethiopia, Germany, Spain, Egypt, Malaysia, India. This is because Jews have been banished from everywhere. [61% of Israel’s population is Mizrahi Jews](#), Jews who were in the diaspora in the Muslim world. Almost 1 million Jews were ethnically cleansed from the Muslim world throughout the 1940’s. The scenes from October 7 mirrored that of those seen during The Farhud, the violent disposition of Jews in Baghdad, a once 40% Jewish city at the beginning of the 20th century.

As Jews, we are from everywhere and told we are from nowhere.

Noa Fay, a Jewish, Black, Indigenous resident assistant at Columbia’s University Barnard College, the same university whose [professor Joseph Massad](#) called October 7th “awesome,” walked past posters on her way to class that read “by any means necessary” and “one solution, Intifada revolution,” referencing Hitler’s “final solution” as well as the first and second Intifada, a series of violent attacks dedicated to indiscriminately killing Israeli soldiers and civilians, carried out by Palestinians which ran from the late ‘80s to the early ‘90s. After the first intifada, Hamas was founded and dedicated its charter to the indiscriminate killing of Jews and the annihilation of the state of Israel.

I am broken by the so-called “peace activists” and outwardly liberal “justice-seeking” young individuals who ferociously tear down posters of hostages like [Kfir Bibas, a 10-month-old baby](#) stolen from his crib by terrorists for being a Jew and being alive. “Those who gleefully tear down hostage posters are tearing down, or at least trying to tear down, the essence of our common humanity, trying to tear down a divine image that is at the very root of our civilization,” Bari Weiss said. Weiss added, “The same crowd who has tried so hard to convince us that words are violent insist that actual violence was a necessity.”

To some, it is impossible to be successful and still fit into the “Victim” category. Jews and Israel as a successful minority fit only in the “Victimizer”

category as a result of their success. To some, the debt due to Jews for suffering the Holocaust and thousands of years of murder and persecution has long been repaid with interest and now they are seen as the rightful punching bag for the Colonialist, self-enriching superstructure in which they place the rest of Western Civilization.

In fact, due to their success, Jews are sometimes seen as the apex predator in this contorted worldview. In this way, the world view of some Progressive Liberals comports well with the same canards and libels that animated the most virulent strains of antisemitism of the last century, with claims that wealthy Jewish families controlled the banking systems and secretly manipulated society, called a cabal of puppet masters serving only their own interests.

What happens when this overly simplistic template fails? What happens when you have two victimized people? Or worse, two victimized people pitted against each other?

“The campus pro-Palestinian movement frequently denigrates Zionism as allegedly inherently racist and disparages pro-Israel students, at times invoking antisemitic tropes. Some of the most strident activists attack Israel’s right to exist and demand that students who feel connected to Israel be excluded from campus life,” Steinburg says.

“This is a psychological problem that can only be dealt with through education, like any other form of hatred, that we have come to combat,” Fay says. She added that there needs to be an equivalent of Critical Race Theory for antisemitism. “I don’t know how else to put it. I don’t know how else to make it more clear. This is what needs to happen, or at the very least, antisemitism needs to be included in teaching CRT because what we are seeing is it’s becoming a form of racism,” Fay added.

“When antisemitism is on the rise it is not about the Jews. It is never about the Jews. It is about the society where it is being allowed to proliferate,” Bari Weiss said.