

# FEDERATION OF ISRAELI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

ISRAEL'S LARGEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

**Uriel Lynn, President**

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Dear Colleagues,

I am sure you are aware and fully informed of the unfortunate fighting, which is going on between Hamas and the state of Israel.

The loss of life on both sides is sad, and we hope that peace and prosperity will replace the unwanted images of war.

The current conflict has been declared on Israel by Hamas. This terrorist organization captivates a population of two million people in the Gaza strip, using its resources mainly to build military power instead of upgrading the life of the civil population.

When Israel is under attack by a barrage of thousands of rockets directed at Three-quarters of the country's population, we have no choice but to retaliate; this is the fundamental right of any country. It is simply self-defense.

We are genuinely grieved and mourning the loss of life in the Gaza strip. We are trying to avoid it as much as possible, but when Hamas intentionally places its military infrastructure and rocket launchers inside the civil population, they are responsible for the unnecessary loss of life in the Gaza strip.

Israel will be willing to help build the Gaza strip, its infrastructure, and its industry and also in many other ways to improve the life of the civil population if Hamas will join, and will set its priority to the improvement of the life of the people who live today in the Gaza strip.

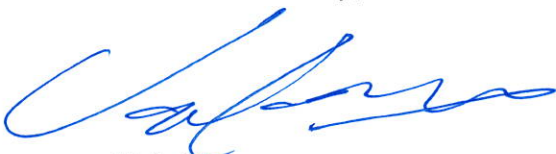
Our chamber works closely with trade organizations in the Palestinian Authority to increase their trade with Israel, assist their export and industry in trade promotion activities, capacity building, and info sessions, and we will continue to do so to help the private sector of both sides to prosper.

Even during this military conflict, business in Israel continues at full force. We managed to come out of the Covid-19 crisis fast, and our economy is strong. Israel's market has been and is still one of the most stable, most robust, and liberal markets globally.

Israel has played a pivotal role on the world's stage in tech and innovation, from healthcare and renewable energy to food security and AI; Israel's entrepreneurs help solve tomorrow's problems.

We will continue to develop and enhance Israel's foreign trade and friendly economic relationships with the world, and we welcome you to keep an open discussion with us on what is going on in the region and how we can work together to make things better for years to come.

Yours faithfully,



Uriel Lynn  
President