



PRESS RELEASE

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The Embassy of Israel to The Holysee, in reference to the document by “The Assembly of the Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land” on the so called “War in Gaza” finds necessary to point out the following:

1. Contrary to the document’s text, the objectives of the operation in the Gaza strip, from its first day were clear – to end Hamas rule in this territory and secure that atrocities like the ones committed on October 7th will not happen again.
2. The document’s assertion that the principle of distinguishing between civilians and combatants has been ignored by both sides in this war, creates a false symmetry that reflects bias and one sidedness. Facts show that Israel tries to the best of its ability to make the above mentioned distinction while Hamas is doing the opposite, embedding deliberately civilians and combatants, as a centerpiece in its combat strategy, apparently knowing that there will be those who will blame Israel.
3. The way the document uses the term “just war” is not compatible with international law that Israel respects and abides by.
4. The document wrongly frames the post October 7th events as “the war in Gaza” conveniently ignoring the simultaneous attacks against Israel from Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iran. Hence the title “The war against Israel’s existence” will describe last 9 months’ events far more realistically.

In sum, it should be lamented that a group of people from the Catholic church has decided to issue a document, that using religious pretext and linguistic stunts, does nothing else then de-facto objecting Israel’s right to defend itself from its enemies declared intentions to put an end to its existence.