
**International Organization for Migrations
114th Session Council**

Item 10- General Debate

Delivered by Ms. Adi FARJON ISRAEL

Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this Council. I wish you and the rest of the Bureau all the success for the upcoming year.

I would also like to welcome Director General Pope to her first IOM Council, and we look forward to the appointment of two new Deputy Director Generals.

Israel would like to thank the Director General for her report. We welcome, in particular, the launch of the Gender and Migration Research Policy Action Lab (GenMig), and the publication of the first global technical guidance for administrative data on trafficking in persons.

Madam Chairperson,

On the occasion of the IOM Council, we would normally focus our intervention on IOM's work. Unfortunately, after 7th October, reality has changed.

On Saturday, October 7th, thousands of Hamas terrorists entered Israel and massacred over 1'200 innocent people: women, men, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. More than 240 people were abducted and taken captive in Gaza, many from countries represented here today, without any information on their whereabouts or condition. Among the hostages are young

children, persons with disabilities, and older persons. Many still remain in Gaza and Israel will do all it can to bring them home.

Any civilian life lost, be it in Israel or in Gaza, is a tragedy. However, let us be clear, the Hamas leadership bears full responsibility for all civilian lives lost, Israelis and Palestinians.

Some of the statements made here over the past few days have openly supported Hamas, and have tried to whitewash or deny their crimes. For years, these states have given Hamas a free pass to carry out their crimes; for years many of these States have funded and armed terrorist groups, which actively seek Israel's destruction. It appears for many that their hatred for Israel overcomes any desire to fight the very same terrorism which has cost many lives over previous decades.

Madam Chairperson,

On October 7, it was not just Israelis that were affected by the terrorist onslaught. Nationals from Thailand, Nepal, Tanzania, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Moldova, Germany, Eritrea, Sudan, China, Canada, Cambodia and the Philippines were brutally murdered, including many migrant workers. For example, 10 Nepali students were murdered, having gone to a kibbutz as part of a learning program, where they helped to grow and harvest avocados and tomatoes. A Hamas terrorist also tried to decapitate a Thai worker with a garden hoe, a crime filmed by Hamas, so the world could see. Many migrant workers, including from Thailand and Philippines, were also taken hostage on that fateful day. Thankfully some have already been released.

Within Israel, about 250,000 Israelis are internally displaced amid the destruction of their communities, the ongoing Gaza war and threats of rockets, as well as terrorist activity in the north of the country. The Government of Israel is seeing to their needs until it will be safe for them to return.

Israel has always taken its obligations towards migrants and migrant workers very seriously. Amid the current situation, and despite of it, Israel will carry on supporting IOM's work, and improving the rights of those that it serves, within our country and abroad.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.