



For Immediate Release

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**JEWISH FEDERATION STATEMENT REGARDING RECENT VIOLENCE AND ROCKET
ATTACKS IN ISRAEL**

Oklahoma City, May 12, 2021... The Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City condemns all forms of violence, hatred, and anti-Semitism. We are deeply concerned by the worsening situation in Israel and are monitoring it as we receive new information.

We strongly condemn the firing of rockets into Israel by the terrorist organization Hamas and affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself and its citizens. Hamas is a Palestinian Islamic extremist terrorist organization based in the Gaza Strip and West Bank that calls for the eradication of the State of Israel. The targeting of civilians by Hamas is wrong and should be condemned by all; the rockets fired by Hamas damage the lives and homes of all living in the region, including Arabs.

Israel's right to the land of Israel extends back thousands of years. Claiming that Israel should be "wiped off the map," or that Israeli's are not indigenous to the land are anti-Semitic tropes that should not be tolerated. We strongly condemn anyone who continues to perpetuate these anti-Semitic beliefs.

Similarly, the exacerbation of tension by far-right Jewish nationalists is also wrong and we strongly condemn it. All parties must take steps to de-escalate tensions, including avoiding inflammatory rhetoric, to restore calm.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City welcomes the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to postpone the possible eviction of Palestinian families from a neighborhood in East Jerusalem. We sincerely hope that all sides can come together to find a solution to this situation.

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