

11/11/2024

May Changel

Chairperson, Israeli Open University Students' Association
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City of Amsterdam

Attn: Mayor Femke Halsema
Amstel 1
1011 PN Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Dear Mayor Halsema,

Subject: Expression of Outrage and Disappointment Regarding Recent Anti-Israeli and Anti-Semitic Attacks in Amsterdam

As Chairperson of the Israeli Open University Students' Association, representing thousands of students in Israel, I am writing to express our profound disappointment, anger, and shock regarding the recent violent incidents targeting Israelis and Jews in Amsterdam. These attacks have raised serious questions about the city's commitment to protecting its residents and visitors, particularly those from Israel and the Jewish community, who are subjected to such hatred and violence in a city that claims to champion tolerance and freedom.

These actions do not merely harm individuals—they erode the very fabric of Amsterdam's image as an inclusive, welcoming city. Such occurrences evoke memories of the darkest chapters in history, times when hatred was allowed to fester under the world's indifferent gaze. For a city known for its commitment to human rights and progressive values, the current silence and lack of decisive action from your administration are unacceptable and deeply troubling.

The Israeli and Jewish communities, as well as all those who value justice, expect immediate and concrete actions to be taken to prevent any recurrence of these hateful acts. Furthermore, we urge the City of Amsterdam to publicly condemn these attacks, showing a clear commitment to the safety and dignity of every individual, regardless of nationality or religion.

This is a pivotal moment for Amsterdam. Failing to act decisively would be a disservice not only to those affected but also to the values that the city purports to represent. We demand that your administration address this matter with the urgency it deserves, ensuring that Amsterdam remains a beacon of tolerance and safety.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to seeing the City of Amsterdam take swift, meaningful steps to uphold its responsibility to all.

Sincerely,
May Changel
Chairperson, Israeli Open University Students' Association

