

## **Statement by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia**

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima

*expresses* its concern at the continuing tensions in Israel and the Palestinian territories and the increasing number of civilian casualties directly resulting from the brutal assault on Israel by the terrorist organisation Hamas;

*stresses* the responsibility of the terrorist organisation Hamas and its allies for the current escalation, which is contrary to the aspirations of the Palestinian people for a peaceful two-state solution to the conflict under the Oslo Accords and other international parameters;

*demands* that Hamas immediately cease any attacks and release the hostages;

*expresses* its disappointment at the persisting failure by the Palestinian Authority to strongly and openly condemn the terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas and to clearly distance itself from the terrorists;

*calls* on the Palestinian Authority, which has made some efforts in the past to achieve a two-state solution within international parameters, to distance itself from the actions of Hamas and to urge it to immediately end the violence and release the hostages;

*points out* that further increases in civilian casualties are unacceptable;

*stresses* that political dialogue is the only possible solution.