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Hadassah Women Group Slams Red Cross' Failure to Treat Israeli Hostages Held Captive in Gaza by Hamas

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, sent a letter to the Red Cross president who is visiting Israel: 'Has the Red Cross ever before failed to care for hostages and victims of armed aggression in such a blatant way, or is this treatment reserved for individuals abducted from Israel?'

Ido Efrati Dec 14, 2023 12:44 pm IST [Follow](#)



President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger during an international humanitarian conference for civilians in Gaza, at the Elysee Presidential Palace, in Paris, on in November. Credit: LUDOVIC MARIN - AFP



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Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, sent a strongly worded missive to Red Cross President Mirjana Spoljaric on Wednesday, criticizing her organization's failure to visit and treat Israeli hostages held captive in Gaza by Hamas.

Spoljaric is currently visiting Israel for the first time since the war broke out. In their letter, Haddassah Women wrote: "We welcome the visit, but at the same time it is important for us to emphasize that your visit in Israel is meaningless if you do not visit and treat the Israeli hostages in Gaza. We demand of you – fulfill the role for which you were established and take care of the hostages now, before it is too late."

- [Israel's war cabinet blocks Mossad chief from restarting hostage talks in Qatar](#)
- [Families of Israeli hostages rally in Jerusalem amid IDF ground operation in Gaza](#)
- [Red Cross asked to visit Israeli hostages and get letters from them. It has yet to happen](#)

The Hadassah Women cite The International Committee of the Red Cross' mission as "an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence."

Among its stated goals, the Red Cross "aims to secure humane treatment and conditions of detention for all detainees, regardless of the reasons for their arrest and detention" and seeks "to alleviate the suffering of their families, particularly by restoring communication between detainees and their relatives."

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Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters speak with members of the Red Cross during the release of hostages in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip in November. Credit: SAID KHATIB - AFP

"With these aims clearly stated on your website, your decision to ignore the hostages abducted from Israel into Gaza calls into serious question the integrity of your 160-year-old organization as you purportedly work to fulfill its mission," the letter says.

"It is unconscionable that for more than 60 days the ICRC has not met with the hostages held in Gaza, checked their physical and psychological condition, demanded assurances about the safety of the hostages, or delivered medicine. In fact, the Red Cross has been visible in this conflict only in transporting released hostages from Hamas to Israel, a purely cosmetic role in the midst of this atrocity."

"Has the Red Cross ever before failed to care for hostages and victims of armed aggression in such a blatant way, or is this treatment reserved for individuals abducted from Israel?" write the Hadassah women, pointing a serious accusation at the Red Cross.



Members of the International Committee of the Red Cross interact with Hamas militants in an unknown location in the Gaza Strip, in this screengrab taken from video released in the end of November. Credit: AL-QASSAM BRIGADES, MILITARY WING OF HAMAS/ REUTERS

The letter continues, "we turn to you with a sharp and clear call to immediately visit all hostages abducted from Israel and held in Gaza. There is no justification for leaving them to languish without the care and intervention afforded to all detainees around the world by the Red Cross."

"From one humanitarian organization to another, we implore you to fulfill your stated mission. [Visit the hostages](#); ensure that they are held in tolerable conditions; put an end to their physical, sexual and emotional abuse; transfer them much-needed medication and food; and put them in contact with their families."

"This is what you do for hostages of every other nationality. It is deplorable to ignore the plight of Israeli hostages, and we trust that you will take the necessary action to address this unfathomable anomaly in the work of your much-lauded organization."

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if Hadassah has a direct cordon to Hamas I'm sure the ICRC would be all ears. Any middleman to terrorists not bound by international rules?

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