

June 25, 2024



AMICHAH CHIKLI
MINISTER OF DIASPORA AFFAIRS
AND COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

עמיחי שיקלי
שר התפוצות והמאבק באנטישמיות

Dear Governor Newsom and Mayor Bass,

As the Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism for the State of Israel, I write to you with deep concern regarding the escalating antisemitism in Los Angeles since October 7, 2023, and the troubling response from law enforcement.

In addition to the violent demonstrations and encampments that have plagued college campuses, posing a serious threat to the safety of Jewish students studying in California, two particularly alarming incidents of violent antisemitism have occurred in Los Angeles:

Firstly, the tragic murder of Paul Kessler in November 2023. Paul was fatally assaulted during a pro-Israel demonstration by an assailant. We are closely monitoring law enforcement and state authorities' handling of this case. It is shocking that the court did not recognize this as a hate crime. Paul was targeted because he was Jewish and a Zionist.

Secondly, earlier this week, an anti-Israel mob obstructed the entrance to the Adas Torah synagogue during a Jewish community event, resulting in violent attacks against Jewish individuals. Despite prior knowledge of this violent demonstration, law enforcement and city officials failed to take preemptive measures to ensure the safety of Jewish citizens.

While we appreciate the condemnations and statements against antisemitism that you have issued, proactive steps are critical to ensure the safety and security of Jews. Regrettably, Los Angeles, home to one of the largest Jewish communities in North America, is becoming increasingly unsafe for its Jewish residents.

As antisemitism is reaching record-high levels, I urge you to implement robust measures to combat antisemitism, enhance security around Jewish institutions, and ensure that law enforcement is properly trained and equipped to handle such crimes effectively.

Additionally, we at the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, would be happy to partner with you to further these objectives. For example, we offer a comprehensive training program in Israel for law enforcement agencies worldwide, specifically designed to combat antisemitism effectively. I would like to extend an invitation to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to participate in this program.

Sincerely,

Amichai Chikli

Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism
State of Israel