

Basel, 24 October 2023

ECTRIMS wishes to express our deep concern for all those affected by the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza, as stated in Milan during the closing of the joint ECTRIMS-ACTRIMS meeting on 13 October 2023.

ECTRIMS condemns the horrific terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel and calls for the immediate release of all hostages. In addition, we firmly support all efforts to reduce the impact of war on innocent civilians.

Many within our private and professional circles are grappling with the unimaginable loss and emotional distress caused by these atrocities. Our hearts are with those who are suffering, and we urge all members of the ECTRIMS community to respond with empathy and sensitivity, acknowledging the pain that others are enduring. As a scientific organisation focused on improving the health of people around the world, ECTRIMS condemns any form of terrorism and acts of violence and remains deeply concerned for the well-being and safety of those in the Middle East region.

ECTRIMS extends its support to our colleagues in Israel, including those we have been proud to collaborate with as part of our Council over the years. In the same vein, we also remain a steadfast partner to TRIMS organisations across the globe, including in the Middle East, with whom we have strong and longstanding ties. We sincerely hope for a swift resolution that brings peace and stability to the region.

Our impact as a community of dedicated medical professionals depends on our ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues and partners from around the world. And the success of ECTRIMS' mission depends on its commitment to fostering a spirit of unity and cooperation in our collective pursuit of advancing scientific research and treatments in MS.

ECTRIMS will continue to focus its resources on supporting researchers and clinicians who are working to improve the lives of those living with MS, regardless of geographical or political boundaries. Likewise, we will continue to speak out against violence in all parts of the world and to call for peaceful resolutions of conflicts.

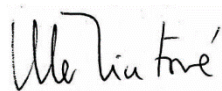
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on behalf of the ECTRIMS Executive Committee