



# THE PENNSYLVANIA JEWISH COALITION



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For Immediate Release  
Monday January 5, 2009

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## **Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition Supports Israel's Efforts to Defend Her Communities and Her Citizens**

The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition (PJC) today affirmed its strong support of Israel during the current hostilities in the Gaza Strip. With Hamas' refusal to extend the previous cease-fire agreement and its continued rocket attacks upon Israeli cities and citizens, Israel has been given no other alternative but to defend herself.

"The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition supports the nation of Israel's commitment to defend herself and her citizens against Hamas' aggressive acts of terrorism," said Hank Butler, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition. "Since Israel evacuated all of Gaza in Aug. 2005 terrorist groups in Gaza have fired more than 6,500 rockets, mortars and missiles at Israel. It is time to stop these terrorist attacks and bring peace and harmony to this region."

The PJC believes in the importance of peace in the Middle East and hopes that acts of terrorism and religious intolerance can be eliminated to make way for peace, harmony, and religious acceptance throughout the region.

"Though the PJC mourns the loss of ALL innocent lives lost in Gaza and Israel, we believe that Israel has the right to defend her citizens and communities against these acts of terrorism," continued Butler. "Hamas' failure to agree to an extension of a cease fire and its increased rocket attacks on the Israeli communities leaves Israel no choice but to defend herself in an effort to end terrorist actions. The PJC supports the requests of leaders and organizations throughout the world and calls on Hamas to end its campaign of terror against Israel, recognize Israel's right to exist, and bring peace to the Middle East."

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The Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition (PJC) is the eyes, ears, and voice in Harrisburg of the Jewish communities across Pennsylvania, including Altoona, Erie, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Wilkes-Barre, and York Jewish Federations.