

ISRAEL — ATTACK — WA JEWISH COMMUNITY

Statement by Member for Mount Lawley

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.58 pm]: I stand today to unreservedly condemn the abhorrent and brutal acts of terror carried out by Hamas in Israel. It seems that each new media report carries details of an even more unspeakable horror, prompting international condemnation. On Tuesday, European, US and UK governments had this to say —

We make clear that the terrorist actions of Hamas have no justification, no legitimacy, and must be universally condemned. There is never any justification for terrorism.

This is a terrifying time for a significant section of my community in Mount Lawley and has affected all facets of community life. I acknowledge the strength and dedication of many local community leaders, such as Geoff Midalia and Steve Liebllich, president and vice-president of the Jewish Community Council of Western Australia; Rabbi Marcus Solomon at the Dianella Shule; Rabbi Kim Ettlinger at Temple David; Rabbi Dan Lieberman at the Perth Hebrew Congregation; Adi Peleg, David Karotkin and Todd Wilner at the United Israel Appeal; Gavin Kotkis and Nikki Leib at JNF Australia; principal Dr Julie Harris and her team of teachers and administrators at Carmel School; Philippa Hinton and staff at Maurice Zeffert Home; and Justine Sharbanee at Maccabi WA.

I was fortunate enough to travel to Israel with the Premier when he was the Minister for Health and I saw firsthand his respect and affection for the people of Israel. As a result, I was humbled to be asked to present a message on behalf of the Premier at a community solidarity event last night. He had this to say, according to my notes —

Western Australians right across the state grieve alongside you as we grapple with the outrageous acts of terrorism and brutality committed against Jews in Israel.

The images we are seeing on social media and news media are utterly horrifying.

The deliberate targeting of innocent Israeli civilians by Hamas is an outrage to democratic societies everywhere. I condemn them in the strongest possible terms.

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But here in Western Australia and in our communities, we have not forgotten what your community has endured.

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We stand with you all and we stand with Israel.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm