

## 「イスラエルとハマスの軍事衝突に対し即時の停戦と早期の終結を願う声明」

私たちの宗門では、2022年2月24日のロシアのウクライナ侵攻に対し、「我々は、被爆国の市民として、生命を慈しむ仏教徒として、世の安穩を願う念仏者として、この武力侵攻を非難し、自己正当化をくりかえす権力者の愚かさを批判し、歴史をかえりみつつ、この戦争の一刻も早い終結を願う」という宗会決議が採択されました（2022年3月4日）。しかしいま、私たちは、再び同じことばを、悲痛な思いで、別の武力紛争に対して投げかけねばなりません。

2023年10月7日、武装組織ハマスのミサイル弾攻撃によって始まったイスラエルとハマスの軍事衝突により、特にガザ地区は地獄の様相を呈しています。この紛争の残酷さと理不尽さを最も明瞭に表しているのは、イスラエルによるガザ地区の病院への攻撃です。非武装の市民の命を盾にする武装組織と、非武装の市民の命が巻き添えになることもやむなしとする世界有数の強大な軍隊の衝突がもたらすものは、多くの一般市民の、特に子どもや女性の犠牲にほかなりません。「ガザでは、死者は1万1千人を超えた。そのうち、子どもの死者は11月11日時点で4割を超す4506人に上る」と報道されています。11月6日の会見での「ガザは子どもの墓場になりつつある」というグテーレス国連事務総長の言葉が胸に突き刺さります。

宗祖親鸞聖人の時代も戦乱の時代でした。聖人はその時代を直視し、最も苦しい立場にある人々を「いし、かはら、つぶてのごとくなるわれら」として、共に生き抜かれました。自分だけの安穩を願う生き方にとどまることなく、共にお念仏で結ばれた「われら」という言葉に込められた聖人の思いに深く耳を傾けたいと思います。今、私たちは、親鸞聖人のみ教えを依りどころとすることはもちろん、苦しみ悲しむ人々と共に歩まれたその生き方に学ぶことが必要です。

戦争に勝者はありません。私たちは、四十八願で「地獄、餓鬼、畜生」などの苦しみのない世界を願われた阿弥陀如来のお心に導かれ、自他共に心豊かに生きることのできる世の安穩を願う念仏者として、このたびの軍事衝突で苦しむ全ての人々に目を向け、即時の停戦と早期の終結を願います。

2023年11月17日

浄土真宗本願寺派総長 池田 行信

Statement calling for  
an immediate ceasefire and end to warfare between Israel and Hamas

On Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, we, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization adopted the following resolution on the occasion of our annual General Assembly (March 4, 2022); "As people of Japan, the only nation that has been hit by atomic bombs, as Buddhists who cherish every life, and as Nembutsu followers who aspire for peace across the world, we condemn this aggression by disapproving the self-righteous excuses made by the authoritarian government. As learning from human history, we wish for this war to end at once." Sadly, we must restate this passage once again as another armed conflict now takes place.

Triggered by Hamas' October 7, 2023 missile attack, the warfare between Israel and Hamas has brought about a hellish situation to the Gaza Strip. A devastating attack by Israeli military of a hospital in Gaza City has stood out as an outrageous example of warfare's cruelty and unlawfulness. This is a battle between armed forces who uses unarmed civilians as their human shield and the world's leading powerful military who doesn't mind victimizing those people. Lost in such battle are civilians' lives, many of whom are women and children. As of November 11, it was reported that eleven thousand people have been killed, of which more than 40 percent or 4,506 were children. During a November 6 interview, UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres described the situation saying "Gaza is becoming a graveyard for children" and hearing so has struck our hearts greatly.

Shinran, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu teaching had also lived during a warring age in which many people suffered. Identifying himself as one them, he described the most marginalized people as "they are... none other than we, who are like stones and tiles and pebbles." Shinran never wished for his own happiness only, and in reference to himself and others as "we," represents his deep feeling of bond with all humanity tied together through the Nembutsu teaching. It is a matter of course, that we would like to have his teaching as the basis of our lives, but it is also necessary for us to learn from his way of living.

As the saying goes, "Nobody wins a war." In the first of the Forty-eight Vows that says "there should not be hell, the realm of hungry spirits, or the realm of animals in my land," Amida Tathagata pledged to guide us to a world that is free from suffering. As Nembutsu followers who have encountered this Buddha's wish, we naturally come to aspire for a world in which everyone can live in peace and harmony. In accord with the Buddha's vow, in consideration of those who have been suffering from this battle, we call for immediate ceasefire and an end to war.

November 23, 2023

Governor General IKEDA Gyoshin  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha