

Service Civil International Germany (SCI Germany) – Statement on Violence in the Middle East

(Status: 12 September 2025)

Preface

This statement summarises the positions of Service Civil International German Branch (SCI Germany). It emerged from discussions within parts of the office and the board and reflects our values, demands for peace and justice, as well as our concerns.

It represents the current debate within the German branch of SCI, but not a final opinion – such a thing will probably never exist. It also does not necessarily represent the stance of all members, volunteers, or partners of our network. SCI Germany is a diverse movement that respects plurality of perspectives. We are aware that our knowledge is limited and not all aspects can be taken into account.

The aim of this statement is to create a common framework within which we, as a peace and volunteer organisation, can act for human rights, nonviolence, and solidarity with all people affected by the conflict.

Principles

- Peace and justice are our guiding values.
- We reaffirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination as well as the state of Israel's right to exist, enshrined in international law.
- We condemn the extremism and war crimes of the Israeli government and army.
- We do not regard Hamas as a legitimate resistance organisation and expressly distance ourselves from terror.
- We refer to universal human rights and the International Criminal Court.
- We recognise the challenges in media coverage, especially in social networks, and are committed to critical, source-conscious engagement.
- We stand in solidarity with nonviolent resistance movements in Palestine and Israel as well as with Palestinian-Israeli encounter projects in the spirit of SCI.

Background and Urgency

The ongoing violence in the Middle East is unacceptable and demands our attention as an international peace organisation. SCI Germany condemns war, crimes against humanity, terrorism, and all forms of hate ideologies – regardless of the perpetrators.

We demand an immediate ceasefire, the protection of the civilian population, rapid provision of medicines and food, and the release of all hostages. Humanitarian aid must be possible safely and without hindrance; aid organisations, medical personnel, and journalists need protection. Peace negotiations must be actively promoted.

We see that the civilian population in the Gaza Strip suffers both from the war crimes of the Israeli army and from the repressive regime of Hamas. We stand in solidarity with the protests of the civilian population against the war, against the Israeli army, and against the Hamas regime.

We also stand alongside Israeli and Palestinian civil society, which speaks out against war, war crimes, illegal settlement policy, and violence.

We are committed to solidarity, networking, and education against hate ideologies. This is the foundation for a just and lasting peace – in the region and worldwide.

SCI Germany condemns

- War, violence, terrorism, and hate ideologies in every form.
- War crimes and crimes against humanity by the Israeli army, in particular attacks on civilians, “collective punishments,” and the destruction of infrastructure.
- Terrorist attacks and crimes against humanity by Hamas, Hezbollah, and other radical Islamist groups.
- Hostage-taking, abuse, sexualised violence, and starvation as weapons of war, as well as any denial of their occurrence.
- The reckless use of so-called “human shields.”
- Forced evacuations, expulsions, and the illegal appropriation of Palestinian land.
- Blockade and misuse of humanitarian aid leading to famine.
- Attacks on UN peacekeepers, aid organisations, medical personnel and infrastructure, as well as journalists.
- Terrorist infrastructure in densely populated areas.
- Violations of ceasefires.
- Genocidal rhetoric and plans by far-right Israeli government members. The danger of genocide must be taken seriously, and genocide as well as further deaths of civilians must fundamentally be prevented.
- The rhetoric of annihilation towards Israel, the delegitimisation of the state of Israel, and its demonisation, which entrenches antisemitic stereotypes.
- The expansion of warfare onto and by other countries and actors.
- Military support and arms deliveries by other states, especially from Germany, which prolong the war and fuel further war crimes.
- The spread of antisemitic and anti-Muslim racist narratives as well as conspiracy theories about war and violence in the region.
- The increasing violence and threats against Jewish individuals and institutions worldwide, as well as Islamophobic discrimination in Germany and other countries.
- Police violence and restrictions on freedom of expression against human rights activists and events that express solidarity with Palestine or advocate for peace and against militarisation.
- The boycott and rejection of a peaceful solution that does justice to all people in the region.
- The failure, over generations, to integrate and promote opportunities for refugees in their host countries.

SCI Germany demands

- An immediate ceasefire observed by all sides.
- Humanitarian supply for the population in Gaza as well as full protection for civilians and helpers.
- Release of all hostages.
- Compliance with international humanitarian law, including humane treatment of prisoners of war.

- An end to all military support and glorification of violence by states and armed groups.
- Demilitarisation and disempowerment of terrorist and extremist structures in order to promote democratic processes and structures with the aim of a two-state or another peaceful solution for all groups.
- Priority for the protection of the civilian population from attacks or so-called “collateral damage.”
- The immediate cessation of all arms deliveries.
- Independent investigations and criminal prosecution of war criminals and those responsible.
- Condemnation and overcoming of antisemitic, anti-Palestinian, and islamophobic narratives.
- Care in handling information and reporting.
- The start of nonviolent negotiations and serious engagement for a political solution.
- Responsible handling of aid funds and reduction of the risk of embezzlement.
- Recognition that Jewish and Muslim life are equally exposed to discrimination and hate ideologies, and commitment against their being played off against each other.
- Active engagement with history in order to avoid historical revisionism.

Final Appeal

We call on all actors to condemn wars, crimes against humanity, genocides, terrorist acts, brutality, and prejudice worldwide. We must remain aware of the ongoing atrocities in various regions and show solidarity with all oppressed and violence-affected people. SCI Germany expresses its support for all victims of war and terrorism worldwide – as well as for partners affected by islamophobia, antisemitism, and other forms of discrimination that are closely connected to the ongoing conflict.

SCI Germany commits itself, in the spirit of Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to the ideals of nonviolence, international human rights, and peace, and calls for solidarity and justice.