



CONCILIUM

ISRAEL CRITICAL RESPONSE REPORT OCTOBER 2023

A report on the Concilium's critical incident response to the
October 7 attacks against Israel.



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SITUATION

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched coordinated armed incursions from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel.

In total, 1,139 Israelis and 71 foreign nationals were killed, including women, children, and the elderly. Additionally, 254 Israelis civilians and foreigners were taken as hostages to the Gaza Strip, including 30 children.

As a result of these unprecedented attacks, the largest evacuation in Israel's history began.



BLUF

(Bottom Line Up Front)

After the attacks, Concilium provided our partners and beneficiaries with focused security analysis, bilateral risk consulting, and the deployment of a dedicated crisis response team to Israel. Over the course of 30 days, Concilium provided a secure collaborative group for 180 missionaries representing nearly 100 mission organizations, 22 written reports, five virtual security updates, specific risk consulting for more than 50 missionaries, and direct help to as many missionaries inside Israel.

Concilium **did not charge** for services it provided in Israel because of a generous donation from a Concilium donor. The entire response, including travel, food, vehicle rental costs, and lodging, came in under budget, stewarding well the sacrificial giving of Concilium's faithful donors.

INITIAL RESPONSE

As a result of these unprecedented attacks and uncertainty in the following days, Concilium's partners and beneficiaries requested

Concilium's analysis and crisis management guidance as well as on the ground support for missionaries in need.

Concilium Insight, Concilium's threat analysis program, began providing analysis and guidance to global missionary leaders while Concilium Secure, Concilium's security-risk and crisis management program, deployed a START (Security, Triage, Assessment & Response Team) to Israel to help missionaries evacuate as well as provide assistance to those missionaries and gospel workers choosing to stay.

Within hours of the attack, Concilium created a secure collaborative group for missionaries. That group quickly grew to more than 180 members representing nearly 100 mission agencies around the world. That collaborative group allowed Concilium to provide hundreds of real-time updates and instant feedback and answers from Concilium's analysts and START team in Israel.

Concilium's first Quick Brief for the Hamas attack issued October 7, 2023. Fourteen Quick Briefs would be issued during Concilium's response.



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One of many virtual meetings and updates Concilium provided to missionaries and church leaders on the security situation in Israel.

Over the course of the next 30+ days, Concilium would publish 22 reports for Concilium's partners and beneficiaries. These reports and updates helped hundreds of missionaries to remain safe and make wise stay-go decisions after the attacks.

ON THE GROUND

October 10, just three days after the attack, Concilium's START team arrived in Amman, Jordan. From Amman the team traveled overland into the West Bank and Israel to



Evacuees at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv. This picture was taken shortly before a rocket attack forced everyone to seek cover.

Jerusalem. The team immediately began developing a network of relationships to gather accurate, real-time information on the current situation and

help missionaries and their family safely evacuate Israel. Across the country, Concilium's START Team personally met with missionaries and their families to help them with their stay-go decision making, safely leave the country, or equip themselves to stay in Israel and continue their ministries within the changing normal of the security landscape.

The START team also coordinated with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), State Department consular officers, and private sector security directors to collect and share critical security information for evacuation and in-country travel safety.

In one particularly acute response case, Concilium helped a single female missionary who was targeted for kidnapping safely depart the West Bank and return to the United States. She made her appreciation known after she returned safely home:



A photo of the young lady Concilium helped get to safety from the Palestinian Territories after October 7.

"While stuck in the Palestinian territories following the October 7th, 2023 attacks, the team at Concilium worked tirelessly, providing communication around the clock with necessary intel, guidelines, connections, and advice to secure safe extraction from the zone of imminent danger to allow for ministry contacts in the area to remain safe and continue the work and allow for my ministry to transition to a new area within the region. Without the prayer and wisdom of the Concilium team, His story in my life would no doubt have looked remarkably different and I am so thankful to get to partner alongside the work Concilium does now."

Once evacuations were finished, the START team provided both security response and first aid training for multiple missionaries and gospel workers who were choosing to stay in Israel to minister despite the risks.



Concilium's START team providing guidance and training for a group of missionaries who chose to stay in Israel after the October 7 attacks.



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At one point during the response, an amazing incident took place that can only be characterized as a “God moment.” Concilium President Scott Brawner received an impassioned call for help from a church member in the central United States looking to help a young missionary couple with a baby who were isolated in their apartment’s bomb shelter due to reoccurring rocket attacks. Scott immediately connected the church member to the START leader in Israel. As the Lord would have it, the START team leader was in the bomb shelter with this very family providing comfort, support, and resourcing to help this family deal with their current circumstances—God is good!

Shortly after the Hamas attacks, Hezbollah began rocket attacks on northern Israel from southern Lebanon. As a result of those attacks and the need for emergency shelter, Concilium’s START team was requested to provide a site security assessment for an organization building a tent city to house internally displaced people (IDPs) who were forced to flee their homes in northern Israel. The START team provided a thorough security assessment of the facility including how to secure the perimeter and provided guidance for immediate reactions to rocket and drone attacks. As this was a church planting ministry, Concilium’s START team also provided consulting on refugee management and safety as the organization had no prior experience with this type of humanitarian programming or ministry.

FUNDRAISING: A COMMITMENT

Concilium requested \$10,000 for the Israel response. The gracious generosity of a Concilium supporter provided a single \$10,000 donation for the project. The entire response, including travel, food, vehicle rental costs, lodging, came in under budget, stewarding well the sacrificial giving of Concilium’s faithful donors.

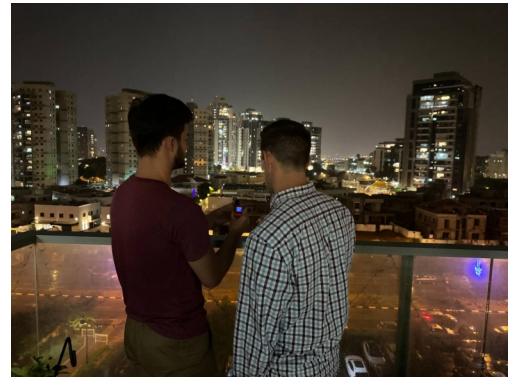
“Concilium will never allow profit to be a determiner of support or resourcing for missionaries or persecuted Christians in need of help.”

Scott Brawner
Concilium President

Crisis response is a ministry with high stakes. Concilium relies on the generous support of donors who make our crisis management ministry possible for gospel workers and persecuted Christians around the world. With that understanding, Concilium seeks to steward well the giving of our donors to ensure that giving is managed well and donations are leveraged to their maximum effectiveness. By empowering the Concilium team to fulfill the mission the Lord has given us, your giving helps missionaries and persecuted Christians thrive and remain effective where He plants them—for God’s glory and their good!



Concilium’s START leader was with a young missionary family in their bomb shelter when a church member in the USA called on their behalf seeking our assistance!



Concilium START team member providing in-person training on a Garmin InReach satellite communication device to a missionary in Israel.

For more information on Concilium and our ministry, do not hesitate to reach out to Concilium on our website, by email at info@concilium.us, or at PO Box 28308, Kansas City, Missouri 64188.



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