

Reflections on the War in Israel and Gaza

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I am deeply saddened by the renewal of war in Israel and Gaza, which began with an abhorrent attack against unarmed civilians. I know people in the region, and I worry for their safety. This violence has directly impacted many NCME members, as well as the broader educational community. It is hard for me to escape a feeling of helplessness in the face of this latest tragedy in a region that, during my lifetime, has never known enduring peace.

I must not give up hope. Daisaku Ikeda wrote, "Every war, when viewed from the undistorted perspective of life's sanctity, is a 'civil war' waged by humanity against itself." I believe this. I hope and pray that the parties involved will work toward the establishment of a lasting peace in the region. And I will redouble my commitment to advance education as a means to promote tolerance of others, to engender respect for diversity, and to develop opportunities for every individual.