



**State of Israel
Ministry of Tourism**

October 8, 2023

To: Members of the Israel Incoming Tourism Assoc

Dear friends,

I hope this message finds you well. I am not reporting anything new; as you know terrorists have breached Israel's southern border, launching indiscriminate attacks on innocent people, including infants, children and the elderly. The State of Israel is engaged in a conflict that we are confident we will ultimately overcome. Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that there is no knowing how long the security situation will remain uncertain.

The brutal attacks have caught incoming tourism just as it was reaching its peak and I might add to which we were eagerly anticipating.

The government has declared a state of emergency in the border area and within an 80-kilometer radius.

No vehicles of any kind are allowed in this area and as this is just the beginning, we anticipate that the guidelines will be changing from time to time in this region as well as throughout the country. Most airlines have cancelled flights to Israel and the Ministry in collaboration with relevant authorities is working to assist those who wish to depart from Israel.

The Ministry of Tourism is in direct contact with the management of the Israel Incoming Tourism Association with updates on the permissible visitation areas and other pertinent matters. The safety of tourists is our top priority and we work to ensure their safety in every way.

We hope that we can get back to "business as usual" as soon as possible.

Drawing from past experiences, we have learned that once normalcy is restored, the tourism industry and the demand for visiting our country will rebound with passion and excitement.

Sincerely,

Haim Katz
Minister of Tourism

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Haim Katz', written over a light blue rectangular background.