

## **JCPA Condemns Cold-Blooded Hamas Murder of Israelis**

NEW YORK - Yesterday's deadly attack on four Israeli civilians is a sad reminder that those opposed to peace will engage in the most despicable acts in order to disrupt the direct negotiations about to commence between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, according to the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), the consensus voice of the organized American Jewish community.

Early yesterday, four Israeli civilians from Beit Hagai, including a pregnant woman, were murdered by Hamas terrorists outside of the West Bank city of Hebron. This attack, apparently timed to coincide with the beginning of direct negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, was the first deadly attack on Israeli settlers living in the West Bank in more than two years.

"We deplore the cold-blooded murder of four Israeli civilians in the West Bank. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families who lost loved ones in this attack," said Dr. Conrad Giles and Rabbi Steve Gutow, the chair and president, respectively, of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. "Today's deadly attack is a sad reminder that the enemies of peace will stop at nothing to undermine the direct negotiations about to begin this week in Washington, DC. Palestinian Authority leaders must do more than issue a condemnation; they must also intensify the battle against terrorist violence and bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice."

***JCPA, the public affairs arm of the organized Jewish community, serves as the national coordinating and advisory body for the 14 national and 125 local agencies comprising the field of Jewish community relations.***