

The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies

January 25, 2026

Mr. Joseph Lemkin
C/o Rabbi Menachem Margolin, Chairman
European Jewish Association

Dear Mr. Lemkin:

As scholars who have written about the Holocaust or other genocides, we share your family's concern about extremists exploiting Raphael Lemkin's name to attack Israel.

We are disappointed that the "Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention," which we understand was created without your family's permission, is being used to falsely accuse Israel of genocide.

Israel's counter-terror campaign in Gaza is not genocidal, either in intentions or actions. The civilian deaths there are the result of Hamas embedding itself in residential areas and using the population as human shields.

The fact the Lemkin Institute began accusing Israel of "genocide" on October 17, 2023, before a single Israeli soldier had entered Gaza, further illustrates the absurdity of the accusation.

We support your efforts to reclaim the legacy of Raphael Lemkin from those who are besmirching his ideals and goals.

Sincerely,

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