

Israeli soldiers fight off more than 1,500 Hamas terrorists and put out fires Hamas set to hundreds of village homes in southern Israel in surprise attack on October 7th. More than 1,400 men, women, and children were savagely murdered and over 200 remain captured in Gaza.

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BLACK SABBATH

By **Shani Sorko-Ram Ferguson**

The fact that October 7th is considered the worst day in Israel's modern history—but not in her entire history—should explain a lot about what we are dealing with in Israel.

For the past 40 years, the *Maoz Israel Report* has gone to print mid-month so that it arrives in people's homes by the first of the month. But I sit here, mid-month, a week after this war began—and I remain at a loss for words.

I am no stranger to war. This is my fourth war in Israel, not counting the military operations that happen seemingly every year or two. I grew up with TV commercials teaching me never to approach a suspicious object like an abandoned bag because it could be a bomb. Code Red sirens indicating rockets from Gaza, or Lebanon—or Iraq—are second nature to me.

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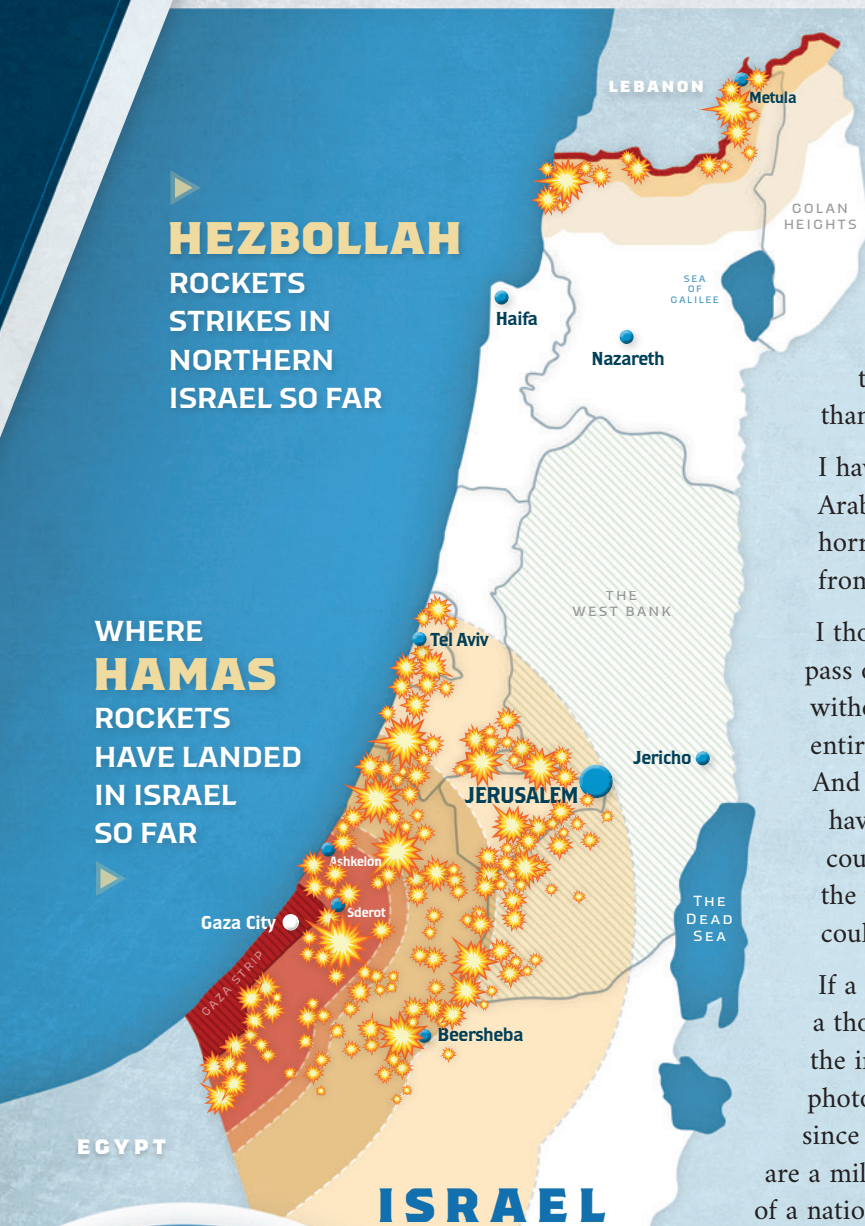
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HEZBOLLAH ROCKETS STRIKES IN NORTHERN ISRAEL SO FAR

WHERE HAMAS ROCKETS HAVE LANDED IN ISRAEL SO FAR



This time was different. This time hurt deeply. My people weren't just killed. They weren't even just murdered. They were butchered. They were tortured and then piled up and burned alive. And if they were really unlucky, they survived and were among the more than 200 kidnapped into Gaza.

I haven't spoken to a single Israeli—Jew or Arab—who doesn't know someone with a horror story from this war. And I mean from the first 24 hours of the war.

I thought long and hard about how to pass on this experience with words, without passing on the trauma my entire country is going through. And I don't know how. So, we have agonizingly sifted through countless photos, sparing you the worst and wishing we could show you more.

If a picture is worth a thousand words... the images filmed and photographed in Israel since Saturday the 7th

are a million screams of a nation pleading to be allowed to defend itself, of Israeli villages that no longer exist, of family lines that were completely wiped out—and of a history lesson the world convinced itself they had learned. ■

ISRAEL ROCKET STRIKES IN THE GAZA STRIP

Trained civilian volunteers from "Zaka" gather the bodies of murdered Israeli families amidst the wreckage of their bombed and burnt homes.



Instagram



Flash90/Edi Israel



◀ **MOURNING TWICE**

Israeli singer Shay-Li and her 1 month-old baby survived 27 hours of horror. She mourned twice. First the loss of her husband who fought to buy them time to escape. And second, when she was notified his extracted sperm would not give her the 3 children they dreamed of having because her husband's body lay too long in the sun.

A FATHER'S AGONY ▶

A father hears his 8-year-old daughter, who had spent the night at a friend's house in southern Israel, is among the dead. "Yes!" He responded with a smile and an agony-filled shout of joy. "I feared what would happen to her if she was taken into Gaza. Death was a blessing."

Instagram/mako

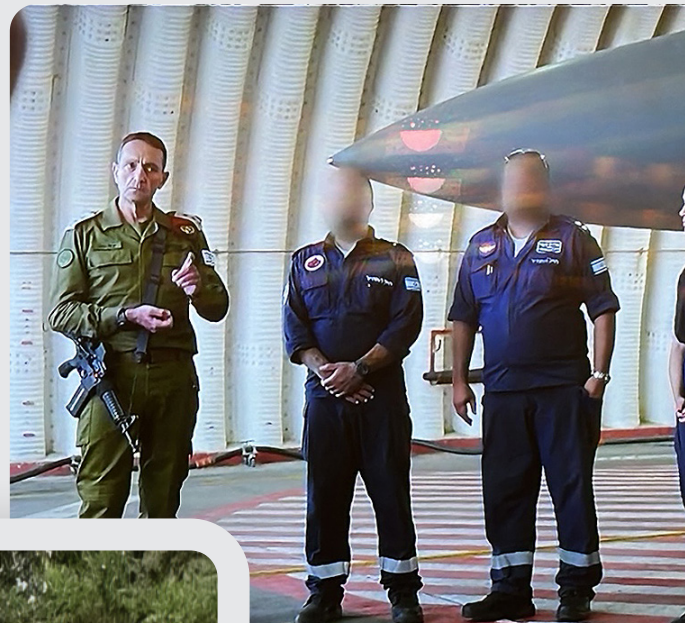




Instagram

FLIGHTS PACKED WITH RETURNING FIGHTERS

An El Al flight from Bangkok did not have enough seats for all the Israelis returning to fight in the war. After everyone was seated, flight attendants filled every square inch of the floor space with more people. Yosi Taguri, who posted this photo on X (Twitter) noted, "While some countries have issues and make rules to stop men from getting out in war times, in Israel we have issues getting everyone in fast enough."



כנו הרגנו אותו בנחישות
עם מודיעין טוב,
"נלחמים בנחישות אבל נשארים בני אדם"



Facebook



TOGETHER TO THE END

All five of the Kutz family were initially listed among the missing until they were eventually discovered murdered in their home, huddled on a bed, still embracing.

COMBAT READY

IDF Chief talks to Air Force unit before a mission. "We are all angry, but we must not fight from our rage. We will fight like lions but we must not become animals like they are, we must remain human."



Channel 12 screenshot/ section 27a



THE NORTHERN FRONT

Metula, a city that sits directly on the Israel/Lebanon border, was declared a closed military zone and nearby cities were evacuated as the IDF manages the threat of a second war front in Lebanon with Hezbollah.



Flash90/ Tomer Neuberger



Flash 90/ Atia Mohammed

RELEASED TERRORIST NOW LEADS HAMAS

It was 12 years ago this October that kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit was traded for over 1,000 prisoners. One of those terrorists was Yahya Sinwar who now heads up Hamas and this war against Israel. He is rarely, if ever, seen in public without bodyguards behind him and children in front who serve as a human shield. It should be noted he tortured and brutally killed his own people when they disagreed with him.

BORDER CLOSING

Egypt places concrete slabs to indefinitely close the crossing from Gaza. It has since been opened to allow humanitarian trucks in and those with foreign passports out. World leaders have offered to pay Egypt to take in Gazans, but they have refused citing the destructive nature of Gazan culture.



Getty/Mahmoud Khaled

Channel 12 screenshot/ section 27a



IDF spokesman pictured showing locations of over 450 failed enemy rocket launches that landed in Gaza since war began

HOSPITAL BOMBING THAT NEVER HAPPENED

500 Palestinians were said to have been killed when a rocket hit a Gaza hospital. Hamas and international media blamed Israel before any investigation took place. Riots against Israel took off around the world and the next day Hamas “retaliated” by bombing an Israeli hospital taking out the hallway next to the birthing ward. It took only hours to find footage and a recorded conversation between Hamas militants to prove the explosion was caused by a failed rocket from the Islamic Jihad. The strangest twist in the story was that in the end, photos showed the rocket had dropped in the parking lot and had not hit the hospital at all and we never heard anything else about the “500 dead Palestinians.” In response, the Israeli ambassador to India tweeted, “This ability of the Palestinians to invade 30 Jewish communities, slaughter 1400+ Israelis, kidnap more than 200, shoot 7000+ rockets at Israeli civilians and still play the victim is amazing.”

CHILDREN IN GAZA FED POISONOUS IDEOLOGY

As beautiful pictures like this are taken at a Hamas rally in Gaza, Israel wrestles with the moral ramifications of fighting against a murderous ideology that infects some civilians as well. “Israel cannot win against us because they love life and we long for death,” Hamas gloats.



Flash90/Atia Mohammed



FOUR FLAGS

Israeli parents display the four flags of the military units their four children are serving in during the war.

Left: IDF reservist Yosef Davidson photographs the outside of a refrigerated truck usually used to transport chocolate milk. Each truck brought some 40 corpses from the massacre to be identified. Right: The inside of the truck full of bodies.



Facebook

KINDERGARTEN TRAGEDY

Just a few months ago this picture was taken in Kibbutz Nir Oz at a kindergarten celebration. Every person in this picture was either injured, murdered or kidnapped.



Instagram

ONE TRUCK I WILL NEVER FORGET

We wrestled long and hard with how much to share about the events of Saturday, October 7th. Not too much to give you nightmares and not too little, because you must realize the severity of what happened. The world will push back, but we have no choice. Hamas can no longer be allowed to exist on our border.

This is the translation of a testimony by IDF reserve soldier Yosef Davidson posted on Facebook:



◀ The wreckage left in one of the children's rooms from the massacre in Kibbutz Nir Oz

We pulled out the bodies of foreigners and locals who still had weapons and ammunition strapped to them...

Our hearts are broken, crushed. Any second the heart could crumble, but we must continue.

It doesn't end...ten trucks like this.

We go to sleep at 5:00 am in the morning. We just collapse on the sidewalk outside because who cares where we lie. Our bodies are shaking and our eyes won't close. They are so swollen from tears. That was just the first day.

At 7:00 am we get up—and go again
Horror follows horror.

Penetrating injuries of hatchet knives, smashed and mangled heads from hammers, faces and bodies with gashes burned into them.

Girls with nail polish that matches their clothes with a stench that overwhelms the senses. We try everything to block the smell, but nothing helps. We feel the Angel of Death hovering in the air...

Each day, the condition of the next truckload of corpses gets worse. They turn blue or white and their skin begins to peel. It's hard to comprehend who and what we are seeing.

Some people are completely blackened. It is impossible to distinguish whether it's a man or a woman. Tissue and skin flake off and they stick to our gloves.

How do we handle the remains so we can bring back as much of them to their families who are crying out from the core of their being...waiting for that identifiable piece that will confirm to them that this body was their loved one?

Professionals among us who would have said they'd seen everything before—they fall apart...wailing from the depths of their soul...running outside to vomit...

Our nation is witnessing horrors we only saw in dark and evil days of old. We didn't think we'd come to this again...

And yet, here we are. But I will say something in the midst of this horror.

The people of Israel live!!!! We will get through this and raise our heads high again.

We don't think; we just act. The guy closest to the door numbly picks up body bag after body bag shouting to his friends from below, "Careful, this is the head...here are the legs..."

Body after body. It's never ending. 40 bodies in the first truck, and then truck after truck...

One truck I will never forget. The truck from Kibbutz Nir Oz.

A long truck full of people whose bodies were gathered by our people while terrorists were still out there—while rockets were still being fired overhead. Whole families in sheets and carpets from their own homes.

I get into the truck and see a little foot of a four-year-old girl. It's so sweet. I can't digest what I'm seeing. I picked her up slowly, being careful with her head. Being careful as I pick up her lifeless little body.

The blanket slips off and the peaceful face of an angel emerges from the inside. A toddler still in her Mickey Mouse nightgown.

I take her down slowly and shout, "Four-year-old girl. Be careful, be careful of her head!" Everyone is careful. Everyone does everything with the fear of God. This is a nightmare. A horror movie.

Then comes her brother—a two-year-old boy with beautiful blond hair. Then her sister ... Then, we pull out their father, a handsome and big man. We probably also pulled out the mother, but I couldn't tell.

Shura military base, Israel. Sunday morning, October 8th.

We arrive at the base to the stench of death. It's the smell of a concentration camp. We are briefed and given protective clothing to get to work.

I've trained for years to process conditions of all kinds of victims' remains. Nothing prepares me for this horror that will be etched in my memory forever. This is not a baptism of fire; this is a head-long dive into the inferno.

A huge, refrigerated truck arrives with a chocolate milk ad on the side. The kind we drank when we were kids. A tsunami stench of death hits us.



Shalom from a land at war,

As a Jew, there has **never been a moment in my life** where I doubted that someone out there—a bunch of someones—**wanted me dead. It's a given.** A fundamental understanding of my identity. That the **God of the universe chose to use us as a key role in His plan,** goes hand in hand with His sworn enemy's efforts to do **everything to thwart that plan by taking us out of the equation.**

That's the picture in the spirit. In the natural, it looks much simpler. Every generation will have a force that will try to kill the Jews. **And every generation will be given the opportunity to embrace or fight against that force.**

Jewish history remembers well those who **fought against her and alongside her.** They also remember those who silently watched as the lives they knew were eradicated.

I don't want Christians today to be remembered as being silent.

I want it to be told that Christians fought for our homes as if those homes were theirs.

And the reality is, if we don't eradicate this evil here, it will only spread.

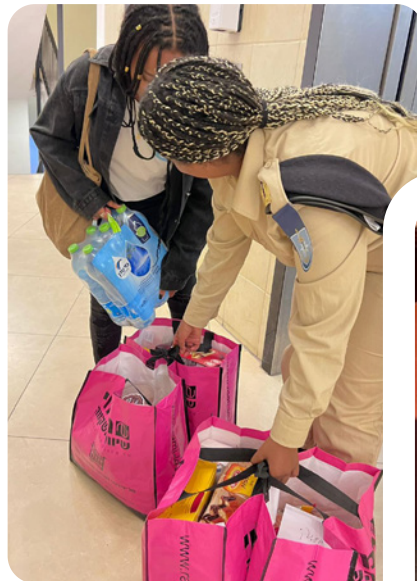
Being in Jerusalem, only a dozen or so rockets out of the thousands fired have reached us. Still, **not a day passes that we don't hear explosions** in the distance and warplanes flying over our house.

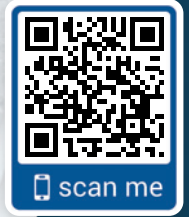
ISRAEL AT WAR

WHAT MAOZ IS DOING

Working with Beresheet congregation to bring personalized supplies to affected families

Equipment and clothing Maoz dispersed to families and soldiers on both the northern and southern border





No one is asking you to save the world. This war is too big for any one person to even digest. This is a massive clash of good and evil. There are civilians, hostages, terrorist networks, cultures, religions, families, international alliances...the list is unending.

What I'm asking is, "Will you do your part?" Whatever your abilities. Whatever your sphere of influence. Whatever your position among friends or believers in authority who don't understand the severity of the hour. **Speak up.**

I will tell you what Mordechai told his niece when the test of her generation arrived at her palace doorstep—because this is your Esther moment:

Do not think because you are far away that this danger will not be able to reach you.

And perhaps, this is why you are where you are at such a time as this.

Kobi and Shani Ferguson

Kobi and Shani Ferguson

**STAY
UPDATED!**



WATCH OUR

**ISRAEL
AT WAR**
VIDEO UPDATES

Shani has been posting videos updating everyone in between our massive efforts to help those affected by the war. They are available at maozisrael.org or on our Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channel.



Kobi receives a hug from IDF Captain ▲
for warm clothing and equipment
provided for his soldiers



Flash 90/ Avshalom Sassoni

ISRAELNEEDSME.COM

Israel has been invaded by terrorists from the north and the south who seek her destruction. Over a thousand Israelis were killed in just one day. Thousands were wounded and hundreds remain kidnapped or still missing.

God promised Israel will never be destroyed—but how much suffering the enemy can inflict will depend on whether or not she fights this war alone.

ISRAEL NEEDS YOU. ISRAEL NEEDS ME.

