

Iron Swords War

SNAPSHOT

October
25, 2023*

The Hostages and Missing Individuals

* The brief offers a current overview¹ based on the information accessible to us at this time.

240 hostages² and missing individuals have been recorded since the Hamas terror attack on October 7, 2023. Among these are infants, children, women, teenagers, young adults, and the elderly, including both civilians and soldiers. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum was established, along with other forums and organizations, to address the various aspects of this alarming and evolving situation. They work in cooperation with the National Hostages Center, under the leadership of Gal Hirsch.



Overcoming a lack of information:

- Are our loved ones held by Hamas, or are they missing/presumed murdered?
- How much more time will be needed to continue efforts until the release of the hostages?

Activities of the Forum | Needs and Responses

➤ A state of “organized chaos”

- The forum is led by the most outstanding individuals in Israel, involving approximately 1,500 volunteers and divided into task groups. These task groups include:
 - Independent negotiation efforts (in coordination with the Israeli government)
 - Diplomatic efforts

1. This status update is based on information from a JFN meeting held on October 25, 2023. The speakers at the meeting were as follows:

- **Amos Pickel** and **Gilad Ledrer**: Founders and representatives of The Hostages and Missing Families Forum
- **Or Tamir**: His family members are among the hostages and missing individuals.
- **Bram Bergman**: A member of JFN and a supporter of the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights.

2. This number is correct as of the day of publication of the above update, following the meeting that took place on October 25, 2023.

- Public relations and media campaigns (global)
 - Family support (psychosocial and financial)
 - Logistics team
 - Public awareness and support
- There are opportunities for volunteering, including at the Forum headquarters, that can utilize professionals with relevant expertise.
- The Forum fills a governmental void.
- The Forum operates as a registered non-profit organization. Donations can be made through JFN, PEF, and more – please see the links below for tax purposes.
- Israeli donors can give directly to the [Forum](#) (46N) or through [Keshet](#)
 - US donors can give through [Merit Spread Foundation](#)
 - UK donors can give through [New Israel Fund](#)

➤ Strategy of the Forum

- **Creating Pressure:** aiming to exert strategic pressure in key diplomatic arenas to promise the immediate release of the hostages. This involves engaging with nations such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey, urging them to take a stand: Will they support those responsible for crimes against humanity, or will they stand on the right side of justice?
- **Urgency:** Time is of the essence for the mission's success, the well-being of the affected families, and the cohesion of the actions. Every moment counts.
- **Global Community:** The Forum maintains extensive connections with Jewish communities worldwide, seeking their support, assistance, and financial contributions.
- **International Red Cross:** Professor Chagi Levin, who leads the Forum's medical team, also holds a prominent position in Israel's public health sector. There are fundamental challenges as the International Red Cross has not yet obtained permission to meet with the hostages. It is vital to remember that the hostages are not held by a state but by a terrorist organization.

➤ International Campaign

- The international campaign is already in progress across 31 major cities. The Forum provides campaign materials, content, and messages. Additionally, the Forum offers support for campaign production and presentation.
- The message is singular, focused, and unequivocal: "Release the hostages now!"
- The Forum seeks to initiate campaigns in more locations by collaborating with influential figures, including the creation of a dedicated campaign targeting American university students.
- The Forum's team possesses expertise in social media management. The Forum has established direct connections with various platform administrations to enhance the different efforts.

Families of Hostages and Missing Individuals | The Story of Or Tamir

Eight members of Or Tamir's family, including grandparents, parents, and children, are direct victims of the brutal terror attacks on October 7, 2023. Some of them have been identified and declared murdered - others remain missing. The living family members are working together with other families to establish communication and awareness centers in major cities worldwide, in various languages, to expose the horror stories and call for the immediate release of the hostages. They are also actively engaging with key figures in influential positions.

- It is imperative for these families to share their personal stories and experiences. By doing so, they aim to create lasting awareness of the dire situation they and their loved ones are facing.

- The Forum's activities come with financial needs, including funding for travel, flights, legal assistance, translation services, and more.

The Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights

Under the leadership of Attorney Irwin Cotler and his team, diplomatic efforts are underway, relying on the existing infrastructure of the Raoul Wallenberg Center, which also operates regularly to secure the release of political prisoners. Meetings are being held with U.S. representatives and senators, European officials, and UN representatives. Additional information on the efforts being made, a fund for advancing advocacy on this issue, and opportunities for assistance can be found [here](#).

- Tax deductible contributions from USA, Canada, and Israel can be made to the [Israeli Hostages Advocacy Fund](#): For more information on this fund, contact Bram Bregman at Bram.Bregman@ferguslea.com or via cell/WhatsApp: (613) 262-6279