

My Dear Friends,

As I left Gaza last month from my <u>visit with the soldiers</u>, I felt that a part of me stayed behind. It was a terrifying experience being in a war zone. Yet I was leaving while our sons and daughters in the IDF remained. Even more heartbreaking was that we still have over 100 brothers and sisters in captivity. One cannot imagine the terror of their daily experiences. Today though we do not need to imagine, for some of the released hostages have shared stories of their time in Gaza. From them we hear very clearly that our worst nightmares are being realized: hunger, <u>lack of medical supplies</u> and <u>sexual abuse</u>.

When I visited Hostage Square on my trip, I visited with the families, the released hostages and the organizers of the movement. They charged me with the mission to tell their story. One of the conversations that resonated with me deeply was with Talia Berman whose twin sons Ziv and Gali, 26, were taken hostage. Although not related, our shared name instantly made me think of them as family. Two handsome young men, taken in the prime of their life, leaving their mother crying every day about their fate which remained unknown. Sadly, we have learned not to expect much from third parties like the International Red Cross who should be insisting on access to the hostages. But our expectations for ourselves only rise. Especially when others will forget, we remember and continue to work for their safety and freedom.

Three months ago, Rina and Natalie Har came to our campus to speak to our students about their father, Louis Har, who was being held hostage. Our students joined together with the sisters to pray for their father's freedom.



Rina and Natalie Har with our students at YU

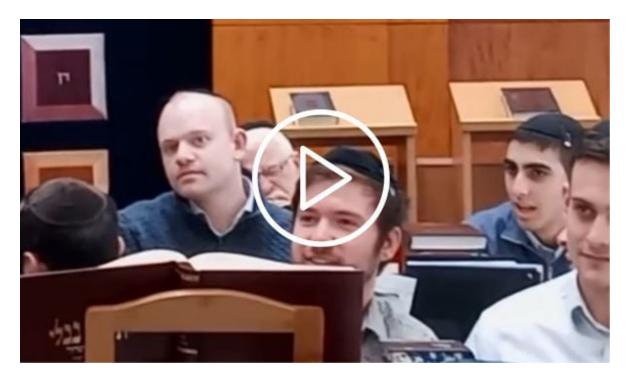
All throughout this crisis, our students have been at the forefront of supporting Israel, our IDF soldiers and our brothers and sisters in captivity. They have led rallies, organized charity drives, added to their prayers and studies, lobbied congress, and participated in multiple missions to Israel. When Israel is at war, we are all called to service, and our students all throughout this year have been responding to this call.

Ultimately, we know that the Jewish people will not be defeated. We do not know how long it will take nor do we know the amount of pain that we will suffer along the way, but we believe in God's promise, actualized throughout Jewish history, to protect and save the Jewish people from those who seek to destroy us. The question for us is not will we win but will we be worthy of celebrating the victory.

The Rabbis teach us that those who mourn for Jerusalem will also participate in the joy of its rebuilding. Those who are wholly present during the difficult times, who invest themselves emotionally, spiritually and physically to supporting the Jewish people in times of challenge and travail, will rightfully participate in the celebration of the redemption to come.

We experienced that teaching on our campus this week. This week, on the day he was rescued, Louis Har FaceTimed our students to recite the special blessing

when surviving a life-threatening experience, enabling us to participate in the joy of his return home.



YU students join together with Rabbi Shay Schachter to welcome Louis Har back home

We thank Hashem for the successful IDF rescue of Louis Har and Fernando Marman, and know that our joy is not complete until all of the hostages are returned back to our family. Please continue to include their names in your prayers and in all of our communal efforts to Bring Them Home Now.

Together we stand, together we rise, and together we will celebrate our ultimate victory.

Am Yisrael Chai

Warmest wishes and Shabbat shalom,



Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman President, Yeshiva University



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Donate Today

Hostages – Pray for Their Safe Release 78 Abraham Gilad ben Emunah (Munder) אברהם גלעד בו אמונה 19 Karina bat Ira (Ariev)

אברהם גלעד בן אמונה	78	Abraham Gilad ben Emunah (Munder)	קארינה בת אירה	19	Karina bat Ira (Ariev)
אגם בת מירב	19	Agam bat Meirav (Berger)	כפיר בן שירי	1	Kfir ben Shiri (Bibas)
אלכסנדר בן אוקסנה	32	Alexander ben Oksana (Lobanov)	ליאור בן מיכל	61	Lior ben Michal (Rudaeff)
סשה אלכסנדר בן ילנה	27	Sasha Alexander ben Yelena (Troufanov	לירי בת שירה (/	18	Liri bat Shira (Elbag)
אלכסנדר בן נינה	75	Alexander ben Nina (Dancyg)	מתן בן מרים	21	Matan ben Miriam (Angrest)
אלמוג בן נירה	26	Almog ben Nira (Sarusi)	מתן בן עינב	24	Matan ben Einav (Zangauker)
אלמוג בן אורית	21	Almog ben Orit (Meir-Jan)	מקסים בן טלה	35	Maxim ben Tella (Herkin)
אלון בן עידית	22	Alon ben Idit (Ohel)	מישל בן סולמירה	59	Michel ben Solomira (Nisenbaum)
עמירם בן שרה	84	Amiram ben Sara (Cooper)	מוחמד אלאטראש	40	Mohammad Alatrash
עמית אסתר חיה בת אילנה	28	Amit Esther Chaya bat Ilana (Buskila)	נעמה בת איילת	19	Na'ama bat Ayelet (Levy)
אנדריי בן יבגניה	27	Andrey ben Yevgenia (Kozlov)	נדב בן חנה	51	Nadav ben Chana (Popplewell)
ארבל בת יעל	28	Arbel bat Yael (Yehud)	נמרוד בן ויקי	19	Nimrod ben Vicky (Cohen)
אריאל בן שירי	4	Ariel ben Shiri (Bibas)	נועה בת ליאורה	26	Noa bat Liora (Argamani)
אריאל בן סילביה	26	Ariel ben Silvana (Konio)	עודד בן בלהה	83	Oded ben Bilha (Lifshitz)
אברהם בן אגרנש	36	Avraham ben Agranesh (Mengistu)	עופר בן כוכבה	50	Ofer ben Kochava (Kalderon)
אבינתן בן דיצה תרצה	30	Avinathan ben Ditza Tirtza (Or)	אוהד בן אסתר	55	Ohad ben Esther (Ben-Ami)
בר אברהם בן ג'וליה	21	Bar Avraham ben Julia (Kuperstein)	אוהד בן אסתר	49	Ohad ben Esther (Yahalomi)
ביפין ג'ושי	23	Bipin Joshi	עומר בן מלכה	21	Omer ben Malka (Shem Tov)
כרמל בת כנרת	39	Carmel bat Kineret (Gat)	עומר בן ניבה	22	Omer ben Niva (Wenkert)
חיים בן נחמה	79	Chaim ben Nechama (Peri)	עומר בן אורנה אסתר	22	Omer ben Orna Esther (Neutra)
חן חנן בן ורד	42	Chen Chanan ben Vered (Yablonka)	עמרי בן ורוניקה אסתר	46	Omri ben Veronika Esther (Miran)
דניאל שמעון בן שרון	19	Daniel Shimon ben Sharon (Peretz)	אור בן גאולה	33	Or ben Geula (Levy)
דניאלה בת אורלי	19	Daniella bat Orly (Gilboa)	אורי בן עינב אפרת	25	Ori ben Einav Efrat (Danino)
		David ben Silvana (Konio)	אוריון הרננדז	30	Orión Hernández Radoux
דולב בן יעל	35	Dolev ben Yael (Yahud)	פרחאן אלקאדי	53	Qaid Farhan Alkadi
דורון בת שרה סימונה	30	Doron bat Sarah (Steinbrecher)	רן בן טליק	24	Ran ben Talik (Gvili)
		Dror ben Dorit (Or)	רום בן תמר נועה	19	Rom ben Tamar Noa (Braslavski)
עידן בן יעל	19	Edan ben Yael (Alexander)	רומי בת מרב	23	Romi bat Merav (Gonen)
עדן בת שירית	24	Eden bat Shirit (Yerushalmi)	רון בן חנה	53	Ron ben Chana (Benjamin)
איתן אברהם בן אפרת	23	Eitan Avraham ben Efrat (Mor)	שגיא בן נאמית	35	Sagui ben Naamit (Dekel-Chen)
		Eitan ben Rut Idit (Horn)			Segev ben Galit (Kalfon)
		Elad ben Chana (Katzir)	שירי בת מרגית	32	Shiri bat Margit (Bibas)
		Eliya ben Sigalit (Cohen)	שלומי בן רוזיטה	39	Shlomi ben Rozita Ira (Ziv)
אליהו בן חנה	51	Eliyahu ben Chana (Sharabi)	שלמה בן מרסיל	85	Shlomo ben Marcel (Mansour)
אלקנה בן רוחמה	34	Elkana ben Ruchama (Bohbot)	קית' שמואל בן גלאדיס	64	Keith Shmuel ben Gladis (Siegel)
		Elyakim Shlomo ben Avishag (Libman)	טל בן ניצה	38	Tal ben Nitza (Shoham)
אמילי תהילה בת אמנדה	27	Emily Tehila bat Amanda (Damari)	תמיר בן חירות	19	Tamir ben Cherut (Nimrod)
אביתר בן יסמין גילה	23	Evyatar ben Yasmin Gila (David)	צחי בן דבורה	49	Tsachi ben Devorah (Idan)
		Gadi Moshe ben Sara (Mosez)	אוריאל בן נעמי	35	Uriel ben Naomi (Baruch)
•		Gali ben Tamar (Berman)			Yagev ben Esther (Buchshtab)
		Guy ben Meirav (Gilboa-Dalal)			Yair ben Flor (Yaakov)
חמזה אלזיאדנה	21	Hamza Alziadna	יאיר בן רות אידית	45	Yair ben Rut Idit (Horn)
הירש בן פערל חנה	23	Hersh ben Perel Chana (Goldberg-Polir			Yarden ben Penina (Bibas)
הישאם בן מנאל	36	Hisham ben Manal al Sayed	יצחק בן גילה	58	Yitzchak ben Gila (Gelernter)
עידן בן דלית	28	Idan ben Dalit (Shtivi)	יורם בן מרים	80	Yoram ben Miriam (Metzger)
איתי בן מירית	18	Itai ben Mirit (Regev)			Yosef Chaim ben Miriam (Ohana)
איתי בן חגית	19	Itay ben Chagit (Chen)			Yusuf Alziadna
יצחק בן חנה	69	Itzik ben Chana (Elgarat)	זיו בן תמר	26	Ziv ben Tamar (Berman)

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