



ISRAEL'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN



ISRAEL'S MISSING SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS

Since 2006, the Gaza Strip has been under the brutal rule of Hamas, a terrorist organisation recognised as such by Canada, the EU (including the UK, Israel and the USA).

The most publicised prisoner exchange was the 2011 agreement between Israel and Hamas, to release Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in exchange for 1,027 prisoners, with several hundred of them having been sentenced to life in prison for planning and perpetrating various attacks against Israeli targets.

Since this swap, many of those released have resumed terror activities with some having recruited members to new terrorist cells in the West Bank.



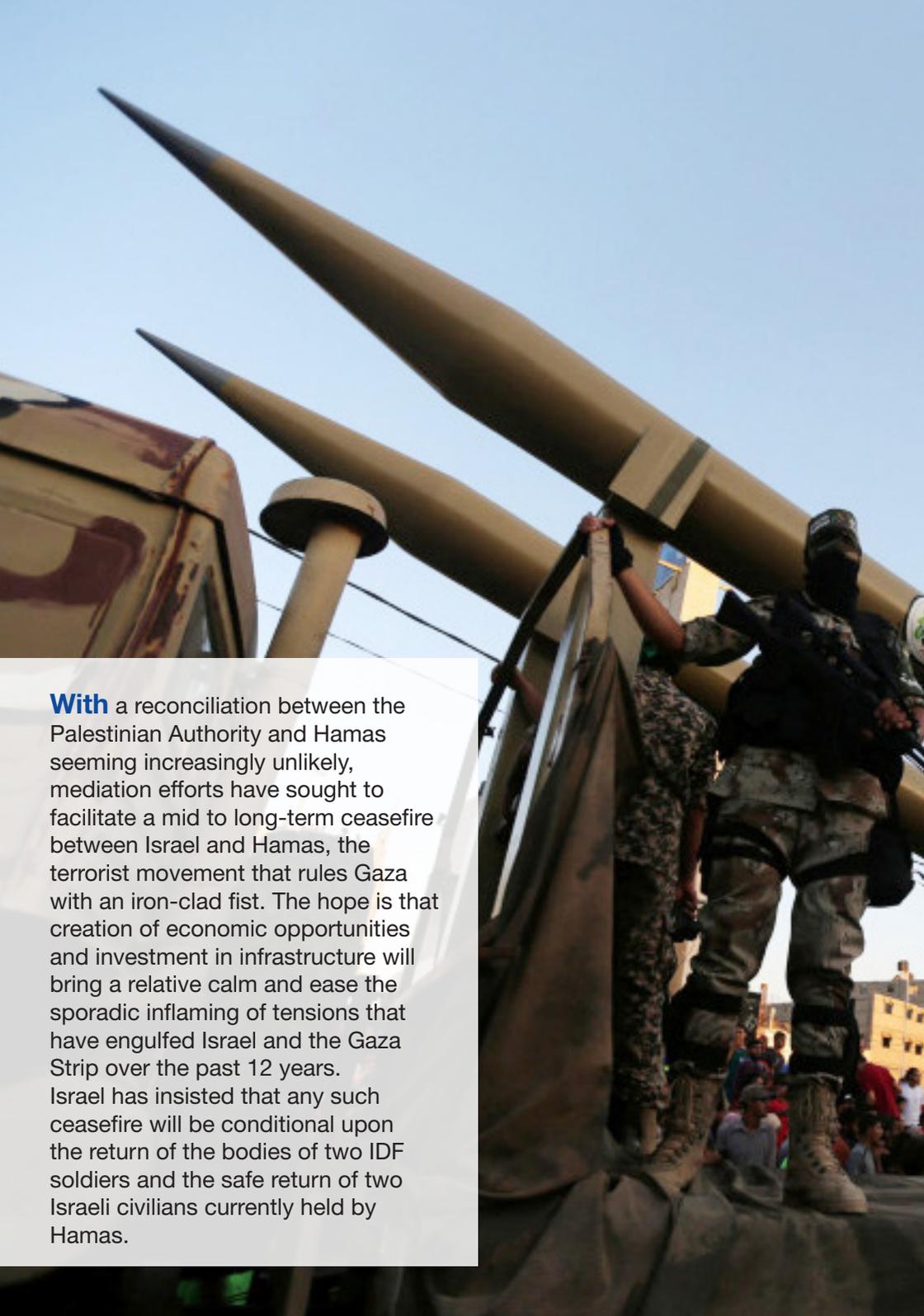
As of December 2018, in 24 prisoner exchange deals, Israel has released 23,125 Palestinian and other prisoners to the Palestinian leaderships and Arab countries, and has received 618 in return.

Currently, Hamas are holding the remains of two IDF soldiers, **Hadar Goldin** and **Oron Shaul** along with two Israeli civilians — **Aviram Mengistu** and **Hisham al-Sayed**.

Hamas' refusal to repatriate the remains of Hadar Goldin and Oren Shaul is a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international human rights norms, which mandate respectful interment of combatants in accordance with their faith.



With a reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas seeming increasingly unlikely, mediation efforts have sought to facilitate a mid to long-term ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the terrorist movement that rules Gaza with an iron-clad fist. The hope is that creation of economic opportunities and investment in infrastructure will bring a relative calm and ease the sporadic inflaming of tensions that have engulfed Israel and the Gaza Strip over the past 12 years. Israel has insisted that any such ceasefire will be conditional upon the return of the bodies of two IDF soldiers and the safe return of two Israeli civilians currently held by Hamas.



Hadar Goldin was born in 1991 to Simcha and Leah Goldin. He was the twin brother to Tzur, and a brother to Hemi and Ayelet.



On August 1st, 2014, only hours after a UN and US-brokered humanitarian ceasefire began between Israel and Hamas, Hamas terrorists used a “terror tunnel” to ambush an IDF unit in Gaza, killing Hadar who was 23 years old at the time. Ever since, Hamas have kept his body to use it as a bargaining chip to coerce Israel into releasing Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prisons, many of them tried and convicted terrorists.



Hisham Al-Sayed, is a Bedouin, from the Negev town of Hura. For the past year, he has been held by Hamas. His father, Sha’aban, has called on Hamas saying that his son suffers from mental problems and is not an Israeli soldier.



“Hamas knows full well my son is not well,” Sha’aban al-Sayed said. “He ran away twice before to the Gaza Strip and they would give him back. This time they are holding him, claiming he is a soldier and a collaborator with Israel.”



Oren Shaul was born in 1992 to Zehava and Herzl Shaul. Shaul was only 22 years old when he was killed by Hamas. On July 20, 2014, Hamas fired an anti-tank missile at an IDF armored personnel carrier carrying 7 soldiers, including Oren Shaul. He had left his armored personnel carrier to repair the vehicle and Hamas fired



on his unit, killing him and taking his body. Hamas rapidly claimed to have captured an IDF soldier named Aron Shaul, backing up its claim with the soldier’s “photo ID and credentials”. To this day, Hamas continue to malignly hold Oren Shaul’s body in Gaza.



Aviram Mengistu was born on August 22, 1986 in Ethiopia. When he was five years old, he and his family (which included 9 other siblings) made Aliyah and moved to Ashkelon. In 2011, after his older brother died, Mengistu started experiencing mental health problems. On September 7th, 2014 Mengistu’s mother declined to give him money when he asked for some and he stormed out of their home. He soon arrived at the border fence with Gaza and climbed over it. Despite being warned by the



IDF watchmen in the nearby patrol tower, Mengistu ignored them and scaled the fence. Upon finding him on the Gaza side of the border, Hamas interrogated him and became aware that he had psychological issues. Since then, no Israeli has seen him and despite numerous efforts by Israel to bring him back, Aviram remains a captive of Hamas.



In addition to the 4 Israeli citizens being held in Gaza, there are a number of other Israelis who are Missing In Action (MIA).

On June 11th 1982, a battle ensued between the IDF and Syrian & Palestinian forces close to Sultan Yaqub, a Lebanese village. There was a Syrian ambush in the dark and during the battle, 5 Israeli soldiers went missing. Two of them have since been returned to Israel, but the other three - **Tzvi Feldman**, born December 29th 1956, **Yehuda Katz**, born July 18th 1959 and **Zecharya Baumel**, born November 17, 1960, are still MIA.

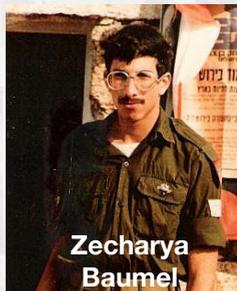
In February 2011, the Born to Freedom foundation received a photo of what they believed was Baumel's body shown lying atop a Syrian Tank, although no further evidence has been given.



Tzvi Feldman



Yehuda Katz



Zecharya Baumel

Guy Hever was born on May 30th, 1977. On the 17th August, 1997, Hever disappeared while in the Golan Heights. He was wearing IDF uniform, carrying his weapon, international military identification papers and military dog tags. Hever is believed to have been kidnapped.

On February 13th, 2007, a Syrian organization, The Resistance Committee for the Release of the Golan Heights announced that they were holding Hever hostage. However, this statement is in doubt because other organisations have also announced that they too were holding Hever.

In July 2009, Israel started a diplomatic campaign to find the whereabouts of Hever.



Ron Arad was born on May 5th, 1958. Ron began his army service and graduated from the IAF flight course in 1979 as a combat navigator. On October 16th 1986, Ron Arad was sent on a mission with Yishai Aviram to attack a terrorist target near Sidon, Lebanon. Apparently, a bomb that they released from their F4-Phantom II exploded prematurely, causing damage to the aircraft, forcing both to eject. A few hours later, the pilot, Aviram, was found by Israel. However, Arad was captured by the Lebanese Amal (a Lebanese political party associated with Lebanon's Shia community). During the first two years of his capture, Israel received letters and photos from Arad's captors proving he was alive. However, since then, despite an attempted and failed prisoner exchange, information on his whereabouts have been unclear.



THE PLIGHT OF ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES AND TOWNS

Over the last 12 years, Hamas and other terrorist organisations operating in the Gaza Strip have fired thousands of rockets and weapons at Israel and its civilians, with increasing range and frequency. This has greatly harmed and disrupted daily life for the civilians who reside there, particularly the children. These Israeli communities have also been terrorised by cross-border assault tunnels from the Gaza Strip.

Whilst Israel's defence systems, such as early warning systems and the Iron Dome, go a long way in significantly reducing the potential death and destruction, there are large swathes

of Israel's Southern population, in particular children, who are long term sufferers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



- According to the Israel Trauma Coalition, in Sderot and other border communities, every child under the age of 14 has spent their entire life under threat of rocket fire.

- In Sderot and the other border communities, children and adults have less than 20 seconds to make it to a bomb shelter.

- The effects experienced by the children vary, from avoidance of specific activities - like refusing to walk to school along a route where a rocket once fell - to intrusive thoughts where they feel like they're re-experiencing the traumatic event; and hyper-vigilance, where everything makes them jump.



- In the year 2007 alone, the year of Hamas's violent takeover of Gaza, 1,117 trauma victim files were opened, a significant increase from 2006, with anxiety symptoms among children including sleeping difficulties, nightmares, sweating, development regressions, wetting beds and fear of the outside.



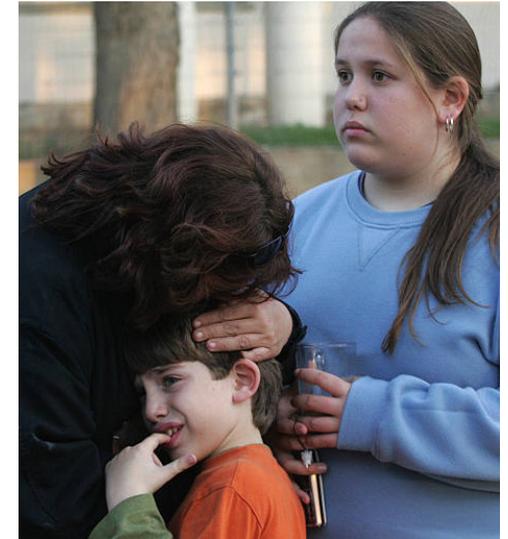


Between 13th-17th July 2014:

- A total of 93 children were wounded by rockets and over 20,000 children were moved north to less dangerous areas.
- During the same period, some facilities were relocated temporarily from the area bordering Gaza (up to 40 km). For example, over 50 special education children were transferred from Kibbutz Ein Hashlosha near the southern border to a safer location.



- Seven regional authorities in the southern part of Israel (each encompassing many municipalities of towns and villages) cancelled all activity in thousands of schools and summer camps, affecting tens of thousands of children.
- In the city of Sderot, situated close to the Gaza border, it is estimated that approximately 63% of the children living there suffer from PTSD.



THESE HAMAS ROCKETS THREATEN THE **MAJORITY** OF ISRAEL'S POPULATION



M-302 WARHEAD: 144 KG
RANGE: 160 KM



M-75 WARHEAD: 60 KG
RANGE: 75 KM



GRAD WARHEAD: 45 KG
RANGE: 48 KM



QASSAM WARHEAD: 9 KG
RANGE: 17.7 KM



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