

## THE ISRAEL ISSUE:

### ***BAS STUDENTS REPORT AND REFLECT ON THE WAR IN ISRAEL***



*Yeshivat Or Chaim's memorial for the victims of Hamas and the soldiers that fell in battle.*

## THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO HAMAS' INVASION OF ISRAEL

COBY BERGER

On October 7, the terrorist group Hamas invaded Israel, killed 1200 and counting innocent Israelis, and took 242 people hostage<sup>1</sup>, among them men, women, babies, and even a holocaust survivor. In a vacuum, these atrocities are obviously horrific. Though, what has often plagued Israel throughout its history is the response other countries have had to their retaliation against these terrorist groups. Oftentimes, when retaliating against the terrorists, civilian lives on the other side are lost. Unfortunately, these retaliations are a necessary move by Israel in order to defend itself and the Jewish people at large, which is often ignored by the international community. This is due to the heavy losses the Palestinians take, and the subsequent propaganda sent around by the terrorists highlighting these civilian deaths. However, at the time of writing this article, this has not been the case. Rather, many countries have chosen to stand behind Israel. How long will this support last? That remains to be seen.

So far the United States and Canada have stayed steadfast in their support for Israel. In fact, the U.S. has even sent high-tech munitions and allowed Israel to use their storehouses that are

full of weapons and ammunition as at this time of writing, Israel is readying for a likely ground invasion of Gaza. President Joe Biden has been strong in his comments on Israel, recently saying in an address at the White House, "We stand with Israel ... And we will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself, and respond to this attack." Perhaps surprisingly, there have been little to no calls from Washington for a de-escalation and it looks as if the U.S. and Canada will remain unyielding in their support of the Jewish homeland.

The European countries have also been fairly supportive of Israel so far. France in particular has been supportive, with the country banning all pro-Palestinian rallies. Other European countries such as Germany, Britain, and Italy have also sent out pro-Israel statements and expressed Israel's right to defend itself. However, some of these European countries are calling for restraint from Israel in their attacks on Gaza; including Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Luxembourg, and Spain.

In terms of Arab countries, many have unfortunately been in support of the terrorists. Iran, Israel's biggest enemy, has openly praised Hamas for their actions against Israel and is claiming that if Israel does indeed do a ground invasion, then Iran would get directly

involved in the war. Hezbollah, another Iran-backed terrorist group based in Lebanon has also shown support for Hamas and threatened to wage war against Israel. On top of that, Syria has recently been shooting rockets into Israel as a potential broader regional conflict looms. At the very least, the Arab countries that signed the Abraham Accords such as the United Arab Emirates have condemned Hamas, though many of them still call for a two-state solution and restraint on Israel's part.

All the outpouring of support has been very welcome and extremely surprising given what we have seen in the past. But it isn't going to last. As Israel continues to assault Gaza from the air and inevitably goes in on the ground, casualties are going to begin to accrue on the other side. When that happens, the European countries that have supported Israel thus far will flip. Just as in the past when they have condemned Israel, they will call them out for the civilian lives lost, call for a ceasefire, and call for a two-state solution that will never be agreed to. Even the U.S. who will continue to support Israel, will try to lightly nudge Israel towards ending the conflict. And the Arab countries that have lightly supported Israel

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/article/israel-hostages-hamas-explained.html>

**DVAR TORAH**

**SARAH BELDEB**

Everyone knows about the terror that struck Israel just weeks ago, which caused tremendous pain and suffering to us and all of Am Yisrael. The severity of this tragedy makes it clear that this is the most important time for us to come together as a nation. Even though the war may seem far from us in distance, as Jews, this is our fight. We need to continue to keep Israel and the soldiers in our thoughts and prayers everyday. Furthermore, this is a time for us to look inwards and do something to improve ourselves in the zechut of Am Israel. The pasuk in Nechemia teaches us this exactly when it states, "וְאַל-תַּעֲצֹבוּ כִּי-רָחוֹת הָיָא, מִמֶּעֶזְבֶּכֶם", "Do not be sad, for your rejoicing in the LORD is the source of your strength" (8:10). When faced with sadness, we often turn to feelings of despair. That is the exact opposite of the rejoicing Nechemia mentions in this pasuk. Instead of being in despair, we must choose to take action, improve ourselves, and do mitzvot to show Hashem we are rejoicing. That is exactly what will bring us strength.

We will eventually return to our normal lives and b'ezrat Hashem this nightmare will be over soon, but right now we need to live for Israel. We are the strongest nation and when they try to take us down we return even greater and more powerful, and that is why we are still here today. We, Am Yisrael, are here to live. This is how we fight back. Their goal is to terrorise us and break our spirit and emunah but we have never let them and we never will! ☆

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so far will begin to fully condemn Israel for its actions. But can we avoid this? The unfortunate answer is going to have to be a resounding no. No, because Israel must protect itself from destruction. No, because Israel must protect its civilians from death and persecution. And no, because Israel has a responsibility as the Jewish state to protect Jews worldwide from the kind of people who would like to see all of us wiped off the face of the earth. In the words of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir, "If we have to choose between being dead and pitied, and being alive with a bad image, we'd rather be alive and have the bad image." ☆

**HOW DID HAMAS INVADE ISRAEL? A PREMATURE ANALYSIS**

**BY: NOAH BERGER**

Hamas, Israel "softened some curbs on Gaza, offering thousands of work permits as well as measures to facilitate exports and improve its dilapidated utilities." And to the surprise of Israel and its allies, relative quiet was maintained in the region with Hamas. Aside from a few separate conflicts with other Gazan terrorist groups, the residents of southern and central Israel enjoyed nearly 2 years of calm.

So why would Israel ever suspect an imminent attack? That was exactly the point. Hamas engaged in a prolonged deceptive effort to instill a false sense of security in Israel's institutions so they would never suspect or investigate a possible looming invasion.

Given that Israel's intelligence community apparently did not expect this attack, we can understand why it took hours for the Israeli military to get the situation under some level of control. According to testimonies that have been collected since the conflict broke out, residents in the Gaza periphery had to hide in their homes with their doors locked for up to eight hours as they witnessed Hamas terrorists slaughter their families, friends and neighbours. After nearly 48 hours of street-to-street and house-to-house fighting between the IDF and Hamas, Israel regained total control of all of its southern territory. But it came at a great cost. The cost was the lives of 1200+ people that we will

never get to see again. And despite the imminent success of the IDF's looming invasion of Gaza, there is no possible way to reverse the damage that has already been done to thousands of families across Israel and abroad. There must be accountability for the atrocities that were too easy for these terrorists to commit.

However, we cannot afford for the aftermath of this tragedy to rip apart our nation once again. We cannot afford to witness the same divisions that have dominated Israeli society for the past year. Our enemies noticed that our country was in a vulnerable state, and they took advantage of that and committed the worst attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust. We can never let that happen again. So when the appropriate time comes to hold our institutions accountable and demand answers, we must tread extremely carefully and avoid stoking any possible division.

At this time of writing, fighting is still ongoing between Israel and Hamas and a new front is opening in the north. This will be a prolonged conflict, and any investigation into the cause of it is still several months away. At this point, we are merely speculating the possible causes of the atrocities of October 7th and no facts are set in stone yet. Stay tuned for future editions of the BASH where we will attempt to break down the facts as they become more available. ☆



*UO girls participated in the Mizrachi Challah Bake.*

WHO AM I?

AYELET BRODT

Guessing is the way of the game.  
As I tell you the what, when and why, it is your job to identify the who.

In all honesty, I have recently been a mess—my focus on numerous affairs, my orderly fashion unexpectedly disrupted.  
Clarification, I have been confused.  
Because if I were a mess, there would be severe consequences.

Lately, and under unfortunate circumstances, I have been exercised: dealing, feeling and attacked as a being.

I am complicated.  
I am colourful.  
I am both weak and strong.  
I don't work alone, yet being around others has felt wrong.  
I send and receive, now, way more than usual.  
I decipher good and evil.  
The former disappearing in a void but making a comeback.  
The latter, more deafening than ever but being tuned out.

So, who am I?

I am a heart.  
Ayelet's heart.

A heart that has felt, cried, broken.  
A heart that is overtired and worked to maximum capacity.  
A heart that is supposed to deal with life, but recently has been tending to its absence.

But, I am also a heart that is hopeful.  
I rhythmically pump to the beat of the soldiers—their songs, encouragement and acts of rejoicing.  
I stop, briefly, my beat slowing down, as the pictures of victims continue to flood social media.  
But I rise, the affection and admiration of the protectors coursing through veins with each new Torah scroll, Tehillim group chat and celebrated victory.  
I will not let the tumultuous current events stop me from loving, pumping and feeling.  
I am a heart. ✨



BAS students attended rallies in Toronto and Washington.

SO MANY SUMMER PROGRAMS!

YAMAYA NEWMAN

Ennismore. Camp Stone. Wildrose. The Zone. Camp Kaylee. These are just some of the camps many Ulpana students attend, from as young as nine years old to the ripe old age (when you start high-school) of 14. Personally, I went to Ennismore during those many years but after Mach Hach, when Grade 10 was over, I was stuck in the random year between being a camper and counsellor unsure of where to go.

Some of my friends decided they wanted to work at a day camp like Kayla's Children's Centre, or even in the food service industry. There were also those who made a backyard day camp near the end of summer, which is a great way to build a resume and have fun. However, most of us Grade 10's wanted to go on an Israel summer program. I had never been to Israel

before, so I was extra excited to have a new adventure. Everyone always told me how amazing Israel is. I had heard all about the country's distinct culture, beautiful and holy cities, and the great food (especially falafels!). As someone who has celiac, I was not too sure about how that last would work out for me, but I was willing to give it a go.

Once I decided that I definitely wanted to go to Israel, I had a difficult time choosing which specific program to do. There were so many options: NCSY, Bnei Akiva's Mach Hach BaAretz, Yad beYad, as well as the Tikvah Scholars Program (although this one was in America). All the trips looked so exciting in their own ways and had great reviews, which just made it harder to decide! After the NCSY Expo Night, I was torn between going

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המציאות בחידון התנ"ך

עזרא גולדברג

לנו, ואולי הם יודעים את השאלות לפני החידון. ויש כמה סיבות לחשוב ככה. אבל זה לא אכפת לי, ולאביב, וליוסף, ולנדב. בסוף, אנחנו נלמד כל השנה, נטוס לארץ, ונשתתף בחידון. אולי אחד ממנו ינצח, אולי לא. אבל אם אנחנו לא לומדים, לא מתאמצים, בטוח שקנדה לא תנצח בפעם הזאת. וזה העיקר: אם הרבה אנשים אינם משתתפים בחידון בקנדה, לא יהיה תרבות תחרותית בחידון בקנדה ואולי הזוכים מקנדה שנשלחים לישראל לא ירגשו צורך ללמוד כל כך הרבה כי החידון בקנדה היה קל. אם יהיה יותר משתתפים בקנדה, התרבות תהיה תרבות יותר תחרותית, ואם התרבות תהיה תרבות תחרותית, משתתפים יהיו צריכים ללמוד יותר בשביל החידון המקומי. אז הזוכים מקנדה שיסעו לארץ לחידון ירגשו שזה קשה לייצג את המדינה שלהם וילמדו יותר לחידון העולמי. ואולי, אולי, הם ינצחו. אבל, התרבות לא תשתנה לתרבות תחרותית בשנה, צריכים אתכם. צריכים שיהיו יותר משתתפים כאן ואם אין, התרבות לא תתחלף וישראל תמשיכה לנצח שנה בשנה. הכל תלוי בכם. ✨

כל שנה בשעה אחת עשרה, ביום העצמאות, כל הישראלים מדליקים את הטלויזיה לצפות בחידון התנ"ך העולמי. החידון הוקם בשנת 1963 על ידי ראש הממשלה דוד בן גוריון, ובכל השנים האלו אנשים מחוץ לארץ ניצחו. שש פעמים ומתוכן שלושה היו תיקו. בשנת 1973, קרה משהו בישראל שהפתיעה את כולם. מתמודדים מחוץ לארץ השיגו את כל המקומות בדוכן. הישראלים זעמו והמשתתפים מישראל בחו שמעו שאפילו אחד מהם לא ניצח. אבל זה באמת לא הסיבה שאני מספר את זה לכם. בשנה הבאה, 1974, חיים וורנר מקנדה קיבל מקום ראשון ושני ישראלים הגיעו אחריהם הישראלים ערערו ושנו את המקומות. נתנו לארבעה ישראלים מקום ראשון ולחיים נתנו מקום שני. אחרי ארבעה עשרה שנים, עוד משתתף מחוץ לארץ, ירמיהו וידה, ניצח אבל הפעם הוא היה תיקו. ואחרי החידון הזה, ב-1988, רק ניצחו ישראלים עד 2013. השנה הבאה, תלמיד מיישיבת אור חיים ניצח לבדו וזה הפעם האחרונה שאנשים מחוץ לארץ ניצחו. יכולים לומר שאולי ישראל מקבלים עדיפות, אולי הם נותנים שאלות יותר קשות

# PLEASE DO NO HARM

ROBYN FREIHEIT

Our actions impact others, and it is wrong to pretend they do not. Every living being with a brain has at least some degree of consciousness and awareness of reality. I would like to bring to your attention that creatures big and small, similar to us or not, experience basic thoughts and feelings; since humans are on top of the world, our actions greatly impact the beings around us.

It's all fun and games until we realize how badly others suffer from our actions. It's easy to ignore the suffering of living beings when some are so different in their looks and expressions from us humans. Hurting small and defenceless creatures for sport isn't funny when you realise how much they are suffering in reality.

Most people care far more about the lives of human beings than the lives of most animals, even though animals have brains and are proven to have awareness, thoughts and feelings. So, does the fact that animals do not use our languages, and have less complex thoughts, mean they're lesser because they're more simple? Just because we can

physically overpower them, does that mean we're entitled to use them for food and clothing?

When one is causing someone else pain, it's irrelevant what their intelligence level or assumed worth is. Would you hurt a baby because their brains are undeveloped and unintelligent? Would you hurt a person who has dementia and a limited mental capacity? If a being is capable of experiencing pain and you are causing it pain for no necessary purpose, that is undeniably wrong. Regardless of what value you personally place on their life.

There is no way to justify needless cruelty. Exploiting living beings for our own fun is unnecessary and evil. There is no need to purchase a pet only to neglect it, just for a few days of amusement. There is no need to kill a harmless bug. There is no need to pretend that neglect is not a form of abuse, to deny that small creatures, too, experience reality. Lying to and deluding ourselves doesn't mean others won't suffer for our actions. The impact is real, no matter how much we pretend it isn't. Please take me seriously when

I request that we all make an effort to put kindness and compassion at the top of our priorities.

Regardless of whether you personally care about causing suffering or not, God does not want you to cause suffering. This is a basic belief of Judaism, that causing needless suffering is wrong. If

you keep Shabbat, but serve it up with a side dish of animal abuse then it seems you are missing the larger picture. Please consider kindness and empathy towards all. All people, not just our friends. All creatures, not just the mammals we can easily understand. For them, for God, and for you, this is a genuine appeal. ✨

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on Hatzalah Rescue, GIVE, or Euro 4G. I ended up choosing Euro 4G, the NCSY all-girls Europe and Israel trip. This past summer was actually its first time the program was running!

I'm not going to lie and say that I was not nervous before my trip. In all honesty, I was actually kind of terrified, since I was going in not knowing anyone else. Back in the fall of last year, a friend from school and I decided we wanted to go on the program together, but in the end, we found out that it wouldn't work out for her to come. It wasn't too late for me to decide not to go, but after I thought about it for a bit, I knew I would regret not going just because I didn't know anyone. I was really scared though! Every summer at Moshava I saw old friends from Montreal, Toronto, and Israel coming in. It would be a huge adjustment to go from knowing so many people and understanding the general vibe of a camp, to not knowing a single soul, and going to totally new and unfamiliar places.

In the end, it worked out really well. Although I missed my friends from school, I was able to meet a lot of new people, especially since Euro 4G specifically only takes a maximum of three girls from each school. I made new friends from all over America who I still talk to at least twice a week! On my trip, we went to Spain, Morocco, Gibraltar, and Israel, all in the span of four and a half weeks. As well as being really fun and exciting with a lot of touring and activities, I really enjoyed how growth-oriented the summer

was. We had daily Chaburas and optional Busburas in small groups. Something I especially liked about Euro 4G was the small size of the program. We were only forty five girls total, all on one bus, which made it like a family, and easier to get to know everyone.

I think it's pretty obvious from this article that I would definitely recommend Euro 4G for Ulpana students. However, if you're at Ulpana or Or Chaim, you should know that you really can't go wrong with any program. I have friends from different places who went on Mach Hach, Hatzalah Rescue, Jolt, Israel ID, Give, Michlelet, and Yad Beyad, and each of them had a unique experience and an incredible time. My friend said that her favourite part of Give "was being able to give back to our family in Israel through meaningful chessed activities".

Overall, if you're thinking of going on an Israel summer trip, you should know that you can't go wrong with any program, as each one offers a special and one of a kind experience. Whichever path you choose, you will be sure to come back with unforgettable memories and a summer that is both exciting and meaningful. Also, if there's a specific program you're interested in but none of your school friends are going, don't let the fear of unfamiliarity hold you back from going. I can guarantee you that you'll have an amazing experience with personal growth, lasting friendships, and so many exciting adventures! ✨

## BAS Word Search!

E	A	R	K	S	F	G	R	A	D	S	S	H	C
T	S	E	N	A	R	N	O	O	K	B	C	S	I
I	C	N	I	F	E	N	O	L	E	N	T	E	S
S	C	O	G	E	S	O	S	U	R	E	O	D	A
C	O	V	H	C	H	T	D	N	V	I	S	O	M
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- FRESHIEFRIDAY
- LUNCHLEARN
- GRADS
- DONUTS
- RENOVATIONS
- SHLICHIM
- WONDERLANDTRIP
- KNIGHTS
- BNEIAKIVA
- COVOTES
- FERN
- ROSHCHODESH
- TISCH
- SAFECONTEST
- SHABBATON

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