

5 September 2024

Dear Andrew Hewett,  
VIC Representative,  
United Nations Association of Australia

**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for the UN Action Call for Immediate Release of Israeli Hostages

Last Sunday, as all over Australia we were sitting with our families to celebrate Father's Day, devastating news arrived at our doorstep: six Israeli hostages were brutally executed by Hamas after 331 days in captivity. This tragic event marks the grim reality that every Jew and Israeli has faced since the dark day of October 7th.

While many voices around the world may frame this as part of a broader political situation, it is critical to remember the horrific facts: On October 7th, more than 1,200 innocent Israelis were savagely murdered, many subjected to brutal atrocities, including rape so severe that some victims' bodies were irreparably shattered. Among these horrors, over 250 innocent civilians, including the elderly, disabled, women, children, fathers, mothers, and even a baby, were forcibly taken as hostages to Gaza.

The voice of the United Nations has been conspicuously silent during these excruciatingly long days. It seems that, in the case of Israeli citizens, the UN has neglected its non-political humanitarian mandate. WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organization, is committed to the well-being and support of women and children in Israel, regardless of their background or religion. We also extend our support to communities in need, wherever they are located.

As WIZO represents over 250,000 members worldwide and holds delegate status with the UN, we urgently appeal to you, implore you, to use your voice to consistently and forcefully call for the immediate release of the remaining hostages. The UN was established to ensure that such humanitarian horrors would not be allowed to quietly occur. These are human beings—young children, women, and other innocent citizens—who are waiting to be rescued from the dungeons of hell. They are waiting for us, for you, to uphold the United Nations' commitment to alleviate their suffering and to call for their release.

This could also mark the beginning of an end to the ongoing suffering of the people of Gaza, who are trapped under Hamas's totalitarian and dictatorial regime, which causes so much agony to so many. Hamas is recognised as a terrorist organisation, and the UN, as defined, is the one place on earth where all the world's nations can gather to find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.

With this in mind, on behalf of WIZO Victoria, we eagerly await your consistent and unwavering calls for the release of the remaining 66 hostages who are still considered alive, along with the 35 bodies that must be brought home to be laid to rest with dignity.

Warm regards and hope for a better future.



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