

5 September 2024

Dear Hon. Ingrid Stitt,
Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Victoria

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Action in Support of the Immediate Release of Israeli Hostages

Last Sunday, as families across Australia gathered to celebrate Father's Day, heartbreaking news reached us: six Israeli hostages were brutally executed by Hamas after 331 days in captivity. This tragic event highlights the devastating reality faced by every Jew and Israeli since the horrific events of October 7th.

While the world may frame this situation through various political lenses, it is essential to focus on the undeniable facts: On October 7th, more than 1,200 innocent Israelis were savagely murdered, with many subjected to unspeakable atrocities. These included acts of brutal violence, such as rape so severe that some victims' bodies were irreparably shattered. Amidst these horrors, over 250 civilians—including the elderly, disabled individuals, women, children, and even a baby—were forcibly taken as hostages to Gaza.

The global response has been deeply concerning. In this context, we call upon the Victorian and Australian governments to take a strong stance in addressing this humanitarian crisis. WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization) is deeply committed to supporting women and children in Israel, regardless of their background or religion, and also extends its support to communities in need, both locally and globally.

As WIZO represents thousands of members in Australia, we urgently appeal to you, as Victoria's Minister for Multicultural Affairs, to use your platform to consistently call for the immediate release of the remaining hostages. These are human beings—innocent civilians, including young children and the elderly—who are waiting for the world to speak up and act. We ask you to urge all government representatives to help in advocating for their release, upholding the core values of human rights and justice.

This could also mark a pivotal step toward easing the ongoing suffering of the people of Gaza, who themselves are trapped under Hamas's oppressive regime, which inflicts pain upon countless lives. Hamas is recognised as a terrorist organisation, and we believe that only through collective global efforts can we achieve a brighter and more secure future for all.

We eagerly await your strong and unwavering support in calling for the release of the 66 remaining hostages, as well as the 35 bodies that must be returned to their families for a dignified burial.

Warm regards and hope for a better future.



Ronit Chrapot
President
WIZO Victoria



Hila Kwiat
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Copy:
Senator the Hon Penny Wong,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

