

A Statement and Prayer of Justice & Compassion following the murder of six hostages

For Christian Churches
Sunday, 8 September 2024

Say it. Pray it. Print it. Share it.

This Sunday, be part of a united Christian voice that condemns the murder of the six hostages and prays for the victims and their families. Whatever your leadership or sphere of influence, use it to make this statement, or similar, at church, at home, wherever Christians gather.

At the end of August 2024, six innocent Israeli civilians, were brutally murdered in the terror tunnels of Gaza. They had been held captive by Hamas for almost 11 months, miraculously surviving their ordeal, one with an amputated arm as a consequence of injuries sustained on October 7.

As rescuers drew near, their captors executed them, but not before video-recording the hostages' final statements under pressure and distributing the footage to the world, with malicious pride and strategic purpose.

It is hard to comprehend such calculated, premeditated violence, designed to inflict maximum pain on the victims' families, and to prevent the rescue of other hostages. Yet, there it is, for all the world to see, just as the massacre of October 7 was plainly visible to all who were willing to see.

To turn a blind eye at this moment would be to give evil a free pass. That must not be the way of Christian Churches. As a united Christian voice for justice, we protest such evil:

We condemn this atrocity by Hamas and its collaborators.

We say 'No!' to terrorism and its murderous ways. We say, 'Free all the hostages, now!'

We say 'No!' to antisemitism, which has shattered the world order before, and endangers it again.

There may be other things we wish to say – about war, peace, geopolitics. Everything has its time and place. But, in this moment, we pause to focus our minds, hearts and prayers on the victims of this act of terror: the murdered young people who had so much to live for; their families who had strived relentlessly, and with such hope, for their safe return home.

We express moral outrage at the cruel actions of Hamas. We say, 'Jewish lives matter too! Israeli lives matter too!'

We mourn the victims and extend our condolences to their families, their nations.

We pray with heartfelt concern for Israelis and for Jews everywhere suffering shock, grief and exhaustion in the wake of this atrocity.

We intensify our prayer that world leaders will pressure Hamas to free the remaining hostages, to surrender their weapons, release their own Palestinian people from the horrors of war, and allow the rebuilding of Gaza in a new vision of peace, security and stability.

God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer. Bring an end to the terrorism that caused these hostages' deaths. Console their families and communities and all who are heartbroken by their loss. Heal the world of antisemitism, hate, and the lethal violence it spawns. Turn the hearts of those who murder innocents. Forgive us, heal us, strengthen us, and guide us all in your way of peace. Amen.



We read each name.

We pause in silent remembrance.

[Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23](#)

[Eden Yerushalmi, 24](#)

[Ori Danino, 25](#)

[Alex Lobanov, 32](#)

[Carmel Gat, 40](#)

[Almog Sarusi, 27](#)

Click on each name to read his or her story.

