



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

Report on World Zionist Organization Activity during Operation “Iron Swords” Update – October 8-18 2023

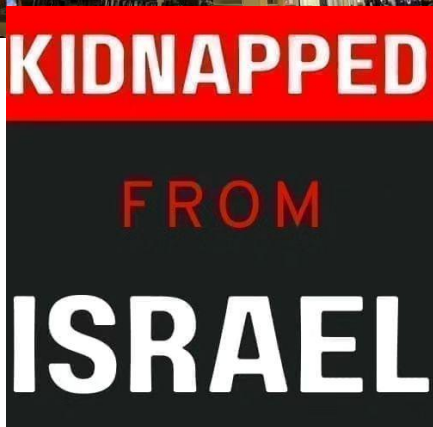
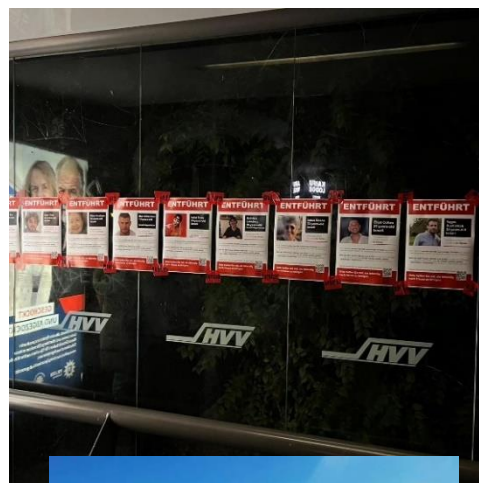
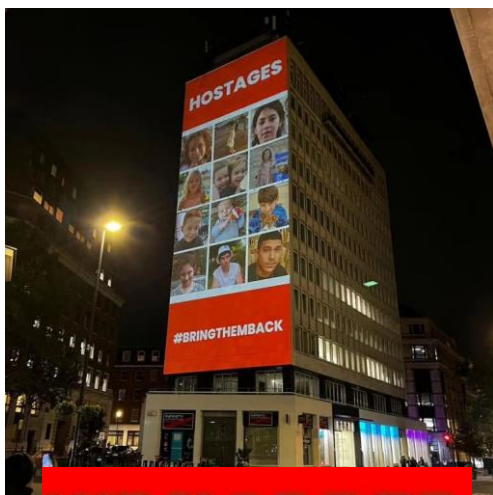
❖ Media Campaign on Behalf of the Hostages

On the Shabbat of Semini Atzeret, Saturday 7 October – 22 Tishrei, during the massive infiltration of terrorists from Gaza into sovereign Israeli territory and their brutal attack on inhabitants of the Gaza border region, about 200 innocent civilians were abducted. Babies, young children, women and the elderly were cruelly torn from their loved ones; many were beaten, injured, mutilated, and even raped.

The World Zionist Organization has committed to raising the issue of the hostages and those missing on the public agenda worldwide. This initiative, which is being rolled out in conjunction with Zionist Federations around the world and in partnership with HP Indigo, aims to distribute and disseminate posters with photographs of the hostages and hang them on billboards in major cities throughout the world. To order a set of high quality posters for free, [please complete the form at this link](#).

Posters may also be printed directly in several languages from the site:

<https://www.kidnappedfromisrael.com>





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- ❖ The facade of the National Institutions building is currently illuminated with the Israeli flag and the banner “Am Yisrael Chai.”



❖ Donation Center

A World Zionist Organization Center for Donations was set up to coordinate and receive donations from corporate organizations and major donors, while simultaneously compiling data on requests and calls for assistance from various communities and individuals who were forced to leave their homes and require organizational response to supply equipment. The Center also handles requests and organizational requirements referred by IDF units and endeavors to mobilize companies and donors that are interested in donating high quality surplus equipment. This project is being done in partnership with the “*Shinua Hevrat* – Social Delivery” NGO, the Israel Community Center Association and the Shusterman Foundation. An Operations Room was opened at the Mt. Herzl Education Center and is being managed in-house by personnel from across all WZO departments and units.



To receive any kind of assistance, please complete a request at this link:

<https://bit.ly/3PT1FGt>

Companies and donors interested in donating equipment are invited to contact the Center via one of the following channels: Telephone - +972-2-620 4333 /

WhatsApp <https://bit.ly/46wSYsv>

To offer donations: <https://bit.ly/3PUGzYB>



❖ Cultural and Recreational Activities for Evacuees

The World Zionist Organization is providing cultural and recreational activities for residents who have been evacuated from their homes, as well as families of the injured and children of hospital personnel all over Israel via its subsidiary company, *Culture for Israel*. The scope of activity ranges from hands-on programming for children to plays and guest artists, including: Ninette, Tislam, Dudu Tassa, Miri Mesika, Rami Kleinstein, David Broza and a host of other Israeli stars. To date, this initiative has organized almost 300 such events – with plenty more in the pipeline.





❖ Activity in the Field

Teenagers from the Israel Zionist Council have been helping with the collection, packaging and distribution of equipment to soldiers all over Israel and to families from southern Israel who have been evacuated from their homes. This activity is ongoing throughout the week in many communities across Israel, including Druze villages. Israel Zionist Council coordinators have also organized the distribution of Israeli flags around Israel.



❖ Settlement

The World Zionist Organization is currently mapping the needs of community villages and kibbutzim via the Settlement Division and is in close contact with those communities' local councils and leadership groups. The sum of 4,000,000 NIS has been approved for activity to support community resilience.



❖ Executive Visit to Israel's Southern Communities

The Zionist Executive conducted a fact-finding mission to Israel's southern cities and the communities in the Gaza border region.

The first stop on the tour was the town of Ofakim. Despite not being part of the Gaza border region, Ofakim suffered heavy losses when terrorists infiltrated the city. In the course of their tour, Members of the Executive were exposed to horrific accounts - they met with families who had barely risen from sitting *shiva* for their loved ones who were murdered. They were impressed by the personal resilience and sense of commitment and initiative emanating from the many of the town's inhabitants who had fought fiercely to defend their homes.



The group also visited the city of Sderot, Kibbutz Zikim and Ashkelon.



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❖ Countering Antisemitism

The World Zionist Organization is engaged in monitoring antisemitic activity around the world connected to the present conflict. Findings clearly show an escalation of several hundred percent in the number of antisemitic incidents worldwide.

The following activities form part of the ongoing advocacy campaign towards countering Antisemitism:

- Within the framework of the EJA Conference in Croatia, sessions were devoted to advocacy updates on the situation in Israel for Members of European parliaments.
- An Alertness Campaign was launched ahead of anticipated Friday protest events, under the banner, “Stay Safe and Stand with Us.”
- A series of mini-Operations Rooms are being organized, to focus on advocacy related to the IDF *Iron Swords* operation.
- Interviews and articles are being published on the subjects of warfare during this conflict and countering Antisemitism.



❖ Assistance to Israelis Overseas

The World Zionist Organization has been working to provide assistance to Israelis that are stranded overseas by connecting them to local communities so that they can feel part of the community.

Dedicated sub-site (Hebrew): [Welcome to the Israel Suburb!](http://www.wzo.org.il) ([wzo.org.il](http://www.wzo.org.il))



❖ Connecting with Diaspora Communities

The World Zionist Organization maintains an ongoing connection with the Zionist Federations as well as with the Jewish and Israeli communities in the Diaspora via Zoom conferencing and webinars, with a view to facilitating a space for dialogue, delivering advocacy tools and enabling ventilation. Special focus encounters within this framework include:

- An advocacy session via Zoom for Heads of Zionist Federations with Mr. Peter Lerner, former IDF Spokesperson for Foreign Forces.
- A Zoom webinar on the war with guest speaker Ben Dror Yemini.
- Another Zoom session for Heads of Zionist Federations with David Saranga, Director of the Digital Division at the Israel Foreign Ministry, on the subject of the ongoing war on social media.
- A special Zoom webinar for Latin American communities, designed to share information about and engage them on recent events in Israel with guest speaker Gabriel Choucroun, former IDF Spokesperson and Advisor to the Israel Foreign Ministry on Communications with Latin America via Digital Platforms.
- Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat events, via Zoom.

❖ Teacher *Shlichim* (Emissaries)

A central Zoom session was organized, bringing together the worldwide cadre of WZO teacher *shlichim*. The program included words of encouragement, an informative update from the Advocacy unit and some helpful tips on psychological resilience.

Direct assistance was provided, both in locating available seats on flights and funding airplane tickets, for 39 *shlichim* who received emergency call-up orders and wanted to return to Israel. Yeshar koach to the *shlichim*!

The wives of the returning *shlichim* who remained in the Diaspora receive ongoing support via a WhatsApp support group, weekly meetings with a parenting counselor and meetings with a child psychologist; care packages are also being mailed to their homes.

In addition to the above, a Zoom session will be held for all school principals on the subject of “How to leverage the current situation in Israel in terms of Zionist activity in schools.”





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❖ Social Media Action

In light of the fact that the current situation is being manipulated to intensify Antisemitism and Israel hatred on social media, the World Zionist Organization has issued an appeal not to share or react to any posts of this kind (engagement raises the level of exposure) and to report these posts or pages, while at the same time supporting those people who are supporting Israel by sharing and reacting to posts by stars and leading figures around the world who are standing by Israel and expressing thanks to them!



❖ Rallies for Israel

In conjunction with the Zionist Federations, the World Zionist Organization is involved in providing advocacy resources and organizing Rallies and Vigils for Israel.





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❖ My Home is Your Home

The World Zionist Organization is cognizant of the need to locate temporary housing for families who became refugees literally overnight, in their own country. It has therefore launched an appeal to Jews in the Diaspora and Israel who own vacant apartments in Israel to ask if they would be prepared to house evacuee families who lost their homes. The World Zionist Organization assumes complete responsibility for the process of creating connections between families receiving apartments and their owners as well as ensuring the eventual return of apartments “as found”. For this purpose, parallel legal contracts will be signed between the parties: one between the World Zionist Organization and the family, and another between the World Zionist Organization and the owners.

Those interested in this project are welcome to read further details and complete the application form at the following link: [My Home is Your Home \(wzo.org.il\)](http://wzo.org.il)

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**Our home is
your home**

do you have an apartment in israel?
**you can help
israel now!**