



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

World Zionist Organization Activity Report During Iron Swords War Update for 21-27 December 2023

- ❖ **Extended Executive Fact-Finding Tour of Northern Israel** – The World Zionist Organization’s Extended Executive meetings concluded with a tour of northern Israel, including a visit to the village of Yanukh Jat, where they met with the family of Lt. Col. Alim Sa’ad, Deputy Commander of the 300th Division for the Lebanon sector, who fell on October 10 during a terrorist incident on Israel’s northern border. The group also toured the *Hameshakem* clothing and uniform factory and visited the Israel Air Force base at Ramat David. The tour concluded with a visit to the Nova memorial display at the Tel Aviv Convention Center.



- ❖ **Zionist Leadership Academy Solidarity Mission** – The ongoing “Iron Swords” War spurred the organization of an 18-strong mission to Israel, comprising alumni and current participants from the “Zionist Leadership Academy” program, who arrived to gain first-hand insights about the situation in Israel as a whole and the Gaza border region, in particular. They came to express their solidarity with Israel and its inhabitants, and to take home knowledge about the events, which they can share with their communities and friends around the world, as well as being able to mobilize them for donations and active engagement on behalf of Israel. The mission included participants in their thirties from Austria, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden Switzerland and Ukraine in a range of professions: businesspersons, entrepreneurs, real estate agents, educators in Zionist and Jewish organizations, lawyers and bankers, as well as Israel Embassy personnel from those countries.





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- ❖ **Clergy Solidarity Mission from Chile** – A delegation of 15 evangelist ministers from Chile arrived in Israel on a solidarity and friendship mission toward the State of Israel. Members of the mission were toured around the Kotel (Western Wall) in Jerusalem and other holy sites; they visited Kibbutz Kfar Aza Kibbutz and in the city of Ofakim, which were attacked on October 7, as well as traveling to northern Israel. The pastors performed voluntary work duties with the IDF and heard about its activities and ethical values. At the conclusion of their mission, the ministers pronounced on “Israel’s right and obligation to self-defense,” a declaration supported by 2,000 other clergy and religious leaders to date.



- ❖ **Limmud FSU Conference** – Limmud FSU convened this week in Tel Aviv, bringing together new and veteran *olim* from the former Soviet Union, with a focus on the challenges confronting us and escalating Antisemitism worldwide. The event included a communal prayer with all those attending, for the welfare of IDF soldiers and the hostages.





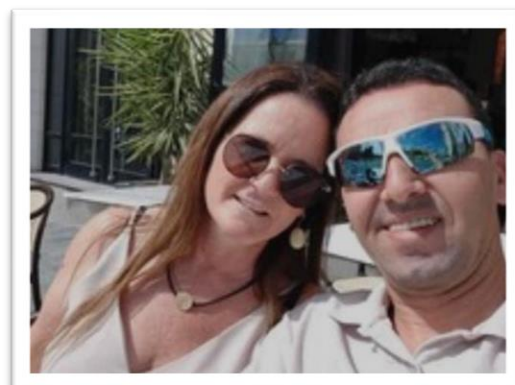
❖ **“Commemorate and Connect”** – Thousands of Jewish community members worldwide attended special Hannukah events with a focus on the “Iron Swords” War and the campaign for the release of the hostages. These events took place in Brooklyn, NY; Paris; Mexico City; Montreal, Canada; and Lakewood NJ. At each event, the program included the screening of a film designed to deepen the connection between Jewish communities and the State of Israel. Lapel badge packs were also distributed in remembrance of the fallen and to raise awareness of the call for the return of the hostages. Participants were asked to distribute lapel badges, within the Jewish and non-Jewish communities alike, to help enhance and broaden support for Israel in countries around the world.



❖ **Donations Center** – The World Zionist Organization Donations Center continues to supply equipment to IDF soldiers and evacuated civilians. This week, softshell outerwear was supplied to IDF soldiers on regular service deployed in the Gaza Strip and on Israel’s northern border.



❖ **“My Home is Your Home” – A Personal Story** – Jews in Israel and from around the world continue to volunteer their homes in Israel to house survivors and evacuee families. Another moving story is about Nira Sharabi, whose husband Yossi, together with her daughter’s boyfriend Yuval, were kidnapped and abducted to the Gaza Strip. Nira had been looking for a place to live in central Israel and, with the dedicated help of the World Zionist Organization’s project and the donors, an apartment was found for the family in Rishon LeZion.





- ❖ **B'nai B'rith International's Israel Solidarity Mission** – B'nai B'rith CEO Dan Mariaschin led a Board members' solidarity mission to Israel, organized by B'nai B'rith World Center-Jerusalem Director Alan Schneider. The delegation met with the World Zionist Organization Chairman at WZO offices to discuss the challenges with which the Jewish people is contending today. The Mission's itinerary included a visit to the "Nova" exhibition at Tel Aviv Expo and the IDF exhibition of captured Hamas vehicles and weapons used in its murderous attack against Israel. Their tour to northern Israel included a visit to Kiryat Shemonah; in the South, they visited Sderot, Kfar Aza and Beerli. They also met with the Hostages and Missing Families Forum and visited Hostages' Square. The delegation's program concluded with a visit to the Bedouin town of Hura, where they made a condolence visit to the family of Samer al-Talalka – one of the three Israeli hostages accidentally killed by IDF soldiers.



- ❖ **B'nai B'rith Donation to IDF Soldiers, in Conjunction with the World Zionist Organization Donations Center** – B'nai B'rith has donated 200 military-grade jackets to IDF infantry units as part of its endeavors to help soldiers and civilians located on Israel's frontlines since the black Shabbat of October 7 and the subsequent outbreak of war. This donation was a designated gift from B'nai B'rith President, Charles (Chuck) Kaufman, B'nai B'rith's representative on the World Zionist Organization Executive.





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❖ **Embracing Israel's South-West Gaza Border Region** – The Zionist Council in Israel's entertainment & recreational programming for evacuees continues in locations around Israel. This week's program included performances by magicians and clowns, as well as plays for children from Moshav Sdeh Uziahu to the Yarden Estate Hotel in Yesud Hamaalah. There were performances by balloon artists at hotels in Bat Yam and the Galilee; a creativity and water painting activity in Mitzpeh Ramon; last, but not least, a comics workshop was organized in Tel Aviv, led by students who received stipends to allow them to provide these activities. The ZCII also continues to supply board games and toys for children in focal evacuee locations around Israel.



❖ **Tour of Hostages' Square with our Druze Brothers** – The Zionist Council in Israel organized an inspiring tour of Tel Aviv sites together with our Druze brothers. Approximately 50 participants from Ramah, Beit Jann, Hurfeish, Julis and Shefaram visited first Ben Gurion House and then Hostages' Square in Tel Aviv, where they met with a representative of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum and toured the World Zionist Organization display. Together, all the participants hoisted the Israeli flag alongside the Druze community flag and recited prayers for the release of the hostages.



❖ **Leisure and Enrichment Activity Programs for People with Special Needs** – A joint initiative of the World Zionist Organization and the Israel Association of Community Centers has been launched to develop leisure and enrichment activity programs for people with special needs who have been displaced as evacuees in hotels across Israel, and whose needs have not been addressed to date. Everyone is entitled to leisure and enrichment programs, yet the needs of this population and their families, whose routine has been interrupted, have not been addressed to date by the range of general programs provided at the hotels.





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- ❖ **World Zionist Organization Display at Hostages' Square** – The artwork appearing on display at Hostages' Square is now freely available for print. The electronic files are being sent out gratis for printing at local facilities so that they can be displayed as an exhibition or printed in part. The display and range of items is available for viewing at the following link, with a printable download and high resolution digital files. [October Seventh Exhibition \(wzo.org.il\)](https://wzo.org.il)



- ❖ **Embracing IDF Soldiers with Love** – The World Zionist Organization's mobile shower units are still on the road, moving between the various convention center facilities in northern and southern Israel so that soldiers can enjoy hot showers in the heart of the storm on the frontlines. Their heartfelt thanks continue to pour in.



- ❖ **"Heroes and Heroines of Light" Delegations** – The Hanukkah delegation to Jewish communities in the US, Europe and Latin America, comprising 19 heroes and heroines from Israel's Gaza border region and the Super-Nova Festival, appeared at over 100 events and reaching more than 15,000 people. Three of the highlight events at which they participated were: the fifth Memorial Day for the massacre at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh; candle lighting at the home of the Governor of Pennsylvania; candle lighting at the Israel Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Read more about these heroes and heroines at the following link:

[Heroes and Heroines of Light - Stories \(wzo.org.il\)](https://wzo.org.il)

For a photo gallery from various events, please use the following link:

[Heroines and Heros of Light \(wzo.org.il\)](https://wzo.org.il)





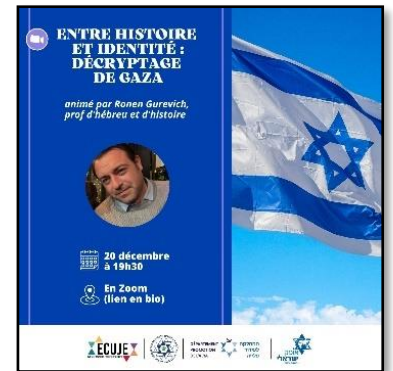
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- ❖ **Activity Programs in Argentina** – A number of pro-Israel rallies and events took place, both in-person (in Buenos Aires, Brandsen, Tucuman, Cañuelas) and online.



- ❖ **Activity Programs in France**

- In light of growing interest in Aliyah in Paris, an Aliyah Fair was organized with the cooperation of dozens of different organizations, including the World Zionist Organization. Israel's Minister for Aliyah and Absorption attended the event, which drew over 2,000 people.
- Additional Aliyah Fairs were held in each of Marseilles and Lyons.
- An online lecture, entitled *Between History and Identity: Gaza Decrypted*, (about Gaza and the long-term conflict between Israel and Hamas) was delivered by Mr. Ronen Gurevich, a history teacher and *oleh* from France.



- ❖ **Activity Programs in North America** – “*On the Side of Good*,” the daily radio show for Russian speakers continues to air across the USA (reaching approximately 350,000 listeners). The program's focus is on support for and connecting local communities to Israel.