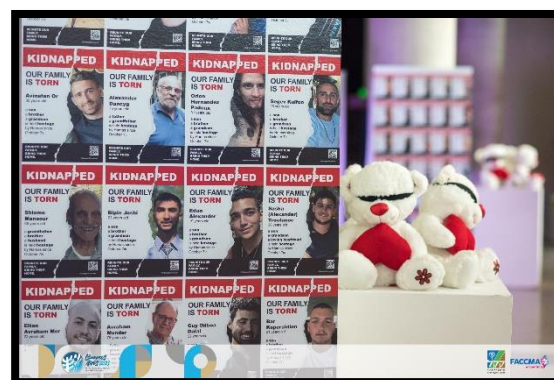
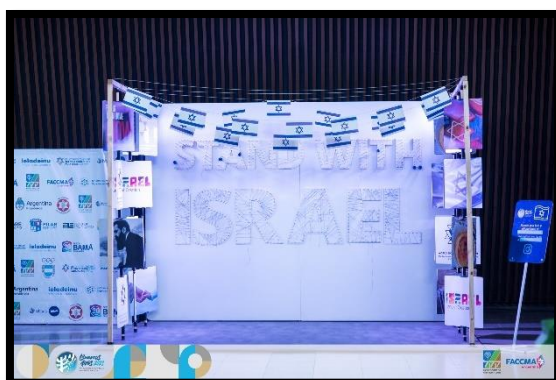




הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

World Zionist Organization Activity Report During Iron Swords War Update for 28 December 2023 – 3 January 2024

- ❖ **World Zionist Organization Exhibits at the Maccabi Pan- American Game Events** – The World Zionist Organization created an exhibition space at the Maccabi Pan-American Game events in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where it ran activities to promote educational empowerment around the themes of connection with Israel and raising awareness about the current situation in Israel. Participants included a large number of delegations from many countries, including the US, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Panama, France, Great Britain, Israel and many more. Different activities were run in each booth, with some of them displaying materials related to the atrocities and massacres of October 7. One booth hosts a display with all the photos and names of those murdered and abducted; another presents an interactive exhibit related to the Nova music festival; among the many other stalls, one offers participants a chance to send messages to residents from the Gaza border region and to IDF soldiers. All those attending the event received wristbands inscribed with the message: ‘We Can’t Stop Dancing, But We Can Stop Antisemitism.’ Hundreds of letters were written and dispatched: they included prayers for the return of the hostages and for IDF soldiers, mottos like ‘Am Yisrael Chai’ (The People of Israel lives), messages of warmth and support from the Diaspora, as well as many other greetings and good wishes. Members of the Israeli delegation, one of the many arriving for the games and comprising competitors from the Gaza border region, were deeply moved by the memorial exhibit with the names of all the victims.





- ❖ **National Institutions Building Display** – On December 31, 2023, as a sign of solidarity with the predicament of the hostages held captive in the Gaza Strip, the National Institutions building was illuminated in yellow, symbolizing the hope for their speedy return. While countries the world over marked a countdown to the beginning of the new calendar year, for the families of the hostages and the missing, their clock was of a different nature. Their count marked the passage of 84 days during which their loved ones have been held captive, without any information about the health of some of the hostages, or their location – and their lives are in immediate danger.



- ❖ **Survey of Israelis in the Diaspora** – The massacres of October 7 and the ensuing outbreak of war have impacted deeply, not only on those living in Israel, but equally on Israeli citizens living overseas. A survey conducted at the initiative of the World Zionist Organization, in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, found that 70% of respondents had modified their behavior in public as a consequence of the rise in Antisemitism, with some no longer wearing Magen David and mezzuzot pendants. The study presents a disturbing picture with regard to tens of thousands of Israelis who feel the ground is quaking beneath their feet and that their familiar world around them has been shattered. This is embodied in the feelings of alienation they have been experiencing and their sense that their personal security has been significantly undermined. Survey results are available at the following link (in Hebrew):

[Survey of Israelis in the Diaspora \(wzo.org.il\)](https://wzo.org.il)





❖ **Activity Programs by Teacher Shlichim (Emissaries)** –

World Zionist Organization shlichim to Jewish schools around the world have become Israel Hasbara (diplomacy) advocates overnight. Since the outbreak of war, they have been engaging on activities to promote unity with Israel and sustain the connection between the Jewish people and the State of Israel. These include the distribution of Shabbat candles with a special prayer for the redemption of the hostages, circulating accounts of heroism, selling wristbands to raise donations, and organizing Zoom encounters with Israeli children from southern Israel.



❖ **“Together - All the Way” – World Zionist Organization Shlichim Video** – The World Zionist Organization’s Teacher Shlichim created an inspiring video clip, expressing the unity of all the teacher shlichim serving around the world, uniting in a production that conveys warmth and encouragement. Link to the film on YouTube:

[Yachad Kol Haderech – World Zionist Organization Teacher Shlichim video of support](#)

❖ **Embracing Israel’s South-Western Border Region** – The Zionist Council in Israel continues to help families evacuated from their homes in Israel’s Gaza border region and northern Israel by providing fun and recreational activities. This week, some of the notable activities included talks for adults and seniors across a spectrum of subjects. There was also a varied program of activities and surprises for the children and teenagers, who have now been living in hotels around Israel for quite some time: magicians, clowns, theater shows for children, a broad range of workshops - as well as a spectacular juggling act by a stunt master at the Setai Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) Hotel, which is currently hosting evacuees from some of Israel’s northern communities.





❖ **“Home Front Heroes” Award Winners** – The Israel Zionist Council’s “Home Front Heroes” Award jury, headed by Ms. Miriam Peretz, along with Ms. Adi Altshuler, Mr. Gadi Yarkoni, Mr. Gil Segal and Ms. Osnat Barda, convened this week to select the prize honorees. The panel received hundreds of candidate nominations for this accolade, from which they selected 15 men, women and organizations whose activities on behalf of the Home Front in Israel in wartime are deserving of commendation and distinction. The award ceremony will take place on January 21.



❖ **Hebrew as Our Language of Connection** – To mark Hebrew Language Day, the Zionist Council in Israel and the Academy of the Hebrew Language are presenting a special project to choose the most distinctive words associated with this period. The words were proposed by a panel of twenty men and women: they include a mother who lost her son, mothers whose children were abducted into Gaza, a woman police officer who engaged in combat in Sderot, teenagers who were evacuated from northern and southern Israel, residents of the Gaza border region, IDF combatants, public figures, doctors and volunteers – all representing Israel’s beautiful face. The words nominated and the substantiation for their choice reflect intense personal emotions as well as national and social feelings of connection. Together, they create a mosaic that describes the present period in all its facets: belief, cowshed, home, friendship, homeland, identity, Israeliness, life, light, love, distancing, resourcefulness, sense of family, sense of mission (shlichut), sharing, spirit, unity, well (be’er), and yearning (kisufim). The project is being publicized via social media and in a poster collection, which is being sent to schools and public institutions free of charge. The poster series will shortly go on exhibition around Israel.





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❖ **The Evacuees Meet Herzl** – The Herzl Center has opened its doors free of charge to evacuees from all over Israel in recent weeks, welcoming visitors in large numbers including the provision of transport – this project is being funded entirely by the Center. This week, with the assistance of the Zionist Council in Israel, the Center hosted evacuees from Kiryat Shemonah who were evacuated to hotels in Jerusalem at the beginning of the war. The evacuees enjoyed an experiential tour of the Museum and Mt. Herzl Park, where they were introduced to the visionary of the State of Israel, Binyamin Zeev (Theodor) Herzl.



❖ **Dedicated Website for the Hebrew Language in the Wake of October 7 and the “Iron Swords” War** – The World Zionist Organization has developed and launched a website with a selection of authentic, appropriately curated resources for Hebrew language instruction as a second language, on the subject of the “Iron Swords” war. The collection includes texts, songs, videos, stories, banners, images and resources from social media and other sources. All the materials have been carefully selected to offer students insights and a range of perspectives into this period in history, along with meaningful content in the process of their Hebrew language study. The website lends itself to the development of linguistic skills, such as comprehension (aural and visual), verbal skills and written composition, at the appropriate levels for students. One of the resource sections featuring on the website is a glossary of words and expressions related to the war, with translations in other languages (English, French, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese.). The website can be found at: [Start | HarvotBarzel \(batiadorfsman.wixsite.com\)](https://batiadorfsman.wixsite.com/HarvotBarzel)

❖ **Hebrew Language Day Campaign** – In advance of Hebrew Language Day, which falls this week, the World Zionist Organization launched a language campaign, selecting foreign loan words in relation to the war that have become familiar to every Israeli through their incessant use; in their stead, the campaign offers the official Hebrew term or expression, as set by the Academy of the Hebrew Language.





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- ❖ **Setting the Mezzuzah at the Entrance to the new SafeSpace Center in Sderot** – A mezzuzah-affixing ceremony was held at the new SafeSpace Center in Sderot, in the presence of the Chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Oren Heiman, CEO of Sderot SafeSpace. The Center will provide suitable, protective premises for Sderot’s planned expansion of its existing support services as well the developing rehabilitation services for Sderot, the Gaza border region and the local population. The new Center will offer complimentary shared professional workspaces and furnished offices for start-ups; a frontline emergency room; facilities for community activities under the auspices of various organizations. After cessation of hostilities, as Sderot returns to normal activity, the Center will relaunch its primary business model – namely, the establishment of the first technological incubator facility for start-ups in Sderot, to promote Israeli Agtech.

