



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
World Zionist Organization

## World Zionist Organization Activity Report During Iron Swords War Update for 29 November 2023 - 5 December 2023

- ❖ **Solidarity Mission from Argentina** – A delegation of 14 leaders arrived in Israel, comprising representatives from major Jewish communities in Argentina, to express their solidarity with Israeli society in time of war. The delegation's program included a meeting with His Excellency, the President of Israel. They also visited the wounded in hospitals and held a special prayer service at the Kotel (Western Wall) together with public figures, rabbis and the Chairman of the World Zionist Organization. The mission also met with representatives from the families of the hostages at the home of the Ambassador of Argentina to Israel and went on a fact-finding tour to the *kibbutzim* of Kfar Aza and Nir Yitzhak in the western Negev border region.



- ❖ **Educators' Solidarity Mission** - 20 Jewish school principals from countries in Latin America visited Israel on a solidarity mission. The group met with displaced families evacuated to hotels by the Dead Sea, visited Kibbutz Kfar Aza, met with the President of Israel, Isaac Herzog, and the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson. The remainder of the program included meetings with key Israeli figures and civilians, which provided them an opportunity to express their solidarity and to hear first-hand reports of heroic acts. This visit was organized in conjunction with the Pincus Fund, United Initiative (UnitEd), and the Jewish Agency for Israel.



- ❖ **Lectures for Schools and College Campuses in the USA** – Due to escalating Antisemitism in the Diaspora, particularly on college campuses in the United States, the Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman of the World Zionist Organization engaged in a series of discussions with Jewish students on campus and at Jewish schools in Washington DC and Baltimore. The subjects covered included the war in Israel, rising Antisemitism in the Diaspora and the communities where Jewish students reside, and ways to bolster their sense of security as well as methods of countering Antisemitism and the significance of the connection between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.



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- ❖ **Heroines & Heroes on the Home Front** – The Zionist Council in Israel has launched a new project to confer recognition upon the heroes and heroines on the Home Front during the Operation “Iron Swords” war. A public notice went out on social and electronic media, asking Israeli citizens to submit their candidates for the award of “Heroes and Heroines of the Home Front.” This honor will be conferred upon civilians and organizations whose activities in wartime deserve commendation and epitomize the spirit of volunteerism, dedication, unity and action prevailing across Israeli civil society in a range of spheres. Those receiving the accolade will be receive recognition for their contribution and will a statuette depicting the volunteering spirit during the war, which has cost Israel its highest ever number of fatalities. The panel adjudicating the awards list will be headed by Israel Prize laureate Ms. Miriam Peretz, together with panelists including the social innovator, Ms. Adi Altschuler, and Head of the Eshkol Regional Council, Mr. Gadi Yarkoni.



- ❖ **Shaar Hanegev (Negev Gateway) Football Tournament in Wartime** – A football tournament was held between Shaar Hanegev participants, with teams from Kfar Aza, Mefalsim, Nachal Oz, Erez, Yachini and additional teams from other *kibbutzim* and *moshavim* in the Gaza border region. The event also incorporated a “Fun Zone” – a mini-funfair for children from the region, with special pumps to inflate footballs, activity booths, and stands with sugar candy, popcorn and slush drinks. The tournament was won by the team from Kibbutz Gevim and their win was dedicated to the memory of those who have fallen in this war as well as its civilian victims and the hostages still being held in Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip.





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- ❖ **Daliyat al-Carmel, Embracing with Love** – The Zionist Council in Israel, in conjunction with the Kerem-El IDF Preparatory Academy of Daliyat al-Carmel, hosted a group of evacuees from Metullah, Tirat Hacarmel and other northern townships adjacent to major Druze communities, at the villages of Daliyat al-Carmel, Julis and Kafr Kama. In these challenging times, the validation of the unique covenant of life with Druze society is being reimbued with significance. The evacuees were treated to a tour of the town, including the market and other landmarks. They also visited the Zionist Council in Israel's Kerem-El IDF Preparatory Academy and gained an in-depth introduction to the Druze community, its culture and its strong bond with the people of Israel. The tour included activities for children and refreshments – with choice baked goods and delicacies from Druze cuisine.



- ❖ **World Zionist Organization Representatives' Activity in the Diaspora** – Since the outbreak of war, World Zionist Organization representatives have been publicizing all its ongoing programs, such as “My Home is Your Home” as well as being involved in the distribution of World Zionist Organization's special commemorative wristbands and other projects. They have also been engaged in *Hasbara* (Israel diplomacy and advocacy) activities and maintaining contact with Jewish communities.

- ❖ **Activities in Latin American Countries**

- The film “*Look into Their Eyes*,” produced by the World Zionist Organization, was screened in central Buenos Aires.
- A cycling tour took place to commemorate Tomar Shafir, the cyclist killed at Kibbutz Beeri on 7 October during his early morning ride.
- An event was arranged to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “*Yisrael Hatzeira*” youth movement, with a display of campaign exhibits demanding the return of the hostages.
- A fly-past was held over the beaches in Sao Paulo as part of the campaign for the release of the hostages.
- A protest rally gathered in Sao Paulo's main street, deploring the manner in which international women's organizations have completely ignored the atrocities against Israeli women and girls on 7 October.
- A social media campaign, entitled “*I stand with Israel*,” was launched in Brazil.





### ❖ Activities in Europe

- “Emergency Call-up Orders” for *Ulpanim* – a marketing campaign, which uploads posts daily to social media. These consist of letters in Hebrew to IDF soldiers by World Zionist Organization *ulpan* students and photos of students on all kinds of voluntary placements in Israel.
- “Status Report” – A series of lectures in Hebrew by Ronen Gourevitch was delivered to *ulpan* students in France, Belgium and the wider Jewish community to broaden their understanding of the war and its historical background.
- An online lecture event was organized for the Jewish community in France and Belgium about the impact of the “Operation Iron Swords” war on the Israeli economy, drawing an attendance of approximately 120. The guest speaker was Dan Catarivas, a leading Israeli economist and President of the Federation of Bi-national Chambers of Commerce in Israel.
- A campaign rally was held in Paris on behalf of the hostages.



### ❖ Activity in North America

- An empathy circle with a professional counselor was organized in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada), for teenagers from the local Israeli community, to provide an accepting space for them where they can share personal feelings arising due to the current situation in Israel.
- In New York, a memorial evening was held for the Israeli community of the “*Tapuach*” Israel Scout troop in conjunction with the Reform Temple of the City of New York, led by Rabbi David Gelfand, to commemorate the horrors of the black Shabbat of October 7. The event was attended by Jews and Israelis from the local community and included songs, readings and testimony by the son of one of the hostages held captive in Gaza, and an address by the Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine.



- ❖ **Unity Shabbat** – Kabbalat Shabbat programs for evacuees are continuing. A Kabbalat Shabbat was held last week at the Kfar Hamaccabiah Hotel for evacuees from Yachini and Sderot who have now been displaced for several weeks. The program was led by Gusti Yehoshua-Braverman, with musical accompaniment by Amir Shreiber.

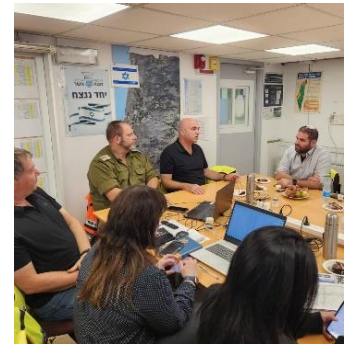




❖ **Support for the “Bring Them Home” Operations Center** – Members of the Heads of Zionist Federations’ delegation together with members of the Zionist Executive and their guests visited the Campaign’s Operations HQ in Tel Aviv. The group was amazed at the scope and volume of its activity, which is based entirely on volunteers devoting their entire day to this worthy cause. The delegation’s encounter with members of the families of hostages was both powerful and tragically painful. Later on, the mission also visited Hostages Square (the Tel Aviv Museum Plaza). The program concluded with a walking tour around sites relating to commemoration of *Kaf-Tet BeNovember* (29<sup>th</sup> November) - given that it was November 29 – ably led by historian Professor Ariel Feldstein, who guided the group from Ben Gurion’s home to the “*Ha’apalah*” (Illegal Immigration) Gardens.



❖ **The Settlement Division** – The Settlement Division staff continue to provide assistance to communities, mapping out their respective needs in the field and working constantly to draw up potential solutions for both Israel’s northern and southern regions. The Division’s Executive, led by the Head of the Division, also met with heads of local authorities of evacuated areas and those hosting the displaced communities.



❖ **Blessings for Chanukah Candle Lighting for the Current Situation** – Special designs have been produced for the Chanukah blessings in cooperation with Machon Shittim. The designs relate to our present circumstances and emphasize the Jewish people’s collective light. They are available for download or print in Hebrew and English at the following links:

<https://www.wzo.org.il/department/enterprises/1123/en>



❖ **Heroines and Heroes of Light** – From the heroism of the Maccabees to the heroes of our own time. This project enables residents from the Gaza border region to put a face and give a name and identity to the terrible events and loss, through recounting the story of their own heroism directly to different communities and reinforcing the connection with, and mutual support within, the Jewish people. The project, which is being launched on the first night of Chanukah will reach out across continents, with activities covering Jewish communities in the United States, Europe and Latin America.



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❖ **Bnai Brith – Hosting Survivors of the Black Shabbat on a Tour of Latin American Communities –**

The Bnai Brith Organization hosted Marcelo and Diana Wasser from Kibbutz Nirim, survivors of the brutal October 7 attack, and arranged for them to speak at a series of events in Costa Rica, Panama and Argentina. Audiences ranged from elected officials, legislators, journalists, to students, members of Bnai Brith and Jewish communities. Below, please find links to articles covering their visit that have appeared in Spanish-language media.

[El escalofriante relato de dos argentinos que sobrevivieron al brutal ataque de Hamas - LA NACION](#)

[12 HORAS DE TERROR.mp4 \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

<https://www.infobae.com/sociedad/2023/12/01/la-pareja-argentina-que-sobrevivio-al-ataque-de-hamas-chats-entre-vecinos-y-las-12-horas-de-terror/>



❖ **Delegation of Leading Women in Israeli Society** – The World Zionist Organization delegation which

traveled to the United States with the Program for Leading Women in Israeli Society has accomplished a meaningful mission. The schedule included their participation at an event at the United Nations, with a view to exposing the heinous nature of the atrocities and sexual assaults perpetrated by Hamas terrorists against Israeli women and girls on October 7 to the entire world and also the United Nations.





- ❖ **International Online Project** – The war between Israel and Hamas has also seen a major upsurge in the number of antisemitic incidents worldwide, which serves to underscore the impact of events in Israel on Jews around the world. As the situation escalated, online Antisemitism has also become far more prevalent. For this reason, an international program was set in motion enabling interested volunteers worldwide to join the frontline of the digital battle. To date, over 3,000 activists have signed up from locations as far apart as Australia to the United States. Over the first month of hostilities, they reported 34,000 antisemitic posts, compliant with the IHRA definition, across nine digital platforms. Content is being monitored in eight languages, including English (47%), Russian (27%), French (12%) and Arabic (9.5%). Below, please see the link to the FOA’s online report in English, covering the first month of fighting online Antisemitism during the Israel-Hamas war:

[FOA REPORT - Israel-Hamas War Month One English \(foantisemitism.org\)](https://foantisemitism.org)

Additional reports are available at this link: <https://foantisemitism.org/en/reports/>

- ❖ **Meeting with the Canadian Ambassador** – Monitored data and antisemitic materials collected in the field all point to cause for grave concern in many countries, including Canada. A meeting was therefore coordinated between the Canadian Ambassador and the Canadian government’s special envoy on Antisemitism, at which the disturbing figures were presented, i.e. the surge of 800% in the number of antisemitic incidents in Canada. Among the major incidents, there have been shootings at Jewish schools in Montreal, where a Molotov cocktail was also thrown at a synagogue; a truck serving a Jewish-owned café was vandalized, and many more.
- ❖ **Encounter with the Keren Hayesod Solidarity Mission** – A meeting convened to discuss the sharp rise in Antisemitism in Europe. Disturbing data were presented for several countries, including Great Britain, where there has been a 500% escalation; France, where the number of antisemitic incidents has tripled since last year; Germany, with an increase of 490% in the number of antisemitic incidents; Holland, with an upsurge of 813% in the number of antisemitic incidents.
- ❖ **Status Report on Antisemitism for Members of Knesset** – A flyer was produced for Members of Knesset bringing a synopsis of the major antisemitic incidents in different countries around the world since the start of the “Operation Iron Swords” war. Please see the content of the flyer below:



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## Major Antisemitic Incidents –“Iron Swords”

**Since October 7, the volume of antisemitic events has escalated by hundreds to thousands of percent across various online platforms.**

Incidents involving violence and vandalism have risen by over 500%. On social media, an increase of 1000% in antisemitic discourse has been registered, including calls to violence and delegitimization of the State of Israel and its right to exist, as well as the use of the hashtags #HitlerWasRight #TufanEIAksa #takhrim (Mukata'a) in BDS contexts.

**A synagogue in Armenia was set on fire. Synagogues in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Chile, Austria, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan have been vandalized.**



**An increase of over 500% in the number of antisemitic incidents in the UK, relative to the same period in the previous year.**

The London police publicized a 1,357% increase in antisemitic incidents since the beginning of “Iron Swords,” compared to the same period last year. Anti-Israeli protests and anti-Israeli calls; smoke grenades were thrown near a London synagogue; red paint was sprayed on a Jewish family’s home in Hampstead; posts were disseminated against a Jewish-owned pizza shop, where social media followers were invited to suggest toppings for an “anti-Zionist Pizza.”



**Since October 7, 2023, 1,518 antisemitic incidents have been recorded in France.**

This is three times higher than the total figure for 2022. For comparison, since the beginning of the year, 1,762 antisemitic were reported in all (as opposed to 244 incidents for 10 months). In Lyons, a woman was stabbed and a swastika was daubed on the front door of her home; homes of Jewish families were marked with the Star of David; there were anti-Israeli protests; in *Carcassonne*, the graffiti “Killing Jews is a Duty” was sprayed on walls.



**An increase of 490% in antisemitic incidents in Germany since the beginning of the war.**

The State of Schleswig-Holstein Documentation Center reported a six-fold increase in the number of antisemitic incidents since the outbreak of war. A report by the Amadeu Antonio Institute noted that 5.7% of Germans hold antisemitic views, three times as many compared to a survey from two years ago. Molotov cocktails were thrown at a synagogue in the center of Berlin, and there have also been reports of homes and shops owned by Jews being marked with Stars of David. During a protest in support of the Palestinians, Hamas supporters attempted to break into an apartment where an Israeli flag was raised.



**An 813% increase in the number of reports of antisemitic incidents in the Netherlands since the beginning of the war.**

compared to the monthly average recorded over the last three years. A pro- Palestinian human rights organization decided to sue the Netherlands for violating international law by exporting arms to Israel, and thus allegedly, contributing to the genocide of the Palestinian people.



**A rise of 300% in antisemitic incidents in Austria, relative to the same period last year.**



**The FSU – A significant rise in antisemitic discourse and incidents.**

In the FSU, there has been a significant increase in both antisemitic discourse and antisemitic incidents. These events are not being reported in full and therefore a relative percentage is being assigned; it is, however, possible to state for certain that there has been a significant rise in antisemitic events, the most prominent of these being: the abduction attempt on the Chief Rabbi of Kazakhstan; the assault on the Dagestan airport and search for Israeli passengers on the plane; calls not to rent apartments or hotel rooms to Jews and Israelis; tagging a Jewish home in the Moscow area; in addition, MMA fighters vandalized an Israeli flag while calling for the murder of Jews; finally, accusations of genocide against Israel, while ignoring the October 7 massacre.





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**An increase of approximately 430% in the number of antisemitic incidents since the beginning of the war.**

An increase of 214% in NYC in the number of antisemitic incidents associated with the war. According to the CAIR report, 1283 statements have been recorded about discrimination against Jews and Muslims, by comparison with 406 over the same period last year. The late Paul Kessler was beaten while at a demonstration, while holding an Israeli flag. He fell and was fatally injured. The president of a synagogue in Detroit was murdered on her own doorstep (the case is currently under investigation). A multitude of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish banners and demonstrations with slogans like "A Jew-free world." Swastikas were sprayed on gravestones in Cleveland. A Jewish student's front door at Drexel University was set alight. Stickers with "Zionism is Terrorism" printed on them. A man broke into an Israeli's family home and threatened to kill them. Jewish students at Tulane University were beaten for raising Israeli flags. At Cornell University, there was a call to cut the throats of Jewish students. At another demonstration, people held flags with swastikas on them. Comparisons were made likening the Israeli hostages to cows. A bakery was destroyed and defaced with graffiti bearing the legend, "Elbit Kills."



**An increase of over 800% in the number of antisemitic incidents in Canada, relative to the same period last year.**

Two shooting incidents at Jewish schools in Montreal; a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a synagogue in Montreal. Unidentified vandals wrecked and vandalized a truck belonging to a Jewishly-owned cafe. Jewish students in the University of Concordia set up an information stand about the hostages and were violently attacked by pro-Palestinian students. Calls for an Intifada against Israel at demonstrations. Bomb threats against Jewish educational institutions. Reports about sexual assault during the October 7 massacre were dismissed on political grounds.



**An increase of 961% in the number of antisemitic incidents in Brazil, relative to the same period last year**



**An 800% increase in the number of antisemitic incidents, relative to the same period last year.**

During demonstrations, cries could be heard calling to gas the Jews. Graffiti was sprayed on the doors of an Israeli restaurant in Sidney with the message, "Child murderers" and "Identity Thieves". A Jewish cyclist was attacked when carrying an Israeli flag.



**The Arab world. Since the outbreak of hostilities, there has been more discourse attributing Hitler with heroic status in Arab society and narratives from Nazi ideology are being adopted increasingly (Islaminaziation).**

There has been a massive surge in classic Antisemitism and the motifs of the Jew as controlling the economy, depictions of Jews with the nose of a pig. At the same time, there is growing opposition to the normalization accords. Israel's actions are being compared to the Nazis', with intent to present Israel as inhumane. Caricatures of the Prime Minister of Israel as Hitler and similar images are being posted on social media, as well as a plethora of calls to attack Jews all over the world in the name of Islam and calls for the elimination of Israel at pro-Palestinian demonstrations.



**BDS – a ten-fold increase in calls for boycotts. This level is comparable to the total figure for 2022.**

Ever since the beginning of November, there have an increasing number of cases calling for boycotts on social media and in labor unions. The Greek Seamen's Labor Union announced that it will refuse use of Greek ports for ship military shipments to Israel. Similar announcements have been made in the Netherlands, Australia and other countries.



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- ❖ **The Social Media Influencers' Mission from North America** - The World Zionist Organization initiated a mission visit to Israel by a group of social media influencers from the United States and Canada, as part of its ongoing activity to raise awareness about the October 7 atrocities. The mission was hosted by the Chairman of the World Zionist Organization who accompanied them on their tour. Their packed schedule included the "Bring Them Home" campaign HQ for the release of the hostages; the Memorial Hall at Mt. Herzl; the Kotel; Kibbutz Kfar Aza; the Gilat junction meals initiative that feeds thousands of soldiers daily; the *Meshakem* company's IDF uniform factory and the home of Lt. Col. Habka (z"l); the Ramat David airbase, and the program will round off with a visit to Israel Aerospace Industries.



- ❖ **Activities of the World Organization of Orthodox Communities and Synagogues**

- The organization has been working to support IDF soldiers, including soldiers serving in the IDF Rabbinate. This has included gift packages intended for the wives of reserve soldiers (1,200 packages), which have been distributed to reservists throughout Israel. Field units stationed in the South and North also received kits complete with basic equipment for soldiers.
- **Weekends with evacuees** – Two weekend encounters have been held with evacuees residing at Tel Aviv hotels. The first was with a group of evacuees from Kiryat Shemonah and the other with evacuees from Sderot. The program included a talk by Mr. Yitzhak Dahan, a *Dvar Torah* on the weekly Torah portion and discussions with the evacuees about their welfare and needs.
- The organization has arranged cultural activities for evacuees living in Tel Aviv hotels. These included a *pro bono* performance by the Shemla Band (guitar and flute), which proved a great morale raiser for the participants.

Another recent event was a social and cultural evening for 150 *olim* from France. Guest speakers were IDF Officer Stefan Goldin, who delivered a geo-political overview, Shahar Alon, a member of Kibbutz Nir Oz, who spoke about the black Shabbat and MK Yossi Taieb who explained what activities that were being run for French *olim* in wartime. The evening included the sale of assorted items, with the proceeds going to provide support for soldiers on the frontline.

