

This is Not the Time for Ambiguity About Islamic Terrorism

During its inhuman assault and massacre of Israelis on Oct. 7, leaving more than 1,400 dead, and thousands injured, Hamas also kidnapped an estimated 240 people and took them back to Gaza to imprison them.

Laying bare the lie of their being “freedom fighters,” or being for a Palestinian state or anything else, what’s clear—and was well known before—is that they are not for anything other than death and destruction: the death and destruction of Israel and Jews.

They kidnapped hostages from babies and young children to the elderly, having been offered a bounty of \$10,000 for each of the Islamic terrorists who slaughtered so many and imprisoning as many as possible to hold over the heads of Israel.

But the hostages, just like the victims of the Oct. 7 slaughter, are not just Israeli. Some are dual citizens and some are foreign workers. There are hostages from 28 nations.

As of this writing, Hamas has released four hostages: two Americans and two elderly women. They made a propaganda video with three other women hostages, no doubt under duress, saying things against Israel and the prime minister. And as of this writing, Israel is celebrating the rescue of another hostage, Private Ori Megidish, who was found and released during an Israeli military ground operation this week.

The Jewish adage, “He who saves one life saves the world” is true for the family of Ori Megisish who could not be more elated that she is home and safe. All of Israel is celebrating

as well.

But for the families of the remaining 240 hostages, while there may be optimism, they are facing a grim reality of their loved ones' captivity and in many cases, unknown fate.

The fate of one more hostage was also revealed this week and, sadly, was not as good. Discovery of part of the skull of 23-year-old Shani Louk, made it clear beyond a doubt that there was no hope she was alive.

Shani was a young woman, a German and Israeli citizen, kidnapped from the music festival at which some 260 young adults were gunned down, blown up, burned and tortured. Shani's brutalized lifeless body was seen in an early celebratory video by the Hamas terrorists, contorted in such a way in the back of a pick-up truck that it would be impossible to have imagined that she was alive from day one.

When I saw the video of her body in the truck, I prayed that she was not alive because of the unfathomable torture and suffering to which she had been subjected and would continue to suffer. It was inhuman and unimaginable.

It is unknown how many hostages are alive. While Israel has come up with a comprehensive list of those believed to be held captive, and the number continues to grow nearly a month later, Hamas has deliberately not published names, videos or evidence of life in order to extract the greatest psychological terror. They are using human pawns as their evil currency.

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Surely with the release of Ori, Hamas terrorists are doubling down to hide and "guard" their human loot, to prevent further Israeli rescue attempts, or at least not allowing them to take

place much less succeed without a high price to both Israeli forces and the hostages. This will make attempts to rescue more hostages that much more difficult.

While the families of the hostages must hold out hope, as I have imagined I would if I were in the unthinkable position in which they are, I am not so hopeful. I don't mean to rain on anyone's celebratory parade, but I have said since day one that its just a matter of time before Hamas begins the torture and execution of the hostages, mutilation of the bodies of those who are already dead and that they will gleefully film these, and air them on the social media platforms that give their evil Islamist terror a free pass to inflict the greatest psychological warfare possible without adherence to any "community standards," much less morality and decency.

Hamas' goal is to cause grief to the families, pain, suffering and fear to the hostages, and division and terror among Israelis. By hiding themselves and their entire terrorist infrastructure in, under, and around hospitals, schools, UN facilities, and even mosques, using their own people as human shields, the pain and suffering of Israeli and other hostages is not a second thought.

Not only that it's not a concern for them, but it's also their *raison d'être*. The more suffering the better, all in the name of "resistance" "liberation," and their god, "Allah."

I hope I am wrong. I pray that I am. I just don't see a sweeping 1976 Entebbe-like rescue operation happening. Despite the early military failures, I don't put anything past the imagination and bravery of the IDF and its incredible soldiers.

But "logic" suggests that it's a longshot. Then again, despite the suffering, God is on our side so nothing is impossible, even if improbable.

Not only does Hamas know better than to keep all the hostages

in one place, but it's been reported in Israel that not all the hostages are in the control of Hamas, but rather under other competing (more extreme) Islamic terror groups. It's a mockery to even discuss negotiation with Hamas over returning the hostages when they are so flagrantly evil, when everything they have done is an immoral war crime, and that other terrorists over which they have no influence hold an unknown number of human pawns.

When terrorists' currency is evil, each competing group wants more loot, more influence, and more glee in the suffering of others. All the better if they are Israeli Jews, but clearly, they are not concerned by their hostages' nationality.

The thing is that rather than pandering to and attempted negotiation with these evil terrorists, the leaders of every civilized nation must stand firmly, strongly, together and with Israel. This is neither a time for moral ambiguity nor for any form of appeasement of the evil Islamic terror that Hamas and others represent. {eoa}

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