

23.10.23

Mrs. Alyson Stover, president
American Occupational Therapy Association

Dear Alyson,

RE: Call for AOTA active support in freeing Israelis hostages

ISOT along with the citizens of Israel thanks the unwavering support of the US government and population following the horrific massacre that occurred on Saturday, October 7th in Israel. We are now at the heart of a difficult battle. The number of civilians murdered and fallen soldiers, the wounded, abducted, and missing is beyond what human comprehension could grasp. There are currently 212 known hostages held by Hamas, ISIS and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza strip, and there is currently no information regarding the whereabouts and condition of most.

As caregivers, that treat children and adults, during peaceful and war times, we cannot stop thinking about the unimaginable suffering and the desire to help everyone, no matter who they are.

Therefore, now, more than anything, our minds and hearts are with the hostages.

Our dear colleagues, Carmel Gat, an Israeli OT, as well as Keith Siegel, an Israeli-American OT, are between these 212 hostages along with members of their families.

The OT community in Israel is praying for their safe and fast return home and asking for your immediate help.

We in ISOT strongly encourage AOTA to assist with efforts and pleas for the release of Keith, Carmel and all other hostages. We ask that you contact the World Health Organization, the United Nations and the Red Cross and demand their intervention in the release of Keith, Carmel and all other hostages from captivity, as well as and reliable information about their current condition.

Please use your judgement and influence to reach any individual or organization capable of assisting this urgent life-and-death situation.

We ask that you share the Israeli Forum for Public Health, Law and Bioethics enclosed letter and that you stand with ISOT and Israeli civilians in these difficult times.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yifat Nuriel'.

Yifat Nuriel, Adv.

Chief executive officer

ISOT

Revital Gal & Dr. Anat Elbaz, OT

Co-Chairman

ISOT