

17.10.23

Mrs. Samantha Shann, president  
**World Federation of Occupational Therapy**

Dear Samantha,

RE: Call for WFOT active support in freeing Israelis hostages

I have no doubt that like every other sane citizen of the world the news of the barbaric massacre that occurred last Saturday, October 7th, in Israel, has shocked you.

All of us here in Israel 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. Our souls cannot endure the horrors: Children and babies murdered in unspeakable brutality, and others are now orphans. Rape, beheading, burning people alive and desecration of corpses.

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.

This war is different, there are now Israeli children, some with special needs like autism and CP, as well as teenagers, adults, and elderly, which suffer from chronic illnesses, who are currently being held hostage in Gaza and are terrified and injured in their bodies and souls.

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

Our dear colleague, Carmel Gat, is one of these hostages along with members of her family. There is currently no information about her well-being. The OT community in Israel is praying for her safe and fast return home.

We in ISOT strongly encourage WFOT to assist with efforts and pleas for the release of Carmel and all Israeli hostages. We ask that you contact the World Health Organization, the United Nations and the Red Cross in regards with Carmel Gat and demand their intervention in her release from captivity and reliable information about her condition.

As the guardians of OT around the world, actively pursuing knowledge for the benefit of humanity, as role models for all OT communities, we are asking WFOT to share the responsibility to support publicly its Colleagues in Israel, by taking an active stance against barbaric violence on civilian populations in Israel.

We ask that you share the Israeli Forum for Public Health, Law and Bioethics message and the attached petition to release Carmel Gat and all Israeli captives from Hamas and stand with ISOT and Israeli civilians in these difficult times.

[https://www.change.org/p/a-call-for-help-and-rescue-of-the-israeli-hostages-held-in-gaza-by-the-hamas?recruiter=1318757468&recruited\\_by\\_id=91d24ae0-6804-11ee-946f-a32cfdec5b04&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_campaign=share\\_petition&utm\\_term=petition\\_dashboard&utm\\_medium=copylink&utm\\_content=cl\\_sharecopy\\_37686634\\_en-US%3A4](https://www.change.org/p/a-call-for-help-and-rescue-of-the-israeli-hostages-held-in-gaza-by-the-hamas?recruiter=1318757468&recruited_by_id=91d24ae0-6804-11ee-946f-a32cfdec5b04&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=share_petition&utm_term=petition_dashboard&utm_medium=copylink&utm_content=cl_sharecopy_37686634_en-US%3A4)

Sincerely yours,



Yifat Nuriel, Adv.

Chief executive officer

**ISOT**

Revital Gal & Dr. Anat Elbaz, OT

Co-Chairman

**ISOT**