

# JUSTICE FOR OCTOBER 7

This year in July, we visited our daughter, who is married to Zohar and Nira Shpak's son from Kfar Aza. Together, we visited the Kibbutz. Zohar and Nira are survivors of that fateful day, and Zohar is now a member of October 7 Justice Without Borders. In this article, Michalya Moss, Zohar's colleague residing in South Africa, sheds light on the events and their aftermath. We mourn deeply for those who bravely defended Kibbutz Kfar Aza, paying the ultimate price or enduring the anguish of captivity.

*Barbara & Martin Brezger*

## Justice without Borders – Legal action as path to healing

One year has passed since the devastating October 7 assault on Israel. On that fateful day, attorney Yael Vias Gvirsman, an expert in international law, awoke to the shocking news that Israel was under siege. Just days earlier, she had been preparing for a trip to The Hague to present her research on artificial intelligence in war zones. Her focus shifted abruptly when a human rights lawyer urgently sought her help. Families of those abducted by Hamas were in deep distress, pleading for any information about their missing loved ones.

Vias Gvirsman sprang into action, contacting the Red Cross and advocating for life-saving medical assistance for the abductees. As these efforts unfolded, it became clear that the situation required a broader, strategic legal response to ensure justice and accountability. In response, October 7 Justice Without Borders was founded, pro bono, under Vias Gvirsman's leadership – the first and only non-political entity solely focused on providing strategic legal representation for the victims of Hamas atrocities.

Ricarda Louk, mother of Shani Louk, a young woman brutally murdered at the Nova Festival, highlighted why legal action is so crucial: "The lawsuits will not bring Shani back, and it is not about money. Our main objective is recognition for Shani's story." This pursuit of justice is essential to ensure that her story, along with the stories of other victims, is preserved.

"We want the truth to be written for future generations. We want to avoid a future where people, like Holocaust deniers, claim these atrocities never happened. That's why international judicial recognition is so important. No one should question or undermine it."

In the past year, October 7 Justice Without Borders has represented nearly 300 victims from 14 locations, including kibbutzim, cities, the Nova Festival and Bedouin villages. The organisation fills the gap where the state cannot, ensuring justice is pursued in courts worldwide. Their on-the-ground work, including mapping crime scenes and gathering survivor testimony, has been essential to advancing legal cases.

As the organisation enters the next phase, it aims to represent an additional 2,500 victims in the next 18 months. For Vias Gvirsman and her team, justice is not only retributive; it is essential to rebuilding and healing Israeli society. By ensuring

that the atrocities of October 7 are acknowledged and documented in international courts, the organisation hopes to secure a future where such crimes against humanity are never repeated.

With continued support, October 7 Justice Without Borders is committed to turning the pain of this tragedy into a legacy of justice, ensuring the victims' voices are heard and the truth is preserved for future generations.

Visit [https://www.october7justice.org/enMichalya\\_Schonwald\\_Moss](https://www.october7justice.org/enMichalya_Schonwald_Moss)

*Michalva Schonwald Moss is Chief Advancement Officer. We represent victims and hostages from Kibbutz Kfar Aza*

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION)

# YIZKOR

## COMMEMORATION OF BENEFACTORS

The names of those below are forever remembered in Israel in the JNF projects dedicated in their honour

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*In front of the art shed in Shefayim*

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