



Human Rights Council 58th Session (March 2025)

Item 3: ID with the SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

NGO: The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IJL)

Representative delivering the statement: Idit Ohel

Mr. President,

My name is Idit Ohel, and I am Alon Ohel's mother. Alon was kidnapped on October 7, 2023, only at the age of 22 from the Nova festival, and he is still being held in Gaza, and now he is 24 years old.

He was taking refuge in a bomb shelter along with 26 other innocent young people who had fled from the festival. The terrorists used RPGs and hand grenades in their attempts to kill them all. Of the 27 individuals present, 16 were murdered, four were taken hostage, and only seven managed to survive.

Recently released hostages reported that Alon has been confined in a small, dark tunnel, 40 meters underground for over 500 days. He is constantly chained at the ankles, subjected to beatings and starvation, and has lost significant weight. He has shrapnel in one eye, leaving him blind, and there is a severe that he will lose his sight in the other eye as well.

Mr. President, while the hostages endure physical trauma, we—their families—have suffered recently relentless psychological abuse. The use of propaganda videos and the absence of any information deepen our anguish.

Bring Alon back.

Bring them all home.