

The Arab world must work towards the release of the hostages

Israel has a legal responsibility to use every resource at its disposal to bring them home, including the Abraham Accords

[Mohammad Wattad](#) / Oct 26, 2023, 12:34 PM

On October 7, 2023, the citizens of Israel's communities on the border with Gaza were failed by the state, which neglected its duty to protect them and failed to adequately respond once the event came to light.

In light of that failure, the state has a legal responsibility to bring the hostages, at least the civilians among them, safely home.

The calls for recognizing Israel's right to self-defense as a sovereign nation, especially in the wake of a shocking terrorist attack, are accompanied by a valid concern that Israel might be required to make significant concessions for the release of the abductees. Under these circumstances, the state and its citizens cannot bear such a burden, particularly in the aftermath of a deadly terrorist incident, a type of tragedy not witnessed since the country's establishment.

However, two comments should be made here.

First, our duty to return the abductees home, at least the civilians among them, is not only a moral duty, but a legal responsibility.

Regardless of the debate that is taking place regarding prisoner exchange deals, including the moral dilemmas involved, as Israel has seen quite a few times in the past, this is irrelevant to the horrific terrorist attack that the country experienced on October 7, 2023. When it comes to the imperative of safely returning the abductees to their families, there should be no room for hesitation or uncertainty.

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