

Dear Jerusalem Post,

Our brilliant and beloved grandson Erez Orbach z"l was murdered in the terrorist attack with three other innocent soldiers waiting to tour Jerusalem as part of their officers' training program last Sunday, January 8. Tragically, our holy city has become a battlefield once again.

I would like to thank our personable President Rivlin, Chief Rabbi Lau, Avi Dichter, Tzipi Hotovely, Assistant Defense Minister Eli Ben Dahan, MK Rachel Azaria, Minister of Defense Avigdor Lieberman and thousands of friends and families from all over the country for honoring the memory of Erez z"l with their presence and stories about his inspiration to all who knew and loved him.

I would also like to express my thanks to Hon. Consul Blome on his visit to our family week of mourning that took place in Alon Shvut last week.

I am proud to be an American citizen as well as my children and grandchildren. We as Americans and Israelis cherish the ideals of democracy and freedom in this country and region. We are definitely not "obstacles to peace" but rather have always longed for peace in this region since the days of the Bible.

Unfortunately these same ideals are not shared by many of our neighbors who instigate hate, terror and destruction and teach their children the same sedition.

Mr. Consul, I hope that witnessing for yourself our ageless dedication to our country and especially learning about Erez's determination to serve his country despite all odds and his legacy of fortitude, determination and compassion for others will impact your understanding of the spirit of the Israeli people and all those who treasure democracy and strive for a future of peace in the region and in the world.

The Orbach and Tsadok families and myself want to take this opportunity to also thank family and friends for their expressions of love and support for our tremendous loss to our family and to the Jewish people worldwide.

It is our hope that Erez's life will be an inspiration to all and his memory will truly be for a blessing G-d willing.

Mimi Bernstein Tsadok, proud grandmother of Erez Orbach z"l