

Letter to the Jerusalem Post- Jan. 22, 20017

Regarding "4 soldiers killed in Jerusalem truck ramming attack? (January 9), our brilliant and beloved son and grandson, Erez Orbach, was murdered with three other innocent soldiers waiting to tour Jerusalem as part of their officers' training program.

We would like to thank *The Jerusalem Post* for its in-depth, unbiased coverage of this tragic story. We would like to thank President Reuven Rivlin, Chief Rabbi David Lau, MK Avi Dichter, Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely, Deputy Defense Minister Eli Ben-Dahan, MK Rachel Azaria, Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman and the thousands of people from all over the country for honoring the memory of Erez with their presence and stories about his inspiration to all who knew and loved him. We would also like to express our thanks to Donald Blome, the US consul-general in Jerusalem, for his heartfelt condolence call.

We, and our children and grandchildren, are proud to be American-Israelis. We cherish the ideals of democracy and freedom.

We are definitely not "obstacles to peace," but have longed for peace in this region since the days of the Bible. Unfortunately, these ideals are not shared by many of our neighbors - the murderer of our dear Erez, was exposed to virulent incitement to violence in a sermon by an imam the Friday before the ramming attack.

We sincerely hope that Erez's determination to serve his country despite all odds, and his legacy of fortitude, determination and compassion for others, will serve as an eternal example of the spirit of the Israeli people and all those who treasure democracy and strive for a future of peace in this region and the world. May his life be an inspiration to all, and his memory for a blessing.

CARYN TSADOK ORBACH

Alon Shvut

MIMI BERNSTEIN TSADOK

Jerusalem

The writers are the mother and grandmother, respectively, of Erez Orbach z"l.