

Michel Nisenbaum

59 Years Old

Michel Nisenbaum immigrated to Israel when he was a teenager from Brazil. He fell in love with the people and the land and has stayed ever since, raising a beautiful family of his own. He was taken hostage by Hamas on October 7th while on a mission to rescue his granddaughter.

The morning of October 7th, Michel's son-in-law, husband to his daughter, Chen, and one of his granddaughters were near Re'im as the attack began unfolding. The son-in-law, who is a career serviceman, asked Michel to come and rescue the granddaughter, fearing the gravity of the situation would bring him into battle and would endanger his daughter. Michel, who lived further north in Sderot, left his house without hesitation. Ten minutes into the rescue mission to save his granddaughter, communication was lost with Michel. Chen, then worrying about her father, urgently called him. One of Michel's terrorist captors answered, saying: "Hamas, Hamas," before hanging up.

Michel's burnt car was later discovered in the middle of the road, and police, thankfully, confirmed that he was not inside when it was set ablaze. His phone was found nearby. For two weeks, Michel was considered 'missing,' officials unable to formally declare whether he was killed or kidnapped on the 7th. After two weeks of collecting evidence, officials confirmed that he was indeed a hostage. Nothing has been discovered about his condition or whereabouts since that day.

His daughter, Chen, has spoken about this uncertainty: "we were hopeful that some of the released hostages may have some news for us," she says. "But nobody saw him or even heard of him. We know nothing. It's unfathomable," that "there isn't a thread of information about his condition. We don't know if he's alive or dead."

מישל ניסנבאום
MICHEL NISENBAUM
(59)

