



TESTIMONIES FROM A TROUBLED LAND

Press photography Exhibition

New Israel Fund UK in partnership with Local Testimony

הקרן החדשה לישראל
New Israel Fund
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

עדות מקומית
Local إفادة محلية
Testimony

TESTIMONIES FROM A TROUBLED LAND

10th-12th June 2026

Testimonies from a Troubled Land presents a selection of works from **Local Testimony 2025**, Israel's leading exhibition of photojournalism and documentary photography, exhibited annually at MUZA, Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv.

The photographs gathered here document war, political upheaval and profound uncertainty. They capture the aftermath of 7 October and the war in Gaza, alongside its wider impact: missile attacks from Iran, hostage families waiting and campaigning for their loved ones' return, destruction and daily survival in Gaza and violence in the West Bank.

Bringing together Israeli and Palestinian photographers, the exhibition presents multiple perspectives shaped by conflict. These images move beyond headlines to reveal the human realities behind them – grief, resilience, fear and hope.

New Israel Fund UK brings this exhibition to London because engaging honestly with this complexity matters. These photographs invite us to look closely, ask difficult questions and recognise the humanity of those living through this painful moment.

Faiz Abu Ramila | Mustafa Alkharouf | Tomer Appelbaum | Sharon Aronowicz | Oren Ben Hakoon | Ilan Ben Yehuda | Yuval Chen | Itay Cohen | Chaim Goldberg | Naama Grynbaum | Ali Hassan Jadallah | Jim Hollonder | Khalil Kahlout | Ziv Koren | Heidi Levin Maya Levin | Maya Meshel | Moti Milrod | Bar Peleg | Abed Rahim Khatib | Itai Ron Ariel Schalit | Avishag Shaar-Yashuv | Eyal Warshavsky | Kobi Wolf | Oren Ziv | Ohad Zwigenberg.

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Naama Grynbaum, Haaretz

A burning olive tree on Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Day of Remembrance for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

*Jerusalem Hills
30 April 2025*



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Ilan Ben Yehuda

Israelis seek refuge and consolation from a painful reality through ball games on Tel Aviv's Bograshov Beach.

*Bograshov Beach, Tel Aviv
12 September 2024*



P. 5

Itai Ron, Haaretz

This photo won Photo of the Year in memory of Roei Idan Prize sponsored by The Union of Journalists in Israel

Shadows of ultra-Orthodox men and soldiers in the Palestinian village of Kifl Haris. Religious Jews believe that the grave of biblical leader Yehoshua ben Nun is located in the village. Several times a year, thousands of Jewish pilgrims enter Kifl Haris to mark a hilula (religious festival) in his honour. During these events, military curfews confine Palestinian residents to their homes and restrict movement through their village while soldiers guard Jewish worshippers.

*Kifl Haris, West Bank
24 April 2025*

NIF supports organisations working to protect Palestinian freedom of movement, challenge abuses of power in the West Bank and defend equal rights under the rule of law.



[Read more here](#)



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Tomer Appelbaum, Haaretz

Ultra-Orthodox youth burn a draft card during protests outside the military prison where ultra-Orthodox men refusing military service are being held.

The military draft of young ultra-Orthodox men has become one of the most contentious issues in Israeli civil society. The issue has been sharpened by the heavy burden of regular and reserve duty carried by many other Israelis since 7 October.

*Near Camp Gur, Beit Lid
14 August 2025*



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Moti Milrod, Haaretz

The funeral of Captain Itay Marcovich, a 22-year-old Golani Brigade officer killed in battle in Lebanon.

From 7 October 2023 until the end of 2025, 1,043 Israeli soldiers were killed.

*Kokhav Yair Cemetery
14 November 2024*



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Avishag Shaar-Yashuv, The New York Times

Residents of Rehovot walk through debris of buildings following a direct Iranian missile strike.

The image has a post-apocalyptic feel, with the absence of familiar urban markers lending an other-worldly quality to the shot.

*Rehovot
15 June 2025*

During the Iran-Israel wars, NIF supported emergency responses for communities most affected by missile attacks, particularly focusing on vulnerable and marginalised groups whose access to public shelter, trauma support and community aid was limited.



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Chaim Goldberg, Flash 90

During the June 2025 Iran-Israel war, underground train stations became improvised shelters for Israelis, Palestinian citizens of Israel, migrant workers and refugees seeking protection from missile attacks.

*Bialik Underground Station, Ramat Gan
June 2025*

Inadequate public shelter infrastructure left thousands of civilians exposed. In response, NIF launched an emergency appeal supporting communities most affected by the attacks, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups. We supported local emergency response, mental health services, community aid and advocacy for equal access to safety infrastructure. Safety must not depend on where someone lives, their citizenship status, ethnicity or income.

The release of hostages in early 2025 became a defining public moment in Israel. Crowds gathered outside hospitals, in public squares and around television screens to witness the return of those released from Gaza after more than a year in captivity. Alongside relief and celebration came grief for those who returned dead, and growing anxiety for those still held hostage. These moments were captured by camera: families waiting, helicopters transporting the hostages landing in hospitals, memorials forming and thousands gathering together in hope, mourning and uncertainty. In the aftermath of 7 October, NIF stood with the Hostages and Missing Families Forum as part of a broader emergency response that also supported Israeli communities attacked by Hamas, protected Palestinians in the West Bank and backed humanitarian efforts in Gaza.

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Itay Cohen, Reuters

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A large crowd gathers outside Beilinson Hospital, watching as a helicopter arrives carrying released hostages Omer Shem Tov, 21, Omer Wenkert, 22 and Eliya Cohen, 26. They were freed after 505 days in captivity following the agreement signed between Israel and Hamas on 17 January 2025.

*Petah Tikva
22 February 2025*



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Ziv Koren, Polaris Images, Yedioth Ahronoth

Gadi Moses, 81, a farmer from Kibbutz Nir Oz, was abducted to Gaza on 7 October. Five members of his family were taken hostage. His partner, Efrat Katz, was killed when the vehicle carrying them was struck by Israeli fire. Moses was released on 30 January 2025 after 482 days in captivity.

He was the oldest man to survive captivity in Gaza. His final words to his captors were a promise that he would return to Gaza to work side by side with them in agriculture.

Two months after his release, he returned to Nir Oz and resumed work in the fields. At a memorial rally for Yitzhak Rabin, Gadi spoke about the possibility of a different future: "Death and bereavement are not a decree of fate. There is another way."

*Kibbutz Nir Oz
9 April 2025*



Scan to watch Gadi speak at the rally.



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Kobi Wolf, Bloomberg

The family of Israeli hostage Omer Shem Tov, 21, watch the broadcast of his release after 505 days in captivity in Gaza, following the agreement signed between Israel and Hamas on 17 January 2025.

*Tel Aviv
22 February 2025*



P. 14

Eyal Warshavsky, *The Daily Mail*

Children play on the roof of a concrete shelter in Kibbutz Miflasim, a few kilometres from Gaza. They climb, slide and create imaginary worlds on the same shelters they run to when sirens sound. Shelters are as much a part of their daily, natural landscape as the pool and the homes in their kibbutz – just another structure to call their own.

Kibbutz Miflasim, western Negev
9 September 2024

Since 7 October, NIF has supported communities directly affected by the attacks and the ongoing war, including Jewish and Bedouin communities in the Negev. NIF continues to stand with those facing trauma, displacement, loss and insecurity.

Sharon Aronowicz, “What are these wars for?” [video]

Raja Khatib, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, paid a devastating price during the June 2025 Iran–Israel war, when a ballistic missile struck his home. His wife, Manar Khatib, his daughters Shada and Hala, and his sister-in-law Manar Diab Khatib were killed in the attack. Hundreds of people gathered to pay their last respects.

Tamra
June 2025

Tamra, like many Arab and Jewish communities in Israel, faces a severe shortage of public shelters and emergency infrastructure. NIF and its partners supported local emergency response efforts, including mental health services, community aid and advocacy for equal access to safety infrastructure.

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Bar Peleg, “Great Days” [video]

During the June 2025 Iran–Israel war, Israel demonstrated military and intelligence capabilities far beyond expectation. At home, however, many civilians were left exposed. The war revealed the gap between military technology and civilian preparedness: between strikes in Iran and the neglected shelters of the Tel Aviv metropolitan area.

Clair de Lune by Claude Debussy, performed by Laurens Goedhart.
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Tel Aviv Metropolitan area
2025

NIF believes safety must be accessible to all. We support partners pressing for equal access to shelters, emergency services and public protection for all communities in Israel, especially those too often left behind.

In the past year, settler violence in the West Bank has sharply escalated. The UN has recorded 2025 as the worst year for settler violence since it began tracking incidents in 2006, with an average of eight attacks every day – against people, livestock, farmland and whole communities. This violence has been met with near-total impunity: Yesh Din’s data shows that 94% of police investigations into ideologically motivated offences by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank over the past two decades ended without indictment.

Protecting Palestinian communities from settler violence in the West Bank is now one of NIF’s most urgent priorities. We are backing a network of organisations working both to hold the line against violence and to build a fairer future. NIF partner activists stand alongside Palestinian farmers to deter attacks and keep the reality of occupation visible in Israeli public debate.



Scan to watch our partner, Bnei Avraham, a group of Orthodox Jewish Israelis who engage in protecting Palestinians facing daily violence and antagonism.

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Itai Ron, Haaretz

The funeral of David Libi, 19, an engineering equipment operator for the Israeli Ministry of Defence, who was killed by an explosive device in Gaza.

Libi grew up in an illegal outpost in the West Bank and worked for a company that had carried out contracted demolition work for the IDF in Gaza.

In May 2025, the UK government sanctioned the company in connection with serious human rights violations against Palestinians.

The cemetery was established specifically for Libi’s burial through an unusually rapid 24-hour process of authorisation and preparation. The case points to the privileges often granted to settler communities and to the unequal application of the law in the West Bank.

*Malachei Hashalom Cemetery, West Bank
24 April 2025*



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Oren Ben Hakoon, Israel Hayom and AP

The funeral of Ravid Haim, a 15-day-old baby delivered by Caesarean section after his mother, 30-year-old Tzeela Gez, was murdered in a terrorist attack near the West Bank settlement of Bruchin.

*Har HaMenuchot Cemetery, Jerusalem
29 May 2025*



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Oren Ziv, Local Call

Masked Israeli settlers attack the Palestinian village of Turmus Ayya. Since the beginning of the war in October 2023, settler violence in the West Bank has intensified, including assaults, arson, destruction of property and attacks on Palestinian communities. Photographers and activists often serve as a protective presence while documenting this violence.

*Turmus Ayya, West Bank
26 June 2025*

NIF supports organisations and activists providing protective presence, legal aid and documentation in areas facing increasing settler violence and displacement. This work helps protect communities, expose abuses and defend basic rights.



Scan to watch Oren Ziv talk about his work at our 2025 exhibition.



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Maya Meshel

The daily routine of young settler girls, aged 12 to 18, in the Maoz Esther outpost in the West Bank. The girls live alone in a house they built themselves, work in agriculture and study Torah. Over the last five years this illegal outpost has been demolished and rebuilt roughly thirty times.

*Maoz Esther, West Bank
2021–2025*

NIF supports organisations working to limit settlement expansion, defend Palestinian rights and uphold the rule of law in areas where inequality, dispossession and violence are deepening.



Scan to watch NIF Israel Director, Shira Ben Sasson Furstenberg, talking about the difficult reality in the West bank and NIF's work to address these complex challenges.



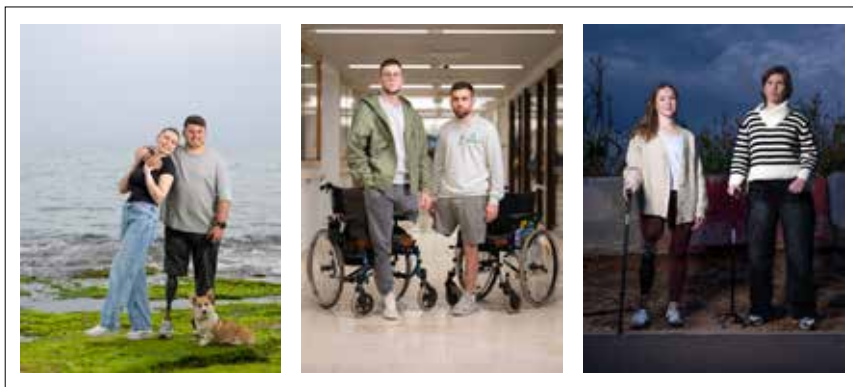
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Ohad Zwigenberg, AP

Immediately after the 2024 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon was signed, soldiers and civilians visited the hot-water pool near Mount Bental in the Golan Heights. Ohad says of this shot: “When we got there, I saw the spring open, slowly, slowly, like a dream.”

*Ben Tal Reservoir, Golan Heights
27 November 2024*

Since 2023, Israel has faced war on multiple fronts, including Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. NIF supports civil society organisations and leaders working to create a political solution and help move Israelis and Palestinians beyond endless war.



Long exposure. Yuval Chen, Yediot Aharonot

An ongoing documentary project following soldiers wounded during the Iron Swords war and previous military campaigns. According to Israel's Defence Ministry, around 20,000 wounded soldiers from the war received rehabilitation treatment by September 2025. More than half suffered from psychological trauma.

*Germany and Israel
2023–2025*

NIF supports communities and individuals traumatised by war and violence and backs civil society organisations helping people recover while also working towards the political and social change needed to prevent further cycles of harm.

Gaza, August 2024–August 2025

The documentation of the war in Gaza has unfolded differently from previous wars. From the Israeli side, the war is often photographed from a distance: from the border or from the air. These images usually show smoke, ruins and airstrikes. Inside Gaza, Palestinian photographers document daily life under bombardment, loss, displacement and the struggle to survive. Foreign journalists have been barred from entering the Strip, making local Palestinian photographers some of the primary witnesses to the human impact of the war. The war triggered deep political and moral debate in Israel and around the world, in the shadow of the 7 October attacks and the captivity of Israeli hostages in Gaza. In fulfilling its journalistic and historical mission, this video brings together work by Israeli and Palestinian photographers documenting the war from different perspectives and under extreme conditions. We thank Flash90 photo agency for their assistance in connecting us with photographers in Gaza.

Faiz Abu Ramila, Mustafa Alkharouf, Ali Hassan Jadallah, Jim Hollonder, Khalil Kahlout, Ziv Koren, Maya Levin, Heidi Levin, Abed Rahim Khatib, Ariel Schalit. Editing and original soundtrack: Ran Slavin

NIF raised over £2.8 million globally for our partners World Central Kitchen and Clean Shelter, providing life-saving aid including food, water, medical supplies and shelter to civilians in Gaza. Now, as Gaza receives less attention in Israeli and international media, NIF continues to stand with partners working to support recovery, rebuilding and human dignity.



Scan to donate to our Gaza Appeal



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Chaim Goldberg, Flash 90

Supreme Court President Yitzhak Amit speaks with Justice Minister Yariv Levin, one of the architects of the judicial overhaul and leading right-wing figure. Levin refused for months to recognise Amit's appointment.

*President's Residence, Jerusalem
10 April 2025*

Following the 7 October attacks and the war in Gaza, the government continued to advance its judicial overhaul. NIF supports Israelis defending democracy, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. Together with our partners, we have pushed back against attempts to weaken democratic institutions, restrict rights and concentrate political power.



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Ohad Zwigenberg, Associated Press

Crowds of demonstrators gather near the Begin Gate of the Kirya army base in Tel Aviv, calling for the release of the hostages and an end to the war. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated weekly, and some even daily, for a hostage release deal.

*Tel Aviv
22 March 2025*

From the first days after 7 October, NIF stood with the Hostages and Missing Families Forum. NIF also supports the right to protest, including in wartime, as a basic democratic right and a vital part of civic life.



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Mustafa Alkharouf, Anadolu Agency

Protesters gather near the Begin Gate of the Kirya army base in Tel Aviv, calling for the return of the hostages and a ceasefire in Gaza. The last 20 living hostages returned on 13 October 2025, just over two years after the war began.

*Tel Aviv
17 May 2025*



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Tomer Appelbaum, Haaretz

Protesters take part in a demonstration of rage after a mass rally following the murder of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Ori Danino, Alex Lobanov, Almog Sarusi and Carmel Gat by Hamas in the tunnel where they were held captive in Gaza. The hostages became a symbol of the tragedy of the war and the public demanded a deal to bring them home. Their deaths deepened anger at the government and brought many more Israelis into the streets.

*Ayalon Highway, Tel Aviv
1 September 2024*

NIF supported the work of the Hostages and Missing Families Forum from the first days of the crisis. We also support the right to protest, even in times of war, as a basic human right.





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To find out more about our work defending democracy
and protecting freedom of expression, please see:
www.newisraelfund.org.uk/freedom





“Democracy is a holistic idea, bigger than the sum of its parts. It needs free media”

Mickey Gitzin, NIF Acting CEO

Donate to support our work protecting democracy, freedom of expression, and human rights across Israel



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