

Dear Maoz Partner,

At 3:39am this morning a single mother of three from Beer Sheba woke up to the blasts of sirens announcing a rocket attack. Half asleep and not sure if she is dreaming, she quickly woke her children up and took them downstairs to the safe room. They made it just in time, and within moments, an explosion rocked the entire house.

After the rescuers helped the family get out of the safe room, they discovered that the Grad rocket fired from Gaza blasted through three layers of concrete, entering the house right above the bed of one of the children. This family lost everything, and the engineers think the entire building is going to collapse.

Later this morning, all news broadcasts were able to reveal that the second rocket launched at the same time fell just off the shore of one of the major cities in the Tel Aviv area. (In Israel, exact locations are kept secret, so that the terrorists will not be able to tell where their rockets hit and recreate the trajectory.)

These were the first rockets launched into the Beer Sheba and Tel Aviv area since Operation Protective Edge four years ago. The Israeli Air Force has executed multiple air strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza since the rocket attack. However, a couple of hours ago news came that the Egyptians were able to "restore" the quiet. Well, if you can call it that.

For over five months Hamas has been using Gazan civilians on the security fence, busing them out to riot, try to breach the border, and, sadly, lay down their lives for the "Palestinian Dream." Just yesterday a report came out that over half of the border region on the Israeli side was burned out by the balloon and kite terror. It will take decades to restore what was lost to the fires. In addition, yet another terror tunnel that crossed into Israel was discovered and destroyed this week.

Needless to say, the situation needs a resolution. Not only does Hamas hold two million Palestinian hostages in Gaza, it is also bent on holding Israeli citizens as hostages, and this is not a reality we are ready to continue living in.

At this time, our leaders and commanders need your prayers... as do we all!

Please direct your prayers to the Lord on our behalf this week:

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For wisdom and guidance for our leaders and commanders.

For the family that lost their home and all their belongings. During times like this, the Israelis are quick to offer help. However, while physical possessions can be replaced, the mother and her children, as well as other families from that building and the neighborhood, need your prayers for moral strength and sanity.

For Beit Hallel Congregation in Ashdod. Last week I wrote extensively on their situation and will try to get regular updates for you as we receive them. Please continue to pray for them and other Israeli believers persecuted for their faith.

For healing and restoration for Yacov Damkani, Eddie Santoro, Albert and Juergen.

For Ari, Shira, and our international directors around the world.

For our worldwide staff.

For Maoz Projects and daily tasks.

For the Body of Believers in Israel and the Messianic ministries we work alongside.

For our Arab brothers and sisters in Messiah.

For Israel's salvation.

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Brexit Negotiations are at a very crucial stage. Please pray for Theresa May and the Government as they tackle difficult issues, particularly what will happen with the Irish border.

The latest Home Office statistics show that Jewish people are the second most targeted group for religious hate crime. Around 0.5% of the population in England and Wales identify as Jewish, yet 12 per cent of religious hate crimes was targeted at Jewish people. Please pray for this worrying trend to reverse.

You may have seen the news that the Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has said that he would be open to moving their embassy to Jerusalem. This may be the first commonwealth nation that has seriously considered this. As the Queen is the Head of State for Australia, this would mean it will be the first Embassy in Jerusalem to have a picture of the Queen (a requirement) hanging on the wall as an official identification mark. Please pray this would happen.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for praying for us. We bless you in the precious name of Messiah Yeshua.

With love from the Land of Israel,

Katy Smith
For the Maoz Israel Ministries Team