

# Town Hall II

September 15, 2020



---

---

# Announcements

- Evy: Elections and Fairness
  - Jack for Agenda
  - Shani for SAC
- Noah Ablin, Gaby Bentolila, Noa Silberstein: Model UN
- Shani Menna: Wellness Club
- Alessandra: AIPAC/F4I

## Special Shoutout....

- Freshman **Ross Goldberg** has been named among the Top 300 MASTERS in the 2020 Broadcom MASTERS<sup>®</sup>, a program of Society for Science & the Public!!!!  
  100
- This honor places him among a select group of 300 MASTERS named from 3,476 entrants throughout the United States

# Meme of the Week



By Leeyah Klyman

Looking into people's houses during Zoom calls like...



# Vort of the Week

אַף עַל פִּי שְׁתַּקִּיעַת שׁוֹפָר בְּרֵאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה גִּזְרַת הַכְּתוּב רָמַז יֵשׁ בּוֹ כְּלוּמָר עוֹרוּ יְשָׁנִים מִשְׁנֵתְכֶם וְנִרְדְּמִים הִקְיִצּוּ  
מִתְרַדְּמֵתְכֶם וְחַפְּשׂוּ בְּמַעֲשֵׂיכֶם וְחִזְרוּ בְּתַשׁוּבָה וְזָכְרוּ בּוֹרְאֵכֶם

“Even though the sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah is a decree, it contains an allusion. It is as if [the shofar’s call] is saying: “Wake up you somnolent from your sleep and you who slumber, arise. Inspect your deeds, repent, remember your Creator . . .” (Hilchot Teshuva 3:4)

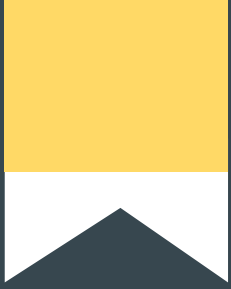
“The Rav believed that the fulfillment could indeed vary depending upon the extent that mitzvah affects an individual’s consciousness and touches his heart..”

# Extortion Attacks & Israel

...

# Town Hall Topic Credits!

- Shoutout to Sarah Feuer for coming up with this topic and making a lot of these slides !



# What is Extortion?

- Merriam-Webster definition: to obtain from a person by force, intimidation, or undue or illegal power
- In our context: one party threatens to inflict serious harm upon another party unless they comply with their demands



# Extortion Attacks & Israel



1972 Munich Olympics: Terrorist organization Black September took the Israeli Olympic team hostage and threatened to kill them unless the Israeli government released over 200 Arab prisoners

1978 Coastal Roads Massacre: Fatah terrorists seized 2 buses taking 71 Israeli hostages (many of them families with children) and threatened to kill them unless Israel released 5 specific Palestinian prisoners

Gilad Shalit: Shalit was an IDF soldier who was taken hostage by Hamas. Hamas agreed to release him in exchange for over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners being released.

# How to Respond

- These extortion attacks pose a major ethical dilemma for the Israeli government
- In many situations, Israel must quickly decide if they should **attack** the terrorists and try to save the hostages or to **comply** with their demands and release their prisoners
- In cases like the capture of Gilad Shalit, attacking Hamas to find Shalit proved impossible and Israel could either comply with Hamas or continue to leave Shalit in captivity



## Rehavam Zeevi

Former Advisor to Prime Minister  
on Counterterrorism



## Shaul Mofaz

Former Chief of Staff and  
Defense Minister



## Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister

---

“In cases of abduction and extortion attacks we should be able to sacrifice kidnapped hostages in order to not give in. It’s definitely ethical in the long-term national vision. So there won’t be more of such actions. Otherwise the damage will be a hundred-fold.”

“I maintain that Israelis have special DNA. Where does it come from? From the value of sanctity of life. This is one of the most important values in Israel...We should make every effort to avoid kidnappings but in the end, we must pay the price.”

---

“The belief is the certainty or likelihood of military intervention has a tremendously inhibiting effect on hostage-taking. Therefore, the only sensible policy is a refusal to yield and a readiness to apply force.”

# General Questions

- Should we negotiate with terrorists?
  - If you want to answer the question and argue that we SHOULD negotiate with terrorists, type “a”
  - If you want to answer the question and argue that we should NOT negotiate with terrorists, type “b”

# What would you do?

Let's say you were an Israeli politician faced with making a decision on how to respond to the Munich Olympics hostage situation (a terrorist group held Israel's Olympic team hostage and threatened to kill them if Israel did not agree to release 234 Palestinian prisoners).

1. If you would decide to try to attack the terrorist group to save the hostages, why?
2. If you would decide to agree to their deal and release their prisoners in exchange for the Olympians, why?

**If you think we should NOT  
negotiate...**

- 
- What if the person being held hostage was your family member? Would your answer change?
-

# Digging Deeper

1. What are the potential risks of going with the “attack” method?
2. What are the potential risks of going with the “negotiate” method?

# How do you make this decision?

- Should the decision be made based off of which response we think will save the most lives quantitatively? Should we value certain lives over others?
- What dictates how you make this decision?



☆☆😊 **Perfect Segue** 😊☆☆

