

A PRAYER FOR PEACE BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

19, October 2023 – 4 Heshvan 5784

As the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians continues decade after decade, to pray for peace seems a hopeless and naïve folly. And yet, today it is more urgent than ever that a resolution is achieved that acknowledges the needs of both peoples for peace and justice, sovereignty and security. And so, we pray:

El Malei Rachamim, God Full of Compassion, who heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds, we ask You to show all Your children the way of love and compassion, so that hatred ceases to scar their lives.

Ein Ha-Chayyim, Source of Life, we call upon You to send Your abundant blessings into every home, Israeli and Palestinian, so that new hope may overcome old fears.

Adonai Tzadik, Righteous One, who exhorts us to pursue Justice, we fervently pray that a spirit of righteousness may prevail, so that both peoples find the courage to reach a just settlement of their differences.

Oseh Shalom, Maker of Peace, who teaches us to be seekers of peace, we entreat You now to spread Your tabernacle of *shalom*–*salaam* over all the inhabitants of Your land, and to support the peacemakers among both peoples in their efforts to walk the path of reconciliation, so that a just peace may reign supreme at last – *bimheirah b'yameinu*, speedily in our own day.

And let us say: Amen.

Rabbi Elli Tikvah Sarah

Prayer for the Captives

Eloheinu V'Elohei Avoteinu, Our God and God of our ancestors.

*You know that the Jewish people are one nation with one heart,
and today that heart is broken.*

*With the grim news of so many of our sisters and brothers in Israel
killed, wounded, and kidnapped, we turn to You.*

Harofeh Lishvurei Lev,

“O healer of broken hearts, binder of their wounds” (Psalm 147:3)

*be with our brothers and sisters who have been taken captive
and with the families of the victims.*

*Watch over the hostages, break their bonds,
and bring them out from darkness to light.*

*“Proclaim release to the captives; liberation to the imprisoned”
(Isaiah 61:1)*

Comfort the families of all those murdered

bring them under the shelter of Your wings.

*Bring complete healing of body and spirit to all of the wounded,
bind up our wounds and grant us healing.*

(Reuven Kimelman's "Prayer for Israel in Time of War.")