## **Yizkor for Victims of October 7, 2023**

### Rabbi Karen Reiss Medwed\*

#### Introduction

This *Yizkor* for the victims of the Simḥat Torah October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which was also the largest one-day attack on Jews since the *Shoah* (Holocaust), attempts to capture the personal details of the over 1,230 victims, Jews and Gentiles, killed on this day and who subdied of injuries in its aftermath.

This work relied on two key websites: the first, the Israeli government's site remembering victims of terror attacks (<a href="https://laad.btl.gov.il/Web/He/Default.aspx">https://laad.btl.gov.il/Web/He/Default.aspx</a>), and the second, a map of the massacres of the day (<a href="https://oct7map.com/">https://oct7map.com/</a>). Please note that the locations presented in this *Yizkor* are not meant to be exhaustive of all the places where the tragedies of October 7 occurred.

The work alludes to the language and some of the verses incorporated into the final day *Hoshanot*, bringing some echoes of the sacred commemoration into conversation with the holiday on our calendar. Finally, a few key phrases from Israeli culture and music used in the aftermath of the massacre were pulled into the Hebrew as well.

This piece has three different sections, which can be used as one whole or an individual element can be used. Additionally, any of these sections can be incorporated into the *Eilleh Ezk'rah* section of *Musaf* for Yom Kippur if communities wish to keep the focus of *Yizkor* on individuals' loved ones. The first piece, "We Remember," is a detailed list of how we remember the atrocities of October 7th. The second section invokes the liturgy of the *Hoshanot*, and calls out crying to *Adonai* to remember us. The third section is a specific *El Maleh Raḥamim* for the victims of October 7th.

#### To Die

Hannah Szenes

To die, so young to do.... No, no, not I
I love the warm sunny skies,
Lights, songs, shining eyes,
I want no war, no battle cry,
No, no, not I.
But if it must be that I live today
With blood and death on every hand,

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Praised be he for the grace, I'll say To live, if I should die this day... Upon your soil, my home, my land.

#### **We Remember**

	ַת הַתִּינוֹק שֶׁיָנַק בְּחָבּוּק אָמֵוֹ	
נְזְכּר	אֶת הַנֶּעֱקָד עַל מִטָּתוֹ	
נוְכֹר		
נְזְכֵּר	אֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּחוֹת מְחֻבָּקוֹת יַחַד חִבּוּק אַחֲרוֹן שֶׁנִּטְבְּחוּ וְשֶׁנִשְׂרְפוּ בְּבֵיתָם	
, <b>-</b>	אֶת הַיְּדִידִים לַחַיִּים שֶׁיָשְׁבוּ וּבָכוּ יַחַד בְּמִיגוּנִית	
נוְכֹר	את בבורית וזובתמירו מחמיבת את ילדיבת	
נוְכֹר	אֶת הַהוֹרִים שֶׁהִסְתִּירוּ תַּחְתֵּיהֶם אֶת יַלְדֵיהֶם	
	אַהְ שֶׁקָמוּ לְטַיֵּל בָּאָרֶץ וְנִרְצְחוּ בַּדֶּרֶךְ	
נְזְכּר	אֶת הַיְּלָדִים הַצְּעִירִים שֶׁנֶּהֶרְגוּ בְּטֶרֶם עֵת	
נוְכֹר		
נְזְכּר	אֶת הַהוֹרִים שֶׁנָּרְצְחוּ בְּאַכְזָרִיּוּת לְעֵינֵי יַקִירֵיהֶם	
	אֶת הְמִימֵי הַנֶּפֶשׁ שֶׁרָקְדוּ רִקּוּד אַחֲרוֹן	
נְזְכּר	אֶת הַצְּעִירִים רוֹדְפֵי הַשָּׁלוֹם שֶׁנִּתְפְּסוּ, וְנֶאֶנְסוּ וְנֶהֶרְגוּ בְּאַכְזָרִיּוּת	
נוְכֹר		
רזהיר	אֶת רוֹכְבֵי הָאוֹפַנַּיִם בַּיְּצִיאָה הַאַחֲרוֹנָה שֶׁחֻסְּלוּ בַּדֶּרֶךְ	
נְזְכּר	אֶת הַנּוֹפְשִׁים בַּמַאֲהָלִים בַּמִּדְבָּר וּבַיָּם	
נוְכֹר		
נוְכֹר	אֶת הָעוֹבְדִים הַזָּרִים הַצַּדִּיקִים שֶׁעָמְדוּ עַל מִשְׁמַר יַקִּירֵיהֶם הַמְּבֻנָּרִים	
	אֶת עוֹבְדֵי הַחַקְלָאוּת מֵרַחֲבֵי הָעוֹלָם	
נְזְכּר	אֶת מְנַגְנֵי הַמֵּנְגִינוֹת שֶׁהַפִּזְמוֹן שֶׁלָּהֶם תַּם	
נוְכֹר	न अ <b>भ्रेष्ट्र ।</b> अन्यक्तिम् च्याचित्रस्य <b>वर्षम् ।</b>	

אֶת הַמִּיַסִּדִים וְהַמִּבֻנָּרִים הַמִּכֻבָּדִים

נוכר

אָת הַאָּמַנִים שַׁאָמַנוּתַם נְנָטִשָׁה בַּאֶמְצַע

נזכר

אַת עוֹבְרֵי הָאֹרָח שֶׁנְּתִקְלוּ בִּלֹא יוֹדְעִים בָּאֵיבָה הָאֵיַמָּה

נוְכֹר

אָת אַנִשִׁי הַרוּחַ שַׁדַּפָּם הַאָּחֵרוֹן טֵרֵם נְכָתַב

נוכר

אֶת אַנְשֵׁי כּוֹחוֹת הַבִּּטָחוֹן וְאֶת אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּשְׁטָרָה וְאֶת כִּתּוֹת הַכּוֹנְנוּת וְאֶת הַתַּצְפִּיתָנִיּוֹת וְאֶת חַיָּלֵי צַהַ"ל

שֶׁנֶּאֶבְקוּ מְעַטִּים מוּל רַבִּים עָמְדוּ בַּמְשִׂימָה הִצִּילוּ חַיִּים וְעַד נִשִׁמַתִם הַאָחֵרוֹנַה הָצִילוּ נָפַשׁוֹת תִּמִימִים וְעַד נִשִׁמַתִם הַאָחֵרוֹנַה הָצִילוּ נָפַשׁוֹת תִּמִימִים

נוכר

The infant nursing in its mother's arms

We Remember

The one sacrificed on the bed

We Remember

The families wrapped in each others' arms in a final embrace at home, who were killed and set afire

We Remember

The life partners who sat and cried a final tear in the safety shelters

We Remember

The parents killed hiding their children beneath their own bodies

We Remember

Those who were out for day trips and were murdered on the road

We Remember

The children and young innocents who were slaughtered before their time

We Remember

The parents murdered in front of their loved ones

The innecents denoine their final dense	We Remember	
The innocents dancing their final dance	We Remember	
The peace loving youngsters who were viciously captured, raped, and killed	We Remember	
The cyclists on a neverending trip	We Remember	
The vacationers in their tents, in the desert, or on the beach	we Remember	
The foreign workers who remained alongside their elders	We Remember	
	We Remember	
The agricultural workers from around the world	We Remember	
The musicians whose music went silent	We Remember	
The elders and founders		
The artists who works remains forever incomplete	We Remember	
The passers-by who encountered evil	We Remember	
	We Remember	
The philosophers whose last page will never be written	We Remember	

The security forces; and the Police; and the town security teams, and the military observers; and the IDF

Who fought a few against many

Who stood and delivered

Who saved lives

And who fought till the bitter end ensuring more innocents survived

We Remember

#### Hosha Na - Please Remember

ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ -אַתָּה בָחַרְתָּ אַתָּה הוֹשַׁעְתָּ אַתָּה הִבְטַחִתָּ

Adonai our God

You chose us You have saved us You have promised us

> ְוָאָנוּ כּוֹאֲבִים וְזוֹעֲקִים לְמַעַן שְׁכִינָתְך לְמַעַן עַמְךּ לְמַעַן בִּרִיתִךּ

We are here hurting and cry out For *Shekhinah* For Your people For Your covenant

> מְכוֹן לְשִׁבְתְּדְ נָוֶה שַׁאֲנָן סֻכַּת שָׁלוֹם **הוֹשִׁיעַ נָא** זְכֹר נָא אֶת יְשׁוּבֵי הָעוֹטֵף, אֶת דַּיָּרֵי הַדָּרוֹם וְאֶת מְיַשְׁבֵי הַצָּפּוֹן

The dwelling prepared for you, the tranquil habitat, the sukkah of peace, **Help us now**Please remember the many settled in the envelope settlement, dwelling in the southern cities, living in the northern lands

נְתוּנִים לְדִכּוּי וְשׁוֹאֲגִים בִּכְאֵב **הוֹשִׁיעַ נָא** זְכֹר נָא אֶת שַׁאֲגַת רוֹקְדֵי הַנּוֹבָה אוֹהֲבֵי הַשָּׁלוֹם הַיַּקִירִים

Still enduring oppressors and roaring in pain, **Help us now**Please remember the outcry of the dancing Nova peace loving innocents

זוֹעֲקִים, לָתוּר בָּאָרֶץ בָּאנוּ, **הוֹשִׁיעַ נָא** זְכֹר נָא אֶת הַתְּמִימִים וְהַחַפִּים מִפֶּשַׁע שֶׁיָשְׁבוּ בְּבָתֵיהֶם. שָׁהוּ בִּמְכוֹנִיתָם, טִיְלוּ בְּרַחֲבֵי אַרְצָם

Crying out in anguish, as they said, we were out to explore our country, **Help us now**Please remember the nascent innocents who sat in their homes, were road tripping in their cars, were hiking the lands

אָדָם וּבְהֵמָה **הוֹשִׁיעַ נָא** זְכֹר נָא אֶת הַשְּׂרֵפּוֹת וְהַפָּגּוּעִים לְתַשְׁתִּית אַרְצֵנוּ וְחַקְלָאוּת הַמּוֹלֶדֶת

For both our humanity and animal kingdom, Help us now

Please remember the fires and the devastation to the foundation of our land and the agricultural infrastructure

בִּי אֵין לַנוּ אָרֵץ אַחֶרָת!

For we have no other land!

And we will remember them all: וְנָזְכֹּר אֱת כֻּלְם:

Kfar Aza כַּפּר עזה

Nir Am

Be'eri בַּאֶרָי

Nir Oz נִיר עוֹז

Nova Dance Festival

Ofakim

אַדְרוֹת Sderot

Ashkelon אַשִׁקּלוֹן

Netiv ha-Asarah נְתִיב הַצְשָׂרָה

Miflasim

And all of the settlements and military posts that were attacked

וְאֶת כָּל הַיִּשׁוּבִים וְהַמֻּצָבִים שֶׁנִּפִּגִּעוּ

[In the event that the hostages have not be returned and/or the bodies of those held in captivity known to be dead were not returned, we add:

אָנוּ מִתְפַּלְלִים לְהַחְזָרָתָם שֶׁל כָּל אַחֵינוּ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנְּתוּנִים בַּשִּׁבְיָה, וְאֵלּוּ שֶׁנִּרְצְחוּ, אָנוּ מְחַכִּים לְהַחְזָרַת גּוּפּוֹתֵיהֶם לִקְבוּרָה

As for our siblings, the whole house of Israel, who were murdered and who are being held in captivity and awaiting the return of their bodies for burial, we pray for their return]

#### El Maleh Raḥamim

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְּרוֹמִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה, בְּמַצְלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּטְהוֹרִים, כְּזֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ מַזְהִירִים, אֶת נִשְׁמוֹת כָּל אֵלוּ שֶׁנִּסְפּוּ, אֶזְרְחֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶזְרְחֵי מְדִינוֹת הָעוֹלָם, עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵּבֵל,

אֲשֶׁר נֶהֶרְגוּ, וְנִרְצְחוּ, וְנִשְּׂרְפּוּ, וְנֶחְנְקוּ, הֻפְּצְצוּ, עָבְרוּ עִנּוּיִים וְנֶאֶנְסוּ, הַכָּאוֹת וְהִתְעַלְּלוּת, וְנִטְבְּחוּ בְּאֹפֶן אַכִזָרִי בִּשִׂמְחַת תּוֹרָה הַגּוֹרָלִית.

וְאֶת נִשְׁמוֹת כָּל אַנְשֵׁי הַהֲגַנָּה, מִשְׁטָרָה, וְכוֹחוֹת הַבִּטָּחוֹן, כִּתּוֹת הַכּוֹנְנוּת, תַּצְפִּיתִנִּיּוֹת, וְצַהַ"ל, שֶׁמָּסְרוּ נַפְשָׁם כְּגִבּוֹרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּגַן עֵדֶן תְּהִי מְנוּחָתָם. אָנָּא בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים הַסְתִּירֵם בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפֶּיךְ לְעוֹלָמִים וּצְרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֵם.

ָהָי הוּא נַחֵלָתָם וְיָנוּחוּ בְשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשִּׁכְּבוֹתֵיהֵם. וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

Exalted, compassionate God, grant perfect peace in Your sheltering presence, among the holy and the pure whose radiance is like the heavens to the souls of all of those who perished, citizens of Israel and citizens of countries around the world, *Am Yisrael*, and all who dwell on earth, who were killed, who were murdered, who were strangled, and bombed, who were tortured and who were raped, beaten and tormented, and were cruelly slaughtered on that fateful Simḥat Torah. And the souls of the defense personnel, the Israeli police, the defense forces, the emergency squads, the observers, and the IDF, who gave their lives as Heroes of Israel.

May their memories be a blessing and may they rest in paradise.

Master of mercy, may they find eternal shelter beneath Your sheltering wings, and may their souls be bound up in the bond of life. Adonai is their portion. May they rest in peace. And let us say: *Amen*.

# Isaiah 66:13

כְּאִّישׁ אֲשֶׁר אִמְוֹ תְּנַחֲמֶנּוּ כֵּן אָנֹכִי אֲנַחֶמְכֶּם וּבִירִוּשָׁלֵם תִּנָחַמוּ:

Like one whom a mother comforts.

So I will comfort you:

You shall find comfort in Jerusalem.

Kaddish

יתגדל

Kfar Aza

וִיִתְקַדַ*ּשׁ* 

Be'eri

שָׁמֵה רַבַּא

Nova Dance Festival

בְּעַלְמַא דִּי־בָרָא כָרְעוּתֵה

Zikim

וימליך מלכותה

Nir Am

בִחַיֵּיכוֹן Nahal Oz וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן Nir Oz וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל Ofakim בֵּית יִשַּׂרָאֵל Sderot בַּעֵגָלָא וּבִזְמַן קָרִיב Kerem Shalom וָאָמָרוּ אָמֶן יָהָא שָׁמָה רָבָּא מִבָּרָךְ לְעַלָם וּלְעַלְמֵי עַלְמַיָּא Nirim יְתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַבַּח Nir Yitzhak וִיִתְכָּאַר וִיִתְרוֹמַם Mivtahim וִיתנַשֵּא וִיתהַדָּר Kissufim וִיתִעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל Re'im שְׁמֵה דְקַדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא Miflasim לְעֶלָּא (לְעֶלָּא) Sha'ar ha-Negev מָכָל בִּרְכָתָא וִשִׁירָתָא Alumim תַּשְׁבִּחָתָא וְנֵחָמָתָא Holit

דַּאֲמִירָן בְּעָלְמָא וְאִמְרוּ **אָמֵן** 

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן־שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלָינוּ וְעַל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאִמְרוּ **אָמֵן:** עוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמִיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלָינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל [וְעַל כָּל־יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל] וְאִמְרוּ **אָמֵן:**