

Tale til mindehøjtidelighed 7. Oktober.

Af Jair Melchior

A few days after October 7th I met a journalist by coincidence. He asked me how I was feeling. I answered him that I have this feeling that I need to shout. Loud. He saw the opportunity for a good story and asked, "what is it you want to shout?". I realized I had no idea. I believe this is a feeling almost all of us felt since October 7. No words to describe the pain, sadness, anger and helplessness.

When I read Ninas testimony yesterday the sadness consumed me immediately. But then a ray of light and optimism appeared. Nina did not just describe the massacre; she described the beautiful life they had in Nir Oz.

The story of October 7th can be told in many different ways. We can focus on the wickedness and the horrific actions committed by Hamas that day. We can tell the story of the inadequacy of the Israeli authorities to safeguard and take care of its citizens.

But at the same time, we can tell the story of the hundreds of heroes who acted and safeguarded the sanctity of life that very day.

We can tell the story of a civil society that managed to step in and be there for one another wherever it was needed.

We just celebrated Rosh Hashanah last week. The official religious name of Rosh Hashanah is Yom HaZikaron, day of remembrance. And we jews have a very long memory.

The story of our lives is not a list of things that happened to us. It is the memory and story we create and choose to tell. We cannot control the course of history, but we can control the way we tell our story.

The story of October 7 has not been completed, and it will take us many years to really understand what happened and what it means. Right now, in these dark days I remember my grandfather Bent Melchior's words: If you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel it is because the tunnel has a bend.

And now I know what I want to shout: G-d, I cannot understand, and I cannot accept, but I am not giving up on hope.

Tonight, we commemorate the victims of October 7. But it is not a memorial. October 7 never ended. 101 hostages, many of them alive, are still living the horrors of October 7 so I ask all of you to rise for a prayer for the quick release of all the hostages.