



## Statement on Terror Attack in Israel

We are reeling from news of the murder of Yosef, Chaya and Elad Salomon in the community of Halamish.

On Friday night, Yosef and Tova Salomon sat down to Shabbat dinner with two of their children and five of their grandchildren. The family had gathered to celebrate the birth of a new grandson.

Soon after, Omar al-Abed, a 19-year-old Palestinian from a nearby village, entered the home armed with a knife and attacked the family members. He stabbed to death Yosef (70), his daughter Chaya (46) and his son Elad (36), and seriously wounded Yosef's wife, Tova. Elad's wife, Michal, shut herself in a room with her children – aged 11, 5, 9 and one year old twins – saving them. A neighbor who is an off-duty soldier heard the screams and rushed to the home, shooting and wounding the attacker.



Photographs of the Salomon home released by the army show the shocking savagery of the attack. Tova Salomon underwent surgery on Saturday morning and awoke to learn that her husband and two of their children were dead.

Al-Abed's mother released a video in which she says that she is "proud of her son," and he has been praised as a hero by Hamas. Sadly, this is an all too common response born from the rampant anti-Israel incitement that poisons generation after generation of Palestinian children. The Salomon family, like the Fogel family and Hallel Yaffe Ariel, and Dafna Meir, and so many other innocent Israeli men and women, have paid for this hatred with their lives. There can be no justification for these murders.

Our hearts break knowing another Israeli family is destroyed and another community is ripped apart. As always, the people of Israel are in our hearts, our hopes, and our prayers. Our Federation continues to support the Jewish Federation for Israel, whose programs include the Fund for Victims of Terror; while it is no solace, we hope it can be of assistance to the Salomon family and to the too many other victims of terror.

We are devastated by the loss of innocent lives and pray for peace to prevail. We ask God to make true the words in Psalms, "May the Almighty grant strength to God's people; May the Almighty bless God's people with peace."

Ricky Arbron  
President

Diane Sloyer  
Interim Executive Director

Lauren Steinberg  
Director of JCRC

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