

*Project
Twenty
Four*



Thanks4Giving



Honoring the Civilian,
Emergency Teams
and Their Families

Kibbutz
SHLOMIT

Kibbutz SHLOMIT

On Simchat Torah, like many others in Israel, we woke up at 6:30 AM to the sound of rocket alerts. Two rockets landed within our community, damaging two homes but thankfully causing no casualties.

Soon after, distressed calls began pouring in from civilian emergency teams in nearby communities, reporting that a large number of terrorists had infiltrated their kibbutzim and urgently requesting help. When we received the call from Pri Gan, we realized they needed our assistance and decided to head there immediately.

Three of us initially left to assist, while the others remained behind to protect our settlement. Upon reaching Pri Gan, we engaged in combat for about half an hour, during which two of our team members were injured. Additional reinforcements from Shlomit arrived in three more vehicles, joining the battle in Pri Gan. Despite nearly four hours of intense fighting, we tragically lost three members of our team, with four others wounded, two critically.

Despite our losses, we successfully protected the residents of Pri Gan, with no civilian casualties. By noon, we returned to Shlomit to prepare for defense in case our own settlement came under attack.

[Read the full story of the kibbutz battle](#)

Kibbutz Shlomit: Community Breakdown

A snapshot of the **47** members:

7 families

14 adults

36 children

5 babies



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Kibbutz **SHLOMIT**



Benny Meshulam

Head of the Emergency Response Team

Arriving with: Wife & 7 children: 15, 13, 11, 9, 7, 5 2

On Oct 7th we woke at 6:30 AM by the sound of red alerts. My family and I quickly hid in our safe room, hoping the danger would pass. However, it became clear that this was not a normal situation. Sensing something was wrong, I decided to go out to get a better sense of what was happening around Shlomit.

When a very worried call came from Pri Gan, it was clear that they needed immediate assistance. I knew this was a big risk, but really there was not much room to think or say no. Me and two more set out to help, leaving the rest behind to protect our community.

When we reached Pri Gan, we saw many terrorists that were waiting for us. After about half an hour of intense fighting, two of the three men with me were injured. Reinforcements from Shlomit arrived in three waves, joining the battle to defend Pri Gan.

The fight lasted nearly four hours and took a heavy toll.



Kibbutz **SHLOMIT**

Michael Gotesman:

Arriving with: Wife & 6 children: 15, 13, 11, 8, 5, 2

I jumped with my comrades from the civilian emergency team in Shlomit to defend the nearby Moshav Pri Gan, which had been breached by terrorists. During a close-range battle with two terrorists, I was severely injured by a bullet that entered my right chest, hit parts of my abdomen, exited my left chest, and caused serious injury to my left hand. During the battle, I was exhausted, but despite the long time that had passed, I managed, thank God, to remain conscious. My heroic comrades managed, with bravery, determination, and their last reserves of strength, to push the terrorists back and thus protect the residents of Moshav Pri Gan from being slaughtered. We were evacuated by helicopter to Tel Hashomer Hospital, where I underwent a series of surgeries in the surgery and orthopedics departments. After two and a half months in the hospital, I was discharged for daily rehabilitation. I am still in rehabilitation trying to restore my hand to optimal function.





Asher Kops:

Arriving with: 2 children: 19, 17

I was mobilized for guard duty in my settlement, Shlomit. We quickly understood that there was a real need to reinforce the civilian emergency team of Moshav Pri Gan due to the infiltration of 10 terrorists on 5 motorcycles. I left with the ambulance of the civilian emergency team. We joined the fighting with members of the Shlomit civilian emergency team who had already arrived in Pri Gan. We treated the wounded, searched, and cleared the houses where the terrorists were. Throughout the morning, we continued to treat the wounded until they were evacuated. During the battle, we had 2 fatalities in the civilian emergency team (another civilian emergency team member was killed on his way from his parents' home in Moshav Shuva) and 4 wounded.



Naor Lidani:

Arriving with: Wife & 6 children: 15, 13, 10, 8, 5, 2

On the morning of Simchat Torah, October 7, 2024, I woke up like everyone else at 6:30 to the sound of sirens and falling rockets throughout the area. After a few minutes, my son, the head of the civilian emergency team, informed us to prepare. Suddenly, there was a power outage. I realized there was no point in staying at home and went outside. I walked around the settlement trying to find other members of the civilian emergency team, but I didn't find anyone.

Eventually, I arrived at the northern checkpoint and met Amital Dadmoni, who told me that the entire civilian emergency team had already been deployed to Pri Gan, leaving only him and me in the settlement.



About an hour later, a suspicious military van arrived at the checkpoint. The vehicle stopped about 100 meters from the gate, and someone in uniform got out and looked around. I shouted for him to stop and aimed my weapon. At that moment, he got back into the vehicle and fled quickly. To this day, it is unclear whether it was a terrorists' vehicle.

Meanwhile, I began to understand that we had friends in the settlement who were killed and wounded in Pri Gan. Unfortunately, I wasn't in the battle in Pri Gan, but I was privileged to guard our settlement and make sure everyone inside was safe.



Oz Sasson:

Arriving with: Wife & 6 children: 14, 12, 9, 7, 3 & 3 months

On Simchat Torah, October 7, we, like all the residents of the Gaza envelope, woke up to alarms and very loud explosions; there were also rocket strikes in Shlomit. After about half an hour in the safe room, the noise calmed down, and I put on the civilian emergency team equipment. I joined the head of the civilian emergency team, and we went to check on the family that was hit by the rocket. At the same time, we received a call that there were terrorists in Pri Gan and no civilian emergency team members were there to fight them. We decided to go save the neighboring settlement.

We arrived there a minute after the terrorists blew up the entrance to a house and almost entered to slaughter a whole family.





We started fighting them, returning fire, and hitting them. After a while, my comrade was injured, and while I was helping him, I also got shot and injured in my leg. We called additional friends to come to our aid and rescue us. After a long and difficult battle, two of our friends were killed and another two were seriously injured. The terrorists fled, and no Pri Gan residents were harmed. Today I am still recovering from the injury and starting to return to life and functionality.

Amital Dadmoni:

Arriving with: Wife & 5 children: 13, 11, 10, 6, 4

On October 7th, the siren caught me during the early evening prayer on Simchat Torah. Just minutes after I entered the safe room, a missile hit a friend's house further down our street. I began to understand that this was more than just a missile attack, so I gathered my equipment and went to the entrance of the community as a member of the civilian emergency team. My wife and our five children stayed in the safe room.

My task was to defend the entrance of the community against any attempted breach. I found myself with only one other civilian emergency team member, both of us armed with rifles, each guarding a gate. I was stationed at the front gate, and Naor was at the rear. Another community member joined me with a pistol, and we began calling for other men armed with pistols to come outside and join the guard.

Around 9 PM, Lieutenant Colonel Uriel Bibi, a resident of the community who had been called up for reserve duty, left through the gate. A few minutes after he left, he called me, suspecting he was traveling in an unsafe area. I tried to get updates and directions from the command center while on the phone with him. During that call, which lasted several minutes, Uriel reported that he had been injured in the neck. He got out of the vehicle, and the call was disconnected.

I focused on my mission to protect the community. Even after the community was evacuated on Monday, I stayed with the security officer to continue guarding and protecting the area.



Kibbutz **SHLOMIT**



Moshe Abaksis:

Arriving with: Wife & 4 children: 12, 8, 5 & 4 months baby

On Simchat Torah, the Shlomit civilian emergency team and I went to defend Moshav Pri Gan, leaving our families nearly unprotected. The battle lasted about two hours, with us fighting from inferior positions against heavily armed terrorists controlling us from two houses in the village. Despite losing three team members and having four others wounded, we managed to drive the terrorists away. While we succeeded in protecting P'ri Gan's residents, we paid a heavy price, losing three of our best comrades. Though I was physically unharmed, our souls ache for our fallen brothers.

