

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Death of Hersh Goldberg-Polin

August 31, 2024

Earlier today, in a tunnel under the city of Rafah, Israeli forces recovered six bodies of hostages held by Hamas. We have now confirmed that one of the hostages killed by these vicious Hamas terrorists was an American citizen, Hersh Goldberg-Polin.

I am devastated and outraged. Hersh was among the innocents brutally attacked while attending a music festival for peace in Israel on October 7. He lost his arm helping friends and strangers during Hamas' savage massacre. He had just turned 23. He planned to travel the world. I have gotten to know his parents Jon and Rachel. They have been courageous, wise, and steadfast, even as they have endured the unimaginable. They have been relentless and irrepressible champions of their son and of all the hostages held in unconscionable conditions. I admire them and grieve with them more deeply than words can express. I know all Americans tonight will have them in their prayers, just as Jill and I will. I have worked tirelessly to bring their beloved Hersh safely to them and am heartbroken by the news of his death. It is as tragic as it is reprehensible.

Make no mistake, Hamas leaders will pay for these crimes. And we will keep working around the clock for a deal to secure the release of the remaining hostages.

NOTE: The statement referred to Jon Polin and Rachel Goldberg, parents of Mr. Goldberg-Polin; and Ori Danino, Eden Yerushalmi, Almog Sarusi, Alexander Lobanov, and Carmel Gat, who were taken hostage during the Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7, 2023.

Categories: Statements by the President : Hersh Goldberg-Polin, death.

Names: Biden, Jill T.; Danino, Ori; Gat, Carmel; Goldberg, Rachel; Goldberg-Polin, Hersh; Lobanov, Alexander; Polin, Jon; Sarusi, Almog; Yerushalmi, Eden.

Subjects: Deaths, Hersh Goldberg-Polin; Gaza, hostages held by Hamas; Hamas political-paramilitary organization; Israel, attacks by Hamas of October 7, 2023.

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