

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on the Death of Omer Neutra

December 2, 2024

Our hearts are heavy today. Jill and I are devastated and outraged to learn of the death of Omer Neutra, an American citizen, whose body Hamas has apparently been holding since they killed him during their brutal terrorist attack October 7.

Omer was just 21 years old when he was taken by Hamas. He was serving as a tank commander in an Israel Defense Forces unit that was among the first to respond to Hamas's campaign of cruelty, risking his life to save the lives of others. A Long Island native, Omer planned to return to the United States for college. He dreamed of dedicating himself to building peace.

Less than a month ago, Omer's mother and father joined me at the White House to share the pain they've endured as they prayed for the safe return of their son, pain no parent should ever know. They told me how Omer's grandparents were Holocaust survivors and how their family's strength and resilience has been carried through the generations.

During this dark hour—as our Nation joins Omer's parents, brother, and family in grieving this tragic loss—we pray to find strength and resilience. And to all the families of those still held hostage: We see you. We are with you. And I will not stop working to bring your loved ones back home where they belong.

NOTE: The statement referred to Ronen and Orna Neutra, parents, and Danny Neutra, brother, of Omer Neutra, an Israeli soldier from Plainview, NY, who was captured during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks on Israel.

Categories: Statements by the President : Omer Neutra, death.

Names: Biden, Jill T.; Neutra, Danny; Neutra, Omer; Neutra, Orna; Neutra, Ronen.

Subjects: Deaths, Omer Neutra; Gaza, hostages held by Hamas; Hamas political-paramilitary organization; Hostages and U.S. nationals detained overseas, repatriation efforts; Israel, attacks by Hamas of October 7, 2023.

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