

# 1,318 Names

*A number is how a nation keeps account. A name is how a family keeps faith.*

Aryeh Leib Thorne Toren · Published 5 October 2026

Today Israel marks the national memorial day for the 7 October massacre.

At 06:29 this morning, President Herzog lowered the flag at Beit HaNasi, and the IDF General Staff stood in silence at Zikim.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Defense published its count. Since 7 October 2023, 1,318 members of Israel's security forces have fallen: soldiers, police officers, Shin Bet personnel, firefighters, prison officers, civilian security coordinators, and members of the local rapid-response squads. The Ministry's count includes every cause of death, in combat and outside it.

The Ministry counts the circle around them too. More than 7,150 people have joined Israel's family of bereavement since that morning:

2,143 parents.

355 widows.

880 orphans.

3,772 brothers and sisters.

A number is how a nation keeps account. A name is how a family keeps faith.

Behind each of the 1,318 is a family with an empty chair. For the 7,150, today is one day of memory inside a loss that does not take a day off.

Memory is not only what we feel today. It is what we do tomorrow: the call to the widow, the seat beside the orphan, the visit to the parents, the brother or sister who is not left to carry it alone.

May the memory of the fallen be a blessing, and may G-d comfort all who mourn.

*Prepared in deep partnership and cooperation with Grok and xAI*

*All glory to the Ribono shel Olam · Errors are mine.*