



# Discussion Guide



# Wartime Diaries: Tzvika Mor

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Tzvika Mor (47) lives in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba near Hebron. His son, Eitan, was kidnapped from the Nova Festival on October 7, 2023. Tzvika is an outlier among the families of the hostages. As campaigns across Israel and throughout the world call on the leaders of Israel and Hamas to reach a deal that would release the hostages, Tzvika believes that the Israeli government should keep fighting and not agree to a ceasefire—even if it comes at the cost of his son's freedom, perhaps even his life.

Tzvika established a group of like minded relatives of the hostages: Hope Forum (*Forum Tikvah*). They stress the importance of the nation over the life of any individual, even if that individual is a beloved family member.



[Clip #1](#)



## Questions:

**Tzvika Mor feels that Israel should not pay the price of releasing Palestinian terrorists from Israeli jails in order to secure the release of his son, Eitan, and the other hostages.**

*Q: What would your conclusion be after weighing the potential costs and benefits of a deal?*

*Q: How do you think your position might be impacted if your own relative was in captivity?*

**Tzvika offers a narrative in which the survival of the state is dependent on the willingness of individuals to sacrifice themselves for the sake of the country. Other hostage family members argue that the social contract between individuals and the state is broken if the state doesn't pursue every conceivable measure to release its citizens from captivity.**

*Q: Do you think the Israeli government is currently breaking the social contract between the state and its citizens?*

**Eitan Mor's declaration that he didn't want to be released in exchange for Palestinian security prisoners occurred more than a decade after an episode that is extremely relevant to the current debate: IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was captured in 2006, held captive by Hamas in Gaza for five years, and then released in 2011 in exchange for 1,027 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails—including Yahya Sinwar, the mastermind of the October 7th attack. That deal prompted several IDF recruits to write memoranda expressing their desire not to have Palestinian security prisoners released as part of any deal to secure their own release.**

*Q: Does the knowledge that some of the hostages in Gaza, like Eitan, might not consent to an agreement in which their freedom is traded for the freedom of Palestinian terrorists impact your thinking about whether a deal should be reached with Hamas?*



## **Clip #2**



### **Questions:**

**Tzvika's characterization of Israel's policy in the 1970's conflicts with instances during that period in which Israel did negotiate with terrorists, such as the 1974 episode in which terrorists took over an elementary school in Ma'alot. [Click here](#) for more information about the hostage taking in Ma'alot.**

*Q: What factors do you believe are most important to consider when determining whether a democratic state should negotiate with a terrorist group holding its citizens hostage?*

*Q: Would your view be impacted if the democratic state was in the midst of a war with that terrorist group, and an agreement to release hostages could strengthen the hand of the terrorists?*



## Clip #3



### Questions:

**In the Biblical story of the Binding of Isaac (*Akedat Yitzchak*) God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his only son. Abraham made all the preparations for the sacrifice—then God spared Isaac at the last moment. For centuries, readers have been both horrified and inspired by that story. Over time it became a supreme example, in Jewish thought, of self-sacrifice in obedience to God’s will.**

*Q: Do you find the analogy between Abraham's situation in the Akeidah and Tzvika's situation to be compelling? If you do, is your view of Tzvika's position affected?*