

To Respected Children's Organizations Around the World,

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

In 2023, a significant milestone was achieved as most United Nations member states ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, affirming a global commitment to safeguard children's rights. This convention symbolizes the promise of protection from harm, the assurance of personal identity, and the guarantee of basic needs like education and healthcare.

Yet, against this backdrop of global commitment, a harrowing reality unfolded on October 7th when thirty-nine Israeli infants and children were forcibly taken from their homes. In some cases, these abductions occurred in conjunction with the murder of at least one of their parents by Hamas terrorists.

Although most underage hostages were returned during the first ceasefire agreement, their fathers, siblings, grandparents, aunts, and uncles remain in Gaza. This continued separation blatantly defies the Convention, specifically Article 9, which clearly states that "children should not be separated from their parents against their will."

We at Unitaf are committed to ensuring a nurturing and safe environment for all children - regardless of background and civil status. We recognize that a child's well-being is intrinsically linked to their family - the core of their universe.

Therefore, we urgently call upon all global organizations dedicated to human rights and child welfare to join us in advocating for the immediate release of all kidnapped civilians. It is our collective responsibility to restore these children's rights to safety, freedom, and the warm embrace of their families. We urge you to leverage your influence, networks, and resources in this critical mission.

“Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.”

- Preamble, Convention on the Rights of the Child

Thank you for your immediate attention to this grave matter.

Sincerely,
Yael Geula, CEO
Unitaf