



Count Your Blessings

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

“In a society that has you counting money, pounds, calories and steps, be a rebel and count your blessings instead.” This was shared on one of those Facebook groups that randomly pop up in my feed called Positive Energy.

Man, this is really hard to do right now. #354 is the number today, 9/24/24. And now it is not just Hamas, although was it really ever just them? Now Israel is fighting in the north. Hezbollah has joined the ranks of terrorist organizations that are actively working to eradicate Israel and everyone who lives there. Again, the terrorists are sending bombs and fall where they may. Civilians, major cities, small towns - the missiles are hitting randomly, heavily and all the time.

But that isn't how Israel operates. The IDF and the coordinated security agencies in Israel, are specific in their targets. They use military intelligence, among other sources, I am sure, to confirm that any destruction is aimed at: weapons storehouses and the specific terrorists that over the years have killed many. What continually frustrates the Israelis and all people with a conscience is when the terrorists use civilian's homes, hospitals, schools as storage facilities for bombs, missiles and the terrorists themselves.

From reading my WOWs, you know that social media is a part of my life. And while it isn't my main source for anything, it definitely affects me. Many friends have posted stories about the many terrorist leaders that the IDF has eliminated over the past year. Mostly these posts are contained in “stories.” This means that after 24 hours, they go away. I want something more lasting where I can count my blessings.

I will start by saying that any death is tragic. Well, any death of someone who tries to live a good life. I don't feel as conflicted when it comes to mass murderers. And that is what terrorists are.



Most recently, Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 (350 days since the terrorists have been holding the hostages), the IDF eliminated Ibrahim Aqil. Do you know who he is? He *“was wanted by the United States for both the bombing of the U.S. embassy, which killed 63 people, and the Marine barracks bombing in Beirut in 1983, when 241 U.S. military personnel were killed by the Iranian-backed terror group Hezbollah.”* (Foxnews.com)

There are so many other examples of these targeted strikes, where only the bad guys are eliminated. Terrorists that killed so many individuals. Terrorists that have had a bounty on their heads for over 40 years.

On Sept. 10, the head of the Hamas air force who was operating from the humanitarian area in Khan Yunis, Samer Esmail Hader Abu-Daqa, was eliminated. He was directly involved in the planning and execution of the horrific terrorist attack on Oct. 7, Simchat Torah, 2023.

On July 30, 2024, Fuad Rents, Hezbollah Chief of Staff, commander of Hezbollah’s missile precision project and advisor to Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in response to the rocket that Hezbollah sent that killed 12 children in Majdal Shams on July 27.

The list continues. It is long, but mainly because each terrorist that has been eliminated has an extensive rap sheet, as they say in the police department. At least they said that on “NYPD Blue” and currently on “Blue Bloods.”

It is important to note that Israel sees these terrorists as people. There is a huge difference when Israel lists out each and every terrorist that was killed but Hamas and Hezbollah deal in numbers. In the Washington Examiner, when reporting about the head of the Hamas air force, “Palestinian officials said the attack killed at least 19 people with 60 civilians wounded in Muwasi, a crowded tent camp used as a humanitarian zone for those fleeing from the war. An IDF spokesperson disputed the statistics.”



So as the world questions Israel's methods, one should really be asking, "Why was the head of the Hamas Air Force hiding in a humanitarian area?" Why aren't the extensive miles of tunnels under Gaza being used to safeguard their residents?

Could it be that life isn't precious on the other side?

We count our blessings as we gaze on our children, are thankful for our families, enjoy our success in our professional lives and see a beautiful sunrise (and begin to see an end in sight to triple-digit temperatures.)

I am proud to be on the side that counts blessings. May we see the safe return of the hostages and the success of the IDF soon.

#Shabbat Shalom