

23 January 2025

To: MEP **Andrey Kovatchev** and MEP **Lukas Mandl**, Organisers of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Conference

Copies: **Manfred Weber**, President of the EPP Group, and **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament.

Subject: Concerns regarding the invitation extended to minister Amichai Chikli to participate in a panel you are hosting at the European Parliament

Dear Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

On behalf of families of Israeli hostages and leaders of European Jewish communities, we write to express our profound concern regarding the invitation extended to Minister Amichai Chikli to speak at your event addressing antisemitism, to be held on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 28 January 2025.

Minister Chikli's record, especially his recent actions within the government, renders him an inappropriate representative for such an important occasion, dedicated to remembering the atrocities of the Holocaust and advancing the values of human dignity and justice.

Opposition to the Hostage Rescue Agreement

Minister Chikli voted against the hostage rescue agreement, which sought to save individuals held in captivity under appalling conditions for over 470 days. This agreement, widely supported by the European Union, the international community, and even the very government in which Minister Chikli serves, represented a critical effort to bring the hostages home and provide humanitarian relief to Gaza's population¹. His opposition to this agreement is in stark contrast to the values of empathy and solidarity that should guide us, particularly on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Support for Far-Right European Politicians

Minister Chikli has repeatedly expressed support for far-right politicians such as Marine Le Pen (France), Santiago Abascal (Spain), Jimmie Åkesson (Sweden), and Calin Georgescu (Romania), whose rhetoric and policies often undermine the fight against antisemitism and hatred². Such alliances call into question his credibility as Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs,

¹ "2 Likud ministers join far-right cabinet members in opposing hostage deal", Times of Israel, 18 January 2025.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/2-likud-ministers-join-far-right-cabinet-members-in-opposing-hostage-deal/

² "Israel's Diaspora Minister's Travel Itinerary Revealed: Mostly Meetings With Far-right Leaders", Haaretz, 3 September 2024.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-09-03/ty-article/.premium/israels-diaspora-ministers-travel-itinerary-revealed-mostly-visits-to-far-right-leaders/00000191-b2dd-db99-a1d1-bffe4700000>.

"Romania 'shocked' by Israeli minister's call with candidate who praised WWII antisemites", Times of Israel, 2 December 2024.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/romania-shocked-by-israeli-ministers-call-with-candidate-who-praised-wwii->

and his presence at the conference risks legitimising figures and ideologies that conflict with the core objectives of the European Parliament.

Support for the Idea of Ethnic Cleansing

Minister Chikli has openly supported the expulsion of populations from both Gaza and South Lebanon, as documented in his public statements³. Such a position, which is deeply troubling, is incompatible with the human rights and dignity that should underpin Holocaust remembrance and education.

Minister Chikli's extremist and divisive positions do not reflect the values or voices of the broader Israeli public or global Jewish communities. On the contrary, his participation in this event risks overshadowing the vital message of the conference and undermining the credibility of the European Parliament's efforts to combat antisemitism and hatred.

We call on you, as organisers of this important event, to reconsider Minister Chikli's participation. His presence does not serve the memory of the Holocaust or the shared principles of justice and tolerance that guide both your efforts and ours.

We remain committed to supporting the European Parliament's fight against antisemitism and are eager to collaborate to ensure this event serves as a platform for unity and remembrance.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

On behalf of Families of Israeli Hostages and Leaders of European Jewish Communities

Family members of Oct 7 Hostages and victims (in alphabetical order):

1. Ayala Metzger, daughter-in-law of **Tami and Yoram Metzger** who were kidnapped from Nir Oz. Tami was released in the humanitarian deal. **Yoram** survived over 100 days and was then murdered in captivity.
2. Ayelet Hameck – Relative of **Guy Illouz**, who was kidnapped from the Nova Music Festival, injured during the abduction, and later died in captivity due to lack of medical care.
3. Barak Ben-Ezra – Nephew of **Avraham Munder**, who survived over 100 days in captivity but was murdered by Hamas. Also cousin of **Roi Munder**, murdered in captivity,

[antisemites/](#)

³ "Israeli ministers call for relocation of northern Gaza civilians to combat Hamas", Jerusalem Post, 18 September 2024. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-820670>.

"Israeli minister calls to push Lebanon's 'Shia enemy population' away from border", Middle East Eye, 23 September 2024. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israeli-minister-shia-enemy-population-away-borders>

and nephew of Ruti Mondor and **Karen Munder** , freed with Karen's son, **Ohad Munder**, in a life-saving deal.

4. Prof. Boaz Atzili – Cousin of **Aviv Atzili**, a member of Kibbutz Nir Oz's emergency team who fell defending the kibbutz, whose body was taken. Aviv's partner, **Liat Atzili**, was kidnapped and later freed.
5. Carmel Avend, relative of **Raz Ben Ami** who was kidnapped and brought back in the humanitarian deal and of **Ohad Ben Ami** who is still in Gaza.
6. Carmit Plati-Katzir – Sister of **Elad Katzir**, who survived over 100 days in captivity but was murdered, and daughter of **Rami Katzir**, murdered in the kibbutz, and **Hana Katzir**, who was freed but died shortly after her release due to the effects of captivity.
7. Dvora Idan – Mother of **Tsachi Idan**, kidnapped from Nahal oz who is still in captivity.
8. Efrat Machikwa – Niece of **Margalit Moses (78)**, who was freed in the life saving deal, and **Gadi Moses (80)** who is still in captivity.
9. Gal Goren – Son of **Avner Goren**, murdered in Kibbutz Nir Oz, and **Maya Goren**, kidnapped and later murdered in captivity.
10. Gefen Sigal Ilan – Daughter of **Clara Merman**, kidnapped with family members from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak.
11. Gadi Amichai – Nephew of **Yocheved Lifschitz**, who was freed after 17 days in captivity, and brother of **Oded Lifschitz**, still in captivity.
12. Inbar Zeleski – Relative of **Ohad Ben-Ami**, still in captivity, and **Raz Ben-Ami**, freed in a life-saving deal.
13. Ifat Kalderon, cousin of **Ofer Kalderon** who was kidnapped with his two children Sahar and Erez Kalderon who were returned in a life saving deal after 52 days. **Ofer** is still in Gaza.
14. Dr. Jonathan Guttman – Cousin of **Evyatar David**, kidnapped from the Nova Music Festival and still in captivity.
15. Lee Dan – Relative of **Ofer Kalderon**, kidnapped with his children **Sahar and Erez** (freed in the life saving deal after 52 days). **Ofer** remains in captivity.
16. Dr Magen Inon, bereaved son of **Bilha and Yakovi Inon** who were murdered on October 7th at their home in Netiv Haasara
17. Maayan Sherman – Mother of **Ron Sherman**, kidnapped from the Erez Crossing and killed during a military operation.
18. Maayan Sigal-Koren – Daughter of **Clara Merman**, kidnapped with relatives from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak.
19. Maoz Inon, bereaved son of **Bilha and Yakovi Inon** who were murdered on October 7th at their home in Netiv Haasara
20. Meirav Svirsky – Sister of **Itay Svirsky**, kidnapped from Kibbutz Be'eri, survived 99 days but was murdered. Also daughter of **Orit and Rafi Svirsky**, murdered in the attack.
21. Moshe Lotem – Father of **Hagar Brodutch**, who was kidnapped with her children and freed after 49 days.
22. Nathalie Smith, relative of **Tal Shoam** who was kidnapped with his entire family from Beerli. Other family members were released in the life saving deal: **Dr. Shoshan Haran** (mother in law) **Adi Shoham** (wife), **Yahel and Nave Shoham** (children). **Tal Shoham** is still captive in Gaza. Four other family members were murdered.

23. Neta Heiman Mina is the daughter of **Ditza Heiman** who was kidnapped from her home in Kibbutz Nir Oz.
24. Noa Atzili – Cousin of **Aviv Atzili**, a member of Kibbutz Nir Oz's emergency team who fell defending the kibbutz, whose body was taken. Aviv's partner, **Liat Atzili**, was kidnapped and later freed..
25. Noam Dan – Cousin of **Hadas Kalderon**, whose children **Sahar** and **Erez** were freed in a life saving deal, while their father, **Ofer Kalderon**, remains in captivity.
26. Noy Katsman – Sibling of **Dr. Hayim Katsman**, murdered on October 7, 2023.
27. Osnat Sela-Weinberg – Sister of **Eyal Sela**, kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Am and still in captivity.
28. Rachel Moses – Sister in law of **Gadi Moses**, still in captivity. Niece of **Margalit Moses (78)**, who was freed in the life saving deal
29. Sari Gat, aunt of **Carmel Gat** who was kidnapped from Beeri until she was murdered in captivity. She is also the sister in law of **Kineret Gat** who was murdered.
30. Shai Moses – nephew of **Gadi Moses**, who remains in captivity. Niece of **Margalit Moses (78)**, who was freed in the life saving deal
31. Sharone Lifschitz – Daughter of **Oded Lifschitz**, an 85-year-old kidnapped brutally from his home in Kibbutz Nir Oz, and of **Yocheved Lifshitz**, freed after 17 days in captivity.
32. Shira Susana – Sister of **Amit Susana**, kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza and later freed.
33. Shmuel Brodetz – Relative of **Hagar Brodetz**, freed with her children.
34. Snir Dan, brother of **Kineret Gat** who was murdered in Beeri and cousin of **Carmel Gat** who was kidnapped alive from her parents' house in Kibbutz Beeri on October 7 and was murdered shortly before the IDF found her body on 1 September 2024 (11 months after she was kidnapped).
35. Talma Amichai – Sister-in-law of **Yocheved Lifschitz**, who was freed, and sister of **Oded Lifschitz**, still in captivity.
36. Yael Ofek-Or – Cousin of **Dror Or**, kidnapped with his children, later freed while Dror was murdered.
37. Yechiel Yehoud, father of **Arbel Yehoud** who was kidnapped from Nir Oz and of **Dolev Yehoud** who was murdered.
38. Yehuda Cohen – Father of **Nimrod Cohen**, an Israeli soldier kidnapped on October 7th.
39. Yotam Cohen – Brother of **Nimrod Cohen**, kidnapped on October 7th.
40. Yotam Kipnis - son of **Eviatar and Lilach Kipnis**, murdered on Oct 7.
41. Zahiro Shahar Mor, nephew of **Avraham Mundar** who was kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz, survived over 100 days in captivity and was murdered by Hamas. He is also the cousin of **Roy Munder**, who was murdered; nephew of **Ruti Munder**, cousin of **Keren Munder**, who were released after 49 days together with **Ohad Munder**, Keren's son, in a life-saving humanitarian deal.

Jewish Community Leaders and representatives:

42. Irit Michelsohn, Chairwoman of the Union of Progressive Jews in **Germany**
43. Benjamin Beeckmans, President of the Secular Jewish Community (CCLJ) in Brussels **Belgium**
44. Rabbi Philip Spectre, former Rabbi of Stockholm's Jewish Community and former Exec Director of Israel's Conservative (Masorti) Movement, **Sweden**
45. Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraïm, Rabbi of Or Hadash Community in Zurich, **Switzerland**
46. Rabbi Alexander Grodensky, Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish community of **Luxembourg**
47. Hannah Weisfeld, Executive Director of the Yachad Jewish community, **UK**
48. Jonas Benarroch, JCall board member for **Spain**
49. Dan Sobovitz, CCLJ Board Member & Founder of the CCLJ **European** Office for the 7 October Hostages
50. Wanda Teplitsky, President of Masorti **Europe**
51. Jaïr Stranders, (board)member of progressive Dutch Jewish communities, artistic director of Theater Na de Dam, **The Netherlands**
52. Niels Büller, board member of Dutch Jewish community Oy Vey, **The Netherlands**
53. Ester Nafstad, board member Kos & Kaos - The Nordic Jewish Network, **Norway**
54. Rabbi Joshua Weiner, Paris, **France**
55. Leonard Robbins, President of the Board, Shir Hadash reform community, Florence, **Italy**.
56. Dror Feiler, (president of EJJP and spoke person for JIPF) on behalf of Judisk Upprop, **Sweden**
57. Massia Kahneman.JCall Board Member for **Switzerland**
58. Daniela Gean, President Beth Hillel reform community, Roma, **Italy**
59. Michael Lawton, former chair, Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Köln Gescher Lamassoret, former Board Member, Union of Progressive Jews in **Germany**
60. Eleonore Lappin-Eppel, Chairwoman, Friends of NIF **Austria**
61. Sonja Vilicic, Exeexecutive Director of Haver Srbija, **Serbia**
62. David Chemla, Secretary and JCall board member for **France**
63. Ilana Sumka, Leuven, rabbinical student and Executive Director of Shleimut: Jewish Paths to Wholeness and Peace.**Belgium**
64. Barbara Spectre, Founding Director, Paideia the European Institute for Jewish Studies in **Sweden**
65. Lievnath Faber, Rabbinic student and program director of Dutch Jewish community Oy Vey, **The Netherlands**
66. Sarah Silverstein, Secretary, Beit RamBam Comunidad Judía de Andalucía, **Spain**
67. Sarah Takolander, founder & former Chairperson, Juutalainen Opiskelijayhdistys (Finnish Union of Jewish Students), **Finland**
68. Giorgio Gomel; Jcall board members for **Italy**
69. Sophie Goldblum, director of Ze Kollel, Paris, **France**
70. Noah Katz, Vice Chair (immediate past Chair), Lancaster & Lakes Jewish Community, **UK**
71. Harriett Goldenberg Council Member, The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, London, **UK**

72. Alexia Levy, PhD candidate and founder of the Radical Mitzva collective, Paris, **France**
73. Amir Theilhaber, Co-Chair New Israel Fund **Germany**