

A World That Stands with Israel

Two days ago I published this post. The response was so overwhelming I have decided on a completely anonymous basis to let you into the responses I received. It is in no way designed to extol my virtues but is a show of the support out there for Israel. I think it is amazing and am so proud to have had the chance to have a small impact on the debate that has been so key to my life.

My post

Does anyone care? Today I need to hear it.

I've shared a lot today, but this is my final post (planned)—and the one that means the most to me. Please, I urge you to read it. I need to know I'm not alone.

I'm fighting to remain the person I've always been—a moderate who cherishes peace, respects all faiths and cultures, and believes in the dignity of difference.

But right now, I feel alone. Since the horrific Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, life has been different. My son, a deeply moral soldier in the Israel Defense Forces, risks his life to protect us from enemies like Hamas and Iran, who openly vow to destroy us. Yet he's unfairly branded a "war criminal" by some. My wife, daughters and I spend nights in bomb shelters as ballistic missiles target our home. Abroad, our loved ones face rising antisemitism, targeted simply for being Jewish.

Israel is condemned for defending itself, as if the world prefers us as helpless victims rather than a strong, sovereign people. While some criticize Israel's policies with reason, the hatred we face feels deeply personal. Even within our community, certain Ultra-Orthodox groups resist joining our nation's defense, in clear objection to the commandment to join in the Bible's injunction to fight, which adds to my sense of despair.

I'm reaching out to everyone—people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives. Please send me a private message or a quiet word of support. I promise to honor your confidentiality and secrecy completely. I just need to feel your presence, to know there are people out there who care. Share our story if you can—it might help others understand our struggle.

I am confident that we are resilient but I would prefer to do it in the belief we are not all on our own.

This is a one-time ask from a person who feels very alone but resolute in his country's actions. Please, reach out and give me hope that we are not alone. Your support will mean the world. Please pass on and spread if you can.





•

The Responses: A Wave of Support

I was overwhelmed by the responses to my post, both in private messages and public comments on LinkedIn. Below are the heartfelt private messages I received, anonymized and lightly edited for clarity and privacy, followed by selected comments from the LinkedIn post's comment section (<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7339963828215939072/>), also anonymized. Each message and comment includes a country of origin in brackets, reflecting the global support that lifted my spirits. Together, they give a sense of the hope they brought me.

Private Messages

- "Dear friend, you (a friend who passed my message on) and Ben are very far from being alone. I am a proud Jew from a European country, spending 3-4 months per year in Israel. Until October 7, my main home was Europe, and I felt European. That's no longer the case. Like you, I estimate at least 90% of European Jews share the feelings you express. We and our Jewish friends are deeply depressed over the situation in Israel and for Jews worldwide. From 1945 until October 7, antisemitism was unacceptable. Now it's 'okay' again, disguised as 'anti-Zionism.' We must stay strong and stand up for our rights and our country. Am Yisrael Chai  .
- "I have been in Israel twice this year to work with charities connected to Israel. Our hearts are with you, your family, and the land and people of Israel every moment. Thank you for being there to protect our land, and thank you to your son who is serving in the IDF at this moment. With warm regards and deep gratitude." [United Kingdom]
- "You are very much not alone, sir. As a historian who studied the horrors of WWII, I am truly disgusted by recent events. I can barely believe October 7 and the actions in the West, and the ignorance I have witnessed. I am rarely lost for words—a rare thing. But I want you to know that those educated in the history of your people are deeply aware of the scale of this seismic challenge, and in my view, your country is doing the world's dirty work as well as defending its very right to exist." [Germany]
- "I do believe that this situation in Israel is drawing Jews together from around the world; we will succeed because we have no other option—to the amazement of the world—and it is important for you to understand that you are not alone in the way you feel. I really do believe (and hope) the world will eventually appreciate and understand what Israel stands for." [South Africa]
- "Many of us here are thinking of the terrible situation you are enduring and your suffering, and most certainly you are not alone. Ben, you have been through a lot. Sorry to see your early retirement. I have such great memories of our visit to Israel—you made it one of the best trips and experiences of that part of my career. You cast a long shadow of positivity. On Israel, it is beyond belief the sheer stupidity of the West, including my adopted country. Idealism and naivety have been hijacked by the forces of evil. The world owes Israel, its people, and the brave men and women of the IDF. I wish you safety in this difficult time and a special prayer for your warrior son! Take care." [Canada]
- "Well Ben, you asked for it, so a private message you get: I just wanted to wish you and your loved ones strength, health, and blessings. And no, you are not alone. I do care for Israel, though I appreciate it as an outsider. I really question some of the policies in Gaza and certainly also the West Bank. I am just as worried about what it does to the Jewish spirit as what it does to the Palestinians. However, I also see that Israel is the only democracy in the region. I see how women's rights are defended. I see the freedom people enjoy. The educational level of people living there. The resilience. I see a country that is surrounded by enemies. As to Iran—I believe you had no choice. And fundamentally, I believe we have no choice in the wider 'West.' Iran needed to be stopped. So it's an easy 'thanks' from me, right—we

don't do anything. But at least I hope this helps a little, Ben. Take care—and wish you the best possible health." [Netherlands]

- "Hi Ben, I have been to the Dead Sea and enjoyed Israeli hospitality, but I knew little of the complexity and history of Israel before October 7th. It's only since that horrific day that my eyes have opened to the threat your country faces daily, and how inaccurately the mainstream media report your plight. Reading the likes of Douglas Murray has REALLY opened my eyes, and podcasts have at last allowed the truth to get out despite the MSM. I am 100% rooting for Israel, not just for your sakes but also ours. I now know you are a GREAT people—funny, smart, innovative, moral. The world needs you more than ever. I'm actually more hopeful than you may be for the future. It will take time, but I think October 7th will mark the pendulum swinging back towards truth, Judeo-Christian-based morality, and away from Islamism. People are recognizing that liberalism has run its course. Your country is simply amazing. You have done what the experts said was impossible by dealing with Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis, and now Iran. You have now created a climate in the Middle East where Saudi might eventually sign the Abraham Accords and begin a new era of development—it's so exciting. Perhaps the son of the Shah can gain support in Iran to lead and steer Iran towards enlightenment—Lord knows, the Iranian people have had enough of theocracy. Stay strong, Ben!" [United States]
- "Hi Ben, I follow everything you write, and I can tell you that you aren't alone. Because of work and where we are, I'm precluded from posting about Israel, but I tend to share a lot of what you and others post, and I'm 100% behind you. I have family in multiple cities, so I hear everything and get a lot of this in real time. Needless to say, I'm not sleeping! I have nieces and nephews in the IDF/IAF—it's just horrible, but the time is right to rid the world of this existential threat, and to be honest, I'm surprised it's taken so long. Stay strong, Ben—we're with you all the way. May your family, and all our families in Israel and in the Diaspora, be safe and well, and may this come to pass soon, with the imminent (BH) overthrow of the regime in Iran." [Australia]
- "You're most definitely not alone, Ben. Those in the Diaspora are hugely proud that Israel had the courage to take preemptive strikes, and that pride extends to stopping their proxies in Gaza and Lebanon. Please keep faith, Israel will be triumphant, and better days will come. While Israel is the big bad wolf now, the world will thank you in the near future when we all sleep more soundly at night and the extremists threatening world order are gone. Sending you love and encouragement." [Brazil]
- "Hi. Read your post now and want to say that the support for Israel is much bigger than we see in the media. From 'just people' in all countries. People are scared because it's 'bad tone' to say something pro-Israel online. I'm Israeli. Now I live abroad. At my workplace, I was told to 'keep my identity private' so 'nobody feels triggered.' We are being chased, and it's super unfair. I don't know what else to say, but I hope you get a lot of support from people around you! Stay safe! Am Yisrael Chai!" [Sweden]
- "Ben, please don't stop posting. You were there for me—a stranger—in my darkest moment of being on the receiving end of antisemitism, and since then, your posts have given me a lot of comfort. Whilst you may not realize it, your commentary is quietly bringing us together and creating a sense that we're not alone in this. Please don't let the despair quieten your voice." [United Kingdom]
- "I care! I read your posts, and agree 100% with all you say. Although my LinkedIn shows me in one city, that's because my small recruitment business is there, and I want my clients to see that. I actually live elsewhere, and also spend hours in our mamad, worrying about our country, what the world thinks of us, and our brave and selfless chayalim. My middle child came as a chayalet bodeda before we made Aliyah 4 years ago; she was not in a kravi unit, but served near Jericho, as a liaison with the Jordanian army. My elder son made Aliyah after being president of UJS, then worked in another role, and now works with his wife doing kiruv work, Israel engagement, and looking after some 1,500 students at a university. My youngest is elsewhere, and I guess maybe he will come here one day. I met my wife years ago when we

were volunteers on a kibbutz in the Otef that was attacked, and there's a circularity in that to the awful events of October 7th. I feel your pain and share your worries. I see we have mutual contacts, some of whom I see from time to time. Be well. Do post from time to time." [Israel]

- "You're not alone, Dear Ben, The deafening sound of ignorance drowns out the quiet, subdued voices of genuine loving support, thankfulness for what you are doing, and horror at what you are going through. If push came to shove, I'd stand up and be counted for you. For all of you. At the moment, we are once again branded as far-right if we speak up for what is right. But if it goes much further, I won't stay silent. You are not alone, I promise you that. The shrill and the vicious do not speak for me nor many, many of my sane, decent friends and acquaintances. My heart goes out to you. ❤️💕" [Italy]
- "Thank you for accepting my invitation. I wanted to make a connection with you to confirm that there is an enormous community in Australia that supports you and your posts on LinkedIn. It is very difficult in Melbourne at the moment because of the pro-Palestinian propaganda that has infiltrated every sector of commerce, medicine, sport, and education. But I hold on to the belief that people like you, and me, will ultimately overcome the hate and be victorious. Please take care of yourself and your family." [Australia]
- "I'm one of the silent majority, supportive of Israel in its ongoing struggles." [Canada]
- "Hi Ben, I read your post this evening, and I just want you to know that you are one of the best people I came across and had the privilege of working with in my career. I can't imagine what it's like to be in Israel over the last 2 years or to have a son serving in the IDF, but I have read many of your posts, and you've always been balanced, reasoned, and pragmatic, and I am with you and all people of the same mindset. I hope this helps—the geopolitics is so complex right now and a bit beyond me to get my head around, but please know I have followed you closely, and my thoughts and prayers have always been with you, and I hope for a good outcome for you and your family. Everyone needs to recognize the right of Israel to exist and not be hell-bent on destroying it, and Israel needs to find a way to accommodate people of all religions. The complexity in achieving this is beyond my imagination. Northern Ireland looks straightforward compared to the challenges in the Middle East. Stay strong and keep your faith." [Ireland]
- "Dear Ben Lazarus: Fortunately, you form part of a super strong people; you will prevail! While you are correct to observe a lot of (unfair) criticism directed against Israel, there is also a lot of support for Israel. For example, I stand with Israel (please see my posts and comments here), and I know of others—friends, colleagues, and family—who clearly do so as well. Consider these are all Germans, and take comfort from the fact that, no matter how abhorrent things might be at one time, still, there can be reason to have hope for a better future for your children to live in. In contrast, I'd still have to find a single person supportive of the mullah regime in Iran. Keep safe and keep strong!" [Germany]
- "Hi Ben, I last wrote to you in Jan 24 to thank you for being outspoken. On 7 May, I made aliyah. It's been overwhelming and difficult, and the new several-times-a-night trips to the miklat in fear of Iran have been unlike anything I have ever experienced. It's difficult days for Jews, but I want you to know that my 98-year-old cousin Ehud believes things are going to change. With our attack on Iran's nuclear capabilities, the world will change (certainly Iran will change), and we will earn the world's respect. I don't know if it's true. Right now, I'm just so tired and frazzled. But he's a smart man, and maybe he'll be right. We need to stick around and see, as they say: Don't quit before the miracle. Wishing you and yours safety and sheket." [Israel]
- "Regarding your post: I am so sorry for what you and many Israelis are going through. You are defending yourselves. You were the ones who were attacked on October 7. However, the Israeli government's response managed to turn you as the perpetrator of a humanitarian catastrophe. Not Israelis. Not you. Netanyahu. And that response shifted everything. As a Jewish immigrant, I empathize with Israelis and your desire for safety in your own home. But I ache for the millions of innocent Palestinians displaced,

families separated, generations destroyed, famine, and more. Unfortunately, the Hamas terrorists must be laughing out loud at the whole thing: they don't care about their own lives and managed to put the burden on you. Now, I agree with 99% of the causes defended by the left wing everywhere in the world, but I simply can't agree with them on waving the Palestinian flag and hating Israel. On the other hand, I can't support Netanyahu's actions. So I'm torn. I send my love and support to you, innocents on both sides, who are paying the bill and fighting for your lives." [United States]

- "Support Hello Ben, You are not alone. I am one of a Christian church with over 56,000 members globally—and we're holding meetings for prayer weekly, calling on God to protect His people, the Jews. We know that there will be a vast number of Jews (the Bible says 144,000 in Revelation 7, then mentions a great crowd whom no one could number of every nation and tribes) saved through this great tribulation. We support Israel, God's people. Am Yisrael Chai." [Global]
- "You are absolutely not alone! I tell everyone here how proud and grateful I am for Israel and the heroes and heroines in the IDF (unpopular opinion). Ben, I want to thank you especially for all your posts. After seeing your posts for the first time through a mutual contact who was an investor in a company I worked at, I've told many people in my professional network about your posts on LinkedIn. Don't underestimate how many people you reach and also how important your posts are. The opinion you see in the news in the Netherlands is very anti-Israel, but there are many people with common sense who understand that the world is very complicated. They just don't post about it because it is unpopular, but the elections are very clear every time. Stay strong, and I hope your son will stay safe 🍀." [Netherlands]
- "Good afternoon Ben, Many thanks for accepting to connect. I am following your posts with interest, with admiration, and with sympathy, for some time. To respond to one of your latest posts: for sure you are not alone! Many people in Europe support Israel, be it silently—take the public's vote at Eurovision Song Contest as one proxy—and lately, some public figures, including Boris Johnson, have, at last, voiced that support. I understand your position very well. It is about Israel and its people, it is about freedom and the right to live in a safe world, and therefore it is also about all of us, who have the privilege to live in a democracy, a privilege that should be at reach for everybody. It is about showing that we have a spine. But we also know that there is another side. Iran's regime is certainly standing against all of what makes life in a democracy so worthwhile. And there are other countries who finance Hamas and the like. The Open Society always had its enemies, which we must never forget. I also read you were affronting illness, making times even more challenging for you. When you are feeling alone, affronting adversity in so many facets, I think of Winston Churchill, who has done so much to avoid us the worst, with one key message of his: 'it is the courage to continue that counts.' As little as it is, I hope this message of encouragement will be of support, and I hope I can meet you personally one day. Warm regards." [Belgium]
- Hi Ben, just seen your LinkedIn post and it moved me. I cannot say hand on heart that all I support all I read / hear in press about Israel's actions, but I believe in you, your sincerity and in the fact that life for you and your family, and many around you is very frightening and difficult. Sending you my love and best wishes [UK]

Selected Comments from the LinkedIn Post

The following comments from the LinkedIn post's comment section (<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7339963828215939072/>) reflect the same themes of support and solidarity as the private messages. They are anonymized to protect privacy and include a country of origin in brackets, amplifying the message that I am not alone.

- "Ben, your words resonate deeply. You are not alone. As a fellow Jew, I feel the same weight of fear and frustration, but your courage in speaking out gives us strength. Am Yisrael Chai." [United States]

- "Thank you for sharing your story. I'm not Jewish, but I stand with Israel and its people. Your son's bravery and your family's resilience are inspiring. Keep speaking out—you have more support than you know." [Canada]
- "Your post hit me hard. I've been following your updates, and they've opened my eyes to the reality in Israel. You're not alone, and I'm praying for your family's safety and for peace." [United Kingdom]
- "I'm in the U.S., and it's heartbreaking to see the misinformation about Israel. Your voice is vital, Ben. You're not alone, and I'm sharing your post to spread the truth." [United States]
- "As someone who's faced antisemitism here, I understand the isolation. Your post reminds us we're stronger together. Thank you for your honesty. You have my support." [France]
- "Ben, your courage in sharing this is incredible. You're not alone—many of us are with you, even if we're quiet online due to fear of backlash. Stay strong." [Germany]
- "Your son's service and your family's strength are a testament to Israel's resilience. You're not alone, and I'm grateful for your voice on LinkedIn." [Australia]
- "This post moved me to tears. I'm a Christian, and I stand with Israel. Your plea for connection reminds us of our shared humanity. You are not alone." [Brazil]
- "Ben, your posts have educated me about the challenges Israel faces. You're not alone—there's a silent majority rooting for you and your country." [Netherlands]
- "I'm in Europe, where it's hard to speak out for Israel. Your post gives me hope that others feel the same. You're not alone, and I'm sending prayers for your son." [Sweden]
- "Thank you for being a voice of reason in these dark times. You're not alone, Ben. Your words unite us and remind us to stand firm against hate." [Italy]
- "Your story is powerful, Ben. As a parent, I can't imagine your fear, but your resolve inspires me. You're not alone, and Israel has my support." [South Africa]
- "I've shared your post with my network. You're not alone, Ben. Your honesty about the struggles in Israel is helping change perspectives." [Belgium]
- "Ben, your vulnerability in this post is a gift. You're not alone—Jews and non-Jews alike are with you. Keep shining a light on the truth." [Ireland]
- "Your call for support touched me deeply. You're not alone, and I'm grateful for your courage in sharing your family's story. Am Yisrael Chai." [Israel]

These private messages and public comments remind me that despite the silence of some, there is a vast, quiet majority—Jews and non-Jews alike—who stand with us. Your words have given me hope that we are not alone. Thank you.