

YOUNG ISRAEL STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF THE THREE KIDNAPPED ISRAELI BOYS

“The National Council of Young Israel expresses its deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the Yifrach, Shaar, and Frenkel families, as well as to the State of Israel, on the tragic deaths of Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaar, and Naftali Frenkel.

“The barbaric and cowardly act that claimed the lives of Eyal, Gilad, and Naftali is a sobering reminder of the terrorist threat that the State of Israel perpetually faces and the callous disregard for human life that is constantly exhibited by the terrorists whose primary goal is to destroy the Jewish State and obliterate its citizenry. The perpetrators of this sadistic act must be held accountable and brought to justice, and the international community must respond accordingly and immediately condemn these brutal murders in the strongest terms possible. Civilized people all over the world should be outraged at the murder of these innocent children.

“The horrific murder of these three boys occurred in territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority, which has become a safe haven for terrorists that take great pride in murdering Jews. There need to be changes put in place to ensure that this gruesome and senseless murder of three Jewish teenagers is the last such heinous crime.

“We reiterate our call for the United States to halt all aid to the Palestinian Authority until they end their contemptible practice of naming streets after terrorists and promoting as heroes those who murder Jews.

“By entering into a unity government with the terrorist organization Hamas, the Palestinian Authority ran afoul of the provisions of the United States’ annual appropriations bills, which clearly state that no aid is permitted for a power-sharing government between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, and that no aid is allowed for Hamas or entities controlled by Hamas. The United States must follow the law and cease sending funds to the Palestinian Authority in light of this egregious breach and in the wake of this unspeakable tragedy involving three innocent boys.

“In addition, if the Palestinian Authority does not break from Hamas and end the incitement that permeates its communities, the United States should take the necessary steps to downgrade the Palestinian Authority’s diplomatic status as a strong rebuke for embracing Hamas and glorifying terrorism.

“A public statement condemning a kidnapping is mere words, but the actions of naming streets after murderers and giving safe havens to terrorists needs to change now, and aid must be stopped at a minimum until these critical changes take place.

“We pray that G-d will grant the strength to the victims’ families to persevere and overcome their unspeakable anguish and profound grief. May G-d comfort the Yifrach, Shaar, and Frenkel families among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.”

For the past 102 years, the National Council of Young Israel has ably served the broader Jewish community. With more than 25,000 member families and nearly 200 branch synagogues

throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel, the National Council of Young Israel is a multi-faceted organization that embraces Jewish communal needs and often takes a leading role in tackling the important issues that face the Jewish community in North America and Israel.