The Yehuda Tribitch Memorial Fund for Social Involvement

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To Respected Children's Organizations Around the World,

## Urgent Call for the Release of Kidnapped Children in Gaza

## **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 enshrines critical entitlements for children, including protection from harmful practices, the right to a personal name and parental care, and access to education and healthcare.

However, in a distressing contrast to these commitments, since October 7, an alarming situation has unfolded in Gaza. Thirty-nine Israeli infants and children have been forcibly taken from their homes. In some cases, these abductions occurred in conjunction with the murder of at least one of their parents by the terrorists. These children, now separated from their families and exposed to unimaginable trauma, are being used as pawns in a struggle far beyond their comprehension or control.

It is a painful irony that while the world observes Children's Day, the rights and welfare of these children are being grossly neglected. This situation starkly contradicts the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Convention, which advocate for the protection and well-being of children without discrimination.

As Unitaf is committed to ensuring a nurturing and safe environment for children globally, we are deeply concerned about the well-being of these abducted children. We cater to a diverse group of 1,500 children from various backgrounds, understanding the importance of a secure and loving environment for their growth and development.

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 these kidnapped children. Their safe return to their families must be a priority. We urge you to leverage your influence, networks, and resources in this critical mission.

Let us come together to ensure that these children are returned to the safety and care they rightfully deserve. Their rights to security, freedom, and familial love must be restored. This is a pivotal moment for us to stand united for the protection and welfare of these innocent lives.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this grave matter.

Sincerely,

Yael Geula, CEO

Unitaf- the foundation for social involvement