Former captive: Hamas paying Gazans to imprison Israelis

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<https://www.jns.org/former-captive-hamas-paying-gazans-up-to-19-a-day-to-imprison-israelis/>

The Hamas terrorist organization is paying Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip up to 70 shekels ($19) a day to watch over Israeli hostages taken on Oct. 7, a freed captive said on Sunday.

Ada Sagi, 75, was kidnapped from her home in Kibbutz Nir Oz during the Hamas-led invasion and was held in a family home in Gaza until she was released as part of the hostage-for-ceasefire deal on Nov. 28.

Asked on Sunday by Israel’s *Channel 12 News* what would motivate a Gaza family with children to imprison Jews, Sagi said: “Money.”

“I asked the owner of the apartment twice; he and the children looked after us. I saw that the apartment owner was receiving Israeli cash,” she said. “He was pleased the day that Elad Katzir came to us, after 33 days, because I understood he received [payment] per capita.”

Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists murdered [Katzir](https://www.jns.org/a-complex-mission-to-retrieve-the-body-of-a-murdered-hostage/) in mid-January. His remains were retrieved from [Gaza](https://www.jns.org/a-complex-mission-to-retrieve-the-body-of-a-murdered-hostage/#:~:text=Elad%20Katzir%20from-,Khan%20Yunis,-was%20made%20possible)in an IDF raid on April 5.

Sagi recalled an exchange with her captor. “He said: ‘I want a better future for my children and wife. I want to buy visas and not stay here; I want to go to Europe.’ He said: ‘I am uninvolved.’ I said: ‘How do you mean uninvolved if you took my freedom and I’m sitting here in your apartment?'”

According to the former captive, Palestinians who also work receive 20 shekels ($5) a day to guard the hostages, while unemployed students get a daily payment of 70 shekels ($19) from the terrorist organization for. doing the same.

Sagi told *Channel 12* that the youth she encountered during her 52 days in Gaza were “thrilled to go to their parents and bring them the money.”

In December, Mia Shem, who was [released](https://www.jns.org/idf-two-hostages-on-their-way-to-israeli-territory/) by Hamas two days after Sagi, opened up to Israel’s *Channel 13 News* about the abuse she suffered at the hands of Palestinian “noncombatants” in the enclave.

“I went through a Shoah [Holocaust],” the Israeli-French dual citizen told the broadcaster, adding, “Everyone there [in Gaza] is a terrorist.”

“Entire families are behind Hamas. I realized I was staying with a family. I started to ask myself, why am I in a family home? Why are there children here? Why is there a wife here?” [Shem](https://www.jns.org/mia-shem-opens-up-about-gaza-captivity-everyone-there-is-a-terrorist/) said.

“It’s important to me to reveal the truth about the people who live in Gaza, about who they really are,” she said.