

HOPE IS MANDATORY



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We cannot imagine what it means to live through captivity, but Sagui Dekel-Chen can. After 498 days as a hostage, he was released and has since dedicated himself to fighting for those still held in Gaza. Just thirteen days after returning to Israel, he recorded a video message to the remaining hostages, singing a version of the song [Keren Shemesh \("Ray of Sunshine"\) by Benaia Barabi](#).

In the video, Dekel-Chen shares that he spoke to the sun each day during his captivity. "My sun was taken from me for 498 days, but I decided not to give in," he says. "I ask everyone who hears me: don't lose hope. Trust me, it runs deep."

His voice, his song, and his presence remind us that even in the most painful places, hope can still be expressed. Sometimes, witnessing someone else's hope becomes a source of strength in itself.

Sagui called upon the remaining hostages - and everyone listening to his song - to not lose hope.

- What does Sagui Dekel-Chen's performance show you about what hope can look like?
- Have you ever tried to hold on to hope when you didn't fully feel it? What helped, or didn't help?
- Dekel-Chen talks about finding a corner and singing to himself while in captivity, and how music helped him hold on to hope. What are the songs, prayers, or phrases that help you maintain hope?

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