

TESTIMONY IN TIME

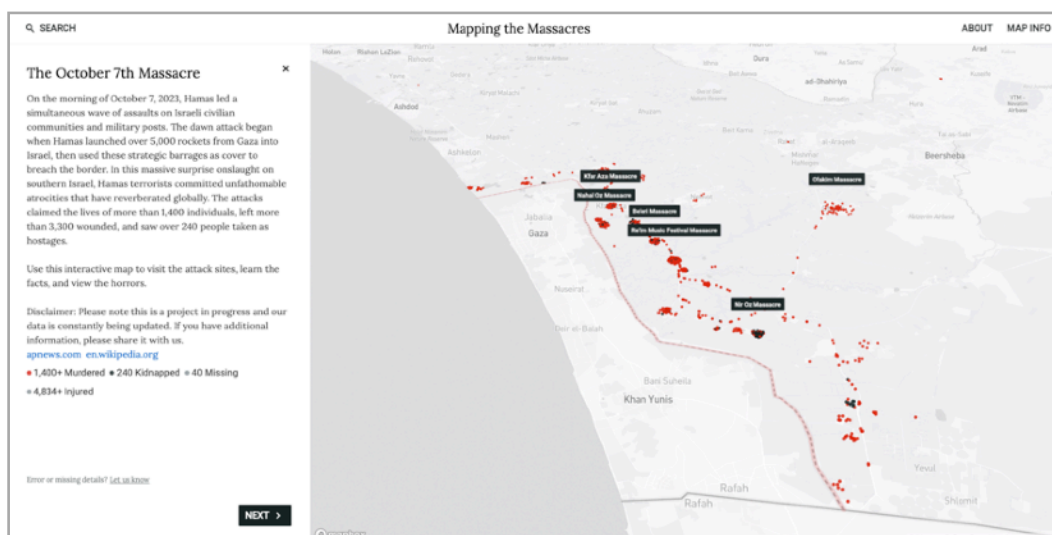
Reading our maps



Chapter 33 in the book of Numbers is written in the form of a travel log. It describes 42 places that the people of Israel camped in as they wandered through the desert. Within each place, it gives a description of the events that occurred there. The commentators wonder why there is a need to reiterate in such depth the events of the past as they are on the steps of Moab, about to enter into the promised land. One suggestion is that reviewing these 42 places allows the future reader to learn about the lived experience of the Israelite journey through the desert. And without that roadmap, how would we today accurately share the journey that the people had been on?

Since October 7th, several roadmaps have emerged to try and depict the atrocities that took place. Some of these roadmaps have been physical maps on a flat surface, while others have been more artistic representations of the feelings that emerged after the massacre. Every map tells a story that is a symbolic representation of a place in relation to time and space.

The Geo-visualization Project created an [interactive online map](#) that strives to represent the atrocities committed by Hamas on that day. This map serves as a reflection and an educational tool, promoting awareness of the gravity of the events. The map shares different sites, facts, images and stories of what happened in the places that Hamas targeted.



<https://oct7map.com/>



READING THE MAP

Trigger warning: This resource contains emotionally charged material. Included in it is a map of places where the massacres of October 7th took place. This map can be overwhelming and if it gets too intense for you, please look away from it and take a few slow deep breaths, listen to a [relaxing song](#), look at this [cute meme](#) or [this one](#).

#1 Set yourself a 10 minute timer in order to limit your intake.

#2 Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to play Chava Alberstein's famous rendition of Lu Yehi written during the 1973 Yom Kippur war hoping for the end of the war and a safe return for soldiers.



#3 Click on the October 7 [map](#). Try to identify the places within the larger context of Israel. Zoom out even more to see the relationship of these places in the context of the greater region and even world.



#4 Zoom back in and scan your eyes over the red and black dots and notice and say outloud or to yourself the name of the different villages that were targeted.

#5 Choose one place to zoom in on and click.

#6 Read the description on the left of the screen and remember to breathe.

#7 Zoom in even more by clicking on one of the red dots to learn about the individual person.

#8 Repeat steps 3-6 for however many times you can and be curious about the stories of the people and the place.

There is a Jewish adage that says, whoever saves a Jewish life, it is as if they saved an entire universe. So, the inverse of that, is within every Jewish life that is lost, so too an entire universe has been lost.

We have lost several universes, but it is our job to remember these people and remember these events. Because it is through the memory that we can get to the promised land.




PRESERVING THEIR STORIES


It is a custom in Jewish tradition to pray for the return home of our captives and to memorialize our lost loved ones.

- ◆ On either the memorial card below or the redeem our captives card, please write the names of the individuals that you have learned about today and something specific that you have learned about them.
- ◆ Place the card in a visible place so that you will come back to it.
- ◆ Consider doing an action today, such as teaching, learning, or donating your time or money, that can honor them or share a bit about who they are.

May the stories of the people we have lost and the people who are still captive be a blessing for us, for the people of Israel and all the people who dwell on this earth.



YIZKOR **יִזְכוֹר**



ROCK AND REDEEMER OF ISRAEL **צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ**

