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Statement from the National Council of Jewish Women Australia (NCJWA) on the Continued Captivity of Shiri Bibas and the Violation of Humanitarian Agreements by Hamas

21 February 2025

The National Council of Jewish Women Australia is horrified by Hamas' continued cruelty and blatant disregard for international humanitarian law.

The Israeli military has confirmed that while the remains of 9-month-old baby Kfir and 4-year-old toddler Ariel Bibas stolen from their family, have been returned, Hamas has failed to return the body of their mother Shiri Bibas.

Instead, an unidentified body was handed over in clear violation of the agreement to return four hostages.

This is a deliberate act of psychological terror, compounding the unimaginable suffering endured by the Bibas family and the families of all hostages. A mother has been taken, and her family is denied even the dignity of closure.

As the voice of Jewish women in Australia, NCJWA calls upon women's organisations across our country and the world to stand up against this horrific treatment of a mother and demand her immediate return.

Women's rights groups cannot remain silent in the face of this gendered violence. We urge our sisters in women's advocacy, human rights and humanitarian organisations to condemn Hamas' inhumane treatment of female hostages, demand the immediate return of Shiri Bibas and all remaining hostages, and call on governments and international bodies to hold Hamas accountable for its violations of humanitarian law.

A mother is not a bargaining chip. A woman is not a weapon of war.

NCJWA will not rest until Shiri Bibas is brought home and justice is served.

We urge every women's organisation to raise their voices, to stand in solidarity and to ensure that those who commit such atrocities are held to account.

Release Shiri. Release Them All.