

Episode 1: Udi Goren

Guest: Udi Goren, Member of the steering committee of Bring Them Home Now!, the largest initiative of hostage families in Israel.

Udi Goren is an Israeli photographer, travel guide, and former professional volleyball player who has become a leading voice in the campaign to free hostages held by Hamas. His cousin, Tal Haimi, was kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Yitzhak during the October 7 Hamas attack and later confirmed killed, with his body still held in Gaza. Udi Goren is an elected member of the steering committee of Bring Them Home Now!, the largest initiative of hostage families, representing them in the Knesset and the media worldwide.

In this episode:

We speak with Udi Goren about October 7, his cousin Tal, his family's personal tragedy, and the struggle of the hostage families. He shares insights into life in the kibbutzim before and after October 7, the challenges of grief and activism, and hopes for international solidarity. We discuss the work of Bring Them Home Now!, and what message he wants to send to young people in Berlin, home to both a large Palestinian diaspora and a vibrant Israeli community.

Host: Yusuf

Links:

<https://stories.bringthemhomenow.net/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

As a peace activist Udi Goren works with Solutions - not Sides, the leading British NGO educating about the Israel-Palestine Conflict in Schools. Thanks to Udi Goren's recommendation we've met the founder Sharon Booth and Mohamed Ali Amla who is responsible for the NGO's Youth programs. You can explore their important work in Episode 49.

<https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Dedication:

We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.

To the blessed memory of:

Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.

Disclaimer:

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the Preis des Historischen Kollegs in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.