

Empty seder table poignantly highlights missing places for 133 hostages this Pesach

I regret I couldn't drop a task yesterday morning to attend this, but these photographs from [Jewish News](#) are better quality than my camera would have taken. Picture credit: EJacobs Photography

One hundred and thirty three empty seats at a meticulously planned seder table set the poignant scene for a vigil in central London on Wednesday afternoon.

133 seat table displayed outside the British Prime Ministers residence in Downing Street, London.

Each seat represents an Israeli hostage held captive in Gaza since Oct 7th.

They have been captive for 193 days.

Source: [@JewishNewsUK](#) pic.twitter.com/jchgfcJFzq

– Oli London (@OliLondonTV) [April 17, 2024](#)

More than 350 members of the media and Jewish community attended a solidarity event organised by The UK Hostages Families Forum in Richmond's Terrace, opposite Downing Street, to witness the unveiling of The Empty Seder Table.



The installation featured 133 empty chairs, each one representing a hostage in Gaza, ranging from those for infants

to elders in their 80s. Each chair, including two high chairs for children, had a poster attached bearing the face of a person still in captivity.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said: "In the lead up to Passover in any other year, if anyone would have told us there would be a long seder table facing the entrance to Downing Street, we would have celebrated. We would have said 'that's wonderful'. That it's a public display of our Jewish identity. But right now as we view this Seder table with 133 empty chairs, our hearts are broken."



Shai Shojat, the nephew of hostage Michel Nisenbaum, kidnapped on October 7 while on his way to pick up his granddaughter to take her to her mother, also spoke at the event.

Speaking to *Jewish News*, he said: "We've come here to just try and touch people's hearts, maybe someone in the government, maybe an influencer. Just raise our voices make a difference. They can't go on for much longer. They will not survive".

Israel advocate Jonny Daniels, who also addressed the crowd, told *Jewish News*: "It's remarkable to see Jews and non-Jews alike coming together to show solidarity and make sure none of us forget our 133 brothers and sisters being held in the most horrendous conditions by Hamas terrorists in Gaza. Especially poignant was seeing this seder table, days before we all sit with our families remembering being brought out Egypt, we think of those being held in captivity in Gaza and our brave soldiers, our heroes fighting for not just our freedom, but for all of western civilization on the front lines."