

# The Wordsmith's October 7 Silence

By Phyllis Chesler

**Dearest Friends and Readers:**

Even though Succot is a joyful festival, and I rejoiced in a Sukkah last night and will do so again tonight, still, I am nevertheless also in mourning. Therefore, I've chosen to remain silent about October 7. What more is there to say? What needs to be said has been said by others—and their words are grave and eloquent and true.

I must note that we have seen no hostages as yet nor have we seen any Israeli corpses—both promised to be returned to us by 6pm on Sunday October 5th. Thus, I am also vigilant, even pessimistic. Do the American president and his emissaries not understand that “negotiations” with Arabs and Muslims do not mean the same thing to them as they do to Westerners? Ah, well. I've been told that one must maintain hope even as optimism is in very short supply.

Here are some of the most moving October 7th pieces that I've read so far. There are more. Please share them with all of us.

Read: [October 7: An ongoing trauma for Israel, global Jews | The Jerusalem Post](#)



Visitors at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv, October 05, 2025. (credit: MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90)

Read: [Remembering October 7th: The Day That Shook the Jewish World](#)

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