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RZA Mizrachi mourns American-Born IDF Soldier Killed by Hezbollah Terror in Lebanon

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American-Born IDF Soldier Killed by Hezbollah Terror in Lebanon

The Religious Zionists of America mourns the death of Sgt. Moshe Yitzchak HaCohen Katz, 22, of New Haven, Connecticut, who was killed in combat in southern Lebanon in an attack by Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist army on Israel's northern border.

Sgt. Katz was not drafted. He chose this.

A member of New Haven's Chabad community, he left the United States, made aliyah, and enlisted as a lone soldier in the IDF's Paratroopers Brigade — placing himself directly in harm's way to defend the Jewish state and its citizens.

Hezbollah, armed, funded, and directed by Iran, continues to target Israeli forces and civilians alike. The same regime responsible for decades of terror against Jews worldwide is now responsible for the death of a 22-year-old American who stood up to fight it.

RZA extends its deepest condolences to his parents, Mendy and Devorah Katz, and to his family and community in both the United States and Israel.

"Moshe Katz understood something that too many in the West refuse to grasp," said Stephen M. Flatow, president of the Religious Zionists of America. "This is not a distant conflict. It is a fight against terror — the same terror that has taken American lives in Israel and beyond. Moshe did not stand on the sidelines. He stepped forward, and he paid the ultimate price."

His death is not only a personal tragedy. It is a reminder: the front lines of Israel's defense are also the front lines in the broader fight against Iranian-backed terror.

May the memory of Sgt. Moshe Yitzchak HaCohen Katz be for a blessing.

* * *

Established in 1913, the RZA is one of the oldest and most influential Zionist organizations in the United States. It helped create pioneering Jewish communities in the Land of Israel, campaigned for the establishment of Israel, and has inspired numerous American Zionists to make aliya. Today the RZA is on the front lines of pro-Israel activism and religious Zionist education. The RZA is not affiliated with any American or Israeli political party.