

Idan Emedi

Injured

Background :

Idan Emedi is a famous Israeli singer and actor. Despite his celebrity status, he served as a reservist in the IDF since October 7th. In January 2024, he was seriously injured in an explosion that killed 6 of his fellow soldiers. After two weeks in the hospital, he spoke at a press conference before his release. His speech was in Hebrew, except for a short message to journalists in English. In March, Idan Amedi was chosen to light a torch at the Independence Day ceremony. On his instagram page, he responded as follows:

 **Watching**

[Link to youtube](#)

"Everywhere I went (in Gaza), I was met by surprised soldiers who would ask what I was doing there. But when I was laying on the ground, dusty, with equipment and weapons, I felt more than ever that I belonged to my people. I was fortunate to meet the best of the nation's sons and daughters, real heroes - people with dreams and passions. I will speak about my part in the war, at some stage. I am proud of the choices I have made. It was clear to me that this time I was fighting for the future of my children, Yaeli and Jonathan and that gave me strength and helped me give others the strength, even in the darkest of places. I have been offered the honor of lighting a torch at this year's Independence Day ceremony themed Israeli Heroism. There is no greater honor than that, but unfortunately I will not be able to receive it this year. We have encountered so many heroes since that black Saturday, and I have fought alongside some of them, both in the past and during the current war. This year, I will stay at home and join in their memory like many people in Israel. I will also remember the miracle called "the State of the Jews." I now understand this miracle deeply. I hope in the future to maybe have the right to light a torch thanks to the words I write, and not because of the war... May we remember all the soldiers who have fallen and may we be worthy of their light, because the life and glory of our nation is in their merit." עמדי

Activity Idea:

- 1- Have students write a comment of at least 100 words to Idan Amedi's post above.
- 2- The torch lighting ceremony is a central and symbolic event marking Israel's Independence Day celebrations. Held annually at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, the ceremony involves the lighting of twelve torches (symbolizing 12 tribes). Selected individuals who have made significant contributions to society are honored with lighting them. Have your class design its own torch-lighting ceremony for this year's yom haatzmaut. Have each student nominate one person they believe should be honored this year for their bravery or contribution since October 7th. Have the class vote on the nominees until they agree on 12 finalists. Alternatively, have your class nominate a candidate from the Diaspora (one torch is reserved for a Diaspora Jew) using this online survey: https://survey.gov.il/en/DiasporaTorchlighters_76