



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives  
Representative Matt Gress (R-4)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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Thursday, September 12, 2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Arizona House Members Honor Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Condemn Hamas Terrorism in Bipartisan Proclamation

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Arizona State Representative Matt Gress, along with a bipartisan group of legislators, has sponsored a legislative proclamation honoring the life and legacy of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a young man whose courage and dedication to peace were tragically cut short by the brutal actions of the Hamas terrorist group. The proclamation designates September 12, 2024, as a day of mourning in Arizona for Hersh and calls upon the community to remember his enduring spirit and commit to the principles of peace, justice, and the sanctity of human life that he held dear.

Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an American-Israeli citizen, was taken hostage by Hamas terrorists on October 7, 2023, during a peace festival in Israel. Despite suffering severe injuries, Hersh continued to prioritize the safety of those around him. After enduring months of captivity, Hersh was murdered by Hamas on August 31, 2024, in Gaza, shortly before an IDF rescue operation could reach him.

**“Hersh Goldberg-Polin’s story is one of extraordinary bravery, resilience, and sacrifice,”** stated Representative Matt Gress, one of the lead sponsors of the proclamation. **“It is a story that demands not just our mourning but our action. Hamas is a terrorist organization that has demonstrated time and again its commitment to cruelty and violence. The murder of Hersh and the ongoing suffering inflicted on countless others must serve as a wake-up call for the international community. The world cannot allow the continued existence of such a barbaric group. Hamas must be eliminated, and those responsible for these heinous acts must be brought to justice. I stand in unwavering solidarity with Hersh’s family, the remaining hostages, and all those affected by Hamas’s terrorism.”**

The proclamation has garnered widespread bipartisan support, including the following House members: Representatives Matt Gress (R-4), Alma Hernandez (D-20), Quang Nguyen (R-1), Consuelo Hernandez (D-21), Michael Carbone (R-25), Seth Blattman (D-9), Michele Peña (R-23), Nancy Gutierrez (D-18), David Cook (R-7), Chris Mathis (D-18), Minority Whip Lydia Hernandez (D-24), Majority Leader Leo Biasiucci (R-30), and Speaker Ben Toma (R-27).

A copy of the official proclamation is attached below.

*Matt Gress is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 4 in Phoenix. Follow him on X/Twitter at @MatthewGress.*

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# State of Arizona



## Legislative Proclamation

### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HERSH GOLDBERG-POLIN

*Whereas*, Hersh Goldberg-Polin was a vibrant and compassionate young man who dedicated his life to his faith, his family, and his community, moving to Israel with his family to embrace his heritage and contribute to the nation he loved; and

*Whereas*, Hersh was a devoted son, brother, and friend, known for his adventurous spirit, kindness, and commitment to helping others, even in the face of unimaginable danger; and

*Whereas*, Hamas, designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union, Israel, and several other nations, has consistently engaged in acts of terrorism and violence against the State of Israel, including the deliberate targeting of civilians through rocket attacks, suicide bombings, and hostage-taking, actions which have resulted in the loss of countless innocent lives and the infliction of widespread fear and suffering; and

*Whereas*, on October 7, 2023, Hersh was brutally attacked and taken hostage by Hamas terrorists while attending a peace festival in Israel. Despite losing his arm in a grenade explosion, Hersh displayed immense courage, prioritizing the safety of his friends and others around him; and

*Whereas*, Hersh endured nearly 11 months of captivity, during which his story became a symbol of hope, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of justice, resonating deeply with people across Israel, the United States, and the world; and

*Whereas*, the tragic news of Hersh's murder on August 31, 2024, just days before the IDF could rescue him, Hamas brutally murdered him in a tunnel in Gaza, this news brought profound sorrow to the Jewish world, his family, friends, and the countless individuals who had prayed for his safe return; and

*Whereas*, Hersh's life and legacy have inspired a global movement for peace and justice, reminding us all of the enduring human spirit in the face of evil; and

*Whereas*, the outpouring of love and support for Hersh's family, including thousands who attended his funeral in Jerusalem, reflects the deep impact he had on all who knew him, as well as those who followed his story from afar; and

*Now, Therefore*, the Arizona House of Representatives does hereby proclaim September 12, 2024, as a day of mourning for Hersh Goldberg-Polin, honoring his life, his bravery, and the indomitable spirit he embodied. We encourage all citizens to join in remembering Hersh and committing to the principles of peace, justice, and the sanctity of human life that he held so dear.

We condemn Hamas and its supporters for its actions, including the kidnapping, brutal sexual violence torture, and murder of individuals such as Hersh Goldberg-Polin. These actions represent a gross violation of human rights and the fundamental lack of principles in humanity, underscoring their disregard for international law and their efforts to perpetuating conflict and terror of Jews in the region and around the world. May his memory be a revolution to bring back the remaining 101 hostages, including Americans, still held in Gaza.



We extend our deepest condolences to Hersh's parents, Jon and Rachel Goldberg-Polin, and his entire family, and we honor their steadfast courage and grace in the face of unimaginable loss. Let us all strive to uphold the values that Hersh lived by, ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

*Dated this 12th day of September 2024*



Representative Consuelo Hernandez  
Legislative District 21

Representative Quang Nguyen  
Legislative District 1

Michele Peña  
Legislative District 23

Lydia Hernandez  
Legislative District 24

Nancy Gutierrez  
MINORITY WHIP  
Legislative District 18

Representative Leo Biasiucci  
MAJORITY LEADER  
Legislative District 30

Representative Matt Gress  
Legislative District 4

Representative Alma Hernandez  
Legislative District 20

Representative Michael Carbone  
Legislative District 25

David Cook  
Legislative District 7

Chris Mathis  
Legislative District 18

Seth Blattman  
Legislative District 9

Representative Ben Toma  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
Legislative District 7