**Painting Black with Green- Renewing the Be’eri Forest**

At 6:30 a.m. on the 7th of October, the residents of southern Israel were thrust into a nightmare. In this brutal Hamas terror attack, many lives were tragically lost, others kidnapped, and countless left injured. This Tu Bishvat, we invite you to be a partner in the vital mission to restore the Be'eri Forest, on the border of the Gaza Strip, as a symbol of resilience and hope. Join KKL-JNF in the journey to transform this dark chapter into a canvas of vibrant renewal.

**The Be'eri Forest**

The Be'eri Forest, spanning approximately 2640 acres (1,100 hectares) in the western Negev along the Gaza border, serves as a vital green belt. It acts as a haven for recreation and hikes, a regulator of temperatures, a shield against soil erosion, and a contributor to soil fertility. Additionally, the forest houses the Anzac Memorial for the soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand armies, as well as a poignant tribute to the Jews of Baghdad who perished in a WWII pogrom.

Named after the nearby Kibbutz Be'eri, established in 1946, the Be'eri Forest stands as the largest among the West Negev forests. Visionary founders of Kibbutz Be'eri, pioneers who laid the foundation for its growth, planted the inaugural trees and sowed the initial seeds for what would become the expansive Be'eri Forest. Tragically, during the most recent terrorist attack, the kibbutz endured an excruciating blow, underscoring the profound impact of these events on this cherished community.

**Be’eri Forest Comes Under Attack**

Since 2014, terror organizations have targeted the Be'eri Forest with thousands of incendiary kites and balloons launched from the Gaza Strip. Deliberate acts have set ablaze forests, agricultural fields, and nature reserves, causing extensive damage.

During the October 7th attack, in the serene Be'eri Forest near the Gaza border, thousands of young people gathered to enjoy a weekend of leisure and celebration. The worst massacre in Israel’s history occurred there. The area chosen for new plantings is in close proximity to the site of the Nova Festival, where the mass murder unfolded.

**Forest Revival**

KKL-JNF is resolute in breathing new life into the scarred landscape, planning to replant 120 acres (50 hectares) with eucalyptuses and broad-leafed trees such as Ziziphus Spina-Christi, Tamarisk, Acacia, Ficus Sycomorus, Carob, and Atlantic Terebinth. Carefully chosen for their ability to withstand fires and regenerate, these trees symbolize a beacon of hope for the revitalization of the Be'eri Forest.

**Planting Trees to Combat Global Warming**

Beyond its local impact, the reforestation effort contributes to the global fight against climate change. Fossil fuel emissions contribute to global warming, and trees play a crucial role in capturing carbon dioxide—the primary greenhouse gas. Israel's forests, including those managed by KKL-JNF, act as "carbon sinks," capturing 200 grams per square meter annually. Scientific studies from the Weizmann Institute affirm that KKL-JNF's afforestation efforts in semi-arid regions parallel those in Europe.

**KKL-JNF extends an invitation to you to become an integral part of the Be’eri Forest's renewal. Your support is not just a donation; it's a commitment to the safety of Israel’s residents and the creation of a sustainable forest that will stand as a testament for generations to come.**