



Photo: Yossi Ifergan, KKL-JNF Photo Archive

Photo: Avi Balavan, KKL-JNF Photo Archive

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 as Hamas terrorists and supporters invaded Israel and massacred hundreds of civilians in towns and sites near the Gaza border. Scores of civilians were kidnapped, and thousands more were 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 turning the page of this dark chapter into a canvas of vibrant renewal.

THE BE'ERI FOREST

The Be'eri Forest, spanning approximately 2,640 acres (1,100 hectares) in the Gaza Envelope region of the western Negev, serves as a vital green belt. It is a mecca for hikes and other recreational activities, a regulator of local temperatures, a shield against soil erosion, and a contributor to soil fertility. Additionally, the forest houses historic monuments, such as the ANZAC Memorial for the soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand armies during WWI, and a poignant tribute to the Jews of Baghdad who perished in a WWII pogrom.

Named for 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 planted the inaugural trees, and sowed the initial seeds for what would become the expansive Be'eri Forest. Tragically, during the most devastating terror attack in Israel's history, the kibbutz



itself suffered an excruciating blow, underscoring the profound impact of these events on this cherished community.

BE'ERI FOREST COMES UNDER ATTACK

Since 2014, the Be'eri Forest has been periodically hit by incendiary balloon and kite attacks launched by terrorist organizations in Gaza. These airborne arson attacks have set ablaze forests, agricultural fields, and nature reserves, causing extensive environmental damage.

The Be'eri Forest has been further scarred by the October 7 attacks. Its serene Re'im Recreation Area was the site of the Tribes of Nova music festival, where thousands of young people gathered to enjoy a weekend of music and festivities. The largest massacre perpetrated in the attack occurred here. It is here, too, close to the site of the Nova Festival, where new trees will be planted.



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FOREST REVIVAL

KKL-JNF is resolutely committed to breathing new life into the scarred landscape, with plans 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 selected 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 the efficiency of carbon sequestration carried out by KKL-JNF forests in semi-arid regions parallel the efficiency of those of Europe.



**KKL-JNF invites you to become an integral partner
in the Be'eri Forest's renewal.**

**Your support is not just a donation; it's an expressed commitment
to rebuild the communities of the Gaza envelope,
and restore the forests they love so much.**



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