

NBC's *Today*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Israel Marks October 7th Attacks]

CRAIG MELVIN: Also today, a somber milestone in Israel, three years now since the October 7 attacks. The fallout still being felt across the region, though. NBC's chief international correspondent Keir Simmons joins us now. Keir, good morning to you.

KEIR SIMMONS: Hey, Craig, good morning to you. This is the field where 364 people were murdered at the Nova Music Festival. This is still an open wound for Israel. There's been no commission of inquiry and the country is still fighting on multiple fronts. This morning, across Israel, the nation pausing to remember the deadliest day in its history, when Hamas gunmen stormed Israeli communities along the border of the Gaza Strip. A moment of silence held for the 1,200 killed and 251 kidnapped three years ago. In the Middle East, conflicts on multiple fronts this morning. President Trump saying his war with Iran has defeated a threat.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Wave of Fighting Across Middle East]

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Dozens of Iran's terrorist leaders have been blown out of existence and straight through to the gates of hell.

SIMMONS: But overnight, conflicts raging on. Iran-backed Houthis saying they again fired on the airport in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, while Israel still very aware of the threat from Iran. And Hamas, which Prime Minister Netanyahu warned could attempt a new attack before Israel's election this month, but new images of Gaza show much of the landscape leveled. Over 74,000 Palestinians have been killed here, according to local health officials. The mother of Israeli American Hersch Goldberg-Polin, who was taken hostage and killed by Hamas terrorists, still has the last texts he sent.

RACHEL GOLDBERG-POLIN: Hersch, after having his dominant arm blown off, texted us with his other hand, a very simple message, "I love you. I'm sorry."

SIMMONS: The shelter from where he was taken now a shrine. Three years later, there are still bullet holes and the blasts from hand grenades. Rachel Goldberg-Polin says she still relives those moments, his 328 days in captivity and his execution.

GOLDBERG-POLIN: I don't think the years make a difference. I think, every morning, I wake up and it's all over again. Every single morning is the anniversary.

SIMMONS: At the memorial, we find Yuval Golan [sp?], who only now has found the strength to visit the place where her cousin was killed.

YAVAL GOLI: She was celebrating life, and I just couldn't come here.

SIMMONS: They are united in mourning today, Craig. But this is still a country deeply divided with that election coming to decide the future of Israel. Craig?

MELVIN: Our chief international correspondent, Keir Simmons for us there in Israel. Keir, thank you.