Inauguration for memorial for the victims of the Israeli Olympic Team 1972
Munich, 6 September 2017
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The Olympic Games and the Olympic Village are symbols of peace and friendship for all humankind. They are symbols for the joy of life. The Olympic Games are a celebration of humanity, united in all its diversity.

When this sacred spirit was violated 45 years ago, it was a horrific attack on the heart of the Olympic Games, because the Olympic Village is the true representation of our values: athletes from every corner of the world, living peacefully and in harmony together under one roof.

Our murdered fellow Olympians represented the very best of this human and Olympic spirit of peace and tolerance. This is how we will remember them forever.

What unites us as humans, is the need to honour the memory of those who are no longer with us. One year ago, at the Olympic Games Rio 2016, we commemorated the victims together at the Place of Mourning in the Olympic Village with a special ceremony. There we stood together with the families of the victims, surrounded by the flags of all 206 participating National Olympic Committees. We were united in our remembrance, sharing in our grief. In this way, the spirit of the victims live on in the minds and hearts of their fellow Olympians of today.

I would like to thank Ilana Romano and Ankie Spitzer for giving that ceremony great dignity through their presence. I will always be grateful to them, that despite the pain they suffered, they did not turn their backs on the Olympic Movement. Instead, they extended their hands, making this shared moment of dignified remembrance for their loved ones possible.

I know that no ceremony and no memorial can fill the void left by those whose lives were taken so violently. It is my sincere hope, however, that the memorial we opened this morning will be a symbol of our shared grief; will be a tool of education for our and for future
generations; will be a demonstration of our determination to defend our Olympic Values of peace and tolerance. In our fragile world today, this is more important than ever.


Heute sind wir zusammen gekommen, um zu erinnern. Gleichzeitig sagen wir Ja zum Leben, denn die Olympischen Spiele sind immer auch eine Feier menschlicher Werte, eine Feier menschlicher Einheit in all unserer Vielfalt. Diese Werte sind stärker als alle Kräfte, die uns spalten wollen.

In diesem Olympischen Sinn, ehren wir für immer:

David Berger
Ze’ev Friedman
Yossef Gutfreund
Eliezer Halfin
Yossef Romano
Amitzur Shapira
Kehat Shorr
Mark Slavin
Andre Spitzer
Yakov Springer
Moshe Weinberg
Anton Fliegerbauer