

Biography of Superintendent Mali Shoshana

Israeli National Police

NPDF Valor Award Recipient

Inspector Mali Shoshana is a 54-year-old single mother from Ashdod, Israel. On October 7th, 2023, Mali volunteered for an unscheduled shift at the Sderot station. She never expected that on that day, she'd spend eight hours on the rooftop of the building, fighting terrorists.

Moments after starting her shift, emergency sirens started blaring. Shoshana looked out of the window of her precinct, only to see heavily armed terrorists travelling along the road, heading directly toward her police station. Though armed only with her pistol and no additional ammunition, she and six other police officers climbed to the station's roof where they engaged the terrorists in a gun battle. Shoshana fought a heroic battle for hours, throwing back the hand grenades the terrorists threw at her, while killing at least four of them. Two officers on the roof with Mali were killed, and Mali was hit in the arm. Running low on ammo and not thinking that she would not survive the battle, Mali asked those on the other end of her walkie-talkie to tell her son she loved him. When the terrorists had captured the station, and some climbed to the roof, Mali and other wounded officers — with almost no ammunition left — pretended to be dead.

Speaking with The Jerusalem Post, Inspector Shoshana shared her experience and the emotional journey she has embarked on since that day.

"We called for assistance, aware that our ammunition was running low," Shoshana recalled. "Hoping to buy more time, we pretended to be dead, lying wounded and bleeding on the roof. Eventually, the IDF forces arrived and rescued us, allowing us to be evacuated to the hospital."

Reflecting on the ordeal, she emphasized that no amount of training can fully prepare someone for such a harrowing experience. "I have been in the police force for 30 years, but nothing could have prepared me for this," the officer said. "It was a battle for life, where every decision was a matter of life or death."

"Every day, I think about the events of that Saturday," she said. "The people I meet express their gratitude. It surprises me that they see me as a hero because we were all there. We fought as a team, risking our lives to prevent a massacre in Sderot."

Seven officers from the Sderot police were killed in the battle against the terrorists. The NPDF recognizes the heroic actions of Superintendent Shoshana and has bestowed our prestigious valor award upon her in accordance with the actions.