St. Sgt. Yotam Gilboa

July 19, 2006 – St. Sgt. Yotam Gilboa, 21, of Kibbutz Maoz Haim, was killed in fighting with Hizbullah terrorists on the Lebanese side of the border near Moshav Avivim.

Yotam served as a paramedic before his induction into the army, and dreamed of studying physics.

His mother Leah said that, "Yotam was a one-of-a-kind boy. He was dedicated and always wanted to give and give. He knew how to give, but not how to take. I want him to be remembered for his good heart."

Yotam's brother, an officer in the Air Force, found out his brother had been killed just before he was to leave on a mission to Lebanon. His other brother, who was traveling in Argentina, came back to Israel when he heard the news.

"It's hard for me to believe that I am talking about him in the past," Leah said. "In the past two days, I didn't hear from him that much and I was very worried. I called my other son who told me not to worry, and then at 5:00, the soldiers came and told me the worst news they could."

A neighbor said that, "Yotam was always his mother's right hand." Leah is the educational coordinator of the Kibbutz, and Yotam, who was a young and organized person, was always there to help with trips and other events organized for the children.

St. Sgt. Yotam Gilboa was buried in Kibbutz Maoz Haim. He is survived by his parents Yossi and Leah, and two brothers.