



St. Sgt. Nitai Stern



January 5, 2009 – St. Sgt. Nitai Stern, 21 of Jerusalem, was killed in an IDF friendly-fire accident during combat in the Gaza Strip.

Nitai Stern last spoke with his parents on Saturday night. During their conversation he told them he loved them and would not be able to talk with them for a few days.

Nitai's father Reuven said, "He was my boy. This is a very difficult time. All of Israel is grieving, and we are in particular."

Stern's grandmother said, "A few weeks ago he came to my new apartment and told me, 'What a beautiful home you have.' He was a charming, exemplary boy, who was not conceited and respectful with everyone."

Nitai's cousin Elijah told Ynet, "Nitai was a sweet boy, who was full of good and light, smiles and joy, with a crazy zest for life and dreams. He insisted on enlisting in Golani, even though he was supposed to go to engineering.

"Nitai was a warrior for the people of Israel, a hero and a martyr. We are so proud of him. We know he was fighting the war of this people."

Nitai, whose brother also participated in the Gaza operation, studied at the Bnei Chayil yeshiva in Jerusalem.

St. Sgt. Nitai Stern was laid to rest at the Mount Herzl military cemetery. He leaves behind his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

