



Dov Kol

July 23, 2005 – Dov Kol, 58, and his wife Rachel, 53, of Jerusalem, were murdered by two gunmen of the Islamic Jihad and al-Aksa Martyrs' Brigades of Fatah while they were driving from Ganei Tal to the Kissufim Crossing in the Gaza Strip on Saturday night, July 23, 2005.

The terrorists opened fire on the couple's car near the Gush Katif junction. Soldiers who rushed to the area killed one of the gunmen, while settlers killed the other. During the exchange of fire, one soldier was moderately wounded. The security officer of the Gush Katif Council, Ami Shaked, was lightly hurt in the incident.

Dov Kol is a former spokesman of the National Insurance Institute. NII spokesman Haim Pitusi described Kol as "a man of peace, who had Jewish and Arab friends from every part of the political spectrum. He always spoke about peace. It's hard to think that he of all people was killed by the bullets of a Palestinian terrorist. He was very open politically."

Rachel worked as a technician in the neurology laboratory at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

"They were so happy," their niece, Moriya Cohen, 17, said, as she recalled the joyful Shabbat that preceded the attack, during which the entire family gathered at Ganei Tal to celebrate the recent birth of the Kols' first granddaughter, Hallel. "This Shabbat the whole clan gathered at Ganei Tal," she said. "They were so happy when they left for home."

Rachel's sister, Ilana, said, "This family is an amazing combination of everything, right and left, religious and secular, in the united and fully appreciative way that the State of Israel should be. They were an outstanding example of how this country's diverse groups should get along."

Dov and Rachel Kol were buried in Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot Cemetery. They are survived by their daughters Hila, 24, and Tamar, 17, son Yehonatan, 15, and newborn granddaughter, Hallel.

