

FAILURES & SCANDALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

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Did you know...?

The Jerusalem Post's editorial board has called for the ICRC to be replaced, deeming it ineffective in assisting hostages held by Hamas. **"The Red Cross has not been able to visit the hostages or bring them notes from home or even verify their circumstances,"** said the news outlet.

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In a January 2024 interview with Jake Tapper, the ICRC's chief spokesman was accused of playing "word games" in response to questions that a **Red Cross staffer told the family of an Israeli being held Hostage by Hamas to worry more about the people of Gaza over their loved one.**

[Watch the interview on CNN →](#)

Social media campaigns for the ICRC have been under fire for being more critical of Israel than Hamas, "seven-to-one," says Jake Tapper, despite the group positioning itself as a neutral organization.

[Watch the interview on CNN →](#)



The International Committee of the Red Cross is under mounting pressure from Israelis and their government to do more to persuade Hamas to let aid workers and medics have access to hostages kidnapped in the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks.

Shurat HaDin, an Israeli human rights group, along with those individuals, asserts that the Red Cross **"did not and is not doing enough to bring about their release"** and is seeking **\$2.8 million in damages.**

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FAILURES & SCANDALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

Overview

The American Red Cross is the largest contributor to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has a long history of visiting prisoners of war and hostages. Lately, the organization has been losing credibility and as a result of financial strain, it has been forced to cut jobs.

The ICRC has been under increasing pressure to do more to assist Israelis who are being held captive by Hamas. The group has come under fire for failing to denounce the October 7 attack on Israel by taking a neutral stance in the dispute.

A \$2.8 million lawsuit was recently filed against the ICRC on behalf of persons and the families of those taken hostage by Hamas. The lawsuit is being led by Israeli human rights organization Shurat HaDin. It claims that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has not moved quickly enough to help free the hostages.

The ICRC is also under pressure to suspend its partner, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, as it has been found that its ambulances have been used to transport terrorists and weapons, which is a violation of its fundamental principles.

When asked if a Red Cross staffer had advised the family of an Israeli hostage taken by Hamas to worry more about the people of Gaza than their loved one, the chief spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was accused of playing word games in a January 2024 interview on CNN. The spokesperson expressed regret that the family had heard something different, instead of offering an apology. He was pushed even harder for not accepting responsibility for the staff member's behavior. The ICRC's impartiality was also called into doubt later in the interview as it condemns Israel more than Hamas, the group responsible for starting the conflict

BACKGROUND

The International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC), A Sister Organization Of The Red Cross, Has Been Losing Influence As A Result Of Its Inaction In The Israel-Hamas War

“The International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC) Is An Independent And Impartial Caretaker Of The International Geneva Conventions, Drawn Up In Phases In The Mid-20th Century, That Help Ensure The Respect Of Civilians And Detainees During Conflict.” (Jamey Keaton, “Red Cross Toes Fine Line Trying To Help Civilians In Israel-Hamas War Amid Pressure For Netanyahu,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/18/24)

- **It Is A Sister Organization Of The Red Cross And Red Crescent Organizations.** “The ICRC is a sister organization of an umbrella group of Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations that unites national federations and mostly focuses on things like natural disasters, regular medical assistance and blood drives.” (Jamey Keaton, “Red Cross Toes Fine Line Trying To Help Civilians In Israel-Hamas War Amid Pressure For Netanyahu,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/18/24)

The ICRC Has a Long History Of Visiting Prisoners Of War And Hostages. “ICRC has a long history of visiting prisoners of war, to check on their health and conditions of detention and to get word to their families. In recent decades, its representatives have also made visits to hostages — people who are detained but are not technically POWs. That’s not an official role, but no other group comes close to having such a responsibility.” (Jamey Keaton, “Red Cross Toes Fine Line Trying To Help Civilians In Israel-Hamas War Amid Pressure For Netanyahu,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/18/24)

Recently, The ICRC “Has Been Losing Influence, Funding And Staff.” “The International Committee of the Red Cross has been losing influence, funding and staff, and disparaging remarks from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are just the latest headache for the Geneva-based humanitarian group.” (Jamey Keaton, “Red Cross Toes Fine Line Trying To Help Civilians In Israel-Hamas War Amid Pressure For Netanyahu,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/18/24)

- **Amidst Being “Under Intense Financial Pressure,” The Organization Has Been Cutting Jobs.** “The organization has been under intense financial pressure in recent months and has been cutting jobs, at a time when the number and intensity of conflicts that require its intervention have increased.” (Jamey Keaton, “Red Cross Toes Fine Line Trying To Help Civilians In Israel-Hamas War Amid Pressure For Netanyahu,” [The Associated Press](#), 1/18/24)

The American Red Cross Is The ICRC’s Largest Donor. “The International Committee of the Red Cross will cut its budget next year by about 13%, its director-general said on Monday, as major donors including the United States have reduced funding. ... Asked about U.S. funding, Mardini said that the United States was the organisation's biggest donor and had cut back its 2023 contributions versus the previous year, without giving details of the amounts.” (“Red Cross Cuts 2024 Budget As Donations Fall,” [Reuters](#), 9/11/23)

Since Fiscal Year 2008, The American Red Cross Has Received

NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR ISRAELIS BEING HELD HOSTAGE

The Red Cross Has Faced Mounting Pressure For Not Doing Enough To Persuade Hamas To Let Aid Workers Provide Medical Care And Access To Hostages

The ICRC Is Under Pressure For Not Doing Enough To Help Israelis Held Hostage By Hamas. “The International Committee of the Red Cross is under mounting pressure from Israelis and their government to do more to persuade Hamas to let aid workers and medics have access to hostages kidnapped in the Oct. 7 terrorist attacks. Mirjana Spoljaric, the president of the I.C.R.C., traveled to Israel on Thursday to meet with Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and to speak with the families of hostages. A statement from Red Cross organization said Ms. Spoljaric hoped to listen to the families’ concerns and ‘to share with them the I.C.R.C.’s relentless efforts to gain access to’ the hostages.” (Ephrat Livni, “Israelis Press The Red Cross To Help Hostages In Gaza,” [The New York Times](#), 12/15/23)

“Israelis And Some In The International Community Have Criticized The Red Cross Organization Because It Had Not Publicly Condemned Hamas’s Actions On Oct. 7.” (Ephrat Livni, “Israelis Press The Red Cross To Help Hostages In Gaza,” [The New York Times](#), 12/15/23)

- **The Red Cross Has Defended Its Position To Remain Neutral In The Conflict.** “But the I.C.R.C. said that was in keeping with its mission to remain neutral, according to a post on its website that it said was intended to debunk ‘harmful narratives’ about its work.” (Ephrat Livni, “Israelis Press The Red Cross To Help Hostages In Gaza,” [The New York Times](#), 12/15/23)

Groups Outside Of Israel, Such As Hadassah, An American Jewish Women’s Group, Has Called Out The Red Cross’s Continued Failures In Aiding Israeli Hostages. “Some of the criticism has come from outside Israel. On Wednesday, the American Jewish women’s group Hadassah sent a letter to the group denouncing its failure to demand assurances about the captives and secure access to them.” (Ephrat Livni, “Israelis Press The Red Cross To Help Hostages In Gaza,” [The New York Times](#), 12/15/23)

LAWSUIT CLAIMING INACTION

In December 2023, The Shurat Hadin Nonprofit Joined With Individuals Who Were Kidnapped And Their Families To File A Legal Complaint Against The ICRC

In December 2023, Dozens Of Individuals Or The Families Of Those Kidnapped By Hamas Have Filed A Lawsuit Against The ICRC For Their Lack Of Action In Helping Those Israelis Held Hostage In Gaza. “Dozens of people who were kidnapped from Israel by

Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7 or are related to hostages have sued the International Committee of the Red Cross in an Israeli court, arguing the organization has not fulfilled its obligation to assist victims of armed conflict and violence and to protect their lives and dignity. The lawsuit comes as the Red Cross has come under mounting political pressure from Israelis and their leaders — including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — to do more to persuade Hamas to let its aid workers and paramedics visit the remaining hostages. Israel believes 129 people, mostly men, are still being held captive.” (Roni Rabin, “Hamas Hostages And Families Of Captives Sue Red Cross In Israeli Court,” [The New York Times](#), 12/22/23)

Shurat HaDin, An Israeli Human Rights Group, Along With Those Individuals, Asserts That The Red Cross “Did Not And Is Not Doing Enough To Bring About Their Release” And Is Seeking \$2.8 Million In Damages. “The lawsuit, filed in Jerusalem District Court on Thursday, says the Red Cross has failed to visit the hostages in captivity to check on their health, provide them with medications and then report back to their relatives on their welfare. The complaint also asserts the Red Cross ‘did not and is not doing enough to bring about their release.’ The civil complaint was filed on behalf of former hostages and relatives by the Shurat HaDin-Israeli Law Center, an Israeli human rights group, and seeks about \$2.8 million in damages, as well as a court order directing the Red Cross to visit all remaining hostages, provide them with medications and relay information about them to their families.” (Roni Rabin, “Hamas Hostages And Families Of Captives Sue Red Cross In Israeli Court,” [The New York Times](#), 12/22/23)

- **“The Group Criticized The International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC) For Allegedly ‘Failing To Act To Fulfill Its Mandate And Moral Duty To Visit The Kidnapped Israelis Held In Gaza, Assure Their Wellbeing And Fight For Their Release.’”** (“Israeli Group Accuses Red Cross Of ‘Biased And Apathetic’ Response To Gaza Hostages,” [The Times Of Israel](#), 12/21/23)
- **Additionally, “The ICRC Was Slow To Intervene And Did Not Act Firmly To Facilitate Visits Or ‘Try To Supply The Medicines Required To The Hostages.’”** “According to Shurat Hadin, the ICRC was slow to intervene and did not act firmly to facilitate visits or ‘try to supply the medicines required to the hostages.’” (“Israeli Group Accuses Red Cross Of ‘Biased And Apathetic’ Response To Gaza Hostages,” [The Times Of Israel](#), 12/21/23)

The Lawyer Representing The Families, Noted In Their Complaint, That The Red Cross Had Not Acted “Reasonably Expected” In Checking The Well-Being And Fighting For The Release Of Hostages. “A lawyer representing the families, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, acknowledged the suit was unusual. The complaint argues the I.C.R.C. occupies a unique position under international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention, giving it a mandate and moral duty to visit the hostages, check their well-being and fight for their release. The I.C.R.C. has not acted as it was ‘reasonably expected’ to, the lawsuit says.” (Roni Rabin, “Hamas Hostages And Families Of Captives Sue Red Cross In Israeli Court,” [The New York Times](#), 12/22/23)

Additionally, The Lawyer Highlighted The Red Cross’s Lack Of Response To Save Jews During World War II, Which The Organization Has Since Apologized. “Ms. Darshan-Leitner argued the current situation in Gaza carries echoes of the I.C.R.C.’s scant efforts during World War II to save Jews who were being deported and exterminated in concentration camps across Europe. The organization has acknowledged and apologized for that failure.” (Roni Rabin, “Hamas Hostages And Families Of Captives Sue Red Cross In Israeli Court,” [The New York Times](#), 12/22/23)

The Lawyer Also Noted How The Red Cross Had Failed To Visit An Israeli Soldier Held Captive For Five Years Until His Release In 2011. “She also noted that the I.C.R.C. did not visit Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier who was held captive in the Gaza Strip for five years until his release in 2011, and has not visited other Israelis held by Hamas.” (Roni Rabin, “Hamas Hostages And Families Of Captives Sue Red Cross In Israeli Court,” [The New York Times](#), 12/22/23)

ASSISTING HAMAS TERRORISTS

A Recent Letter From Shurat HaDin, Signed By Hundreds Of Lawyers, Called On The International Red Cross To Suspend Its Partner, The Palestinian Red Crescent, As Its Ambulances Have Been Used To Transport Terrorist And Weapons

In November 20, 2023, The President Of Shurat HaDin Sent A Letter To The International Red Cross Calling On It To Review And Suspend The Palestinian Red Crescent From Its Organization For Potential Breach Of Integrity. “In a letter sent to the International Red Cross (IRC), Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, President of Shurat HaDin, urged the organization to review a potential breach of integrity by the Palestinian Red Crescent (PRC) and recommended that the IRC suspend the Red Crescent from the organization.” (Alan Rosenbaum, “Shurat HaDin Head Protests To Red Cross Head Over Palestinian Red Crescent,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 11/20/23)

The Letter Claimed That The Palestinian Red Crescent “Plays An Integral Part In Hamas’s Illegal Conduct” As Hamas Use Its Ambulances To Transport Rockets And Terrorists, Disguising Them As The Wounded. “Darshan-Leitner wrote that by allowing Hamas to use its ambulances to transport terrorists, “the PRC plays an integral part in Hamas’s illegal conduct, supplying the means for these terrorists to travel under the cover of the protection granted to the PRC.” She added that the use of PRC ambulances by terrorists has been ongoing for two decades, and in the current conflict, Hamas operatives used ambulances to transport rockets as well as sent ambulances to collect operatives, sometimes disguising them as wounded.” (Alan Rosenbaum, “Shurat HaDin Head Protests To Red Cross Head Over Palestinian Red Crescent,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 11/20/23)

- **The Letter Was Backed Up With IDF Obtained Conversations That Red Crescent Ambulances Were Being Used For Transport Of Weapons And Terrorists.** “In her letter to the Red Cross, Darshan-Leitner referred to recorded conversations obtained by the IDF, in which Hamas members clearly stated that the organization was using PRC ambulances to transport its operatives and rockets. ‘On November 4,’ she wrote, ‘Israel attacked an ambulance in Gaza which was transporting Hamas terrorists and weapons. On November 6, a senior US administration official revealed that Hamas tried to sneak its fighters out of the Gaza Strip in ambulances that evacuated dozens of wounded Palestinians to Egypt earlier that week.’” (Alan Rosenbaum, “Shurat HaDin Head Protests To Red Cross Head Over Palestinian Red Crescent,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 11/20/23)

The Letter Concluded That The PRC’s Conduct Of Transporting Terrorists Is A Violation Of At Least Two Of The IRC Fundamental Principles – The Principle Of Neutrality And The Principle Of Independence. “Darshan-Leitner concluded that the PRC’s conduct of transporting terrorists is a violation of at least two of the IRC Fundamental Principles – the Principle of Neutrality and the Principle of Independence.” (Alan Rosenbaum, “Shurat HaDin Head Protests To Red Cross Head Over Palestinian Red Crescent,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 11/20/23)

- **It Was Endorsed By Hundreds Of Attorneys Throughout The World, Including The United States.** “In addition to Darshan-Leitner’s signature, the letter listed the names of hundreds of attorneys from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Israel, who endorsed its content.” (Alan Rosenbaum, “Shurat HaDin Head Protests To Red Cross Head Over Palestinian Red Crescent,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 11/20/23)

ACCUSATIONS ABOUT BEING INEFFECTIVE

The Jerusalem Post’s Editorial Board Has Called For The ICRC To Be Replaced, Deeming It Ineffective To Assist Hostages Held By Hamas

The Jerusalem Post: “The International Committee Of The Red Cross Has Been Totally Ineffective In Procuring Aid For The Hostages Held In Gaza By Hamas.” “The International Committee of the Red Cross has been totally ineffective in procuring aid for the hostages held in Gaza by Hamas. Its lack of empathy and inability to fulfill its mandate illustrate how obsolete and useless it has become. This week Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once again called upon the organization to help bring life-saving medicine to hostages in Gaza. ‘I met with the Red Cross; I handed them a box of medicine for some of the hostages shown here. Some of them need it... I told a representative to take this box to Rafah; she said no. It was a difficult conversation,’ he told a special

Knesset session attended by families of hostages still held in Gaza.” (Editorial, “Red Cross Is Ineffective, Replace It Now,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 12/27/23)

- **“The Organization Has Not Pressed Hamas Hard Enough, Nor Any Of The Other Groups Holding Hostages, To Get Access.”** “The Red Cross has not been able to visit the hostages or bring them notes from home or even verify their circumstances. The organization has not pressed Hamas hard enough, nor any of the other groups holding hostages, to get access.” (Editorial, “Red Cross Is Ineffective, Replace It Now,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 12/27/23)

The ICRC’s Neutrality Stance Has “Effectively Neutralized” The Organization That “Places A Stumbling Block In Its Path.” “One problem with the Red Cross today is that in its pursuit of neutrality, it often ends up effectively neutralized. This ‘both sides’ approach, rather than promoting innovative third-party solutions, places a stumbling block in its path. For instance, the Red Cross has often sought Qatar’s mediation. This doesn’t always work. Thailand, for example, got its hostages released via talks with Iran. We are not suggesting Israel talk to Iran, but rather that the Red Cross could make inroads in Gaza by other means, instead of repeating the same failed approach.” (Editorial, “Red Cross Is Ineffective, Replace It Now,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 12/27/23)

“Its Ineffective And Callous Behavior Illustrates The Need For A New Organization That Can Play A More Valuable Role.” “The world cannot be held hostage by the Red Cross. It has proven unwilling to do the most basic tasks to help victims. Rather than beg it to send medicine, only to get a cold inhuman response, it’s time for new leadership to emerge to offer people this essential support. Clearly, it’s time to rethink the role the Red Cross plays. Its ineffective and callous behavior illustrates the need for a new organization that can play a more valuable role. Lacking the will to insist on access to the hostages not held by Hamas is one of many examples that cry out for new leadership in the human rights sphere and for a new organization to pioneer the important work the Red Cross once did.” (Editorial, “Red Cross Is Ineffective, Replace It Now,” [The Jerusalem Post](#), 12/27/23)

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

In January 2024 Interview, The ICRC’s Chief Spokesman Was Accused Of Playing Word Games In Response To Questions That A Red Cross Staffer Told The Family Of An Israeli Being Held Hostage By Hamas To Worry More About The People Of Gaza Over Their Loved One

NOTE: *The interview can be found [here](#).*

During The Interview, Watson Said, “I Really Regret That This Family Left This Meeting Having Heard Something Else.” CNN’S JAKE TAPPER: “In our world lead: Since the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel, the International Committee of the Red Cross has faced a difficult and challenging mission to try to save lives and to try to prevent the suffering of people caught in the middle of this conflict that Hamas started with Israel. Now they’re on the ground inside Gaza right now trying to make sure that aid gets to those who need it most. The Red Cross has played a critical role in helping the freed hostages depart Gaza safely, and at one point the Red Cross was hoping to be the neutral party to reach the hostages to assess their conditions and their health, but Hamas prevented that access. Now some Israeli leaders and families are publicly sharing their frustrations over how all of this has unfolded. Just last month, families and released hostages sued the International Committee of the Red Cross in an Israeli court, arguing that this is now medical neglect. The families also say, many of them, that the Red Cross has shown bias in some of its public comments. Some viewers might remember a moment from just a few days ago when the brother of one of the hostages, a hostage named Doron Steinbrecher, told me that his parents heard a pretty shocking comment from a Red Cross staffer. They were pleading with the staffer for the Red Cross to get medicine to their daughter, Doron, who is being held so unjustly in Gaza.” EWAN WATSON (ICRC): “Jake, thanks for having me on. And I want to start by saying that we acknowledge and respect the deep, unimaginable suffering that the families of loved ones held hostage in Gaza must be feeling. It is our mission as the International Committee of the Red Cross to try and help them, to

listen to them and, ultimately, to explain the ways in which we could potentially help. And I really regret that this particular family left this meeting having heard something else. I want to really assure that family and everybody listening and other families that we care deeply about the hostages. And since day one, we have reiterated the fact that it is prohibited to hold hostages under international humanitarian law, and we continue to seek access to those hostages. We want to bring medicine to them. That is absolutely critical. We want them also to be reconnected, to be able to have some sort of connection to their family members. And we won't rest until we have been able to do that.” (CNN’s “The Lead,” 1/12/24)

Tapper Twice Asked Why Watson Was Sorry For The Message The Family Heard, Rather Than Apologizing For What The Red Cross Staffer Said. TAPPER: “So it did seem as though this employee told the Steinbrechers that they shouldn't worry about their daughter. And she's 30 years old. Who knows what is happening to her at the hands of Hamas. She needs medicine every day. She's not getting it. And it does seem like a Red Cross employee said to them, well, you shouldn't be worried about -- that you should be worried about the poor people of Gaza. What are you guys doing about it? Have you investigated this matter? Has this person been reprimanded? Do you want to apologize to the Steinbrecher family?” WATSON: What I can say is that that is not a message that our employees would ever wish to pass to this family or any other family. From our perspective, we care deeply about each and every one of those hostages held. As a neutral humanitarian organization, we do not rank suffering. We would never seek to compare suffering between different people or seek to elevate or diminish one person's suffering over another's. That is simply something that we would never do. So, I'm really sorry that this family heard that message during this meeting. And I want to really reiterate today that that is not our message, that our message, quite to the country, is that we deeply care about their loved one, loved ones, and we're doing everything we can to help them.” TAPPER: “Why do you put it that way, that you're sorry that they heard that message, as opposed to you're sorry that somebody at the Red Cross said this to them?” WATSON: I -- my understanding is that no employee would want to pass that message. So, I think what I can be confident in telling you is that nobody in the Red Cross would ever seek to pass the message that we were somehow minimizing or diminishing that family's suffering or suggesting that they shouldn't think about their loved one being held. I mean, the fundamental objective, the whole mission of the Red Cross, of each and every one of our employees is to alleviate the suffering of civilians.” (CNN’s “The Lead,” 1/12/24)

During The Interview, Tapper Accused Watson Of Playing “Word Games” And Not Taking Ownership Of The Staffer’s Actions. TAPPER: “No, but you're playing these -- but you're playing these -- look, I don't doubt your sincerity, but you're playing these word games, and I don't understand it. Like, one of our employees said something bad, and we're sorry for it. That's ownership. Saying, the Steinbrecher family, we're sorry that they heard something, I mean, are you saying that they didn't understand the language? Are you saying that there was like -- that they imagined it, that they thought it was a fairy whispering in their ears, some magical -- like, what exactly are you saying?” WATSON: I think this -- I -- as I said, I don't know exactly where this came from, why they feel like this.” TAPPER: “Why they feel like this?” WATSON: “I can only apologize because I do not want them -- yes, because I think what the ICRC is always hoping to do is to pass a message of caring equally for civilians on all sides.” (CNN’s “The Lead,” 1/12/24)

Later In The Interview, Tapper Challenged The ICRC’s Neutrality In The Conflict, Saying “But You Position Yourself As A Neutral Organization, And Your Social Media Posts Are Like Seven To One Criticizing Israel Versus Criticizing The Group That Attacked On October 7 And Set Off This Horrific Thing That's Going On Right Now.” TAPPER: “But you're failing to do that right now, because you're not even acknowledging that the -- that your employee said that. I mean, I don't doubt that the -- the Red Cross does unbelievably important work around the world, but, for whatever reason, there seems to be just some sort of disconnect, and you can't even just say, we're so sorry that this employee said that. I mean, but you're not saying that. You're saying that they heard it or they felt a certain way.” WATSON: “If that

employee –" TAPPER: "Yes." WATSON: "Jake, if that employee said that, I am really apologetic, and I deeply regret that. My understanding is that that simply is something that the family -- and I completely respect that, that they took away from the meeting, which is a message that we would never, ever seek to pass, because it goes against our mutual mission." TAPPER: "You're saying that this is a family that has a daughter who's been kidnapped. They don't even know if she's alive. They don't know if she's being raped, whatever. And one of your employees, according to them said, you should be more concerned about the people of Gaza. And a lot of Israelis find that quite credible, I will be honest, because, I mean, look at the social media campaign or the social media posts by the ICRC. There are so many posts criticizing Israel, which, OK, fine. That's -- your entitled -- you're entitled to do that. And the number of posts criticizing Hamas just numerically pales in comparison. And these families, more than 100 of them, still are suffering and still say, how come nobody in the international community cares about this? And there is so much suffering going on in Gaza. And I'm not diminishing any of it. We cover it every day. But you position yourself as a neutral organization, and your social media posts are like seven to one criticizing Israel versus criticizing the group that attacked on October 7 and set off this horrific thing that's going on right now." WATSON: "Jake, what I want to emphasize here is that, time and time again, we have come out publicly and, even more importantly, perhaps, behind closed doors advocating behind the scenes, for those hostages to be released, for them to receive the medicine that they require, for them to be reconnected with family members. This is something that we have said publicly, that we have said to all parties to the conflict and others with power, including the leader of Hamas, who our president met a couple of months ago. We continue at the very highest level to push for this. We have also really insisted on many occasions that they are simply released, because they should not be held in the first place." (CNN's "The Lead," 1/12/24)