

October 2007

Dear Leibish:

Thank you for your donation. I appreciate that this is not the type of project you usually support. This is not a charity like giving to a food bank or helping newlyweds. It's a one-time shot, and if we don't do it, no one will. And if it's not done today, it will be too late.

Imagine for a minute that one of these Jews got up from the grave for an hour. This Jew saw his wife, his five kids, and his entire village thrown into this mass grave. If he was lucky, he was dead before he was buried. Many were not and suffocated over several days.

He would not ask about the Chabad dinner, or a new dedication in Geula, or the marriage of an orphan in Bnei Brak. He would look at the gravesite and today and see, at best, an anonymous field or a warehouse at the spot, and at worse a garbage dump. He would probably ask three questions:

He would cry and ask why the Jews of the world did not move heaven and earth to stop the massacre.

He would be incredulous and say, shame on you, for you never even tried to hunt down the killers.

He would not believe that we did not have the self respect as a people to even find out where and how these Jews were killed. He would ask how is it possible that 94,700 Jews were killed here at this spot, and nobody bothered to look for the place and to say *Kaddish*.

We need to make this happen for all of the above reasons, for future historians to know what happened, and to be able to look at ourselves in the mirror.

Aryeh