



4.6x.95	1	עמוד 21	the jerusalem post - front	28/02/2025	93279014-5
בנימין זאב הרצל - בהקשר לציונות - 80790					



## GRAPEVINE

• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ DETRACTORS OF President **Isaac Herzog** have asked why

he has not appeared at Hostages Square in Tel Aviv. They ignore the fact that he has been a consistent voice calling for the return of the hostages and that he has met numerous times with released hostages and families of hostages still in captivity. He has also met with and paid condolence calls on families whose loved ones were murdered by Hamas or died after being kidnapped and taken to Gaza.

In all his meetings with foreign dignitaries at home and abroad, Herzog has raised the hostage issue by giving interviews to global media outlets in which the main topic was the hostage situation. He has also frequently called for a state investigation into what did or did not happen on October 7, 2023.

Herzog arranged for the President's Residence to be bathed in orange light to honor the memories of Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir Bibas on the day of their funerals as a symbol of national mourning. He and his wife, Michal, have been more involved with the fate of the hostages than any other public figures. Last week, during their visits to Hungary and Italy, they again brought the urgency of the release of the hostages to the attention of the leaders of those countries.

In Hungary, where they participated in ceremonies honoring the memories of the tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews who had been deported to Auschwitz never to return, the Herzogs visited Budapest's famed Dohany Street synagogue, reputed to be the largest in Europe with a seating capacity of 3,000. The synagogue dates back to 1859 and is located close to the birthplace of Zionist visionary Theodor Herzl.

Herzog unveiled a plaque marking his official visit, some 34 years after his father, Chaim Herzog, Israel's sixth president, had done the same. The unveiling took place in almost exactly the same spot. The new plaque, placed alongside his father's one, was also crafted from the same material, symbolizing the Jewish tradition of the continuity of generations.