

November 27, 2015

## **Obama Calls Ezra Schwartz's Family to Offer Condolences**

President Barack Obama called the parents of Ezra Schwartz, the 18-year-old American student murdered last week in a Palestinian terror attack in the West Bank, to offer his condolences. In the telephone call Monday, the president said that Schwartz's Israel studies had strengthened U.S.-Israel ties. "The president offered his profound condolences and condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack that took his life," a senior administration official told JTA. "The president also underscored that Ezra's studies in Israel strengthened the bonds between Israel and the United States and, as we mourn his death, those bonds only grow stronger." U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also spoke with Schwartz's parents, Ari and Ruth Schwartz. "Just yesterday, I talked to the family of Ezra Schwartz from Massachusetts, a young man who came here out of high school ready to go to college, excited about his future," Kerry said Tuesday at a meeting in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "And yesterday, his family was sitting at shiva and I talked to them and heard their feelings, the feelings of any parent who lost their child."

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at [synagogue@aipac.org](mailto:synagogue@aipac.org) or by visiting [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org).