



# Hearing Elie's Echo

**Today we are all Elie's future,  
and our future will depend on  
whether we harness all we  
have learnt from this eminent  
voice of Jewish leadership,  
humanism, and dignity.**

DR. ELANA HEIDEMAN, PROTÉGÉ OF ELIE WIESEL

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

IsraelForever



**This is how I see the visionary  
in him, because that's what he  
really believed. And he would  
say, 'Do something, anything,  
start somewhere, anywhere.'**

MARTHA HAUPTMAN, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, ASSISTANT TO ELIE WIESEL

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

Israel<sup>🇮🇱</sup>forever



**He was, as he liked to say, a wandering maggid going from community to community, from venue to venue, from synagogues and universities, gatherings, demonstrations and conferences, national capitals and political forums speaking to an ever changing global audience. His message was: Remember the Holocaust; remembrance must shape our character and has the capacity to transform the future.**

**MICHAEL BERENBAUM**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

**IsraelForever**

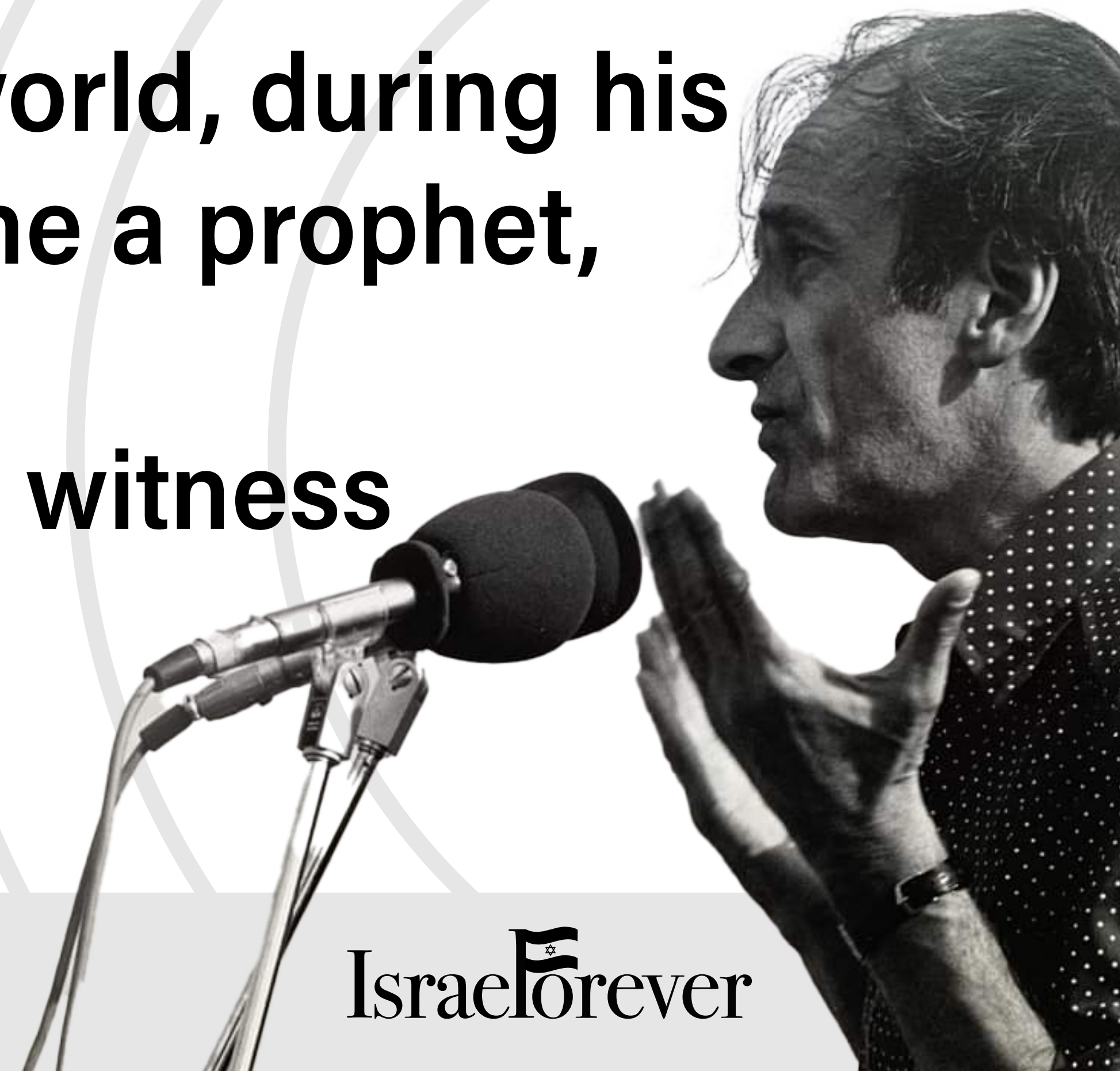


**Elie Wiesel was one of the greatest Jews of our time ...  
In our hundreds of conversations, I heard his daily  
efforts to find new ways to continue his struggle  
for a better world.  
For many people, from all over the world, during his  
many years of activity, Wiesel became a prophet,  
a messenger of humanity.  
Future generations must continue to witness  
his great influence.**

DR. JOEL RAPPEL, FOUNDER, ELIE WIESEL ARCHIVE

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

IsraelForever



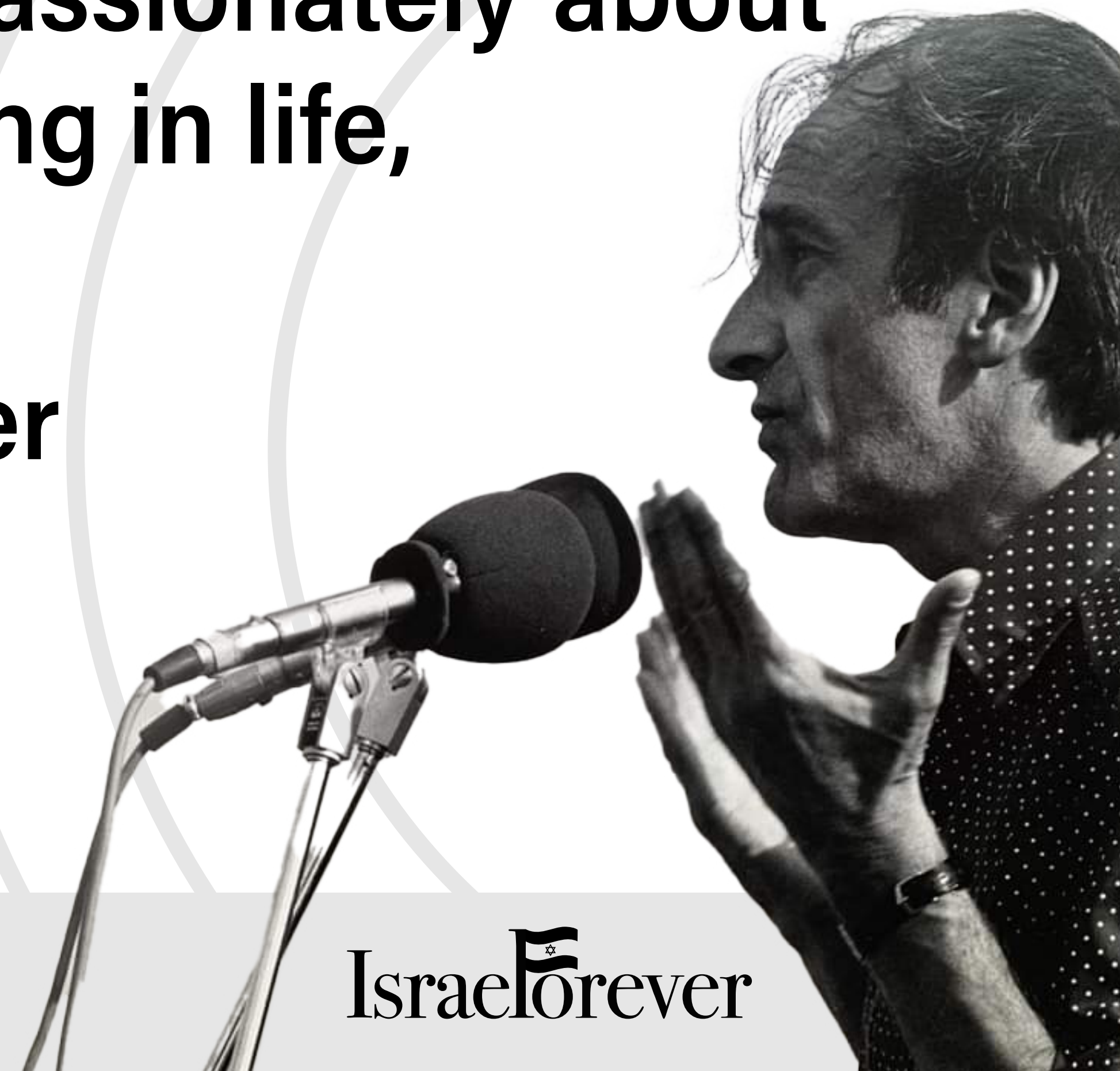
**He shared tales laden with symbolism and meaning...  
he was a link to something precious that was nearly lost:  
a tradition and wisdom that seemed completely lacking  
in the world as I knew it. He spoke passionately about  
the Holocaust, about seeking meaning in life,  
about the moral issues of the day.**

**Elie Wiesel challenged us to be better  
and to do more.**

**DR. YVETTE ALT MILLER**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

**IsraelForever**



**Instead of drawing your attention, for example, to images of horror, [Wiesel] tries – like Primo Levi – to conjure the human being confronted with horror and restores the humanity to that human being.**

**He wants us to look beyond the dehumanization that is associated with genocide and see the person.**

MICHAEL ZANK, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

IsraelForever

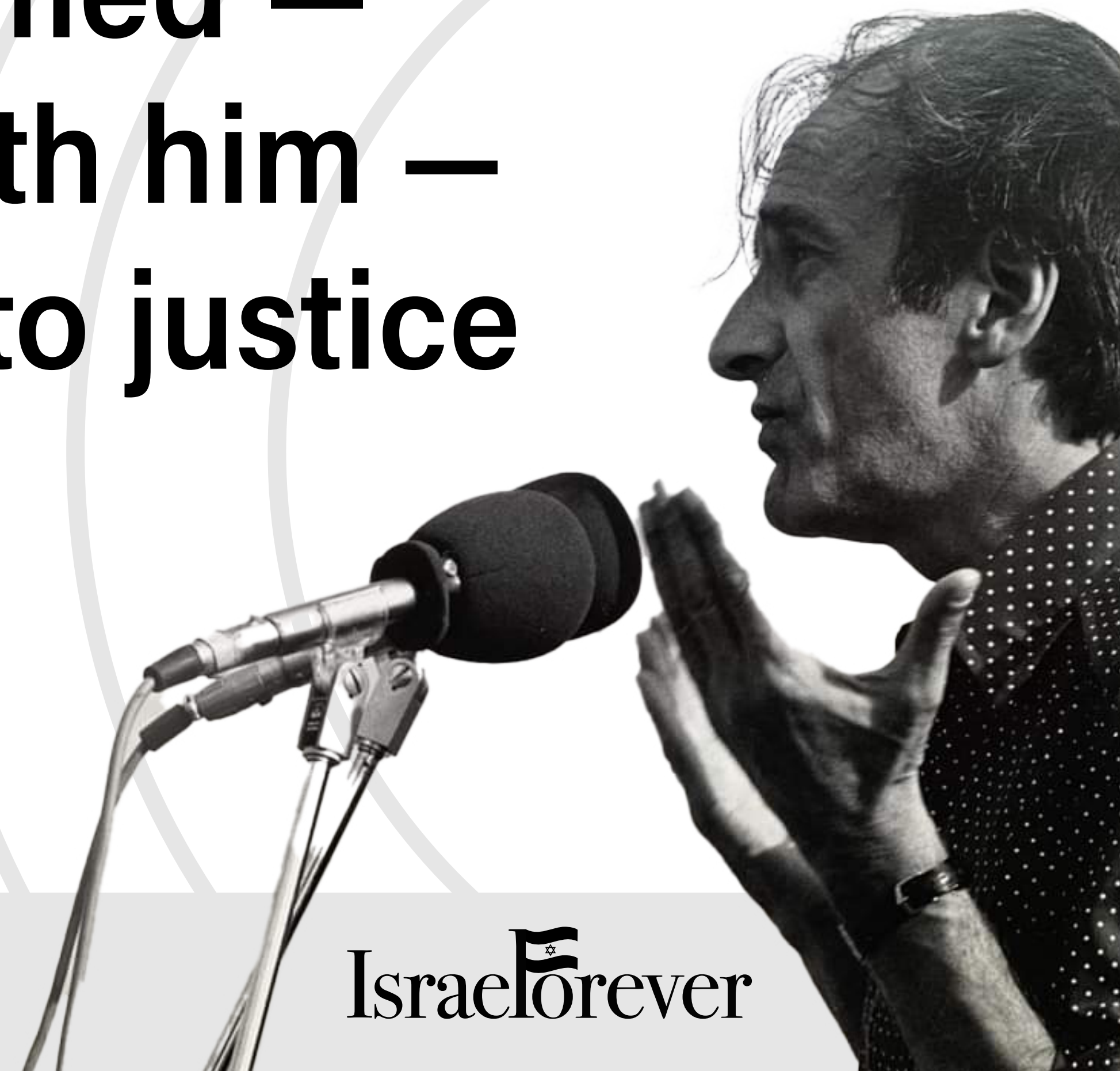


**I've learned to appreciate his objectivity –  
an objectivity heavily oriented with idealism.  
I think he has always exemplified –  
at least in my experiences with him –  
a commitment to peace and to justice  
and to basic human rights.**

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

Israel  ever





**I think most people associate him with the Holocaust, which I think is understandable but unfortunate. It doesn't capture who he is as a person.**

PROFESSOR MICHAEL GRODIN

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

IsraelForever



**Elie Weisel spent a lifetime trying to teach humanity that the Holocaust, genocide, race hatred, anti-semitism and persecution must be recognized and fought. With the death of Elie Wiesel we have lost the last of the giants who unified our nation, stood for justice, defined our people, and reminded us of who we are. Who is like them today?**

**BOBBY BROWN**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

**IsraelForever**



**He challenged us to judge ourselves and see that against us stood purveyors of false pieties... His conscience called us to reject those pieties and to realize that the work of their destruction would put an end to mankind's transcendent yearning for redemptive change and with it the end of morality in the human condition.**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

Israel<sup>✡</sup>forever

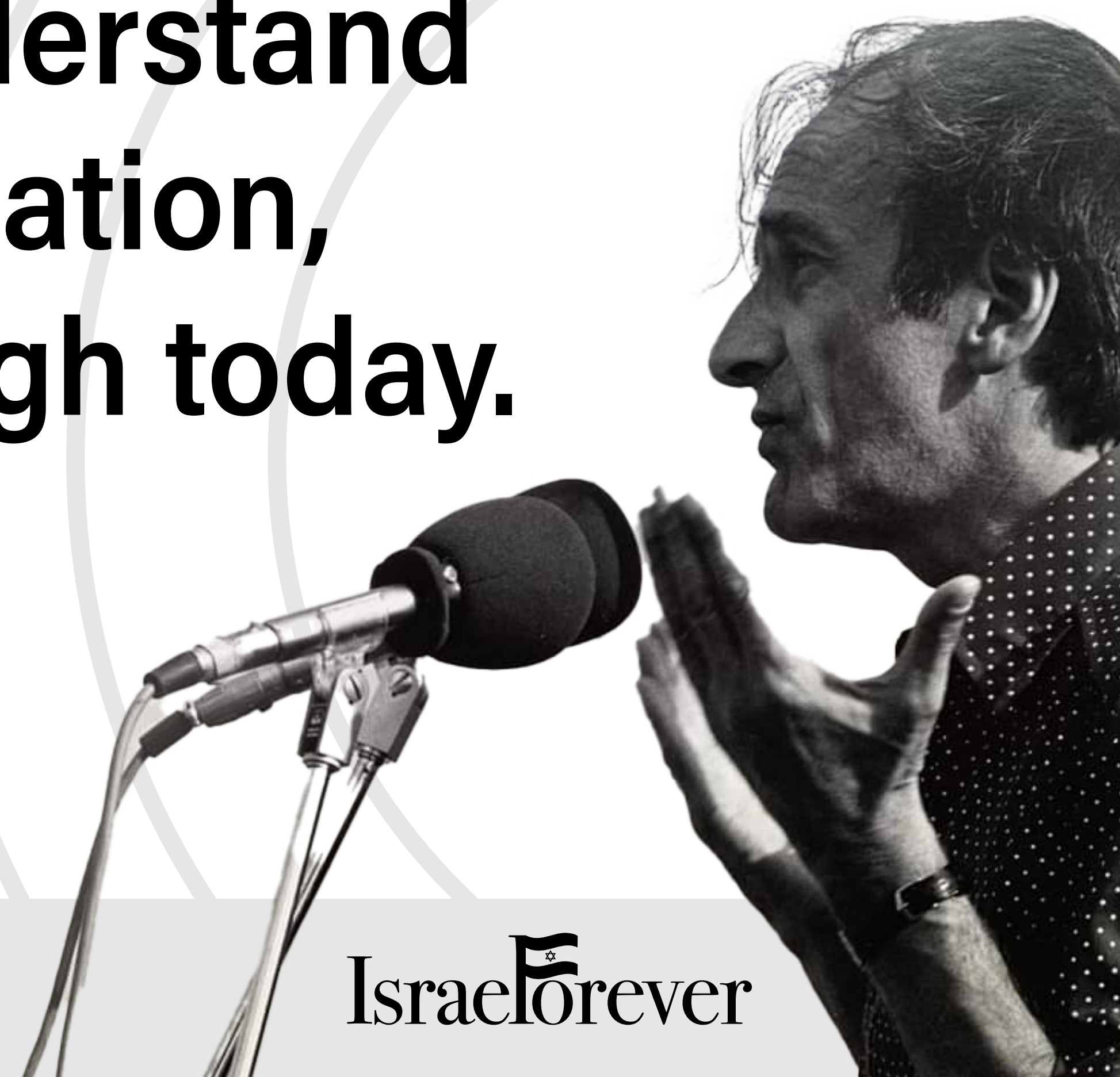


**Knowing his story is knowing history.  
To truly appreciate what it means  
to be a Jew, we must first understand  
what we have endured as a nation,  
and what we are going through today.**

JACK L

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

IsraelForever

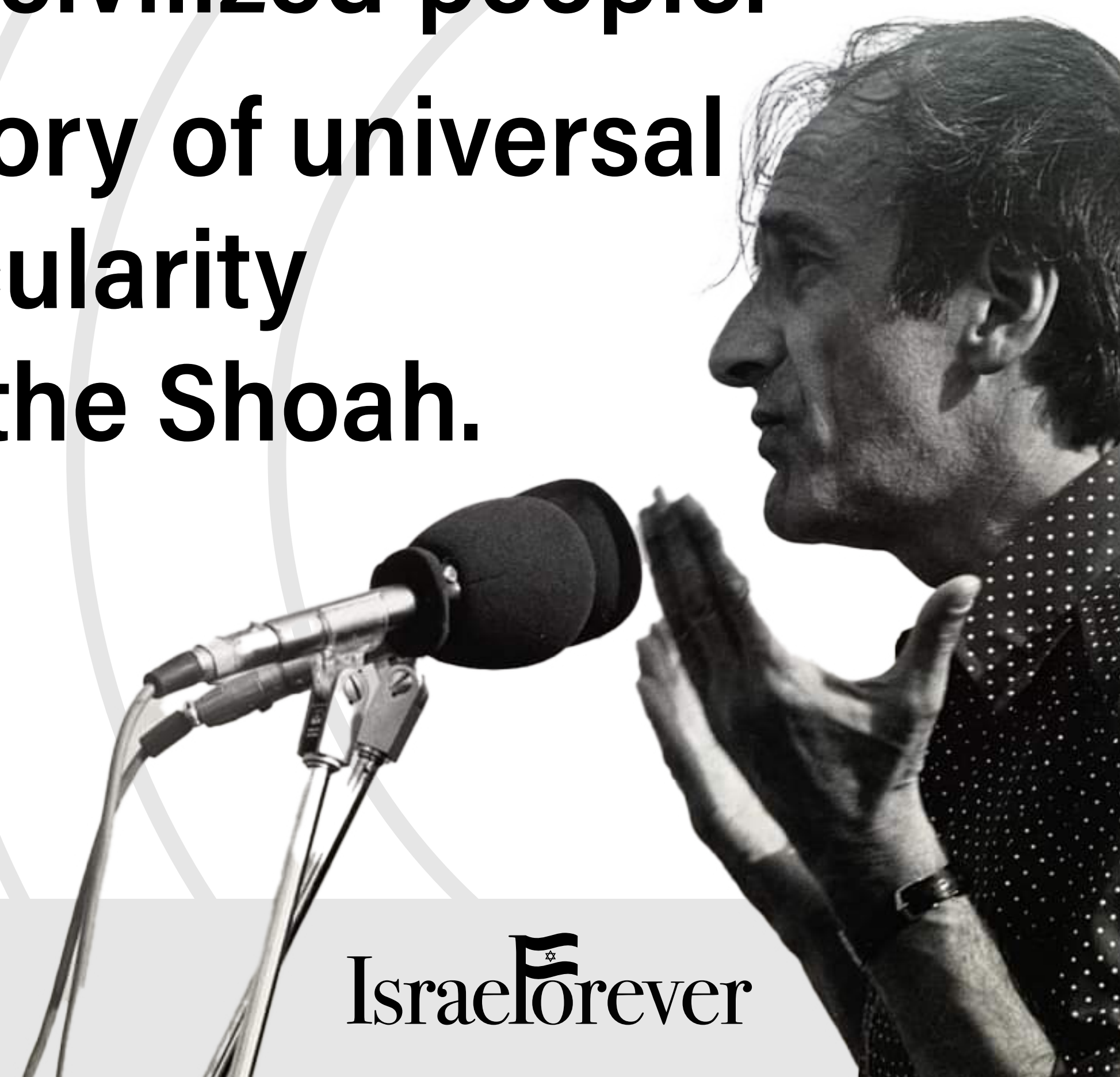


**We have a duty to continue his work and ensure evil never triumphs, for in that surety rests our only claim to the restitution of our birthright as civilized people. As we continue our work for the victory of universal commonality over narcissistic particularity we need to remember the lesson of the Shoah.**

**BERYL WAJSMAN**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

**IsraelForever**



**What I learned through Wiesel was a toughness of spirit I was not used to finding in religious writing, a toughness of spirit...**

**Wiesel eschewed love and forgiveness as well as hate and revenge: "Do not be more just than necessary. An excess of charity may be sinful... misplaced pity is potentially no less dangerous than unwarranted cruelty."**

JULIUS LESTER

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

IsraelForever



**I never met you in person, but you were my teacher.  
I never heard you speak in public, but your wisdom  
is part and parcel of my fiber.  
I didn't go to your funeral, but I mourn you, nevertheless...  
I didn't know you, but your voice helped lend me  
some of the most important wisdom I have gained  
in the cycle of my life.  
I will continue to live up to and teach your lessons.**

**MATT GEWIRTZ**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

**IsraelForever**



**This was Wiesel's way of speaking of the Holocaust—  
telegraphically, compactly, with much left unstated  
and with utmost respect to those who no longer could  
speak for themselves.**

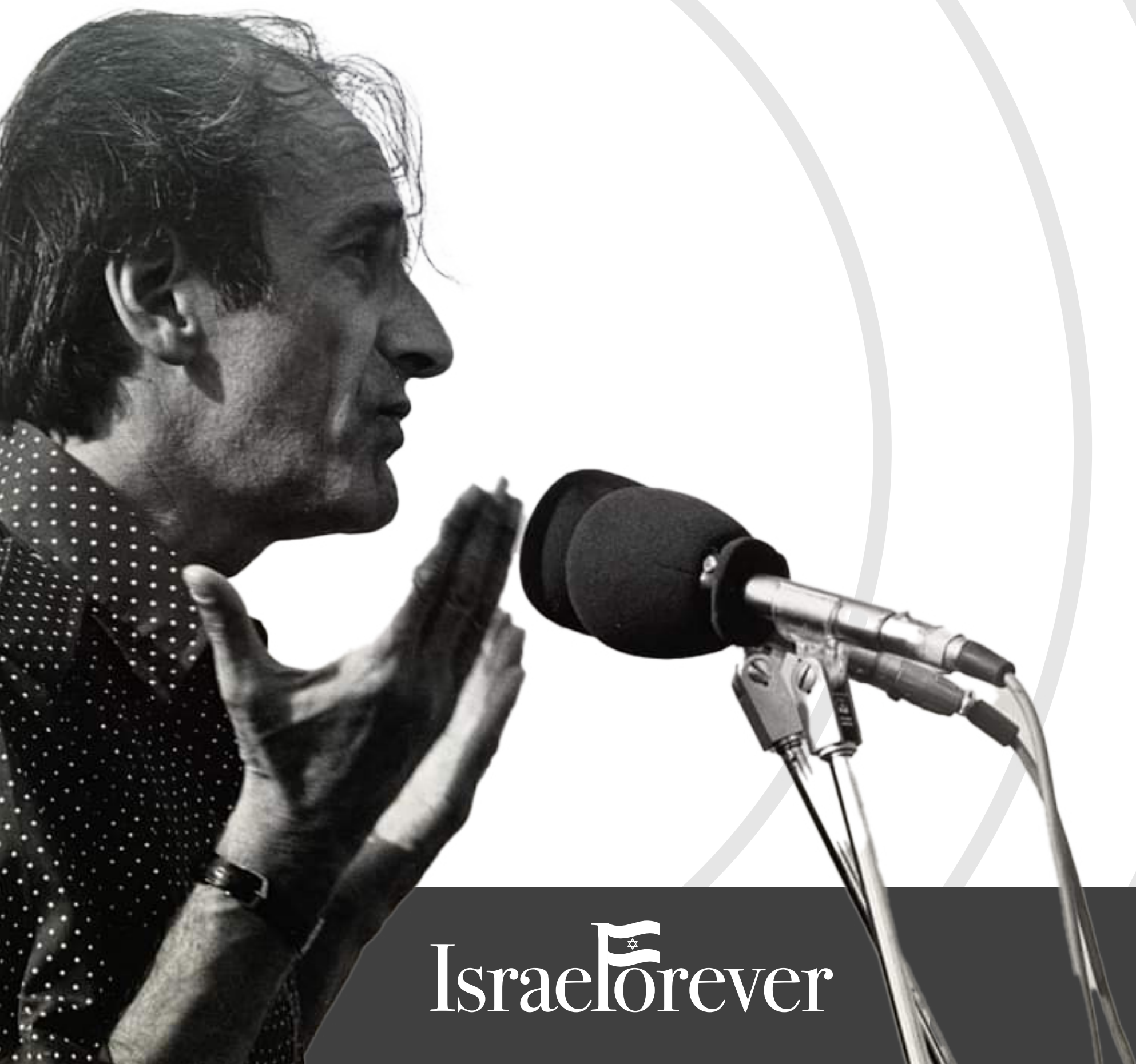
**The ideas and imagery and emotions rising up  
from the thousands of pages he has written carry  
a mysterious power of their own, apart from  
what he did to put them there.**

**Hearing Elie's Echo**

Israel  forever

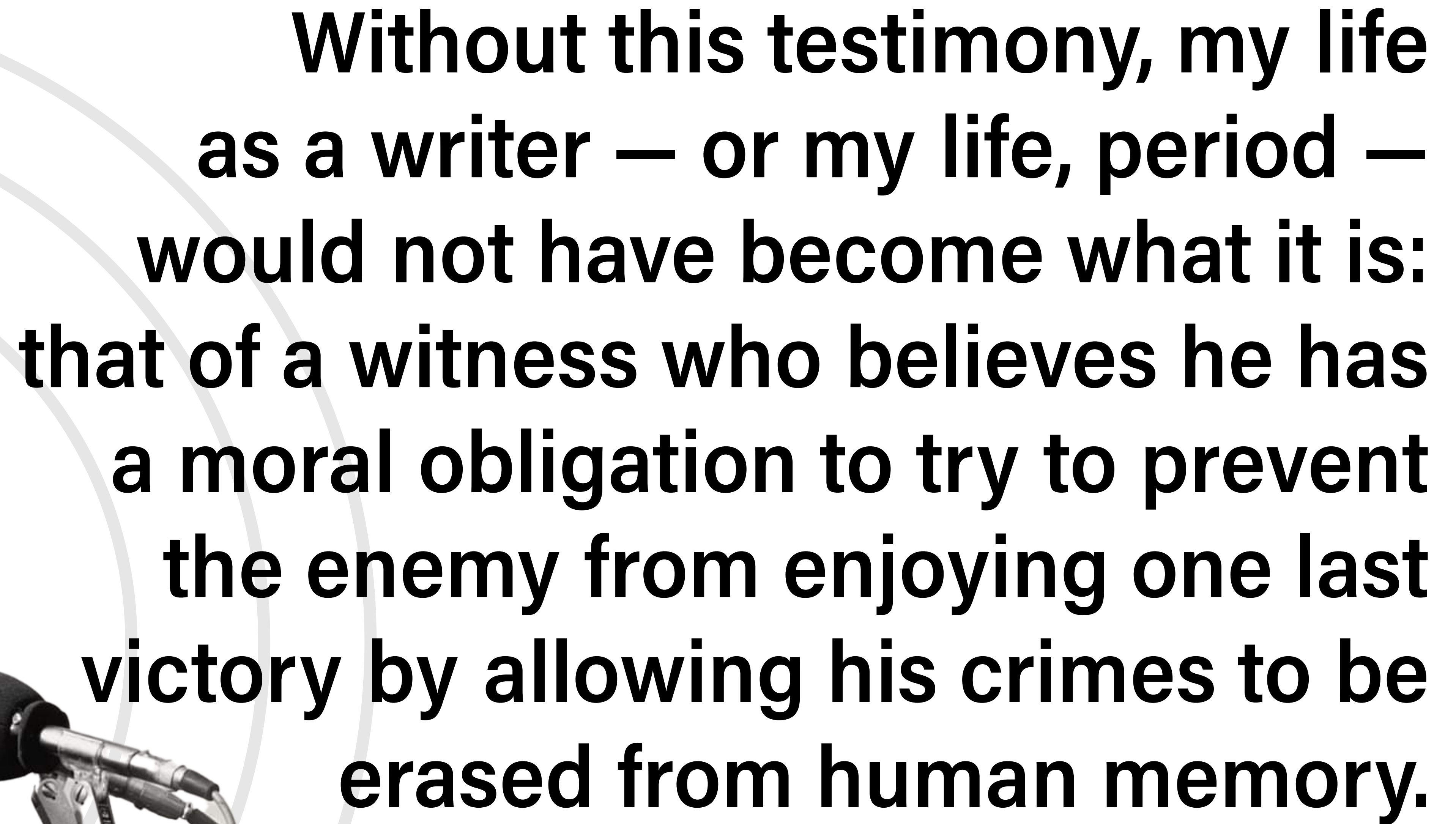




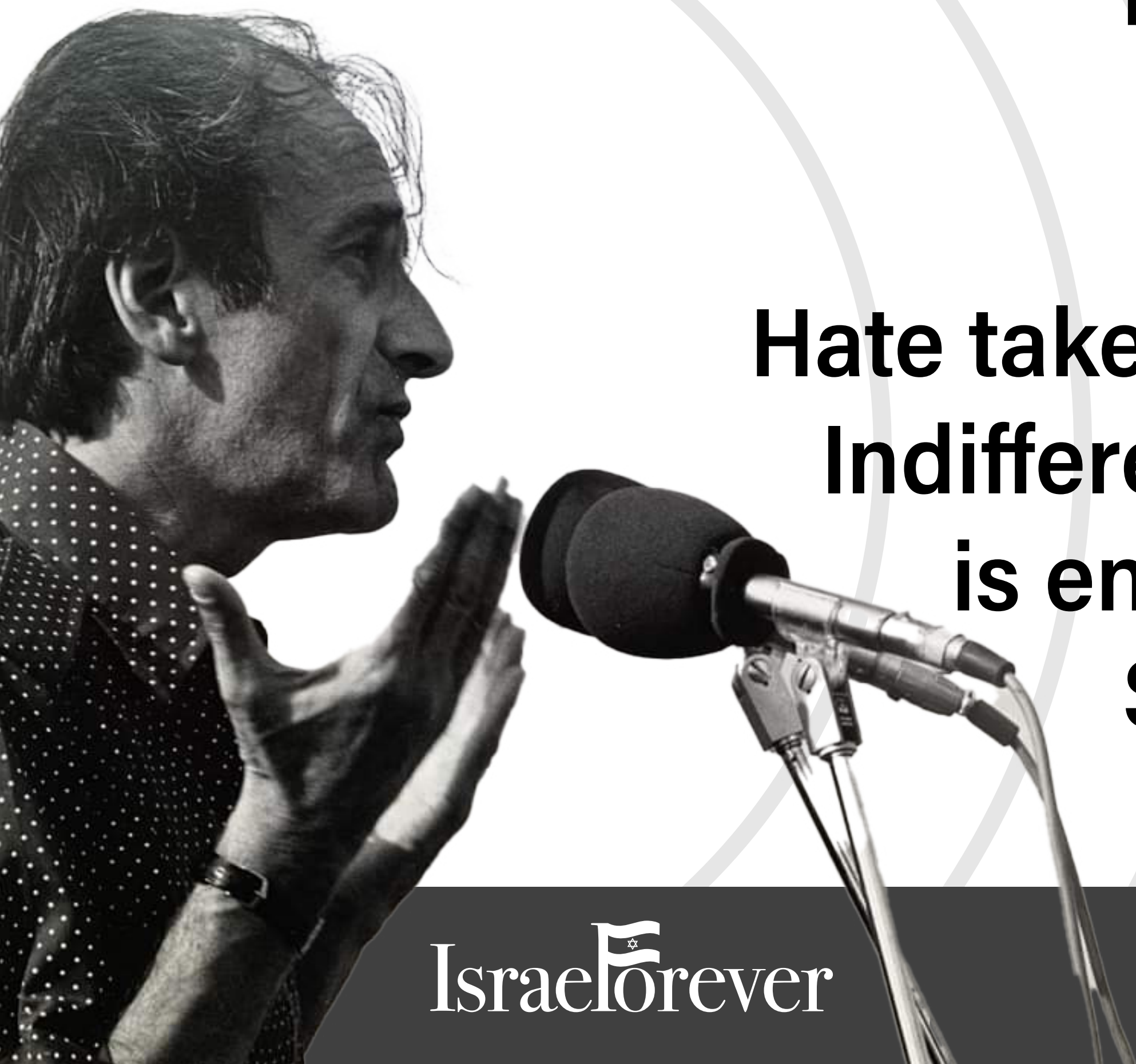


**The witness has forced  
himself to testify.  
For the youth of today,  
for the children who  
will be born tomorrow.**

**He does not want his past  
to become their future.**

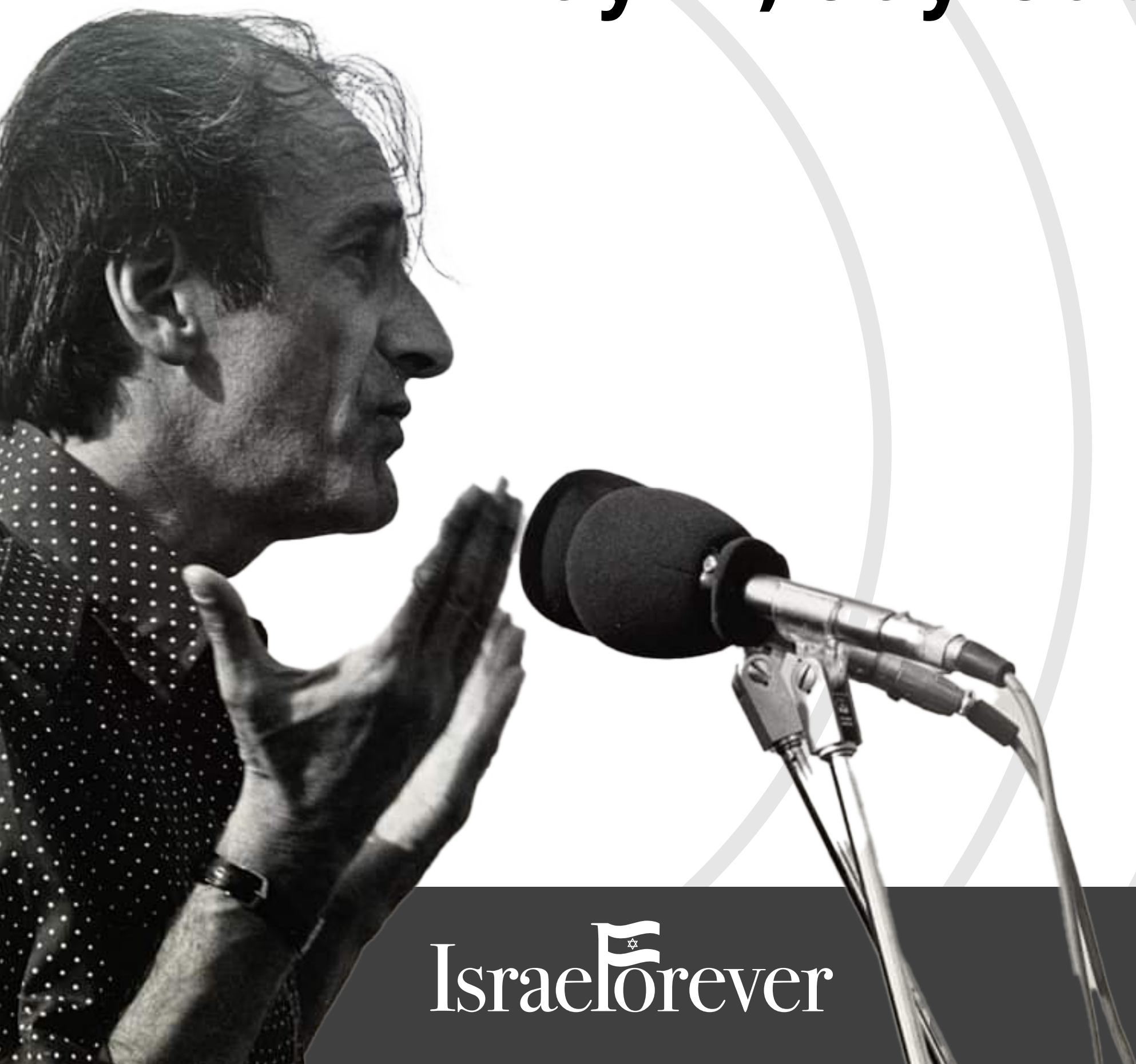


**Without this testimony, my life as a writer — or my life, period — would not have become what it is: that of a witness who believes he has a moral obligation to try to prevent the enemy from enjoying one last victory by allowing his crimes to be erased from human memory.**



**I have devoted much time to explore indifference,  
and again I came to a conclusion  
that the peril threatening humankind today  
is indifference even more than hatred.  
There are more people who are indifferent  
than there are people who hate.  
Hate is an action. Hate takes time.  
Hate takes energy. And even it demands sacrifices.  
Indifference is nothing, but indifference to hatred  
is encouraging hatred and is justifying hatred.  
So what we must do... is fight indifference.**

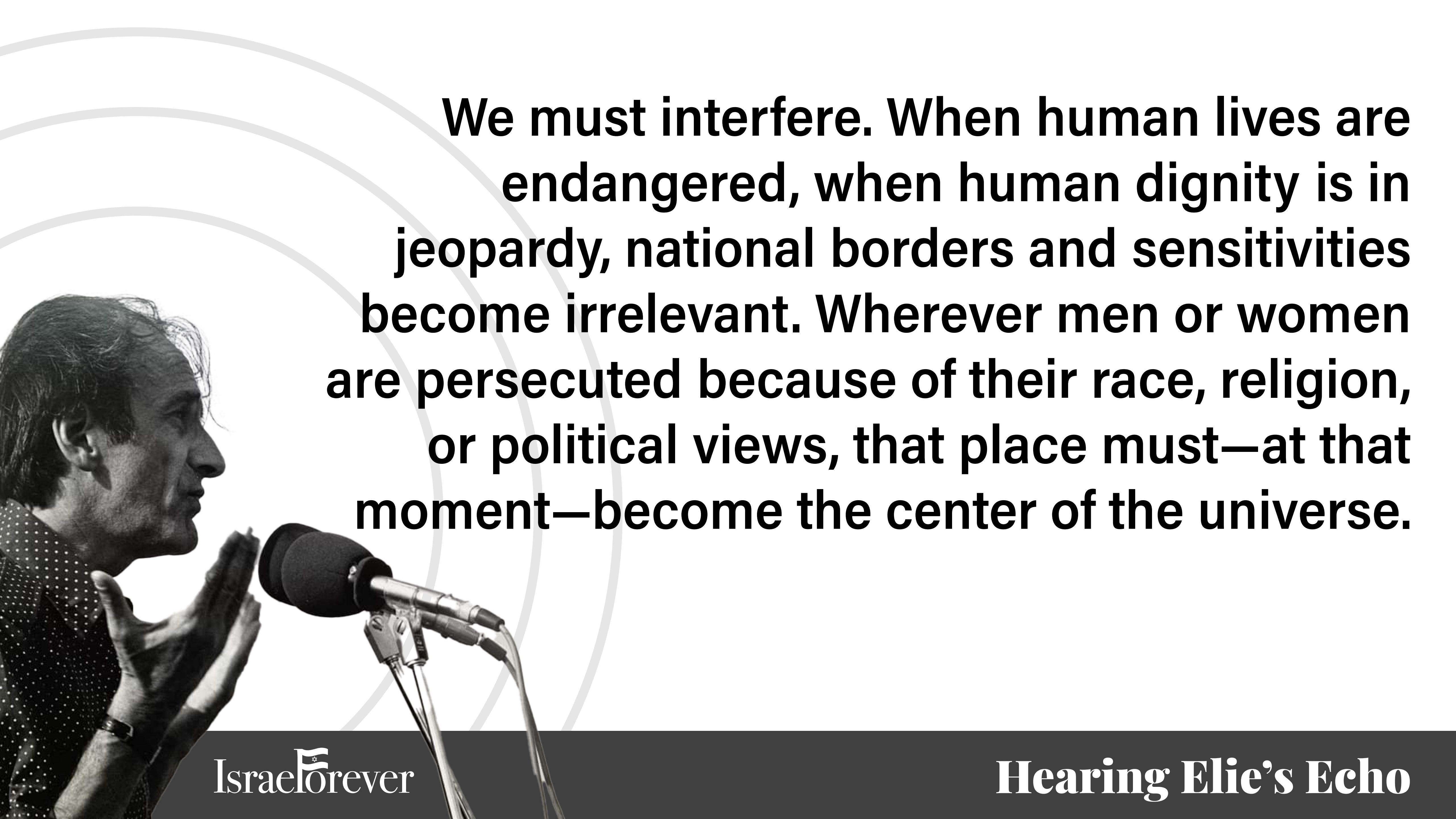
**I was convinced that hatred among nations  
and among people perished in Auschwitz. It didn't.  
The victims died but the haters are still here, new ones.  
Day in, day out, week after week, and year after year,  
people kill each other.  
And so often I say to myself, really,  
what are we doing on this planet?  
We are passing the message  
as well as we can.  
Communicating our fears, our hopes.**





**Hope is like peace.**

**It is a gift only  
we can give  
to one another.**



**We must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe.**

**No human race is superior;  
no religious faith is inferior.**

**All collective judgments  
are wrong.**

**Only racists make them.**

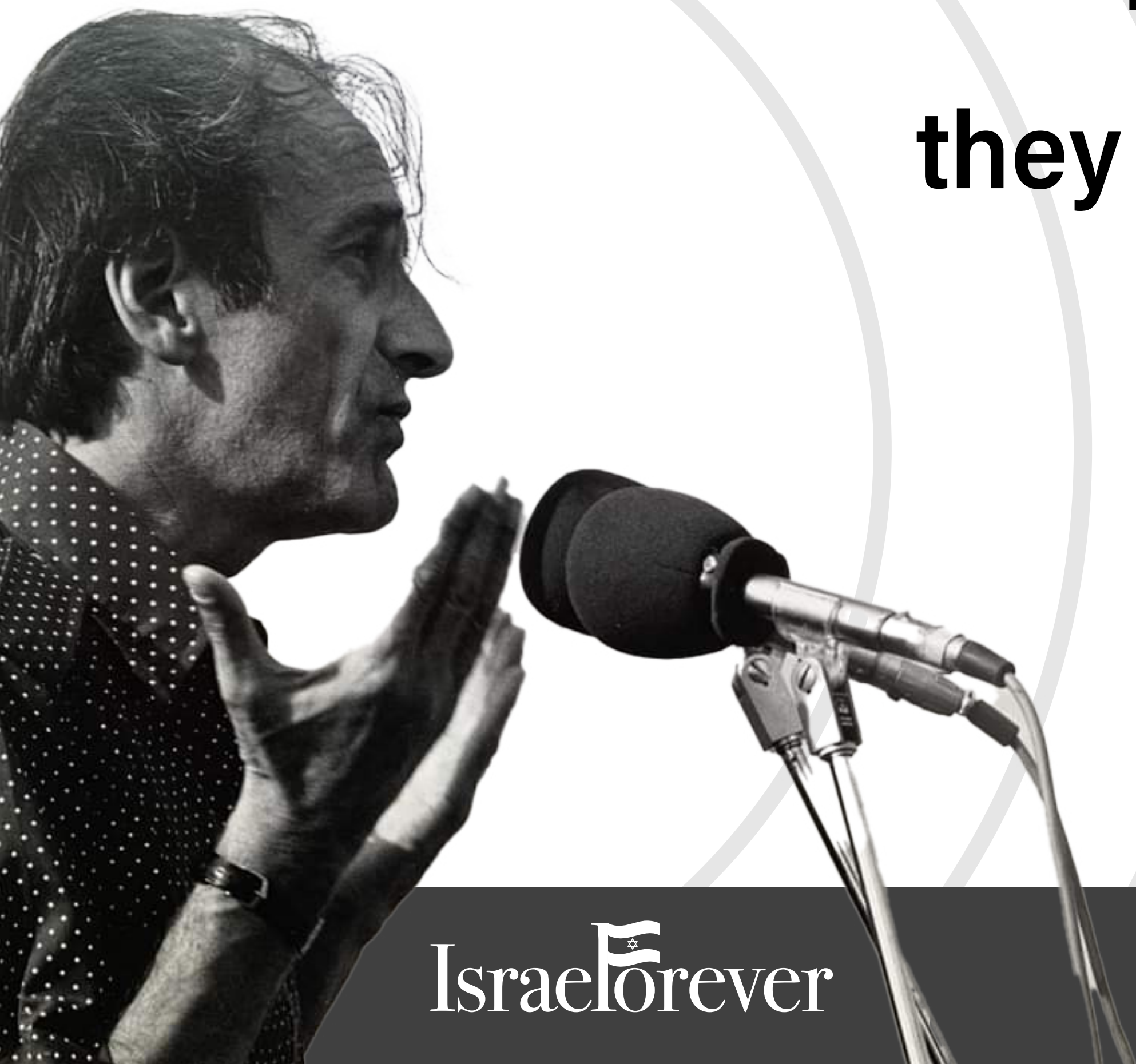


**I believe firmly and profoundly that anyone who listens to a witness becomes a witness.**

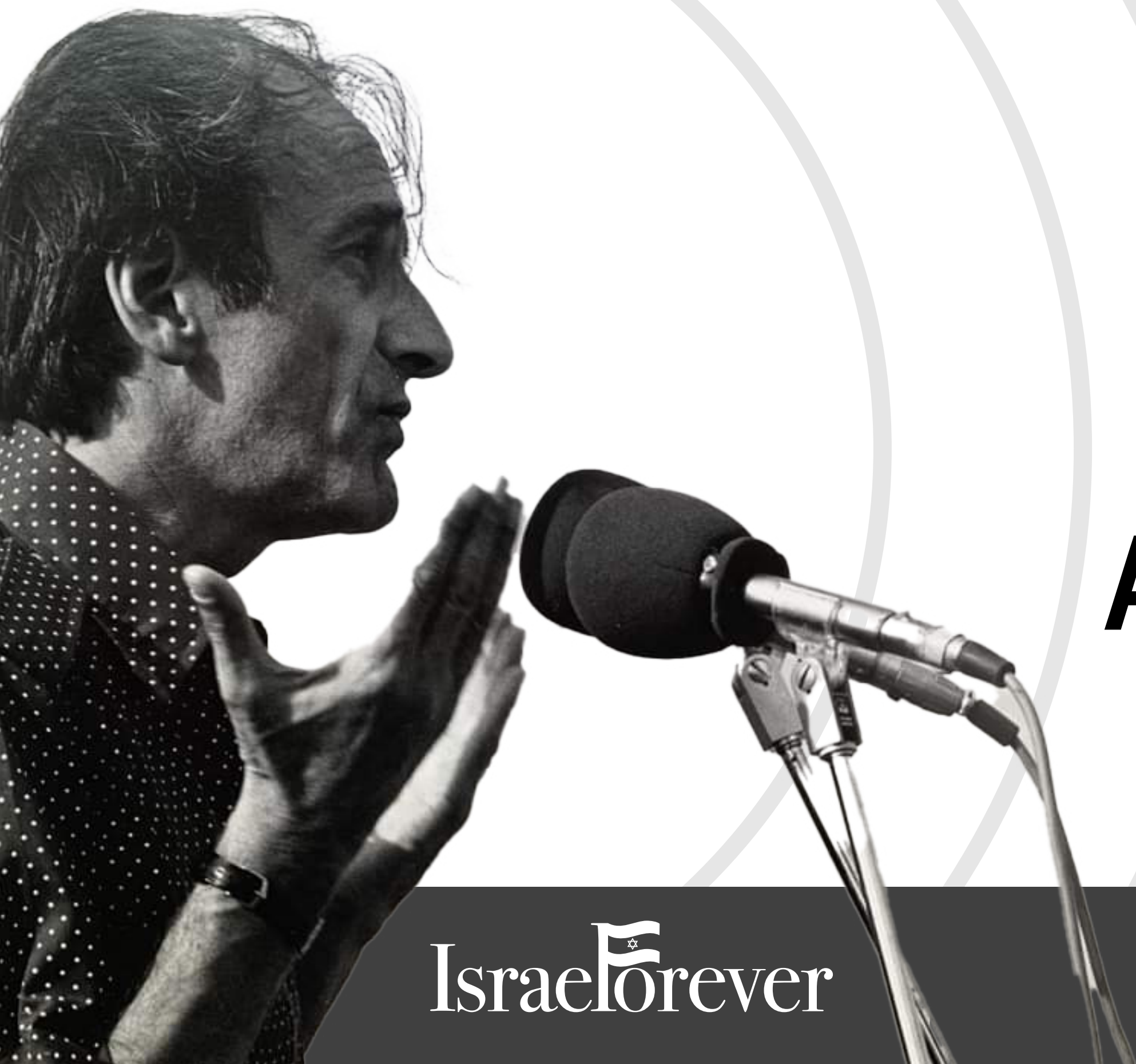
**So those who hear us, those who read us, those who learn something from us, they will continue to bear witness for us.**

**Until now, they're doing it with us.**

**At a certain point in time, they will do it for all of us.**







**The opposite of love is not  
hate, it's indifference.  
The opposite of art is not  
ugliness, it's indifference.  
The opposite of faith is not  
heresy, it's indifference.  
And the opposite of life is not  
death, it's indifference.**



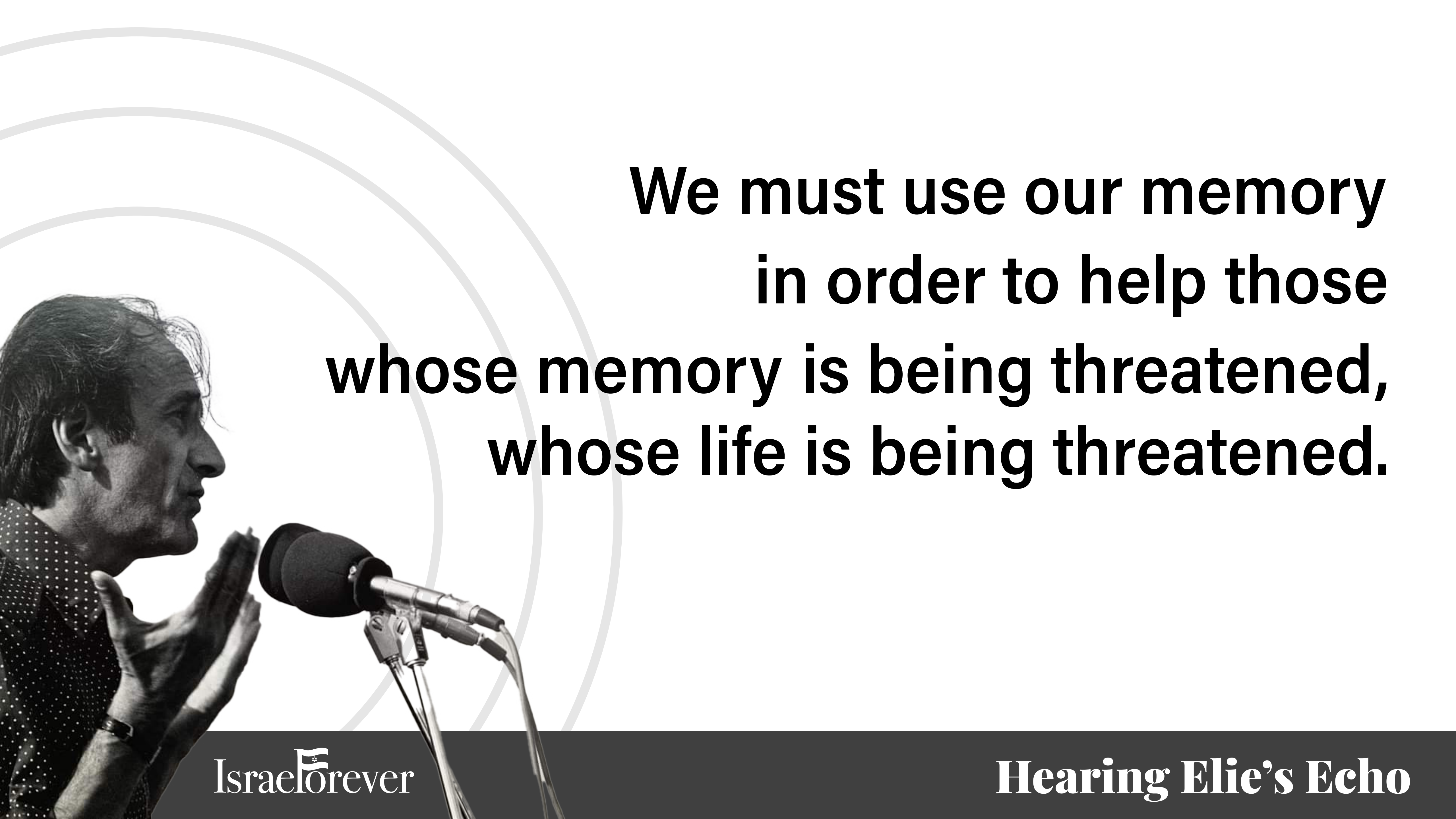
**One person of integrity  
can make a difference.**



**Think higher,  
feel deeper.**

IsraelForever

**Hearing Elie's Echo**



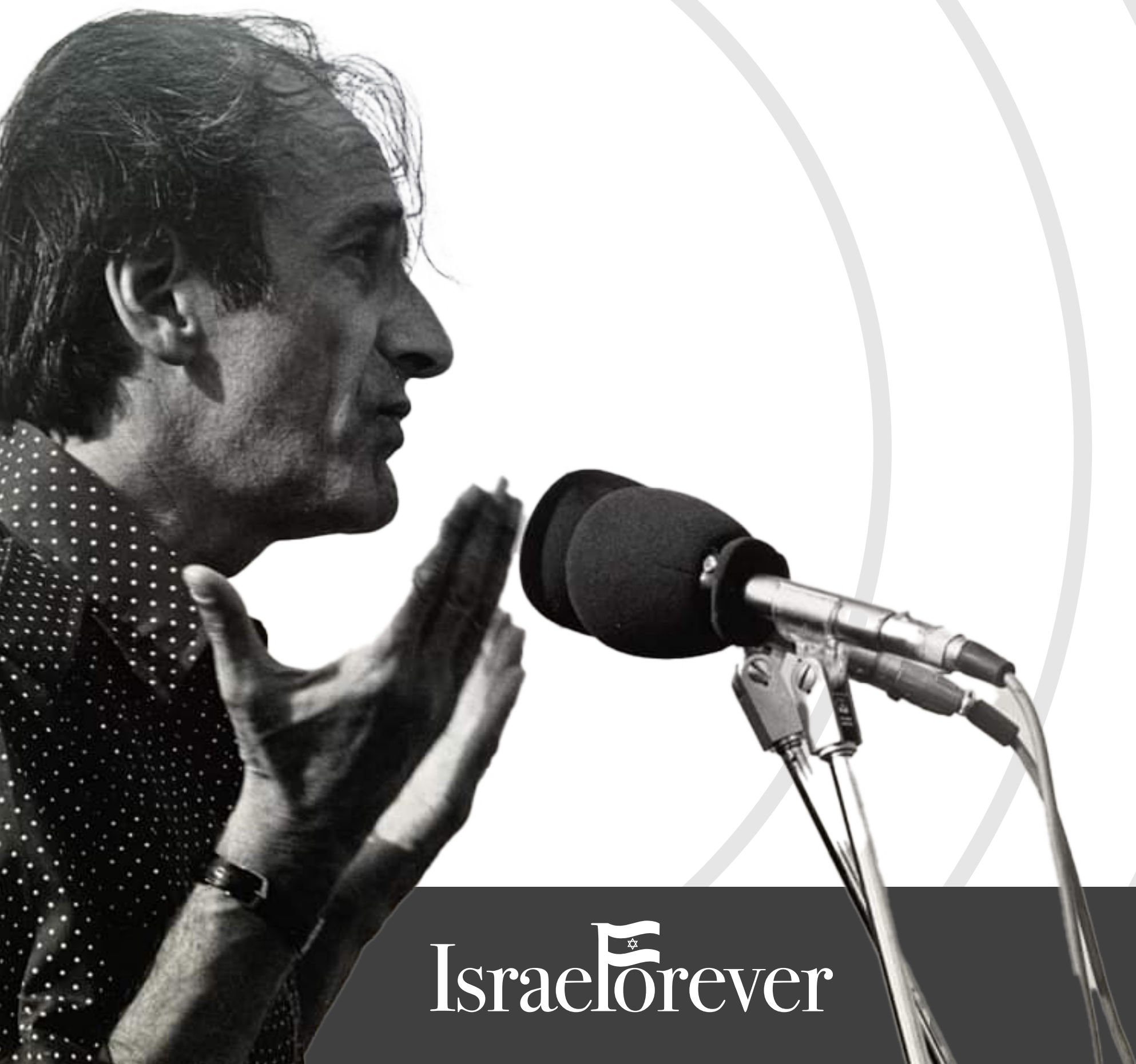
**We must use our memory  
in order to help those  
whose memory is being threatened,  
whose life is being threatened.**



**We must always take sides.**

**Neutrality helps  
the oppressor,  
never the victim.**

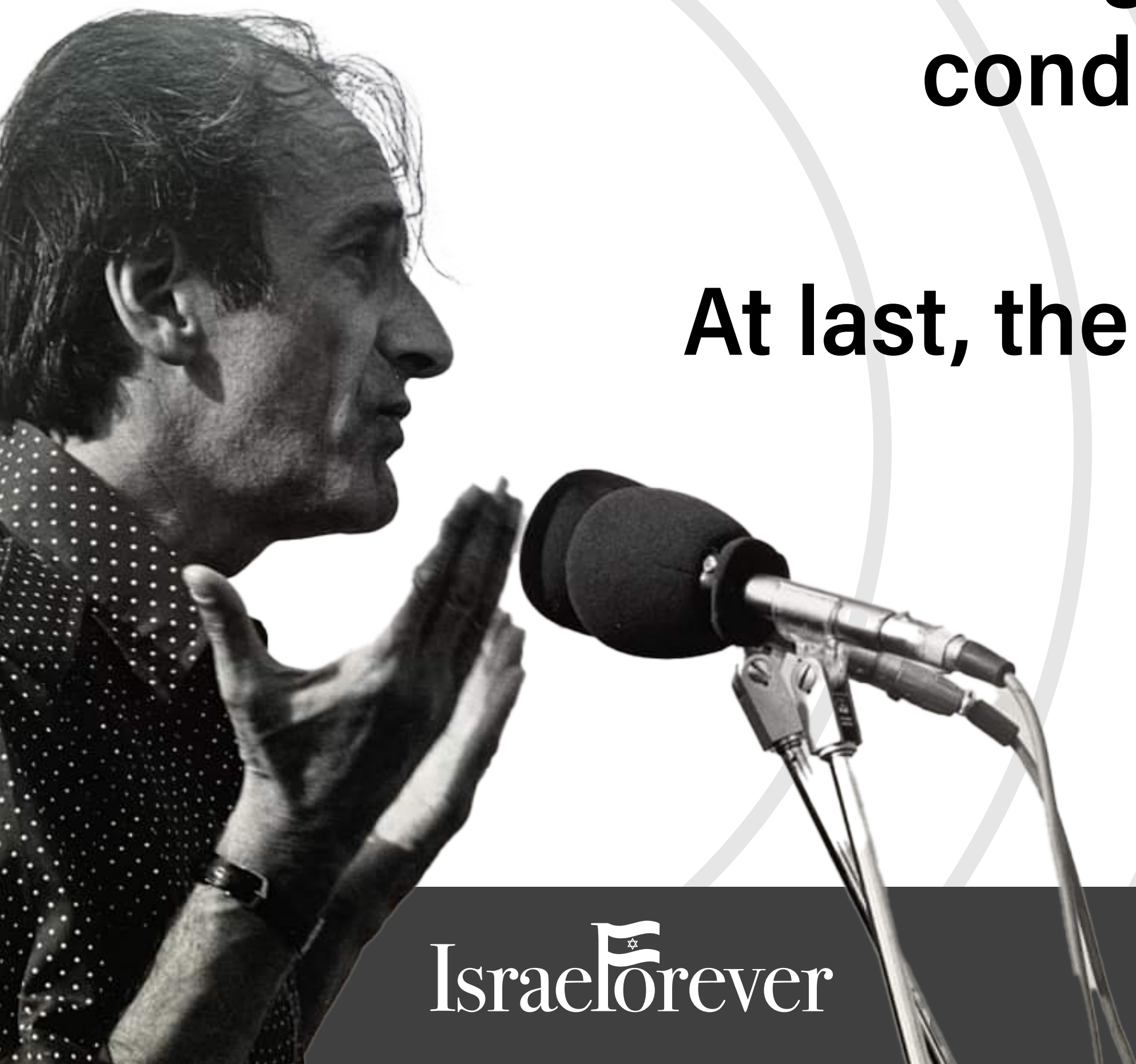
**Silence encourages  
the tormentor,  
never the tormented.**



**When a person doesn't  
have gratitude,  
something is missing  
in his or her humanity.  
A person can almost  
be defined by  
his or her attitude  
toward gratitude.**



**There may be times  
when we are powerless  
to prevent injustice,  
but there must  
never be a time  
when we fail to protest.**



**We were masters of nature, masters of the world.  
We had forgotten everything—death, fatigue, our  
natural needs. Stronger than cold or hunger,  
stronger than the shots and the desire to die,  
condemned and wandering, mere numbers,  
we were the only men on earth.  
At last, the morning star appeared in the gray sky.  
A trail of indeterminate light showed  
on the horizon. We were exhausted.  
We were without strength,  
but not without illusions.**

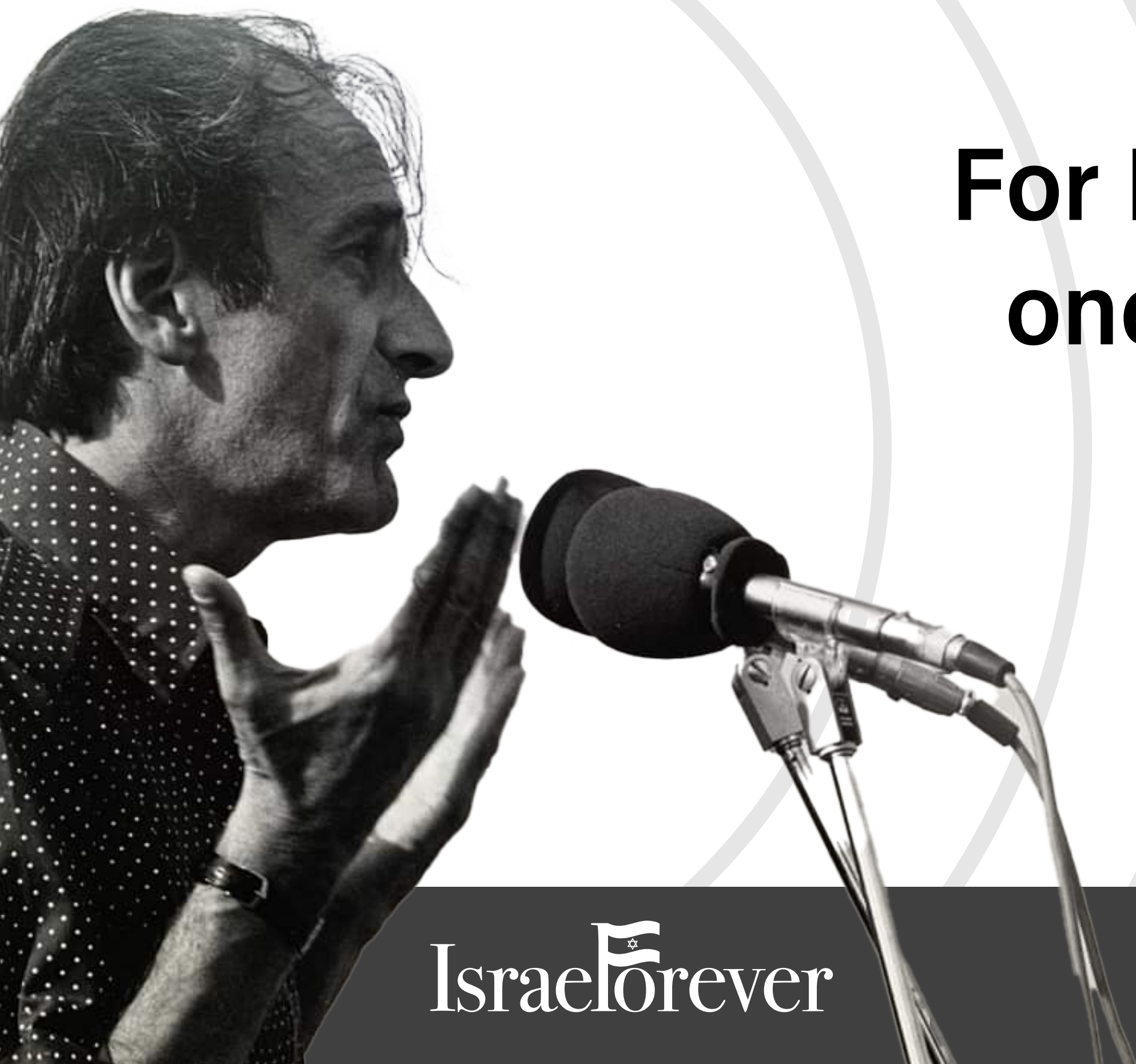




**To forget the dead  
would be akin  
to killing them  
a second time.**



**Friendship marks a life  
even more deeply than love.  
Love risks degenerating  
into obsession,  
friendship is never  
anything but sharing.**



**Since I am a Jew profoundly rooted in my peoples' memory and tradition, my first response is to Jewish fears, Jewish needs, Jewish crises. For I belong to a traumatized generation, one that experienced the abandonment and solitude of our people. It would be unnatural for me not to make Jewish priorities my own.**

**“Where is God? Where is He?” someone behind me asked...**

**For more than half an hour [the child in the noose] stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes.**

**And we had to look him full in the face.**

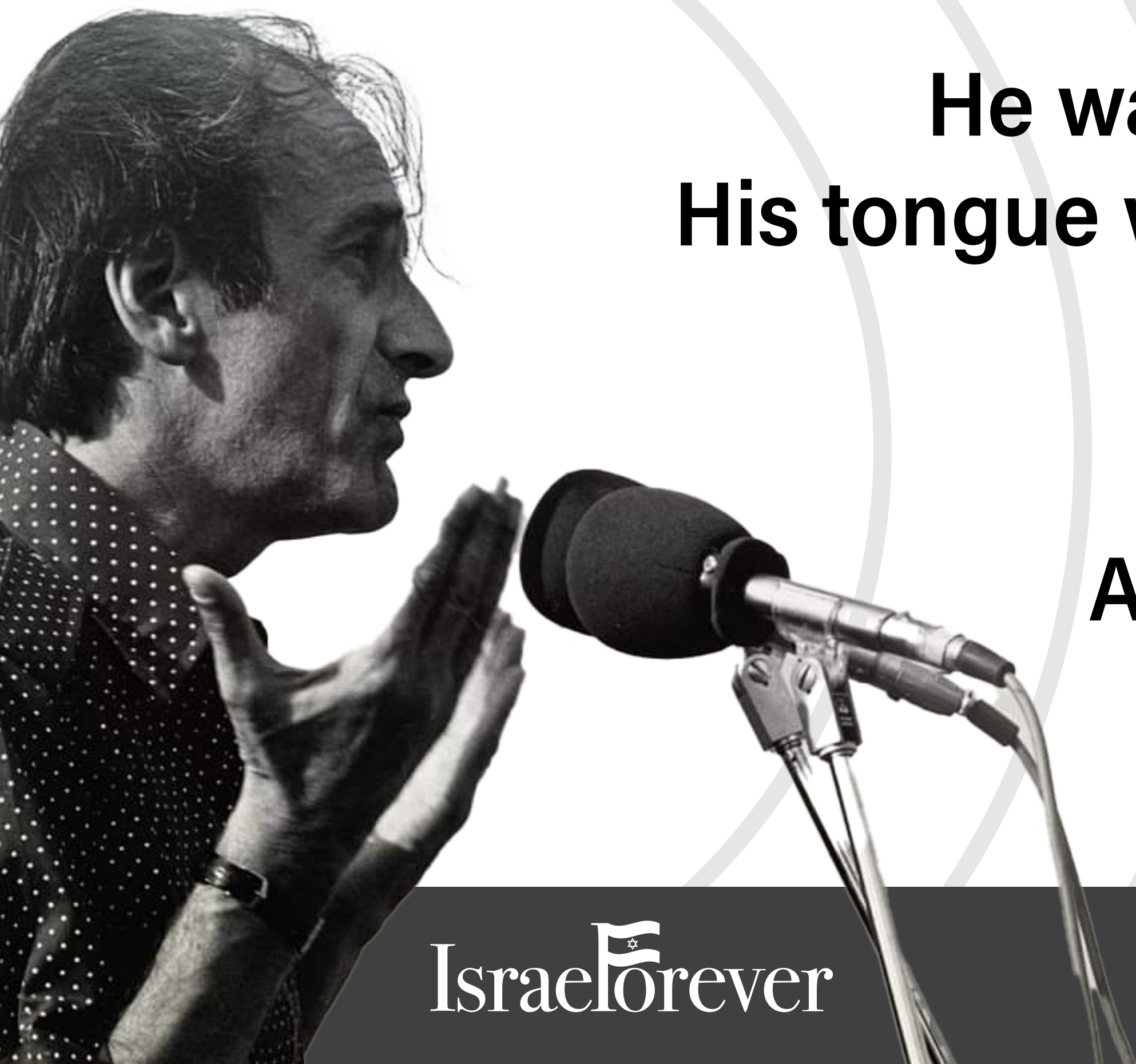
**He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes were not yet glazed.**

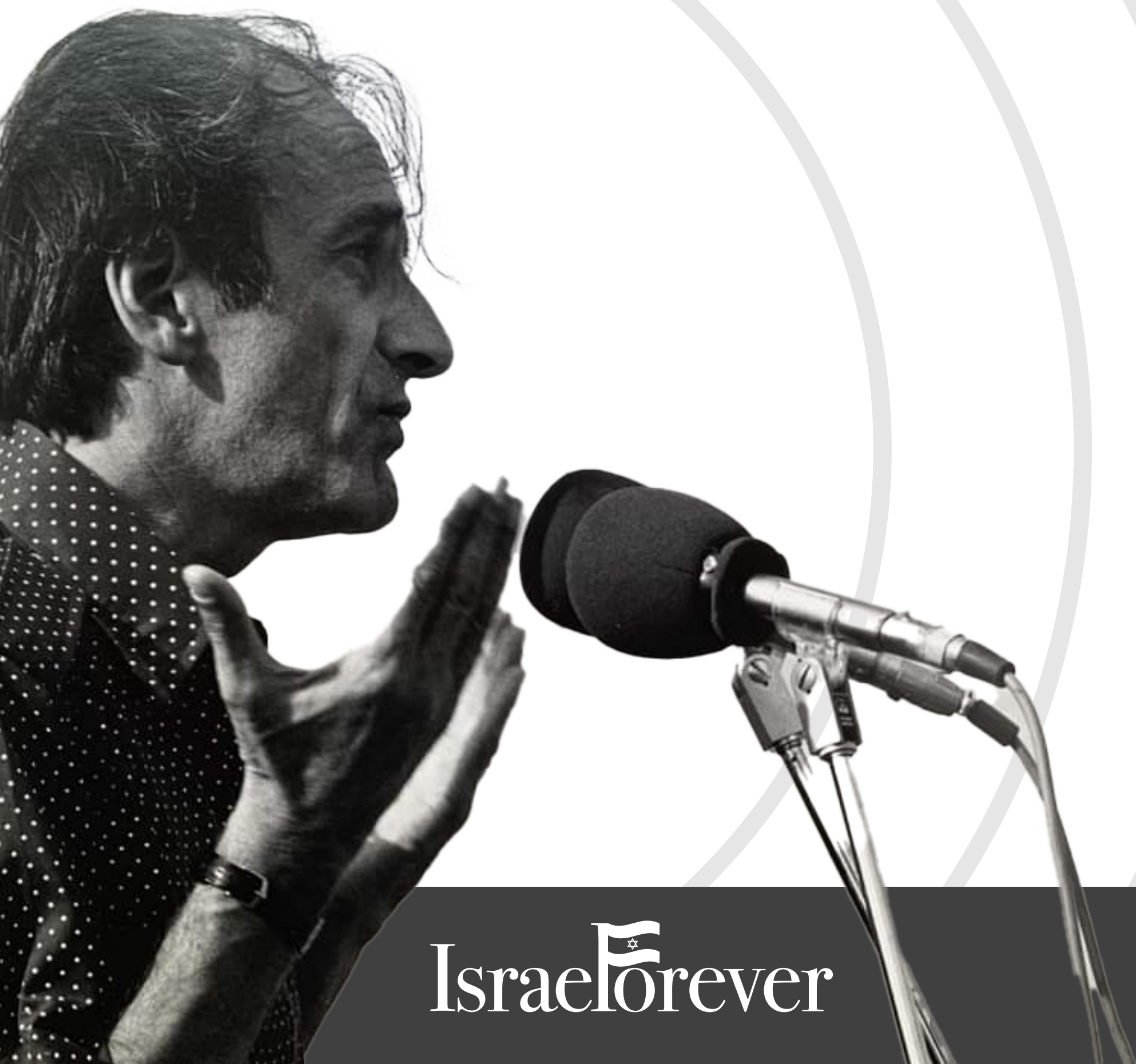
**Behind me, I heard the same man asking:**

**“Where is God now?”**

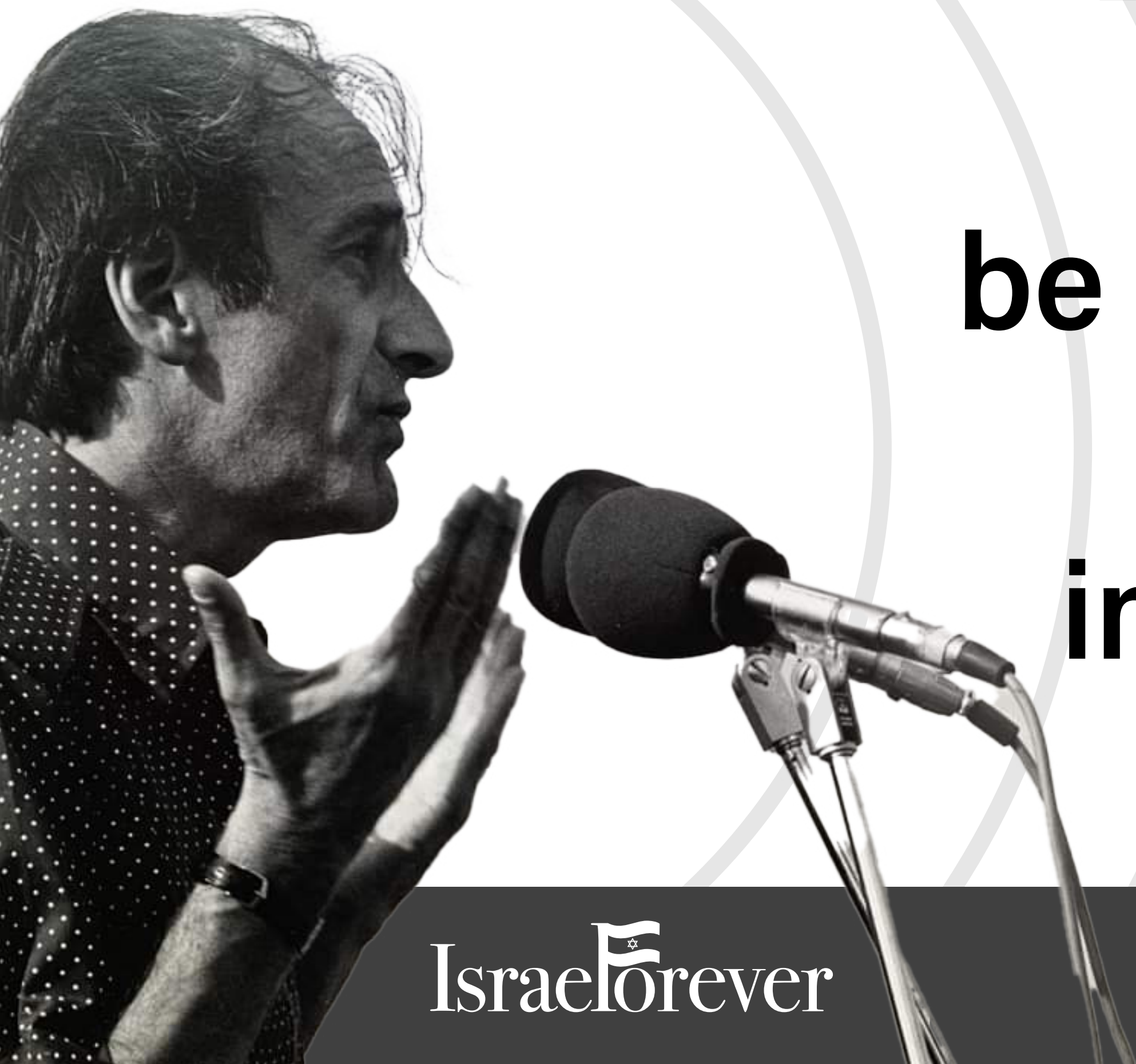
**And I heard a voice within me answer him:**

**“Where is He? Here He is—He is hanging here on this gallows....”**

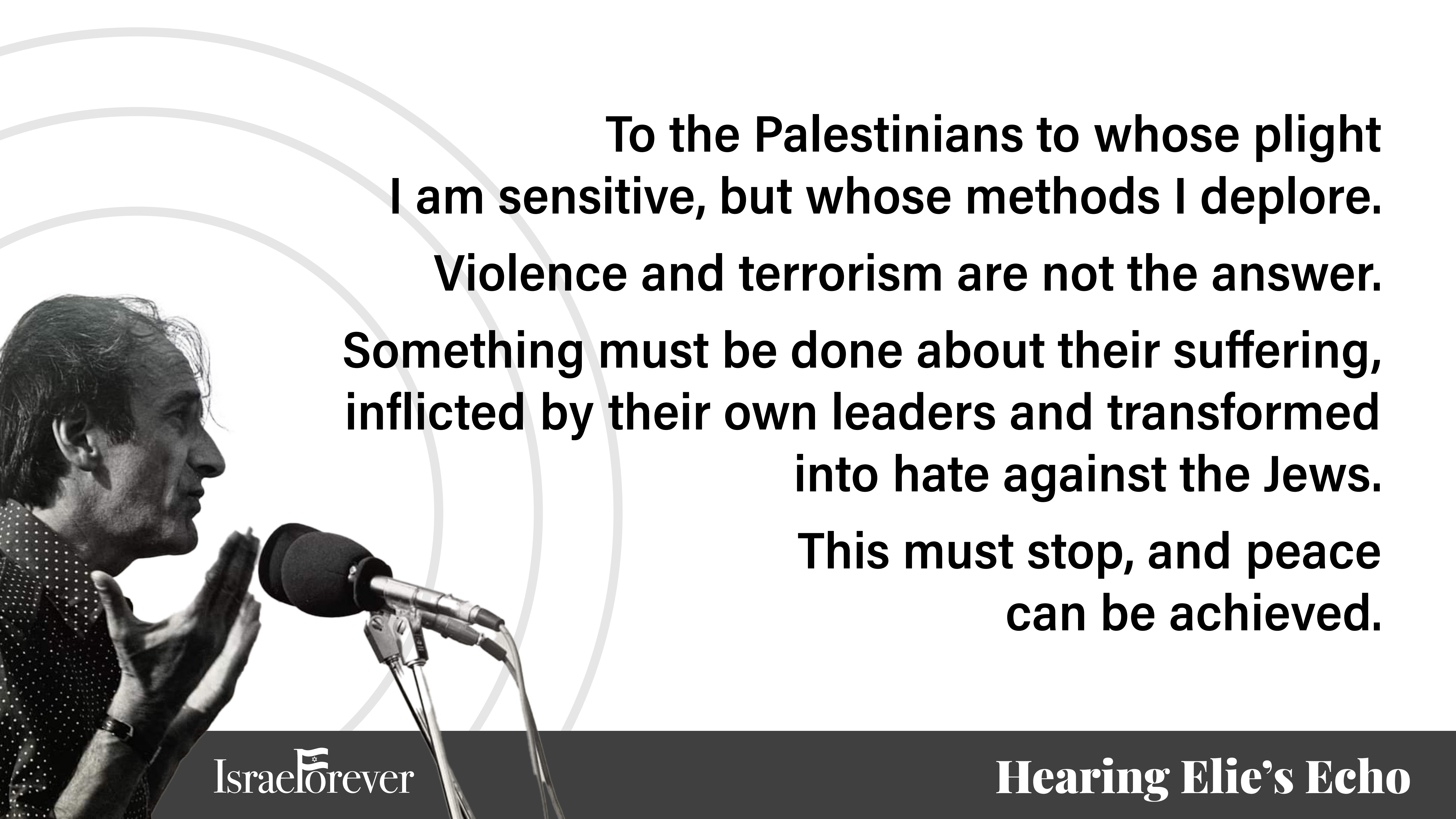




**Yes, I have faith. Faith in God  
and even in His creation.  
Without it no action  
would be possible.  
And action is the only  
remedy to indifference:  
the most insidious  
danger of all.**



**I trust Israel, for I have faith  
in the Jewish people.  
Let Israel be given a chance,  
let hatred and danger  
be removed from her horizons,  
and there will be peace  
in and around the Holy Land.**



**To the Palestinians to whose plight  
I am sensitive, but whose methods I deplore.  
Violence and terrorism are not the answer.  
Something must be done about their suffering,  
inflicted by their own leaders and transformed  
into hate against the Jews.  
This must stop, and peace  
can be achieved.**

# IsraelForever

**Israel Forever is a nonpartisan, nondenominational Jewish engagement organization that develops and promotes informal learning and activism resources to celebrate, strengthen and mobilize our connection as the nation of Israel.**

**Israel Forever addresses the problem of the increasing disconnect between Jews and our national destiny by providing learning and empowerment tools. We provide content that can be used in a myriad of settings and audiences, of all ages, for use to engage directly with family, friends, community members on issues we ourselves are trying to reflect on and learn from.**

**Israel Forever is the foundation for Jewish Nationhood. Declare your pride as a Virtual Citizen of Israel and be inspired, engaged and connected every day!**

**[israelforever.org](http://israelforever.org)**