INCIDENT REPORT · 2 NOVEMBER 2026

# Masked Officers Seize a Groom in Front of His Bride Five Days After Their Wedding — and Stun Grenades Are Thrown at a Baby Carriage as Thousands Protest

Jerusalem · Beit Shemesh · Modi'in | 1–2 November 2026 | For international and local news outlets and human-rights organisation

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| **WHO** | Yaari Lieberman, a young religious student in Jerusalem, married on 27 October 2026 — and his bride |
| **WHEN** | Sunday, 1 November 2026, the fifth day of the couple's Sheva Brachot (the traditional seven-day wedding celebration) |
| **WHAT** | Seized by masked men in civilian clothes who did not identify themselves; choked, forced to the ground and driven away; both phones confiscated; bride left alone believing he was kidnapped |
| **THEN** | Thousands protested that night. Police used stun grenades, water cannon and batons — including a grenade thrown beside a baby carriage. Five people hospitalised, among them a pregnant woman |
| **NOW** | Released the next morning after public outcry. The stun-grenade tactic is being used for the second consecutive week |

## 1. What Happened

On Tuesday, 27 October 2026, **Yaari Lieberman**, a young religious student at Yeshivat Ohr HaChaim in Jerusalem, got married [1]. In Jewish tradition the seven days after a wedding are known as the **Sheva Brachot** (“Seven Blessings”) — a week of nightly celebratory meals held in honour of the new couple by family and friends. It is considered one of the most joyful weeks of a person's life, and the couple are treated as a king and queen for its duration.

On Sunday evening, 1 November — the fifth day of that week — Yaari and his bride stepped off a bus at the Dorot/Hashmonaim stop on their way to that evening's celebration held in their honour [1][6]. A group of men in civilian clothes, **wearing masks and carrying no identification**, were waiting for them [2][6]. According to his mother-in-law, who spoke to the media minutes later, the men **choked him, threw him to the ground, and forced him into a vehicle** [6]. They had reportedly tracked him through the location data of his mobile phone [2].

The men did not tell the bride who they were. When she told them she was his wife and tried to call for help, **they took her phone from her as well**, saying they were “checking the phone” — and then drove away with her husband [6]. She was left alone at the roadside, believing she had just watched her husband being kidnapped.

She made her way, in tears, to a civilian police station and begged officers to help find him. The police had no record of him and **began treating the case as a possible abduction**. Only later did it emerge that the men were Military Police and that he was being held at Military Prison 10 [1][2]. That same afternoon he was brought before a disciplinary hearing and sentenced to **20 days' imprisonment** [3].

This was the second attempt to seize him. On 6 October — about two weeks before the wedding — Military Police had come to his parents' home in Modi'in in the middle of the night; hundreds of neighbours gathered,

and after two hours the officers left without him [2].

The bride is described by her mother as being in shock — “her whole body is shaking, she does not stop crying” [6]. Both the groom's and the bride's phones were taken [6]. No family member was told where he had been taken or why.

That night **thousands of people took to the streets** in Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh. Police responded with stun grenades, a water cannon and batons — including grenades thrown at people who were not protesting and **at a baby in a carriage** (see Section 4). At least five people were taken to hospital, among them a pregnant woman, a teenage boy, and a 21-year-old who lost toes [3][7].

On Monday morning, 2 November, after the public outcry, Yaari Lieberman was released and returned home to his bride [3].

The arrest drew condemnation across the political spectrum, including from members of the governing coalition, and a cross-party parliamentary petition was launched within hours [1][2].

## 2. Timeline

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| **6 Oct 2026** | Military Police arrive at the Lieberman family home in Modi'in at night. Hundreds gather; after ~2 hours the officers leave without him [2]. |
| **Tue 27 Oct** | Yaari Lieberman marries. The Sheva Brachot week begins [1]. |
| **Sun 1 Nov · afternoon** | Masked men in civilian clothes seize him as he and his bride step off a bus on the way to their celebration. He is choked, forced to the ground and pushed into a vehicle. His phone and his wife's phone are taken. The men do not identify themselves [1][2][6]. |
| **Sun 1 Nov · afternoon** | The bride arrives in tears at a civilian police station. Police find no record of him and open a kidnapping inquiry, before learning the IDF is holding him [1]. |
| **Sun 1 Nov · afternoon** | Sentenced in a military disciplinary hearing to 20 days in Military Prison 10 [3]. |
| **Sun 1 Nov · night** | Thousands protest in Jerusalem (Haim Bar-Lev Road / Light Rail) and Beit Shemesh (Nahar HaYarden St). Police use stun grenades, water cannon and batons. Five hospitalised [3][4][7]. |
| **Mon 2 Nov · morning** | Lieberman is released and returns home [3]. |

**Official IDF statement:** “Today, in a planned arrest operation, the Military Police arrested a draft evader who was taken into custody in accordance with the law” [1].

## 3. Testimony of the Bride's Mother (Broadcast Phone Interview)

A phone interview with the bride's mother was broadcast shortly after the arrest. The recording is attached [6]. Key statements, translated from Hebrew:

> *“Yes — about two hours ago. It's a horror. We had a Sheva Brachot celebration planned, but they simply choked him, threw him to the ground and shoved him into a vehicle. They refused to identify themselves. They had masks on their faces.”*
>
> *“My daughter is in trauma. Her whole body is shaking; she doesn't stop crying. I don't understand — is there such a thing, to do this to a groom?”*

> *“She told them she is the bride — and they took her phone too. They didn't let her do anything, not even call anyone. She said, ‘I don't know anything’ — they said ‘we are checking the phone’ — and then they simply disappeared with the groom.”*

**What this testimony establishes:**

- Physical violence — choking and forcing to the ground — against a non-violent young man
- Masked officers who refused to identify themselves
- Confiscation of the bride's personal phone, leaving her unable to call anyone
- No notification to the family of where he was taken

## 4. A New and Ongoing Tactic: Stun Grenades Thrown at Civilians Who Pose No Danger

**For the second week in a row, stun grenades are being thrown as a first-resort measure — at people standing, walking or sitting in public spaces, not at anyone posing a threat.**

The footage attached to this report, filmed on the night of 1 November in Beit Shemesh and Jerusalem, documents the following [3][7]:

### 4.1 Stun grenade thrown down a road at passers-by and a bus

An officer in plain clothes is seen throwing a stun grenade down the road, without looking, toward people who were not part of the protest. The device detonates in flames beside a public bus with passengers on board. People scatter. No stone-throwing or threat to officers is visible in the footage.

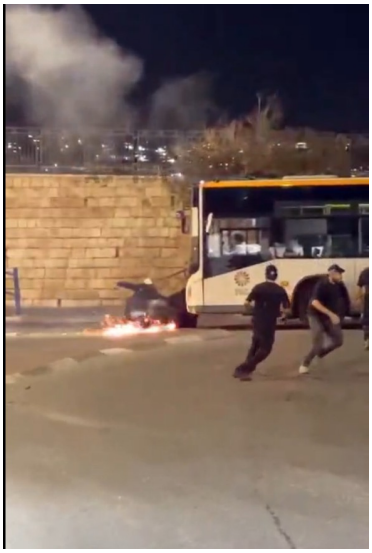


*Figure 1 — Stun grenade detonating in flames beside a passenger bus; people flee. Beit Shemesh, 1 November 2026 [7]*

### 4.2 Stun grenade exploding beside a baby in a carriage inside a public garden

A stun grenade is thrown into a fenced public garden where families are standing. It explodes directly beside a baby carriage with a child inside; sparks and a dense cloud of smoke envelop the carriage. The people present are standing, not confronting police. Grenades were also reported thrown at people sitting in a public garden far from the road and at the entrances of shopping centres and wedding halls [3].



*Figure 2 — Stun grenade exploding beside a baby carriage with a child inside, in a public garden [7]*

### 4.3 Undercover officers throwing grenades at peaceful protesters

Additional footage shows undercover officers throwing a stun grenade into a crowd of protesters who were standing on a street and posed no visible danger. Female Border Police officers were also filmed beating protesters with batons [3].



*Figure 3 — Officer throws a stun grenade down the road toward people and a bus [7]*

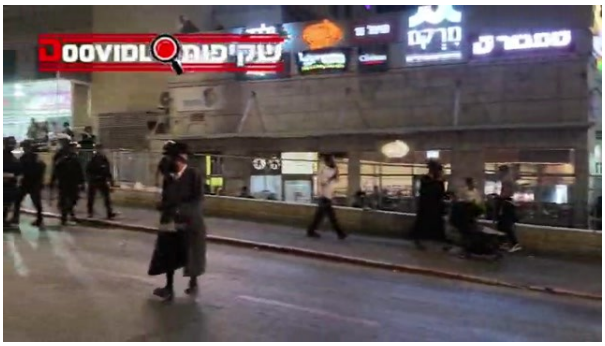


*Figure 4 — Undercover officers throw a stun grenade at protesters standing in the street [7]*

### 4.4 Injuries requiring hospital treatment

As reported by MDA, United Hatzalah, Tzevet Hatzalah and eyewitnesses [3][7]:

| Victim | Injury | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Pregnant woman | Struck by a stun grenade | Hospitalised |
| Young boy | Stun grenade struck his foot (HM-News: a 21-year-old lost toes; a ~15-year-old suffered a fracture) | Hospitalised |

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| Man | Struck in the stomach/chest (HM-News: chest injury at the Lev HaRama parking entrance) | Hospitalised |
| Protesters, Jerusalem | Dispersed for hours with stun grenades and water cannon on Haim Bar-Lev Road | — |

**Police position:** Police state that “hundreds of rioters” threw stones, set bins alight and pushed concrete barriers into the road, and that two youths were injured by a barrier they themselves pushed “in a location where there were no police officers at all” [3]. The attached footage shows no such activity at the locations where the grenades were thrown; it shows grenades thrown at standing or walking civilians, including a baby.

## 5. Questions That Demand Answers

1. Under what rules of engagement may a stun grenade be thrown toward civilians who are not engaged in violence — and toward a baby carriage?
2. Why were officers operating masked, in civilian clothes, without identification, and why did they refuse to identify themselves to the bride?
3. On what legal basis was the bride's personal phone confiscated?
4. Was location tracking of a civilian's phone authorised, and by whom?
5. Why was a non-violent young man reportedly choked and forced to the ground?
6. Who approved the decision to seize a groom in the middle of his wedding week, after a previous attempt at his parents' home had been abandoned?
7. Will an independent inquiry be opened into the injuries of the pregnant woman and the hospitalised youths?

## 6. Other Detentions the Same Day

Yosef Chaim Mansour, a student of Yeshivat Tiferet Ovadia (Bnei Brak), was stopped by traffic police on Route 4 near the Morasha interchange and handed to Military Police at Glilot [3]. Multiple other yeshiva students were detained this week following routine encounters such as traffic stops [5].

## 7. Sources and References


| | |
|---|---|
| **[1]** | JDN – Arrest of groom Yaari Lieberman; bride's police station visit; Shas petition; IDF statement https://www.jdn.co.il/news/2758258/ |
| **[2]** | The Jerusalem Post – Military Police arrest newlywed groom; Goldknopf & Asher reactions; Modi'in background https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-913518 |
| **[3]** | HM-News – 20-day sentence; Beit Shemesh clashes, stun grenades, injuries; release; Rabbi Betzalel letter https://hm-news.co.il/665583/ |
| **[4]** | Haaretz – Jerusalem Light Rail blocked; stun grenades and water cannon; gathering at Prison 10 https://www.haaretz.co.il/news/law/2026-11-01/ty-article/.premium/000001a1-98b1-d125-a3b1-fdf7fa930000 |
| **[5]** | Particle News – Multiple detentions of yeshiva students following traffic stops http://particle.news/story/military-police-detain-yeshiva-students-and-seize-newlywed-during-wedding-celebrations |
| **[6]** | Audio recording – Phone interview with the bride's mother, broadcast 1 Nov 2026 (attached, Hebrew; English summary in Section 3) |
| **[7]** | Video footage – Stun grenade thrown down the road toward people and a bus; and stun grenade exploding beside a baby carriage in a public garden (attached; stills in Section 5) |


**Attachments:** (1) Audio — phone interview with the bride's mother; (2) Video — stun grenade thrown down the road near a bus; (3) Video — stun grenade thrown at protesters; (4) Screenshots — Figures 1 and 2.