

soWhat CAN YOU DO WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDIES?

Personal photo by Mor Green



Conflict in the Middle East

Mor Green, Israel Community Emissary

An Israeli childhood is very different from an American one. When I was four years old, I lived 2 miles from Gaza and experienced my first war. I remember sitting in the bomb shelter with my family for days hearing rocket fire and waiting for the war to end. As a four year old, I was too small to put on a gas mask and instead had to wear a

special suit to protect me from the unknown attack. It was terrifying not knowing what the future holds.

The most recent war was in 2009 while I was in business school in Beer Sheva. From the moment an alarm sounds, you have 15 seconds to reach safety in a bomb shelter. The university did not have enough protected classrooms so school was cancelled so we could remain in our “safe areas.” Unfortunately, I had no bomb shelter near my apartment and was forced to move in with my parents.

I am now 26 years old and had 3 wars so far in my life time. This is the harsh reality we live with every day. To protect ourselves, all Israelis are drafted in the army. Because of my experiences and the loss of an uncle, I worked hard to become a commander there.

Growing up, my parents always told me that they hope when I turn 18 we will have no need for an army and the draft will stop. One day I will be just like my parents—hoping and promising my kids a better future living in peace with our neighbors. I believe, along with many Israelis and the Israeli Government, that real peace means everyone enjoying a safe and protected future in a Jewish state of Israel alongside a Palestinian state. We recognize this need and hope that one day the other side will also recognize our right to exist.