Chilling new hostage video shows Hamas kidnapping female Israeli soldiers

From the <u>Telegraph</u>

Parents of female Israeli soldiers kidnapped from a military base during the October 7 attack by Hamas have released a graphic video of the capture, as a "last resort" to pressure the Israeli government to negotiate a hostage deal.

Fifteen female Israel Defense Force (IDF) border spotters were murdered at the Nahal Oz military base close to the border on Oct 7, and seven were abducted and taken to Gaza. One of these has since been rescued by the IDF and another died in captivity.

Parents of the five surviving female soldiers made the threeminute video public on Wednesday. It shows the terrified young women being harassed and handcuffed by Hamas fighters and taken away.

The three-minute video comes from the bodycam of a Hamas fighter. It was seized by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), which edited it so it does not show the bodies of the murdered soldiers.

Liri Elbag, Karina Ariev, Agam Berger, Daniella Gilboa and Naama Levy, still dressed in their pyjamas because the base was overrun at dawn, look terrified in the video.

They are seen in a room full of dozens of camouflage-clad Hamas fighters, armed with machine guns, who scream at the young women and pin them against a wall to handcuff them.

When one of the women tries to say in English that she has friends in Palestine — she reportedly volunteered for

charities helping the West Bank — the attackers shout her down, with one saying: "Our brothers died because of you, we will shoot all of you."

In one chilling moment, a fighter with the distinctive green Hamas headband points at one of the young women, sitting on the floor in her Snoopy pyjamas. In Arabic, he tells the man filming the video: "Here are the girls, women who can get pregnant. These are the Zionists."

He later looks at the woman and says in English: "You are so beautiful."

The women were then seen being led away from the base, with some of them visibly injured and limping to a pick-up truck.

Families of the women soldiers have complained that their daughters were abandoned at a base that did not have any military reinforcements and was not considered a high-risk place to serve.

The job of the kidnapped women was to monitor the movements of Hamas fighters and Palestinian civilians on the other side of the border with Gaza.

Reports in local media suggested that <u>some of the women had</u> <u>alerted the military</u> leadership to the heightened activity in the run-up to the Oct 7 attack, only for their reports to be dismissed as insignificant.