

Yossef Romano

April 15, 1940, Benghazi, formerly Italian Libya – September 5, 1972, Munich

Yossef Romano was born in Libya when it was still an Italian colony. His parents and their eleven children fled to Palestine in 1946 to escape the anti-Jewish excesses. The family settled in Herzliya, where Romano finished school and then completed training as an interior decorator. His weightlifting talent was discovered by chance when the twenty-year-old lifted a friend into the air at the beach. In the 1960s, Romano dominated the Israeli middleweight championships.

During the Games in Munich he sustained a torn tendon. The terrorists attacked the athletes' accommodations the day before he was scheduled to depart.

Yossef Romano defended himself and was shot down before the eyes of his fellow captives. The terrorists left Romano's body lying in the room where the hostages were being held.

2 Yossef and Ilana Romano on their wedding day, Herzliya, Israel, September 30, 1964. After her husband was murdered, Ilana Romano engaged in an untiring effort to keep the memory of the attack and its consequences alive.

3 Yossef Romano (center) with Ze'ev Friedman (back right) and other athletes, Netanya, Israel, 1971

1 Yossef Romano and his oldest daughter Oshrat, Herzliya, Israel, ca. 1968

4 Yossef Romano's kippah, which he received – like all of the members of the Israeli team – for the Games in Munich. Israel, 1972

“The XXth Olympic Games”