



מוסדות מקור חיים

בראשות הרב עדין אבן ישראל שטיינזלץ שליט"א

Shvat 5768 / January 27 2008

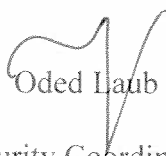
To: The Mishmeret Yesha Organization
25 King George Blvd.
Jerusalem ,Israel 94261

To whom it may concern:

Having experience and witnessed the terrorist attack that took place in our school –Yeshivat Mekor Chaim - last Thursday night, there are no words to express our thanks and appreciation for the years of effort your organization has invested in our institution.

The last three years of training and equipment proved themselves during the infiltration into the Yeshiva's library, with our counselors drawing their weapons and eliminating the terrorists instinctively in a matter of seconds!

Thank G-d, what happened at Mekor Chaim was a totally different outcome that the terrorosts had intended, resulting in a tremendous Kiddush Hashem, Please publicize this event so that many more such institutions will get involved and many more Jews will begin supporting Mishmeret Yesha.



Oded Laub

Security Coordinator



Rabbi Dov Zinger
Rosh HaYeshiva



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בס"ד

9th Adar/March 16th 2008

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Shalom U'vracha,

This morning Rabbi/Colonel Hager Lau, head of the religious military academy and ass. (res.) IDF divisional commander of all forces in Judea & Samaria spoke to me asking Mishmeret Yesha to prepare a program for all the higher Yeshivot in Israel based on our existing project "Haganat Hayishuv".

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"Haganat Hayishuv" is a five-part program that prepares a community for an attack.

- 1) Installing and instilling preventive measures involving early detection systems and individuals.
- 2) What every man, woman and child does at that given moment there is an attack.
- 3) Communicating, coordinating with and activating all available forces.
- 4) Training and equipping an effective and available Rapid Response Team.
- 5) Five day exercise culminating with mock attack in the community on fifth day involving the complete community and all emergency forces.

Rabbi Hager is asking us to draw up a long-term plan to be activated immediately, he himself taking on the responsibility of contacting the institutions throughout Israel waking up and convincing the "establishment."

Obviously, this program will require a great deal of funding and we will not begin its activation until we are realistically able to maintain it. Everything said and done the sad fact is there is almost no one out there doing anything to help reverse or even change the deteriorating situation we are in.

As you are well aware from what you hear and read in the news terrible things are happening to Am Yisrael. But, what you hear and read in the news is only a small sampling of what we are facing and what is in store. I am unable to elaborate on this issue in this letter, but I can tell you this: if the public had any inkling about what is really going on and where we are heading – they would literally panic and flee. That applies locally such as the people of Efrat and to a large extent to the general public fleeing Israel.

Director of Operations:

Yisrael Danziger

Project Coordinator:

Avraham Amitzur

Resource Development Coordinator

Shmuel A. Cooper

You should be aware that it is the policy of Israel's security establishment to strictly limit the information passed on to the public (beyond what is heard in the press) since they would just panic and there's nothing the average person would or could do. Fundamentally this is true!

Every day that passes and is not used to prepare and deal with the situation is wasted. What I am saying is that I am completely occupied with what we already have going on, not to mention this new project we are working on. The daily logistics and organizational requirements that are needed on an operational level do not allow for me to travel.

Yisrael Danziger

P.S. Please see attached letter sent to us by Rabbi/Col. Hager several weeks before the Mercaz Harav attack.

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BEIT YATTIR PRE MILITARY ACADEMY

12 February 2008 / 6th Adar 5768

To whom it may concern,

Re: Defending Institutions against attack

The infiltration that occurred at Yeshivat Mekor Chaim once again highlighted the terrorists' ability to infiltrate a community effortlessly, the inability of the IDF to respond in real time contrasted the preparedness and professionalism of the armed educational staff in the Yeshiva.

Having debriefed the painful terrorist attacks that occurred in the nearby communities of Adura, Carmei Tzur, Otniel and others in my capacity as ass. Divisional commander of all IDF forces in Judea and Samaria it has been shown that well trained armed civilians have provided a response to terror attacks with the army arriving after the critical time.

The anti terrorist course that the educational staff of Yeshivat Mekor Chaim trained recently with handguns and previously with automatic weapons have proven themselves without a doubt. The day of training the staff of the Yeshiva went through as part of the course given by Mishmeret Yesha several weeks before the attack dealt specifically with advanced handgun use firing at a terrorist inside a closed complex filled with friendly civilians .The surgical results of two terrorists dead and no wounded amongst our forces speak for themselves.

As head of a Yeshiva academy I highly recommend to all institutions to have their staff trained within the framework of Mishmeret Yesha and have their staff **carry arms at all times.**

In the war we are involved in we do not decide when the next attack will occur, therefore, our strategy has to be that the next attack (g-d forbid) is about to happen, we just do not know when and where .

Being familiar and in contact with many families of terrorist victims resulting from these infiltrations I know of the deep seated feelings of frustration amongst the families "why weren't we prepared" does not give them rest, therefore, I highly recommend training the educational staff and if possible the students and to stress that arms be **carried at all times.**

Rav Moshe Hager-Lau
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Leading rabbi: Yeshivas need Rapid Response Teams

By MATTHEW WAGNER

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull&cid=1205420700903>

In the wake of the terrorist shooting at Jerusalem's Mercaz Harav Yeshiva on March 6, a leading rabbi and high-ranking IDF officer called this week on all post-high school educational institutions to train rapid response teams capable of defending against future attacks.

Rabbi Col. (res.) Moshe Hager-Lau, chairman of the Premilitary Religious Academies and Assistant Divisional Commander of Reserve Forces in Judea and Samaria, sent a letter to a list of Torah institutions requesting that they beef up their security.

"The attack on Mercaz Harav was proof that terrorists are targeting the 'atomic core' of religious Zionism," Hager-Lau wrote.

"I detect a definite trend," added the rabbi, who goes everywhere with an M-16 rifle slung over his shoulder. "The latest attack was on Mercaz Harav. But there was an attack just two months ago at the Mekor Haim Yeshiva [in Gush Etzion], and before that there were attacks on Atzmona [in Gush Katif] and Otniel [in the South Hebron Hills]."

Hager-Lau, who heads the Premilitary Academy in Yatir, south of Hebron, said that in counterterrorism, the first 10 minutes - the minimum amount of time it takes for the IDF to respond - were critical.

"In the Mercaz Harav attack, the whole thing was over after about 10 minutes. The hope is to reduce the time it takes to respond by training an armed group of men who are present at all times on the yeshiva premises."

Part of the proposed security policy would include a limitation on employing Arabs, since both Palestinians and Israeli Arabs could potentially be terrorists or terrorist collaborators.

According to the family of Ala Abu Dhaim, the terrorist who killed eight Mercaz Harav students and wounded nine, the yeshiva had employed Abu Dhaim as a driver.

However, yeshiva head Rabbi Ya'acov Shapira denied that Abu Dhaim was a yeshiva employee.

Hager-Lau said that while he would prefer a Jewish-only entry policy to religious institutions, banning Arab labor entirely was unfeasible.

"If I have to choose between the ideal of Jewish labor only and continuing to build at a quick pace, I'd prefer to keep the building going," he said.

He said that in an attempt to reduce the chances of a worker having ties to a terrorist group, entry to the yeshiva for Palestinians would be limited to people aged 40 or over who were well-known.

A leading haredi spiritual leader and halachic authority ruled this week that due to the potential danger to Jewish life, it was forbidden to hire Arab workers, according to Yom Chadash, a new ultra-orthodox daily.

Rabbi Haim Kanyevsky told yeshiva administrators, "We are war with them [Arabs]," therefore "according to Jewish law it is prohibited to hire them," according to Yom Chadash.

Yeshiva administrators, after the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva attack, asked Kanyevsky whether they should fire their Arab employees.

Kanyevsky, who expressed surprise that Arab workers were preferred to Jews, asked, "Are there no Jews who can work and earn a living from the same work?"

He said that under normal circumstances it was always preferable to hire Jews rather than Arabs, unless there was a significant difference in cost. But in the present situation, due to the danger to Jewish life, there was a prohibition against hiring Arabs, he said.

Kanyevsky's ruling is likely to result in a mass firing of Arab employees at hundreds of haredi yeshivot across the country.

Haim Kanyevsky is the son of Rabbi Yaakov Yisrael Kanyevsky ("the Steipler"), the son-in-law of Rabbi Yosef Sholom Eliashiv, a leading rabbinical authority in Jerusalem, and a nephew of Rabbi Avraham Yeshayahu Karelitz, a leading Torah scholar known as the "Chazon Ish."

Haim Kanyevsky is known to refrain from engaging in politics.

Thousands of people visit him rabbi every year, seeking Torah-oriented advice on various topics.

In the West Bank, every male Israeli over the age of 18 is obligated by law to acquiesce to a demand by their home settlement to perform guard duty. Known as "Bar Shmira," the legal obligation permits young men to carry arms before they serve in the army.

The IDF provides M-16 rifles and ammunition to authorized rapid response teams in the West Bank under an understanding that maintaining a local defensive force is the best way to ensure security in Jewish settlements.

Inside the Green Line, young men who had completed army service would participate in the rapid response team training, said Hager-Lau. In addition to teams armed with IDF-supplied M-16s, there would also be teams armed with handguns.

Participants would be trained to track, locate and neutralize terrorist infiltrators operating in urban settings where the majority of the population is friendly.

Hager-Lau asked **Mishmeret Yesha**, an organization that has trained more than 100 rapid response teams throughout Judea and Samaria, to help train the yeshiva students.

Israel Danziger, head of operations at Mishmeret Yesha, said he had been asked by Hager-Lau to put together a general plan for educational institutions that would improve their preparedness to deal with terrorist infiltrations.

Danziger said the plan included an early-warning system; drills that would teach every settlement resident where to go in case of an attack; coordinating and practicing communications between emergency organizations and residents; and conducting periodic mock attacks.

However, one of **Mishmeret Yesha's** central security demands is a no-Arab policy.

"We don't want to have anything to do with any organization that employs Arabs," said Danziger. "There is no sense in training a rapid response team in a settlement or an institution where you have a bunch of Arabs walking around gathering information."

Arab terrorists infiltrated Kibbutz Kfar Etzion in Gush Etzion in an event that ended miraculously without major casualties. The two terrorists entered Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's Mekor Chaim yeshiva high school, entering a library room where seven of the boarding school's counselors were having a meeting. The terrorists, armed with a knife and a gun - which later turned out to be a fake - were dressed in the uniforms of a security company, and ordered the seven to line up on one side of the room. A counselor realized they were terrorists, drew his personal firearm and opened fire. Another grabbed the fake gun from one of the terrorists, wrestled him to the floor, while the first counselor shot him dead. The terrorists managed to stab two of the counselors, hitting the lung of one of them, before falling dead.

At the same time, the Beit Medrash (study hall) - adjacent to the library - was packed with students taking part in the weekly Thursday night "mishmar" all-night Torah study session. Other students were scattered in rooms in the immediate vicinity.

Both of the lightly wounded counselors were taken to Hadassah Hospital for treatment and observation. Residents of the Kibbutz were told to remain in their homes for a while after the attack, for fear that other terrorists were still present in the community. A search was carried out for the exact spot in the perimeter fence through which the terrorists infiltrated.

The IDF commended the counselors, saying their bravery prevented what would have been a major terrorist attack.

Former MK Chanan Porat, a resident of Kfar Etzion, remarked afterwards on the miraculous nature of the event: "Thank G-d it ended this way - and the counselors deserve amazing credit for their courage and skill who did the work and killed the terrorists."

A month ago, on Dec. 28, armed terrorists opened fire and murdered two hikers - both former students of the same Mekor Chaim yeshiva - in Nachal Telem, west of Hebron. The two, off-duty soldiers Amikam Amichai and David Rubin, managed to return fire, killing one terrorists and seriously wounding another. A girl who was hiking with the two hid and was saved.



Stabbing attack in Kfar Etzion

25 January 2008 , 00:47

<http://dover.idf.il/IDF/English/Announcements/2008/01/2501.htm>

This evening, two terrorists infiltrated into the Yeshiva in Kibbutz Kfar Etzion. Israeli civilians on location tried to overpower the terrorists. The terrorists stabbed two Israeli civilians, resulting in light-moderate injuries. The two were taken to hospital for medical treatment. During the struggle, the two terrorists were killed. IDF forces are currently searching the area. An initial inquiry shows that the civilians acted bravely and managed to thwart a terror attack.

THE JERUSALEM POST 'Terrorists killed while infiltrating yeshiva were just released'

Jan. 25, 2008 • <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1201070791890&pagename=JPost%2FJPostArticle%2FShowFull>

The two terrorists killed in Mekor Chaim yeshiva in Kfar Etzion Thursday night while attempting to infiltrate the high school were released only two weeks earlier from an Israeli prison, Palestinian sources quoted by Israel Radio said.

The two, Hamas operatives, were cousins from the town of Beit Omar north of Hebron.

The National Prison Authority was looking into the report.

(IsraelINN.com) The attack on a yeshiva in Gush Etzion last week could have ended in a drawn-out hostage crisis or the massacre of dozens of high school students. It didn't, thanks to bravery and, students say, a miracle.

Everything is back to normal at Yeshivat Mekor Chayim ('Life Source'), the high school situated at the edge of Kfar Etzion headed by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz. The school has been targeted, wittingly or not, by Arab terrorists twice in recent months.



The Mekor Chaim Yeshiva high school

The first attack was on two recent graduates, David Rubin and Achikam Amichai, who were hiking at the Hevron-area Telem Stream during a furlough from their elite IDF units when they were ambushed by terrorists. They engaged their killers with their last ounces of strength and saved the life of their hiking companion.

The second attack took place last week and was also wrought with heroism. The second attack ended with the victims going home to their families and the terrorists in body-bags.

Two terrorists, fresh out of jail for stealing guns from IDF soldiers stationed in the nearby community of Bat Ayin, approached Kibbutz Kfar Etzion along a dirt road off of the main Jerusalem-Hevron Highway. They were from Beit Oumar, a village on the way to Hevron known for its support of Hamas and for its hospitality toward Western leftist and anarchist protesters who come on extended visits to Israel to obstruct IDF counter-terror operations.

The terrorists cut the electric fence, and made their way up the hill toward the yeshiva along dirt-paths through the 40-year-old forest.



The terrorists cut through and disarmed the electric fence.



The path used by the terrorists up from the orchards toward the school

Walking those paths, one clearly hears the din of hundreds of students engaging in chavruta (paired) study of Jewish texts in the Beit Midrash (the study hall set aside for Torah discourse and exposition), with its large windows facing outward.



The terrorists could have walked straight into the study hall. They instead turned right and entered the smaller library where the counselors were meeting.



The Beit Midrash (Study Hall) at Mekor Chayim.

Emmanuel, a security guard from nearby Kiryat Arba, says it is impossible to understand why the terrorists would forgo the “soft-target” of the Beit Midrash for the Library, where seven of the yeshiva’s counselors were having a meeting.



The library where the attack occurred.

The terrorists stormed into the library wearing the uniforms of the security company in charge of both security at the yeshiva and the operation of the newly expanded checkpoints placed along the route of the Partition Wall. The night shift security personnel are Druze, moonlighting; by day, they man the new border crossings. The Druze mother tongue is usually Arabic; when the two terrorists held out a gun and knives and said “Get up and stand against the wall” with an Arabic accent, the counselors were at first confused.

The confusion subsided when one of the terrorists stabbed a counselor who had reached for his own pistol. A scuffle ensued and both terrorists were shot dead.

Students in the study hall next door went into crisis mode, barricading the doors and acting in accordance with drills they had practiced in the past.

Rabbi Shuki Zekbach, the school’s principal, says that the entire school will hold a feast of thanksgiving for what he says was an undeniable miracle. The rabbi recalls that following the untimely death of a faculty member and the murder of Rubin and Amichai, the school’s faculty took upon themselves a personal fast day and day of repentance.



Rabbi Shuki Zekbach, the school's principal.

“It was truly miraculous that nobody was killed in this attack,” he says. “It could have ended so much worse.”



Police tape flutters from the trees near the scene of the attack.

Life at Mekor Chayim continued without missing a beat. Students begin classes at 7 AM with morning prayers and classes last until 8:30 or 9:30 at night. Rabbi Zekbach says the guiding philosophy of the school is that high school must not be a place of simply working and preparing for future educational pursuits, but a place of maturation, exploration and specialization. “Students take part in decision-making committees and are also encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities from drama to music to hiking,” he explains.



Students walking between the pre-fab structures that house the various classrooms and facilities.



"Land of Israel and Environmental Studies" classroom at Mekor Chaim.

Emmanuel said he was not surprised that those associated with Mekor Chayim fought their attackers in both instances. "Look, we are standing just meters away from the bunker where the residents of Kfar Etzion were all killed with a grenade in 1948," he said, pointing up the hill to the Gush Etzion visitors center that was built around the tragic bunker.

Emmanuel said he was not surprised that those associated with Mekor Chayim fought their attackers in both instances. "Look, we are standing just meters away from the bunker where the residents of Kfar Etzion were all killed with a grenade in 1948," he said, pointing up the hill to the Gush Etzion visitors center that was built around the tragic bunker.



The bunker where Kfar Etzion's original residents were slaughtered by Arab attackers.



"Believe that we can rectify without limits!" reads a mural on one of the dorm rooms.



The Gush Etzion IDF army base can be seen in the distance across the valley from the school.

"These are the sons of those who have returned. Many were born here and they are studying here in a way that fills them with the fire of the Torah and encourages them to use that fire to bring out the wisdom of the Torah in everything from rock climbing to raising goats. These are the mighty future leaders of Israel and no cowardly terrorist can stand up to that."

Helping Israel's
Victims of Terror



One Family Fund

1/24/08:

Terrorists Attack Kfar Etzion Yeshiva, 2 Suffer Stab Wounds



Students at the Mekor Chaim High School Yeshiva in Kfar Etzion after Thursday's incident in which two terrorists infiltrated the yeshiva and were killed by counselors.

Photo: Channel 2

Terrorists attacked Kfar Etzion's Mekor Chaim Yeshiva Thursday night, January 24, 2008 and stabbed two counselors before being killed. The terrorists were dressed in IDF uniforms and first entered a library in the Yeshiva where seven counselors were having a meeting.

The counselors initially thought they were Druze soldiers who usually guard the community, until one of the terrorists took out a knife and a pistol and ordered them to stand against the wall (in Hebrew). The counselor closest to the terrorists pulled his weapon, and as he did the terrorists stabbed him, just centimeters from his lung. A different counselor then managed to shoot both terrorists, but not before another young man was stabbed.

A week before the attack, the counselors, who are also part of the community's emergency response team, had trained for a scenario just like the one they faced that Thursday night. Thanks to their heroism, the terrorists were stopped before they could hurt anyone else. In the room just beneath them were over 70 students ages 14-17 learning in Beit Midrash for their weekly all-night study session.

*The two IDF soldiers, David Ruben and Achikam Amichai, who were murdered by terrorists on Dec. 28, 2007 had studied in the same Yeshiva, which is run by Rav Steinsaltz.

israelinsider

Counselors' heroism foils terror attack in Gush Etzion seminary high school

By Israel Insider staff January 25, 2008

<http://web.israelinsider.com/Articles/Security/12596.htm>



In Gush Etzion, southeast of Jerusalem, two Palestinian gunmen wearing IDF uniforms burst into the Makor Haim yeshiva high school. Wielding guns and knives, they lightly injured two Israeli counselors before being shot dead.

The terrorists infiltrated Makor Haim, a kibbutz, sneaking into the main building of its high school seminary, run by world-renowned Talmudist, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz. The terrorists entered a library room where seven of the boarding school's counselors were meeting. Dressed as security guards, and armed with a knife and what appeared to be a gun -- it later turned out to be a toy -- ordered the seven to line up on one side of the room. A counselor, realizing they were terrorists, drew his personal firearm and opened fire. Another grabbed the fake gun from the other terrorist, wrestled him to the floor, while the first counselor

shot him. The terrorists managed to stab two of the counselors before falling dead.

At the same time, the Beit Medrash (study hall) -- adjacent to the library -- was packed with students taking part in the weekly Thursday night "mishmar" all-night Torah study session, Israel National News reported.

An army official praised the quick response of the students and their counselors. "This could have ended much worse," a source in the Central Command said.