



Responding to the Trauma of Terror: Yeshivat Merkaz HaRav Boys Receive Assistance from Fund for Victims of Terror

First Report

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On Thursday March 6, 2008, the Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav high school for boys was traumatized by a vicious act of terrorism; 300 teenage boys watched as the school's library became the scene of a cold-blooded massacre. Eight of their friends were killed and several were injured in this attack.

Almost immediately, the Jewish Agency for Israel responded to the attack by organizing a respite retreat for the mourning students. With their Rabbis and teachers, the students are being given the opportunity to express their feelings, cope with their grief, and find the strength to move toward recovery.

Jewish Agency social workers also met with the bereaved families and the injured students, providing them with emotional support and information about various channels of financial assistance. The Jewish Agency's Fund for the Victims of Terror informed these victims that they were eligible for support both from the S.O.S. Emergency Fund as well as from the long-term national fund.

Those who applied for assistance received an immediate allocation of NIS 4,000. A total of NIS 32,000 was distributed to applicants.

The Jewish Agency for Israel, through its global partnership, will continue to provide for Israel's vulnerable citizens, those victimized by terror and experiencing the horrors of its aftermath. Below are only a few outstanding stories of individuals and families whose lives have been affected by this most recent act of terror. Your support has helped ease their plight and bring them closer to rehabilitation and recuperation.

The Maharat Family from Ashdod

26 year old Doron emigrated from Ethiopia as part of Operation Solomon in 1991. Doron worked in the Mevasseret Absorption Center and planned to study for the Israeli rabbinate. He is survived by his elderly parents, two sisters and four brothers all of whom live in a very modest apartment in Ashdod. Doron was the pillar of the family and served as a role model for his siblings. Immediately after the attack, a Jewish Agency social worker visited the family and helped them apply for financial assistance. The Maharats received NIS 4,000.



Doron Maharat *of blessed memory*

The Hershfeld Family from Kokhav HaSachar

Yehonadav Haim Hershfeld, 19, was one of 13 children. The Hershfelds have raised their children with a great sense of love and dedication to Torah, Zionism, and Israel. Ever since the tragedy, the Hershfeld home has been filled with family and friends expressing their condolences—giving strength to Yehonadav's family, and gaining strength from their unrelenting spirit. The Hershfelds were grateful for the visit of the Jewish Agency social worker and were appreciative of all the work the Jewish Agency does on behalf of Israel's residents. The family received NIS 4,000 to help them with the financial burden of the immediate arrangements. The family was given information about future support from the Fund for Victims of Terror.



Yehonadav Hershfeld *of blessed memory*

The Rott Family from Elkana

Roi Rott, 19, was in the army-preparatory program in the Yeshiva following his high school studies. He is survived by his parents and five siblings. Roi's family has been a long time host of Aliyah-Marva participants, a program that helps facilitate aliyah for young people from around the world. Roi and his sister were very active volunteers with new immigrant populations. The family asked for a short term allocation from the Fund and said they would also apply for long term assistance in due time.



Roi Rott *of blessed memory*

Naftali Shitreet

Naftali Shitreet, 14, is in intensive care at Shaarei Zedek Hospital. Naftali is the second of 7 children. He and his family live in Sderot, under the constant barrage of Kassam rockets. Naftali came to Jerusalem to spend some time learning in the Yeshiva and regain his spirit and strength before returning home. As soon as they heard of their son's injury, the Shitreets rushed to Jerusalem to be at his bedside; the daily trips to and from Jerusalem are very taxing on the family. The Fund provided the family with assistance of NIS 4,000, helping them with the cost of such frequent travel and with related expenses for caring for the other Shitreet children. Naftali has undergone surgery and his condition continues to improve.

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