

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HAR HAZEITIM

ICHH is the only organization focused on the safety and security of Har Hazeitim. Working in conjunction with the Israeli government and the Jerusalem Municipality we are Am Yisrael's representative on behalf of this makom kadosh.



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HAR HAZEITIM
הוועד הבינלאומי להגנת הר הזיתים

HAR HAZEITIM BRIEFS

January 2019

MAYOR LION TO ICHH: HAR HAZEITIM WILL BE A PRIORITY OF MY ADMINISTRATION

In one of his first meetings with any group as Mayor of Jerusalem, Moshe Lion promised that "the security and development of Har Hazeitim will be a major priority of my administration." The Mayor met with Menachem Lubinsky, founding co-chairman of the International Committee for Har Hazeitim (ICHH) in his office on Tuesday December 11th. Mr. Lubinsky was joined by Harvey Schwartz and Jeff Daube, co-chairmen of the Israel chapter of the ICHH. Mayor Lion noted that in his long record of public service as Deputy Mayor, head of the Jerusalem Development Authority and as Chief of Staff of the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he has always been a strong advocate of restoring the security and appearance of the holy cemetery. The

Mayor recalled his appearances at events on Har Hazeitim. More than 1000 people visited Har Hazeitim for a day of Chanukah celebrations on the last day of the holiday. The event was jointly sponsored by the ICHH, Israel's Ministry of Culture and the Council of Cemeteries in Jerusalem, headed by Rabbi Hillel Horowitz.



Mayor Moshe Lion meeting ICHH officials in his office (L to R) Harvey Schwartz, Menachem Lubinsky, Mayor Lion and Jeff Daube

ICHH CONTINUES EFFORTS TO BUILD NEW VISITOR CENTER

The ICHH continues to make strides in the planned construction of a new Visitor Center just outside the walls of Har Hazeitim. The planned center is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors, further enhancing the security of Har Hazeitim. In addition, the Israeli police will also use a part of the building as their new headquarters while keeping the current sub-station on Har Hazeitim. As a joint project of the Israel Government, Jerusalem Municipality and the ICHH, the Center will be an important symbol in the interest of Jews worldwide to protect, preserve and develop the historic mountain. The project was approved by the Regional Planning Council. The ICHH, assisted by the Jerusalem Foundation, will mount an intensive fundraising campaign to help defray the cost of building the Center.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ON HAR HAZEITIM IN SHARP DECLINE; ICHH LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE SECURITY

For the third consecutive year, there have been few incidents of desecrated graves and only a handful of reported incidents, according to police officials. This has resulted to a sharp increase in the number of visitors to the cemetery, many for the first time in numerous years. Police officials say that as many as 2,500 people visit daily, compared to only 10% of that just five years ago. Despite these improvements, the ICHH is pushing for additional cameras on access roads, more security on the A-Tor Road, preserving the desecrated Sambuski Section, restoration of some 45,000 graves, and additional lighting in many areas.



ICHH: SUPPORT FOR HAR HAZEITIM IS A NATIONAL CONSENSUS DESPITE POLITICAL TRANSITION

Prime Minister Reaffirms Long-Standing Support of Securing Har Hazeitim Jerusalem..

The first to greet Menachem Lubinsky on his way to a meeting with Yoav Horowitz, Chief of Staff of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was none other than the Prime Minister himself. The encounter which took place in the Knesset on December 12th led to the Prime Minister once again affirming that he “will do everything to secure and develop Har Hazeitim.”

Mr. Lubinsky praised the Prime Minister for his lead role in securing the holy mountain with its 150,000 Jewish neshomos. “He was the first Prime Minister to aggressively deal with the lawlessness, destruction, and abuse of graves on Har Hazeitim and that message has trickled down to every official working on Har Hazeitim, including the police and border police.” But even more promising is that despite the current political upheaval in Israel, with the exception of the Arab party, almost all MK’s favor a secure and completely accessible Har Hazeitim.

Mr. Lubinsky also met with MK Yoav ben Zur, who heads the outgoing 67-member Knesset Caucus on Har Hazeitim as well as officials of the Prime Minister’s Office. He continued to press for the construction of the long planned Visitor Center which he said will be “the ultimate guarantee of security on Har Hazeitim for many years to come. As the ICHH officials toured the Knesset, they found universal support from all political streams in support of Har Hazeitim. “I have no doubt that the Caucus on Har Hazeitim will be reinstated once a new Knesset is formed following the elections on April 9th,” Mr. Lubinsky concluded.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greets Menachem Lubinsky in the Knesset

MK GAFNI TO ICHH: KNESSET ALLOCATES ADDITIONAL ₪900,000 FOR SECURITY ON HAR HAZEITIM

On November 27, the Knesset approved an additional allocation of ₪900,000 for security on Har Hazeitim. The Knesset action accedes to the requests of MK Moshe Gafni (Yahadut Hatorah), chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee. The new funds will be channeled through the Ministry of Religion, which provides additional private security personnel on Har Hazeitim. Mr. Gafni informed the ICHH that he has periodically responded to the requests of the International Committee for Har Hazeitim (ICHH) and that he was pleased to add an additional layer of security to the much improved security situation in the holy cemetery.



ICHH officials with Yoav Horowitz, Chief of Staff of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L to R) Jeff Daube, Menachem Lubinsky, Yoav Horowitz and Harvey Schwartz

