

FACT SHEET

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT – BRIEF BIOS – ABOUT THE YESHIVOT

Rosh Chodesh Adar 5678 – March 6, 2008

The following article appeared in the memorial book "Shemonah Nisichei Adam - 8 Heavenly Princes" recently edited and published in Ivrit by the 12th Graders of Yashlatz. The English version of the book is due for publication in February 2008 – for more details see www.yashlatz.com/book

On Thursday evening, the eve of Rosh Chodesh Adar II, 5768, the terrorist entered the "Mercaz HaRav" yeshiva grounds. The terrorist came into the front courtyard at around 8:30pm, carrying a cardboard television box. He set the box down on the railing of the steps leading up to the dormitory building entrance.

He took a Kalashnikov rifle out of the box, and opened fire on a group of students from "Yashlatz" and "Mercaz HaRav" who were standing at the entrance to the yeshiva. Among them was **Yonadav Chaim Hirschfeld**, *hy'd*, **Ro'i Roth**, *hy'd*, and **Yonatan Yitzchak Eldar**, *hy'd*.

The terrorist then walked in the direction of the library, and there his campaign of murder continued. He entered the library through the main door, and began shooting wildly in all directions. Most of the students in the library, who had heard the first round of shooting outside, got up from the tables and hid behind and between the bookshelves. **Doron Maharate** *hy'd*, the first one targeted in the library, was so immersed in his studies that he never even left his desk.

Unfortunately, the bookshelves were a death trap. The terrorist proceeded to walk down the aisles between the shelves, shooting at the books and anyone hiding behind them. He then went back to the first row of shelves, and retraced his path, shooting again to make sure that each of his victims was dead.

Five students were murdered in the library: **Segev Peniel Avichayil**, *hy'd*, **Yochai Lifshitz**, *hy'd*, **Doron Maharate**, *hy'd*, **Avraham David Moses**, *hy'd*, and **Neriya Cohen**, *hy'd*. More students were injured.

At that very hour, the *Beit Midrash* in "Yashlatz" was being set up for a Rosh Chodesh party. Those students who didn't want to curtail their learning went to study in the nearby library, and that is where they met their deaths.

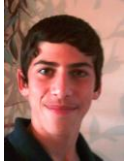
At the first sound of gunfire, the students in the "Mercaz Harav" *beit midrash* escaped, and were offered shelter in nearby apartment buildings. The "Yashlatz" students took cover in their dormitory building. Approximately fifteen minutes after he fired the first shot, the terrorist was shot and killed by Yitzchak Dadon, an *avreich* who studies at "Mercaz Harav", and Captain David Shapira, a graduate of the yeshiva who lives in the neighborhood.

About the 8 Kedoshim



הקדוש נריה בן יצחק כהן הי"ד

Neria (ben HaRav Yitzchak HaCohen) Cohen HY"D, 15, of Jerusalem, a 9th Grader at Yashlatz who was described as "full of boundless joy, enthusiastic about Torah and life, and forever asking questions, striving to understand a *sugya* to its depth".



הקדוש שגב פניאל בן אלישיב אביחיל הי"ד

Segev Peniel (ben HaRav Elyashiv) Avichail HY"D, 15, of Neve Daniel, a 10th Grader at Yashlatz who was described as "sensitive, serious and diligent, a real Talmid Chacham who was completely devoted to his family and friends".



הקדוש יונתן יצחק בן דרור שמואל אלדר הי"ד

Yonatan Yitzchak (ben Dror) Eldar HY"D, 16, of Shilo, a 10th Grader at Yashlatz who was described as "having an incredible love for Torah and especially Halacha, and often the last person to leave the Bet Midrash".



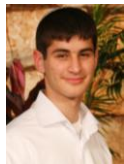
הקדוש אברהם דוד בן נפתלי מוזס הי"ד

Avraham David (ben Naftali) Moses HY"D, 16, of Efrat, a 10th Grader at Yashlatz who was described as "blessed with a pure *neshama*, totally honest and with an unparalleled level of scholarship and devotion to his Torah studies".



הקדוש יוחאי בן טוביה ליפשיץ הי"ד

Yochai (ben HaRav Tuvya) Lifshitz HY"D, 18, of Jerusalem, a 12th Grader at Yashlatz who was described as "incredibly perseverant, diligent and organized who never wasted a second of his day".



הקדוש רועי אהרן בן יעקב רוט הי"ד

Ro'i Aharon (ben Yaakov) Roth HY"D, 18, of Elkana, in his first year at Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav, who was described as "someone truly humble, whose prayer was so devout and genuine that it taught and inspired everyone".



הקדוש יונדב חיים בן צמח יהודה הירשפלד הי"ד

Yonadav Chaim (ben Tzemach) Hirschfeld HY"D, 19 of Kochav Hashachar, an alumnus of Yashlatz and in his first year at Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav, who was described as "always happy, a ball of energy, extremely intelligent and everyone's best friend".



הקדוש דורון בן מקוננט מהרטה הי"ד

Doron (ben Mekonent) Meherete HY"D, 26, of Ashdod, in his tenth year at Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav, who was described as "having a tremendous desire to succeed in Torah, someone with a large heart who loved helping others, and who never got angry".

A memorial site is currently in development at www.yashlatz.com/memorial which will contain stories, photos and poems about the boys. Visitors will also be able to post messages to the families.

About the Yeshivot

Eight students were murdered in the terror attack – three from “Yeshivat Mercaz Harav”, and five from “Yeshivat Yerushalayim LeTzeirim” (Yashlatz High School). Nine students were injured - three critically.

About [Yashlatz](#)

Otherwise known as Yeshivat Yerushalayim L'Tzeirim (Jerusalem Yeshiva for Youth), this dormitory high school for 340 students based in Jerusalem is affectionally known as Yashlatz.

Yashlatz was founded on the first of Elul, 5724, August 9, 1964 by Rav Yaakov Filber, one of the foremost students of Rav Tzvi Yehuda Kook, zt”l. Although adjacent to “Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav” in Jerusalem, Yashlatz is a separate institute of learning with an independent administration and student body.

The Yeshiva follows the path established by Maran Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook, zt”l, and his son, Rav Tzvi Yehuda, zt”l, which was built upon a vision that included Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and Torat Yisrael. Yashlatz is considered one of the leading Yeshiva high schools in Israel, both in its religious and educational standards. Hundreds of students apply each year for the eighty available places in the ninth grade.

The current Rosh Yeshiva is Rav Yerachmiel Weiss, who has been at the helm of Yashlatz for over 35 years.

About [Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav](#)

Yeshivat Merkaz HaRav Kook was founded 76 years ago, in 5684 (1924) in Jerusalem, by the first Chief Rabbi of Eretz Israel, Rav Avraham Yitzhak HaCohen Kook z”l.

Today "Merkaz HaRav" Yeshivah is the focal point of a young generation aspiring to walk in the Way of G-d and His Torah, and drawn to the vision of HaRav Kook. Since its foundation the Yeshivah and all that it stands for has grown in influence until the name "Merkaz HaRav" has come to denote not only a Yeshivah, but a Torah concept which is the heart of a movement. This movement encompasses thousands of pupils and students in high schools, yeshivot & ulpanot around the country.

Through its dedicated students, "Merkaz HaRav" has made its influence felt in all spheres of Jewish life in Eretz Israel and in the Diaspora. The Yeshivah's graduates serve as Rabbis and Dayanim (Rabbinical Judges) in the cities and development towns, settlements and border villages of Israel. They serve faithfully and with devotion in the various corps of the Israel Defense Forces.

The current Rosh Yeshiva is Rav Yaakov Shapira, son of former Rosh Yeshiva and Chief Rabbi of Israel Rav Avraham Shapira z”l.