



SHURAT HADIN  
ISRAEL LAW CENTER

# Bankrupting Terrorism – One Lawsuit at a Time

2018 | SHURAT HADIN ANNUAL REPORT



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Shurat HaDin's role  
is to fight terrorism,  
to prevent the next attack  
and we do it with one  
simple thing — using law.

— *Nitsana Darshan-Leitner*



## A Message from Shurat HaDin President **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner**

2018 was a year in which we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and we finally witnessed the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Israel's eternal capital, the holy city of Jerusalem.

2018 was also a year in which enemies sought new means of terrorizing Israel, such as using violent border riots as a cover to infiltrate Israel, and launching incendiary devices using kites to destroy fields, while also continuing their tactics such as sending flotillas, launching rockets, and murdering innocent Israelis in shooting and stabbing attacks.

In response, Shurat HaDin has adapted new strategies to target these new threats, while continuing to pursue terrorist sponsors and groups in court and through other means that have proven effective in helping terror victims fight back.

What follows is a sample of some of our most noteworthy accomplishments over the past year.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nitsana Darshan-Leitner".

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner



# SHURAT HADIN'S MISSION

Over the past 15 years, Shurat HaDin has taken the lead in fighting terror and pursuing justice. We began with the conviction that terrorists must be held to account in a court of law and victims of terror are entitled to receive compensation. We soon expanded our efforts, pursuing the supporters and backers of terrorism in order to block terrorist funding and deny terrorist groups the financial "oxygen" that keeps them alive. As terrorist organizations have evolved, we have also continued to adapt and develop new strategies to combat their tactics: battling BDS, lawfare, and other efforts to delegitimize the Jewish state; fighting the use of social media for inciting violence and promoting terror; and defending Israel, its leaders, and soldiers against claims of war crimes. Shurat HaDin is using court systems around the world to go on the legal offensive against Israel's enemies.

## Fighting Terror Funding

Israel and the Jewish community worldwide have repeatedly been targeted with devastating waves of terrorism, and the present is no exception. Shurat HaDin began as one of the pioneers of directing legal action and civil lawsuits against terrorists and their sponsors, and it has become a world leader in the fight to compensate victims and stop terror funding. Shurat HaDin works with western intelligence agencies and a network of lawyers around the world to file legal actions on behalf of victims of terrorism. Today, we represent hundreds of terror victims in legal actions against Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, North Korea, the Palestinian Authority, Iran and Syria. These cases seek not just to obtain compensation for injury

and loss, but to present evidence of these crimes to the world, and obtain a measure of justice for innocent victims and families.

Moreover, for terrorists to operate they need money — for equipment, training, weapons, personnel and more. Without money, terrorists cannot function effectively. To reach terrorists, money must flow from donors and outlaw regimes to places like Gaza, the West Bank, and southern Lebanon. By blocking the flow of money, we can cut off the life-line that keeps terrorist organizations alive. While government efforts to obstruct terror financing are vital, those efforts alone are not enough. Accordingly, Shurat HaDin's legal actions serve a unique and crucial role in blocking terror funding and thus eliminating terrorists' ability to carry out their attacks. For example, Shurat HaDin has brought claims against banks that have served terrorists, such as UBS, the Lebanese-Canadian Bank, American Express Bank, and the Bank of China, and it also serves as a watchdog to warn and block other entities and organizations that may consider providing money or resources to benefit terrorist groups.

## Combatting Lawfare and BDS

Israel and Jewish communities around the world also continue to be confronted by an international campaign to delegitimize the Jewish State and challenge its right to exist via the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and various "*lawfare*" tactics to attack Israel and Israelis with baseless legal actions. Shurat HaDin has taken a lead in combatting these efforts, working to support legislation to prohibit and penalize racist

and anti-Semitic boycotts, exposing organizations that fund BDS activities, filing legal challenges to unions and academic societies that seek to support and implement BDS policies, and using legal procedures to foil attempts to weaken Israel's security, such as the Gaza Flotilla that sought to breach Israel's legitimate coastal blockade of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

## Fighting Jihad on Social Media

Just as social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and others have become popular and valuable tools of communication, networking, marketing, and more for individuals and entities around the world, radical Islamic jihadists and other terror groups have also adopted social media to recruit followers, incite violence, and carry out their terrorist activities. Unfortunately, social media providers have largely turned a blind eye to the use of their services by terrorists, refusing to actively identify and delete known terrorist accounts.

Shurat HaDin has initiated a public campaign and legal strategy to challenge these companies for their complicity in the terrorism that their services are used to facilitate and promote. Shurat HaDin recently filed lawsuits against social media giants Facebook, Twitter and Google for providing material support to Hamas and other designated terrorist organizations.

## Defending Against War Crimes Allegations

In their attempt to delegitimize Israel, advance their cause internationally, and pressure Israel to make concessions in the "peace process," the Palestinians have stepped up their efforts to bring condemnation upon Israel in national and international tribunals. The Palestinian Authority has ostensibly acceded to membership in the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague, and has lodged complaints at the ICC claiming that Israel, its leaders, and soldiers should be prosecuted for various "war crimes" arising out of Israel's 2014 Gaza operation to halt missile attacks aimed at Israeli civilians, and for "settlement" activity in Judea and Samaria. The State of Israel is not a member of the ICC, which complicates its ability to formally respond to these complaints. As a non-governmental organization, Shurat HaDin can thus play an important role in countering the Palestinians' actions.

/// We have to ensure that terror victims receive justice //

Among other things, Shurat HaDin has convened a series of major conferences with academic and legal experts on the current state of the "laws of war," to promote public awareness and debate on the standards that should be applied to evaluate Israeli military actions. In addition, Shurat HaDin has also submitted several complaints to the ICC documenting international crimes committed by the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian leaders.



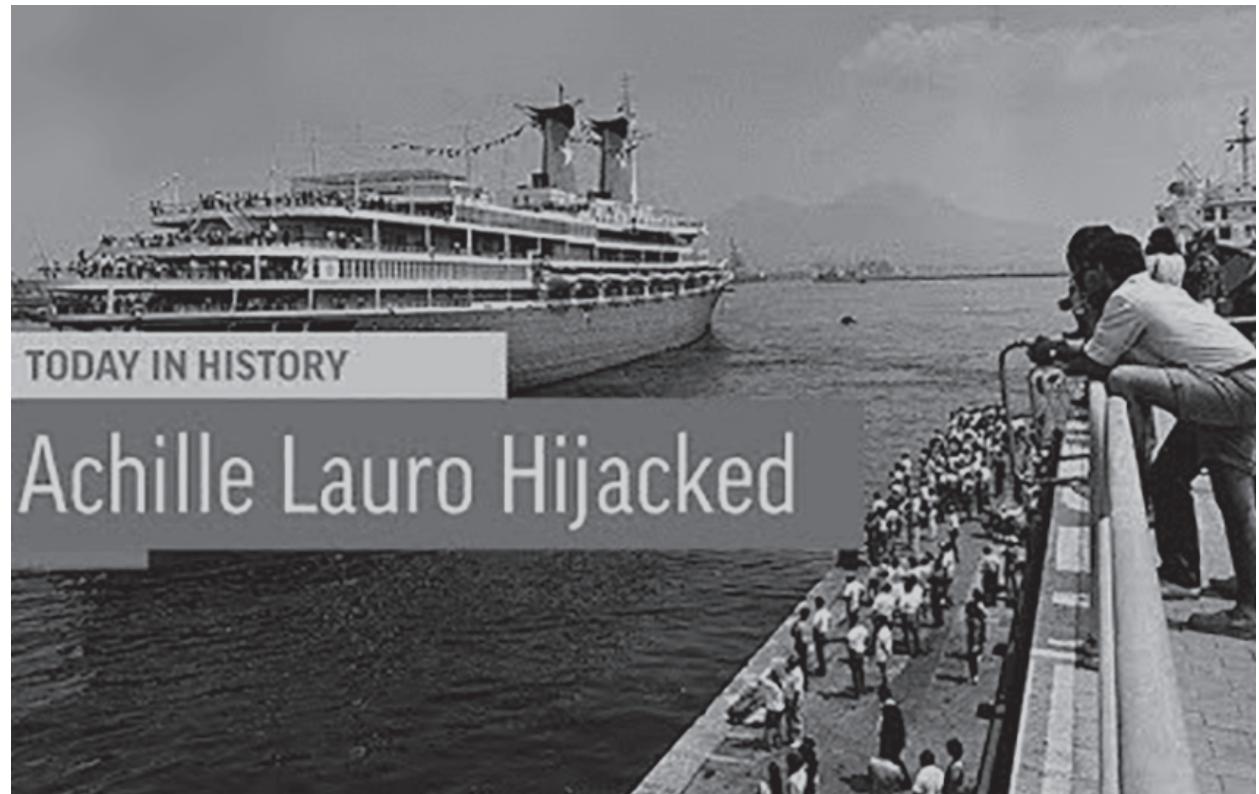
SHURAT HADIN'S  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
IN **2018**

## Shurat HaDin Sues Airbnb Over Blacklisting of Jewish Properties



In November 2018, Shurat HaDin filed a lawsuit against Airbnb in federal court in Delaware on behalf of a group of Israeli-Americans based upon the company's decision to remove listings for properties in Israeli settlements from its online rental website. The lawsuit asks that the court enjoin Airbnb from discriminatory practices against Israel-Jewish homeowners and seeks monetary compensation for ongoing lost rental income from Airbnb pursuant to the U.S. Fair Housing Act. Airbnb's new policy targets only Israeli and Jewish homeowners, while neighboring homes owned by Arabs, Muslims and Christians continue to be listed. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner stated: "Airbnb's new discriminatory policy has made it the poster child for the racist BDS movement. These Jewish American property owners were shocked by Airbnb's blacklisting of their homes and intend to legally fight this new hateful policy. For centuries anti-Semites have sought to dictate where Jews can live, where they can travel, and what businesses they are permitted to engage in. Airbnb's redlining policy is illegal and discriminates against these families based solely upon their religion." •

## Shurat HaDin Wins Precedent-Setting Ruling in Achille Lauro Terror Case



In November 2018, Jerusalem District Court Judge Moshe Drori issued a ruling in a longstanding lawsuit filed against the Palestinian Liberation Organization ("PLO") by Shurat HaDin on behalf of two women held hostage in the infamous Achille Lauro cruise ship hijacking in 1985. The lawsuit seeks NIS 20 million for the estates of the two Jewish-American women, who have since passed away. The PLO argued that the case could not be brought in Israel because the hijacking did not occur within Israel's borders and the plaintiffs were not Israeli citizens. However, Judge Drori ruled that the case could properly be brought in Israel, based in part upon Israel's new Nation-State Law, which defines Israel as the Nation State of the Jewish People. According to Judge Drori, the law places responsibility on the Jewish State to ensure the well-being of its citizens and of those of Jewish

origin who are affected by anti-Semitism. Judge Drori wrote: "The people of the Jewish nation are often harmed due to their Jewish descent, and therefore Israel must work to guarantee their safety. Since the state failed, in this case, and the plaintiffs were hurt from a terror attack carried out by the respondents, the State of Israel is obligated to allow and assist the plaintiffs to receive the highest compensation possible, according to the Israeli judicial system." Nitsana Darshan-Leitner stated: "The Achille Lauro affair was one of the most horrific terror attacks carried out in Israel's history, and therefore the Israeli legal system has the authority to review it. Drori's decision proves that even after 33 years, the State of Israel is responsible to hunt down those who want to harm it and will bring to justice those persecuting Jews worldwide." •

### Shurat HaDin Disrupts Gaza Flotilla and Seizes Boats to Pay Terror Judgments

On September 30, 2018, Shurat HaDin released its exclusive report on the latest anti-Israel flotilla operation that sought to break Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. In May 2018, a group of anti-Israel NGOs, many with ties to Islamic terrorist groups, organized a so-called "Freedom Flotilla," hoping to provoke the Israel Defense Forces ("IDF") and damage the Jewish State's reputation internationally. The participants left from various cities across Europe and vowed to reach Gaza by July.

However, Shurat HaDin built upon its previous experiences in thwarting similar flotilla efforts in years past. Ultimately, Shurat HaDin was able to cause several boats to drop out of the flotilla while still in Europe, and worked to seize boats intercepted by the Israeli Navy to provide a small measure of compensation to terror victims. The Report details the events leading up to the 2018 flotilla, as well as the steps taken by Shurat HaDin to thwart the flotilla's operations. •



### Israeli Court Enters Judgment Against New Zealand BDS Activists for Causing Singer to Cancel Tel Aviv Concert



On October 10, 2018, the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court ordered two anti-Israel activists in New Zealand to pay a total of NIS 45,000 in damages plus nearly NIS 11,000 in attorney's fees to three Israeli teenagers who claimed injury under an Israeli anti-boycott law when New Zealand singer "Lorde" cancelled an announced Tel Aviv performance in apparent deference to the activists' call for a cultural boycott of the Jewish State. Shortly after the Israeli venue of Lorde's concert was announced in December 2017, New Zealand BDS activists Justine Sachs and Nadia Abu-Shanab published an open letter to Lorde in an online New Zealand magazine urging her to cancel the event due to alleged Israeli oppression of Palestinians. Lorde publicly thanked the activists for the letter via Twitter, and the show in Tel Aviv was subsequently cancelled. The three Israeli teens had purchased tickets for the concert, but were forced to accept a refund when the event was cancelled. With the assistance of Shurat HaDin, the teens filed a lawsuit in Jerusalem Magistrates' Court against the two New Zealand activists for violating Israel's anti-boycott law by causing Lorde to cancel her Tel Aviv concert. When the defendants failed to respond to the complaint, the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court entered judgment in favor of the three Israeli teens. •

### Setting the Record Straight at UNICEF about Hamas's Violent Gaza Riots

The international organization UNICEF recently turned its focus on violence inflicted upon Palestinian youth during demonstrations on Gaza's border with Israel. In response, Shurat HaDin commissioned a thorough and detailed factual report demonstrating numerous categories of human rights abuses inflicted upon Palestinian women and children by Palestinian leaders and terrorist groups during these demonstrations. These included enlisting children as combatants, using women and children as human shields, and intentionally placing civilians in harm's way, among others. The report demonstrated that Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups bore primary responsibility for the injuries deaths suffered by Palestinian children during these violent riots. Such reports are a vital tool in defending Israel and its soldiers from the false narrative that portrays a defensive army as the cruel aggressor. Shurat HaDin insisted that UNICEF should use our data in reporting on the impact of the conflict on Palestinian children. •



## Shurat HaDin Files Complaint against Hamas in the International Criminal Court



In September 2018, Shurat HaDin President Nitsana Darshan-Leitner traveled to the International Criminal Court ("ICC") in The Hague with a group of Israeli farmers to submit a complaint on their behalf which was signed by 50,000 supporters seeking an investigation of Hamas for its most recent violations of international law. As part of the mission, Shurat HaDin organized a public demonstration outside the ICC, which included large farming tractors such as those used to extinguish fires in Israeli fields ignited by Hamas operatives, as well as displays depicting the violence and destruction caused by Hamas to Israeli areas adjacent to the Gaza border. Since March 2018, Hamas has been engaged in ongoing violent demonstrations along the Gaza border, with operatives launching incendiary kites and balloons, shootings and throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at Israeli soldiers, and attempting to breach the border fence to carry out attacks within Israel. The complaint submitted by Shurat HaDin to the ICC names Hamas leaders Khaled Mashal, Zaher Jabarin and Saleh Arouri as among those directing the illegal activities of Hamas which constitute war crimes under international law, including the murder of non-combatants, the destruction of civilian property for unlawful purposes, and the use of civilians as human shields. •



## Shurat HaDin President Nitsana Darshan-Leitner Recognized by the Jerusalem Post

In September 2018, the Jerusalem Post recognized Shurat HaDin President Nitsana Darshan-Leitner as one of the 50 most influential Jews of 2018. The Israeli paper published a profile of Darshan-Leitner that highlighted a number of her accomplishments as the leader of Shurat HaDin, including the seizure of the Gaza flotilla boats this summer, Shurat HaDin's legal efforts to force social media giants Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to ban terrorists from using their platforms, and using lawsuits to attempt to bankrupt terrorist organizations. In addition, the paper commended Darshan-Leitner for her new book, "Harpoon," co-authored with Samuel Katz, which tells the fascinating story of the background behind the Mossad's financial war on terror. •





### US Appeals Court OVERTURNS District Court Order that Faulted Terror Victim for Attack

On June 8, 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that a district court judge erred in reducing the amount of damages awarded to the family of an American/Israeli teenager kidnapped and murdered by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, based upon the judge's assertion that the victim and his family assumed the risk of being injured by choosing to reside in the West Bank. The Court of Appeals vacated the district judge's order, and directed the judge to award a full measure of damages to the family without assigning any blame for the attack on the victim or his family. The case was brought by the family of 16-year-old Naftali Fraenkel, who was kidnapped and murdered together with Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Sha'er by Hamas terrorists in June 2014. The attack occurred outside Alon Shvut in Gush Etzion, just south of Jerusalem. In 2017, District Court Judge Rosemary Collyer ruled that Fraenkel family should receive a lower-than-usual damages award against Iran and Syria for those countries' role in facilitating Hamas' terror attacks, since the family "knew" that Hamas targeted Jews for attacks. The Court of Appeals denounced Judge Collyer's reasoning as "blaming the victim," and sent the case back to the lower court to recalculate the damages award. •

### Asserted Lien on Boeing to Seize Iranian Assets

In 2017, Shurat HaDin assisted a group of plaintiffs, who held an unsatisfied terrorism judgment for damages against Iran, file and serve a discovery citation upon aircraft giant Boeing in an attempt to identify Iranian assets that may be used to pay the amounts Iran owes to the plaintiffs under the judgment. The discovery citation was based upon Boeing's announcement that it had reached a deal to sell billions of dollars in aircraft to Iran as permitted under the Iran Nuclear Deal negotiated by the Obama Administration. In early 2018, the federal court in Illinois ordered Boeing to comply with the citation and produce documents and testimony related to any such agreements between Boeing and Iran. Shortly after Boeing made an initial production of documents, President Trump announced on May 8, 2018, that the US would withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal and begin immediately to re-impose economic sanctions on Iran. In light of the US withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal, the Boeing citation litigation is currently suspended until the full impact of the US action on the Boeing-Iran aircraft sale can be determined. •



### Filed Lawsuit on Behalf of Fogel Family on Anniversary of Heinous Terror Attack

In February 2018, the Fogel family filed a lawsuit in Israel for NIS 400 million in compensation against the terrorists who murdered five members of that family in a grisly terror attack in their home in Itamar in 2011. The lawsuit was filed against the PLO, the PA and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine ("PFLP"), as well as the individual terrorists who perpetrated and assisted in the attack. The attack was carried out by two Palestinian terrorists, who broke into the Fogel home in the middle of the night, killing the parents, Udi and Ruth Fogel, as well as three of their six children, aged 11, 4, and three months. Elihay Ben-Yishai, the brother of Ruth Fogel, said on behalf of the family: "From our point of view, the claim is meant to send a message: anyone with blood on his hands who carried out the massacre of our beloved family will not get away and will pay a heavy price." •

## Compelled Crowd-Funding Platform to Cancel BDS Campaign for Ties to Terrorists

Shurat HaDin achieved another important legal victory against the BDS movement this year when it managed to shut down a vital crowd-funding channel for the central boycott organization, the BDS National Committee ("BNC"), located in Ramallah. Shurat HaDin sent urgent cease and desist letters to the funding platform Donorbox in San Francisco, warning that the BNC, which was running a campaign on the site, had direct ties to designated Palestinian terror groups including Hamas, the PFLP and Islamic Jihad. After Shurat HaDin provided Donorbox with proof that the BDS movement is very closely related to terrorist organizations, Donorbox shut down the campaign and removed BNC from its platform. Shurat HaDin even received a nasty condemnation from the founder of the BDS movement himself, Omar Barghouti, crying about "McCarthyism" over Shurat HaDin's powerful victory.



## Interior Minister Orders Human Rights Watch Official/BDS Activist Omar Shakir Deported

On May 9, 2018, Israel's Interior Minister Aryeh Deri issued an order of deportation against Human Rights Watch's ("HRW") Israel and Palestine Director and BDS activist Omar Shakir, in accordance with Israel's anti-boycott law.

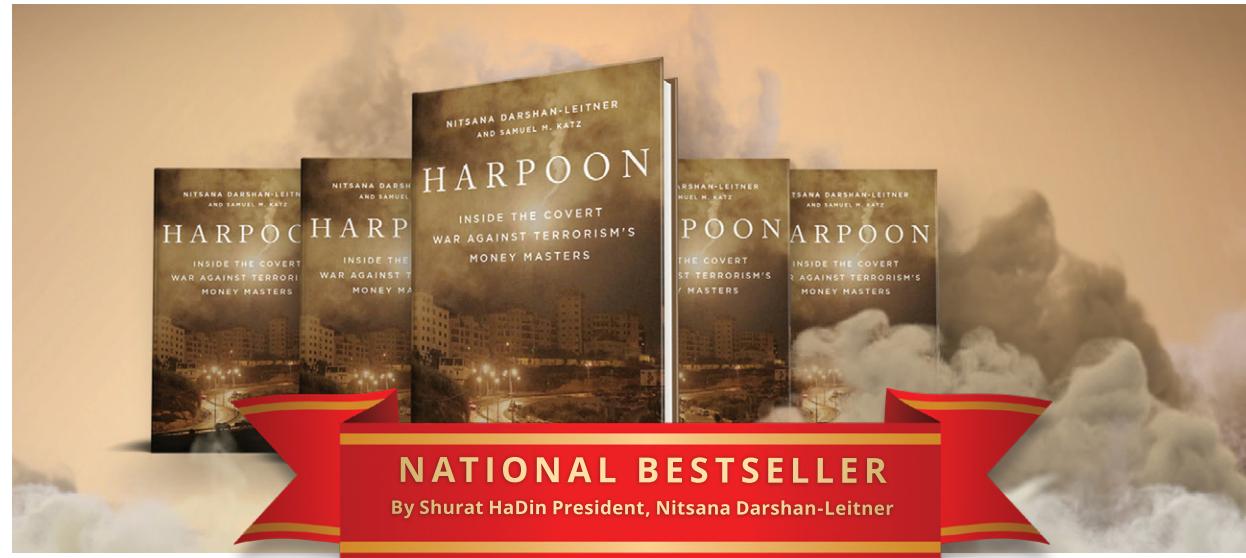
Under the law, Israel's Interior Minister is authorized to prohibit entry to Israel of foreign nationals who espouse the boycott of Israel or any part of Israel.

In 2017, when Shakir was hired by HRW, Shurat HaDin petitioned the Interior Minister and Israeli Courts to

apply the anti-boycott law to block Shakir from entering Israel. Shakir has a long history as a BDS activist, including his involvement in founding and leading an anti-Israel university student organization promoting BDS.

Although the Interior Minister initially took no action with regard to Shakir, following the recommendation of Israeli's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, Shakir was ordered deported. The deportation order is now being challenged by HRW and Shakir in the Israeli courts. •

# Shurat Hadin's First Book Release



## Harpoon: Inside the Covert War Against Terrorism's Money Masters

In November 2017, Shurat HaDin President Nitsana Darshan-Leitner and co-author Samuel M. Katz released the new book, *Harpoon: Inside the Covert War Against Terrorism's Money Masters*. About the book: ISIS boasted an astonishing \$2.4 billion of revenue in 2015 — just one example of how the global war on terror has largely neglected what should be its biggest target: the money trail. One country, however, has taken the lead in this major new front of unconventional warfare: Israel. With the creation of its top-secret "Harpoon" program, led by legendary Mossad boss Meir Dagan, Israel began directing spies, soldiers, and attorneys to disrupt and destroy money pipelines and financial institutions that paid for the bloodshed perpetrated by Hamas, Hezbollah,

and other groups. Its successful efforts have now become a blueprint for the U.S.'s own fight against terror and other criminal enterprises.

Written by an attorney who worked alongside Israel's intelligence community and a bestselling author, *Harpoon* offers a globetrotting story of the Israeli-led covert effort, now joined by the Americans, to choke off the terrorists' oxygen supply, money, via unconventional warfare. Among the many revelations in *Harpoon*, authors Nitsana Darshan-Leitner and Samuel M. Katz show how Hamas was being funded through U.S.-based charitable donations diverted to supporting suicide bombings and terrorist attacks inside Israel —



including attacks that resulted in the deaths of American citizens. *Harpoon* efforts shut down these programs with spy thrillers while lawyers won devastating rulings in federal court in New York against major Arab banks that helped launder terror money.

*Harpoon* is published by the Hachette Book Group.

# THE ULTIMATE MISSION TO ISRAEL

MAY 5 - JUNE 4, 2018

## A Military, Humanitarian, Historical, Judicial, Religious, and Political Reality Check

For the past several years, Shurat HaDin has been hosting professionals from all backgrounds on its highly acclaimed Ultimate Mission to Israel. The Ultimate Mission allows participants to experience a dynamic and intensive week of exploration of Israel's struggle for survival and security in the Middle East today. In addition to delving into the challenges to Israel's survival, attendees receive insider access to some of the Jewish State's most influential policy makers.

During the Mission, participants receive briefings by the senior commanders of the Shin Bet security service, Mossad officials, and by present and past officers in the IDF Intelligence and Operations branches. Attendees also get to observe a trial of Hamas terrorists in an IDF military

court and receive first hand tours of the Lebanese and Syrian front-line military positions and the Gaza border check-points. Additional activities include ATV rides in the Golan Heights, a moonlight boat cruise on the Sea of Galilee, a traditional Shabbat dinner in the Old City and meetings with senior Cabinet Ministers and other key policymakers.

Participants receive 5-star accommodations at the Leonardo Plaza Hotel Jerusalem and at the Galei Kinneret Hotel in Tiberias, three lavish meals a day, luxury bus transportation and access to knowledgeable tour guides.

"The Ultimate Mission took us to roads and places never experienced before that ought to be on every thinking person's Bucket List. It is a fantastic way to holiday while educating oneself and providing practical support to such an important organisation that is so clearly appreciated in Israel for its work in support of victims of terror and in battling anti-Israel and anti-Semitic campaigns worldwide."

— **Steven Abromwich and Dr. Sally Kogosowski**  
Melbourne, Australia

"I thought the trip was outstanding. The access was as good as I could have expected and I was particularly impressed by the sincerity and frankness of all our speakers. It is clear that it is impossible to understand the complexity of the situation without seeing and hearing it first hand."

— **Richard Sutin**  
Toronto, Canada



# THE ULTIMATE MOSSAD MISSION

NOVEMBER 12-19, 2018

## Insights into the Secret War on Terrorism

The "Mossad" Mission: In November 2017, Shurat HaDin hosted its first "Mossad" Mission in Israel. Built upon the success of our Ultimate Mission, the Mossad Mission was designed to give an insider's view of the history, tactics and achievements of Israel's most celebrated yet secretive spy agency.

Participants were treated to personal lectures and presentations by Dr. Uzi Arad, former head of the Mossad Intelligence Division and Chairman of the National Security Council, Israel Bar Tov, former head of the Counter Terror, Counter Intelligence and Domestic Subversion divisions in the Israeli security agency

("Shabak"), Moshe "Bogie" Ya'alon, former Defense Minister and former Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, among others. Former Mossad agents gave hands-on training seminars on tools and tactics of the intelligence community, as well as riveting descriptions of personal experiences in the service of the Jewish state.

The Mossad Mission also featured exciting activities and touring of Israel's most cherished sites, all with First Class guides and Five-Star accommodations that visitors have come to expect from Shurat HaDin's widely acclaimed Ultimate Mission. The mission was a huge success and set a new standard for Israeli missions for years to come.





# SHILLMAN'S CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE

## WINTER INTERNSHIP DECEMBER 2018

Shurat HaDin's Arnold Silverman Summer Law Student Internship and Winter Internship programs provide outstanding law students from top law schools with an intensive and hands-on learning experience at the Law Center's offices in Tel Aviv. Closely supervised by Shurat HaDin's staff, they do legal research and writing and other litigation work on Shurat HaDin anti-terror, human rights and antidiscrimination cases. The students also hear lectures by internationally renowned attorneys, participate in workshops and take field trips to Israeli military and legal installations not generally open to the public. Through the internship program, Shurat HaDin deeply develops the law students' understanding of the legal and political challenges that Israel faces, while steeping them in our proven advocacy strategies. The students can then apply what they've learned in their home countries and communities and become full-fledged advocates for

Israel and the global Jewish community, in the courtroom and in everyday life.

"One thing I have learned throughout this internship is just how far the law currently lags behind the stark reality of terrorism. Although the Anti-terrorism Act has made significant strides in the right direction by widely defining 'material support' to terrorist organizations as 'any service,' it is very often an uphill battle to win on these grounds and more-so to collect damages for the victims. However, although difficult, I have also learned that it is not impossible and not without merit to bring these claims and fight them as Shurat Hadin does."

— **Aviv Lazar, Harvard Law School**

"I have learned many things through this internship, but my most important takeaway has been learning the ways in which International Law can both work against and in favor of Israel's interests."

— **Steven Evans, Georgetown University**



Backing down was never an option for Shurat HaDin. The fighting spirit in this office, led by Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, is driven to success through a uniquely offensive strategy. Instead of simply defending Israel from attacks, Shurat HaDin goes on the offensive and takes the fight to the courts."

— **Sophia Lazarus, McGill University Faculty of Law**



## 2018 Speaking Engagements

### ISRAEL

- January 2018, Lecture to Northwestern Law January trip to Israel, Tel Aviv
- January 2018, Lecture Virginia Law School, Jerusalem
- February 2018, Civil Effects Toolbox, Tel Aviv
- June 2018, Harpoon, Jerusalem
- June 2018, Lecture to Joel group, Tel Aviv
- July 2018, Harpoon Book Event, Modiin
- August 2018, 'Keren Tikwa' Summer Seminar Lecture, Jerusalem
- September 2018, The Legal Battle Against Terrorism: A Comparative Perspective, Herzliya
- October 2018, Herzliya Cultural Group
- December 2018, Book Event, Beit Shemesh

### USA

- January 2018, Young Israel of Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- January 2018, Young & Senior Israeli Parliament, Miami, Florida
- January 2018, Bal Harbor, Surfside, Florida
- January 2018, Adelson & JCC, Palo Alto, California
- January 2018, SDJA with SWU as Cosponsor, San Diego, California
- January 2018, Lecture to Sinai Temple, Los Angeles, California
- January 2018, Chabad of North Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills, California
- January 2018, Temple of the Arts, Beverly Hills, California
- January 2018, West Coast Torah Center & Magen David Congregation, Beverly Hills, California
- January 2018, Shomrei Torah Synagogue, West Hills, California
- January 2018, SWU Student Conference, Los Angeles, California
- January 2018, Lecture Chabad Rabbi Krasnianski, New York, New York
- January 2018, Columbia University, New York, New York
- February 2018, RJC National Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada
- February 2018, Yeshiva University's Model UN, Stamford, Connecticut
- February 2018, Shelter Rock Jewish Center, Roslyn, New York
- February 2018, Event: Congregation Beth El, Texas
- February 2018, Congregation Rodfei Shalom and Jewish Federation of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas
- February 2018, EVENT: Stanley Fischer House, Great Neck, New York
- February 2018, Great Neck Synagogue, Main Sanctuary, New York
- March 2018, Speech at AIPAC, Northwestern
- March 2018, George Mason University National Security Institute, Virginia
- March 2018, "The Hill" Washington DC
- June 2018, Young Israel of West Hempstead, New York
- June 2018, JNF in Sands Point, New York
- June 2018, Lecture in Cleveland, Mayfield Heights, Ohio
- October 2018, CST Chicago Loop Synagogue and JNF Lawyers Division CLE Presentation, Chicago, Illinois
- October 2018, Congregation Or Torah, Illinois
- October 2018, Event: Israel Bonds Women's Division, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- December 2018, Teaneck evening: From Gaza to Tehran: Perspectives on Terrorism and BDS, New Jersey
- December 2018, Israel's Legitimacy 2018, New York, New York



Money is the  
oxygen of terrorism.  
If you block the funding,  
you block the terrorism.

— Nitsana Darshan-Leitner

# NGO Gets Court Order to Seize Gaza Flotilla to Compensate Terror Victims



SOLDIERS BOARD one of the two Gaza-bound boats carrying pro-Palestinian activists in the Mediterranean Sea in 2011.  
(photo credit: REUTERS)

An NGO obtained an unusual court order on Wednesday to seize a flotilla — which is trying to break Israel's blockade of Gaza — in order to provide assistance to terrorist victims, even though those boats have not yet been captured by the IDF.

Shurat Hadin — Israel Law Center, representing terrorist victims' families, got Jerusalem District Court Judge Moshe Drori to issue a temporary seizure order for two Norwegian ships, which are due to reach Gaza's maritime area as part of the flotilla in the coming weeks.

The interim court order means that the ships, the Karstein and Freedom, worth between €75,000 and €150,000, will be initially designated to be sold, the proceeds going to benefit the victims of Hamas terrorism, should the IDF capture them while trying to break the blockade.

According to court documents, the ships' owner and Hamas would still have an opportunity to contest the seizure and sale of the ships before a final order is granted.

# The petition leading to the court order was filed on behalf of the Gavish family, who was killed in the 2002 Passover terrorist attack at the Park Hotel in Netanya.

By Yonah Jeremy Bob July 13, 2018

The flotilla's organizers have said that if they succeed in reaching Gaza, the ships will be donated to civilian organizations and local fishermen.

But Shurat Hadin, bringing expert witnesses former Dep. Navy commander Rear-Admiral Noam Feig and former Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) official Aryeh Spitzer, told the court that Hamas would most likely use the ships to increase the size of its navy. Even if the ships were initially donated to civilian causes, Hamas's desire to use them to attack Israeli naval vessels, natural gas facilities and for more attempts to break the blockade would be too hard for it to resist.

Drori did not order the IDF to seize the ships and said he would express no opinion regarding how the state should handle the issue of the ships from a national security perspective.

Rather, the court said its order simply meant that if the IDF chose to seize the ships and brought them to Israel, the temporary seizure order would then apply to the ships.

The petition leading to the court order was filed on behalf of the Gavish family, who was killed in the 2002 Passover terrorist attack — David, Rachel, their son Avraham, and maternal grandfather Yitzhak Kanner.

Shurat Hadin was also representing the family of Adam Weinstein — murdered in a 2001 Jerusalem terrorist attack.

In 2006, a different judge ruled that Hamas give the Gavish family NIS 90 million, but until the seizure order regarding the ships there had been no way to get Hamas to pay.

The Weinstein family's case is still ongoing before Drori in a separate legal proceeding.

The ruling raises questions about whether it will be upheld if it is later appealed, as the Supreme Court in August 2016 issued a ruling blocking the state from confiscating the *Estelle*, the Swedish ship used in a 2012 flotilla aimed at breaking Israel's Gaza blockade.

However, that ruling had rejected the state's desire to confiscate the ship on the grounds that

the state waited nearly a year to make its confiscation request.

It was unclear whether Shurat Hadin's preemptive claim and its argument that it needed the boats to fulfill Israeli court judgments would be enough to lead to a different result should the ships' owners appeal upon a seizure.

"Flotilla organizers sail here on ships every year to try to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip and to violate the sovereignty of Israel," said Shurat Hadin director Nitsana Darshan-Leitner.

"Every year they are stopped by the IDF and their ships are towed to the Ashdod Port and they are sent home as if nothing occurred. No longer. This time, the ships will not be returned to their owners, but will be turned over to terrorist victims. For the first time, the flotilla organizers will learn that there is a price to pay for their provocations, for systematic violations of international law and for supporting a terrorist organization."

In the past, Shurat Hadin has also succeeded in delaying or helping to get flotillas canceled using lawsuits to sabotage flotilla ships' insurance.

# 2018 Selected Media Appearances

**January 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Shurat Hadin: Add Rockefeller Brothers Fund to Pro-BDS Groups' Blacklist"

**January 2018, Hamedia,**  
"Iran Denies Segev Spy Link"

**January 2018, Haaretz,**  
"Jewish Insider's Daily Kickoff"

**January 2018, NBC News,**  
"Israel Travel Ban Includes Nobel-Winning US Quaker Group"

**January 2018, JNS,**  
"American Pastors Thank Brazil's Incoming President for Supporting Israel"

**February 2018, The Out Line,**  
"How Urging Lorde to Cancel a Tel Aviv Concert Got Two Activists Sued"

**February 2018, The Algemeiner,**  
"Terror Victims Win Major Victory in Lawsuit Against Iran"

**February 2018, IN The Setimes,**  
"Lorde Took a Stand for Palestinian Rights. Now an Israeli Organization is Suing Her Fans"

**February 2018, The New Arab,**  
"Israel and BDS: The Only 'Democracy' in the Middle East Where New Zealanders Get Sued"

**February 2018, The Yeshiva World,**  
"Fogel Family Survivors Sue for NIS 400 Million In Damages"

**February 2018, Egypt Today,**  
"Israeli Shurat HaDin Sues New Zealanders over Lorde Boycott"

**March 2018, The Electronic Intifada,**  
"Listen: Israeli Lawfare 'Backfires' in New Zealand"

**March 2018, The Jewish Press,**  
"Israel Must Stand in Solidarity with Yezidis"

**March 2018, The JC News,**  
"Sacks Pays Tribute to Stephen Hawking as 'Truly Inspiring'"

**April 2018 , The Jerusalem Post,**  
"U.S. Supreme Court Throws out \$655M. Historic Terrorism Ruling Against PA"

**April 2018 , The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Israeli Group Seeks ICC Action Against Hamas for Using Children as Human Shields"

**April 2018, Reuters,**  
"U.S. Top Court Will Not Revive Verdict against Palestinian Authority, PLO"

**April 2018 , The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Did Mark Zuckerberg Make Facebook Vulnerable to Anti-Terrorism Lawsuits?"

**April 2018 , The Middle East Monitor,**  
"Israeli Law Group Files Complaint about Hamas to the ICC"

**April 2018 , The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Report: U.S. Intel Discloses Details of Hezbollah Financing In Colombia"

**April 2018 , Fast Forward,**  
"U.S. Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Terror Victims' Lawsuit Against Palestinians"

**April 2018, Court House News,**  
"Terror Victim's Family Seeks to Revive Claims Against Facebook"

**April 2018, The Gazette,**  
"Terror Accusers Say Zuckerberg Testimony Bolsters Suits"

**May 2018 , The Jewish Voice,**  
"Gaza Belt Farmers to Sue at ICC Over Palestinian Kite Bomb Damage to Crops"

**May 2018 , The Jerusalem Post,**  
"NGO Building ICC War Crimes Case against Hamas over Flaming Gaza Kites"

**May 2018 , Haaretz,**  
"Israel's Gaza Killings: War Crimes or Self-defense? Experts Weigh In"

**June 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Netanyahu's Son's New Job: Helping Sue Facebook And Google"

**June 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"Former Minister Could Potentially Face Death Penalty for Spying for Iran"

**June 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"US Singer Bows out of German Festival amid Pressure over Funding from Israel"

**June 2018, The Jewish Voice,**  
"Kite Attacks on Gaza Border Soar; Hundreds of Dunams of Land Set Ablaze"

**July 2018, The Australian Jewish News,**  
"Our Tax Won't 'Pay to Slay'"

**July 2018, The Algemeiner,**  
"American Terror Victims Sue European Investment Bank For Financial Ties to Iran"

**July 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Why Israel's Version Of 'Pay-For-Slay' Law Is Weak"

**July 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"US Judge Says Murdered Israeli Teen's Family Took Risk by Living in West Bank"

**July 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"NGO Gets Court Order to Seize Gaza Flotilla to Compensate Terror Victims"

**August 2018, 972 Mag,**  
"Tasers to the Face: How the Israeli Navy Seized Latest Gaza Flotilla"

**September 2018, i24 NEWS,**  
"Israeli Farmers to File ICC War Crimes Complaint over Hamas Kite Attacks"

**September 2018, Haaretz,**  
"Now Israel Has a Race Law"

**September 2018, The Media Line,**  
"Israel's Public Relations Chess Game at the International Criminal Court"

**September 2018, IQ,**  
"Lana Del Rey Pulls Out of Israel's Meteor Festival"

**October 2018, The Times Of Israel,**  
"Who's Really Hurting Israel? 9 Things to Know for October 11"

**October 2018, Mondoweiss,**  
"Israeli Effort to Punish BDS Activists for Lorde Cancellation is Backfiring"

**October 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"New Zealand Activists Dismiss Israeli Court's Damages Order over Lorde Concert"

**October 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"PLO: UN Peace Envoy 'No Longer Acceptable' Because of Gaza Truce Efforts"

**October 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"New Zealand Justice Minister: Lorde Ruling is a 'Political Stunt'"

**October 2018, PR Newswire,**  
"Hagee Ministries Holds 37th Annual Night to Honor Israel"

**October 2018, The Guardian,**  
"We Have Been Fined for Asking Lorde to Boycott Israel – But We Won't Be Silenced"

**October 2018, The Guardian,**  
"Israel Fines New Zealand Women \$18,000 for Urging Lorde Concert Boycott"

**October 2018, Breaking Israel News,**  
"John Hagee Ministries Event Gives Out \$1.45M for 12 Israeli, Jewish Non-Profits"

**October 2018, Front Page Magazine,**  
"Visa, Mastercard and The War on the Freedom Center"

**October 2018, TRT World,**  
"Israel's Anti-BDS Actions Reveal that the Boycott Might Just Be Working"

**October 2018, The New York Times,**  
"He Defended Accused Terrorists for 35 Years. Now He Is back"

**October 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"New Zealand BDSers: We Won't Pay Israeli Court Fine"

**October 2018, The Pollstar,**  
"Australia: Eminem, Greta, Van Fleet Announce Dates, Lorde Cancellation Fallout"

**November 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Jewish-Americans Sue AirBNB In Delaware, Citing Religious Discrimination"

**November 2018, The Jewish Telegraphic Agency,**  
"Israeli Settler Sues AirBNB for Dropping West Bank Listings"

**November 2018, Sputnik News,**  
"Israeli NGO Threatens to Sue Facebook for Hamas TV Station Account"

**November 2018, Breitbart,**  
"American Jews Sue AirBNB over Ban on Jewish West Bank Apartments"

**November 2018, The Jewish Voice,**  
"Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' to Execute Sanctions Against AirBNB – Campaign Opposed to Discrimination Against Jews Gains Traction"

**November 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"NGO Threatens Facebook with Lawsuit Over Hamas's Al-Aqsa Tv Account"

**November 2018, The Times Of Israel,**  
"Jewish Insider's Daily Kickoff: December 14, 2018"

**November 2018, The Jewish Link,**  
"Bankrupting Terrorism, One Lawsuit at a Time"

**November 2018, Reuters,**  
"Jewish Americans Sue AirBNB over West Bank Listing Ban"

**December 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"Court Seizes Arafat's East Jerusalem Property in Terror Victims' Lawsuit"

**December 2018, The Algemeiner,**  
"Arizona Attorney General Argues BDS Seeks to 'Strengthen' Terror-Supporting Palestinian Groups"

**December 2018, The Algemeiner,**  
"US Fundraising Site Donorbox Shuts Down BDS Account"

**December 2018, The Jewish Voice,**  
"Calling on US Jews to Join as Plaintiffs in Lawsuit Against Airbnb."

**December 2018, JNS,**  
"USAID to Close Doors in the West Bank and Gaza by Early 2019"

**December 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Is Trump Blocking Law to Compensate US Victims of PA Terror?"

**December 2018, Mondoweiss,**  
"Report: Israeli Settler Attacks Increased by 60% in 2018"

**December 2018, Truthout,**  
"School Employee Sues District for Israel Loyalty Oath in Contract"

**December 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"High Court Asked to Block \$150M Transfer to Hamas"

**December 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"BDS International Donation Accounts Frozen for Suspected Ties to Terrorism"

**December 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"AirBNB Denies Israeli Claims that it Is Reversing Settlement Ban"

**December 2018, The Jerusalem Post,**  
"Who Will Be Running Netanyahu's Campaign In The Next Election?"

**December 2018, The Times of Israel,**  
"Jewish Insider's Daily Kickoff: December 21, 2018"

**December 2018, Breaking Israel News,**  
"USAID to Close Doors in West Bank and Gaza in Early 2019"

**December 2018, The Media Line,**  
**BDS Boomerang:**  
Prominent U.S. Fundraising Platform Targets Israel Boycotters"

**December 2018, The New York Jewish Week,** "American Jews, Hurt By Airbnb Move, Enter Legal Fight"

**December 2018, New Matilda,**  
"AirBNB Delists Illegal Homes In Israeli-Occupied West Bank; booking.com Holds Out"

**December 2018, Longview News-Journal,**  
"Texas School Contractor Sues, Says Job Lost Because She Won't Vow to Not Boycott Israel"

**December 2018, AP News,**  
"US Fundraising Site Suspends Palestinian Boycott Account"

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