



When the bomb hits close to our children



Grad missile in Beer Sheva, February 23 ,2011

***Emergency campaign to build a bomb shelter for the
Eshel Avraham preschool
in Beer Sheva***



An emergency campaign

The constant threat of terror attacks that has characterized Israeli life for decades has recently taken on a frightening intensity in the city of Beer Sheva. The Second Lebanon War demonstrated that Gaza terrorists have the capability – and willingness – to shoot Grad rockets into this bustling town and bring life to a shattering halt. For the past two years, since Operation Cast Lead, 250 rockets have been shot into the Negev, causing tremendous damage to property and spirits, irreversibly shattering the sense of security and normalcy for all its inhabitants.

On 23 February 2011, in the early evening hours, the city received a dreadful reminder of the worst days of the war as a rocket exploded in the middle of a residential area half a kilometer away from Congregation Eshel Avraham – in walking distance from the sanctuary, the administrative offices, and perhaps most alarmingly, the active preschool.

The threat: A 60-second warning

It takes 60 seconds for a rocket to travel from Gaza to Beer Sheva. That's how long the people of the community have to find a safe place to stay. A rocket can hit any day, any time. The congregation needs to be prepared, for the sake of its members, especially the children.

Eshel Avraham has a tremendous responsibility to protect the people who rely on its facilities. Towards that end, Eshel Avraham has a security system with an on-site security guard during times of operation. However, the synagogue lacks some vital security infrastructure that would make a crucial difference to the safety of the congregation in the time of, God forbid, a rocket attack on the building.

About Eshel Avraham

Congregation Eshel Avraham is a thriving Jewish community established in 1976 in Beer Sheva. The congregation consists of two buildings, the original one built in 1986 that includes the synagogue, four classrooms and offices, and a new structure built in 2003 that holds three classrooms and a very basic shelter. Eshel Avraham is home to some 200 member families who regularly attend Shabbat services and a wide range of communal activities and classes all week long. Eshel Avraham is especially proud of its preschool, with eight classes of 220 children ranging in age, from three months to six years, who are cared for from 7AM until 5PM every day. The building is always bustling, which is usually a source of pleasure and joy – that is, unless there is a rocket attack.



The Eshel Avraham community has not stopped a single activity in the face of rocket attacks. The pulse of the community continues to beat heartily. Indeed, Eshel Avraham is committed to preserving the sanctity of life and continues to be a mainstay of communal life. Eshel Avraham is a model for strength for its members. Within that model, Eshel Avraham has to be able to safeguard the community that counts on it for protection.

Eshel Avraham needs to invest immediately in the following safety and security measures, before the next rocket attack:

1. **Building a proper bomb shelter.** Eshel Avraham needs a fully functioning bomb shelter that can hold 110 children whose classrooms are in the new building – including 36 babies who do not yet walk – as well as 30 adults, or 200 adults. It needs to be available for the second building during the week and during Shabbat and holy day services. It must have adequate space, appropriate ventilation structures in case of biological or chemical attack, proper plumbing, electrical and heating functions, and room for storage of basic supplies, in case of extended stays in the shelter, such as during the Second Lebanon War.
2. **Reinforcing the sanctuary.** The sanctuary, which is the heart of the building, is extremely vulnerable in times of sudden attack. In order to make the sanctuary as safe as possible, the sanctuary requires:
 - blast-resistant windows to be installed
 - reinforced outer walls to avoid collapse at the time of impact
 - reinforced roof to avoid collapse at the time of impact
 - permanent furniture that will not fly during impact
3. **Increasing security.** The congregation needs to move to round-the-clock security in order to protect the premises from invasion.

We need your help

Protect the children of Beer Sheva from a rocket attack

Eshel Avraham needs your help. The costs of protection from rocket attack for the children of the preschool and the families are prohibitive. But the need is immediate and urgent. The next attack may be in its planning stages right now.

The costs of instituting protective measures for a rocket attack are as follows:

Building a bomb shelter	\$180,000
Reinforcing the sanctuary	\$100,000
Increasing security	\$25,000/year



The children of Eshel Avraham are counting on your help.



*For more information contact us:
Congregation Eshel Avraham – Masorti Judaism blooming in the Negev*



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