



FRENCH TEENS AT YEMIN ORDE YOUTH VILLAGE REMEMBER TERRORISM VICTIMS IN PARIS

90 fragile teens from France now live at Yemin Orde and receive a top education and therapeutic services in order to thrive and be productive citizens of Israel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, January 13, 2015 – At Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel, staff members and teens recently participated in an emotional program to remember the victims of the violence and terrorism that took place in Paris last week. The Village is home, safe haven and school to some 400 at-risk and disenfranchised immigrant youth, most of whom have experienced trauma in their lives. Friends of Yemin Orde is the U.S. fundraising arm of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Yemin Orde Educational Initiatives (YOEI). YOEI, an independent organization, provides the blueprint for Yemin Orde’s successful educational methodology, called the Village Way, to 23 partner educational communities in Israel. Visit www.yeminorde.org or email info@yeminorde.org for details.

Yemin Orde Youth Village accommodates 90 teens from France who recently moved to Israel seeking safety from the rising level of anti-Semitism and violence that is spreading there. Most of the families of these youth are of Moroccan, Algerian or Tunisian descent.

At the Village’s remembrance program, David Ouaki, coordinator of Yemin Orde’s French program, told students that the four individuals killed in the kosher market in Paris were targeted simply because they were Jews. “The individuals who carried out these attacks were extremists,” Ouaki said. “It is important to remember that a Muslim immigrant employee of the store is credited with saving 15 lives.”

Shmuli Bing, Director, Yemin Orde Youth Village, said that extremism, sadly, is a fact of life in today’s world and mentioned recent terrorist incidents in Africa and Lebanon.

"This (terrorism) is everywhere." said Shmuli, "We need to learn from this and must focus on each other and be better to each other."

Four of the French children who live at Yemin Orde also spoke at the ceremony.

One student was very close to victim, Yohan Cohen, who was an employee at the kosher market. Another teen told about his relative who was one of the hostages held for seven hours during the ordeal. Another student shared that he prefers to be in Israel, and called on his peers to stand together.

"There are so many terrible things happening in the world. We have to stop our own fighting and work together," the student said. Another teen asked each child in the Village to do one good deed in order to help another person.

At the conclusion of the program, representatives from all of the different classes and ethnic groups at Yemin Orde – French, Ethiopian, Russian, Brazilian and native Israeli – gathered to light 17 candles in memory of all who were killed in Paris last week.

The French-speaking teens at Yemin Orde arrived at the Village with numerous personal and family difficulties: from financial difficulties to educational and language challenges. Some even arrived in Israel without their families. At the Village, these fragile youth receive emotional and psychological support as well as a quality education in order to thrive and become productive citizens of their new home in Israel.

According to Israeli news reports, some 7,086 French immigrants moved to Israel in 2014, an all-time high.

Friends of Yemin Orde raises funds to close a \$7,000 gap per child between Israeli government support and the costs to provide and maintain the high quality programs, services and activities for the youth at the Village. Yemin Orde and its Village Way educational methodology are cited as model of success throughout Israel.

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