Accident or Murder in Meron?

The information below is a distillation of many blog posts that went up on my site, rivkalevy.com, exploring the different information about what really occurred in Meron.

That information has been parsed down to its bare bones, below, to make the overall information about what actually happened in Meron – and who was really responsible – as accessible as possible.

For more details on specific areas, please refer back to the original blog posts, which you'll find links to in the footnotes, below.

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This timeline has been split into the following sections:

- Who 'owns' Meron?
- What occurred before L'ag B'omer, 5781.
- What occurred on the night itself in Meron.
- What happened afterwards.
- Questions that demand answers

While this seems like a long document to read, it actually contains a lot of pictures, so hopefully it won't take you long to get through it.

This is a compilation of the evidence about what really happened in Meron that has come to light by May 18, 2021.

As new information emerges, this document will be updated.

Who 'owns' Meron?

The following comes from Pini Dunner's site, HERE:

(For the record, I don't agree – at all - with his conclusions at to why the atrocity in Meron occurred. More on that later.)

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Last Summer the Va'adat Hachamisha, which is made up of representatives of each hekdesh, along with Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovich, who is Israel's official rabbi of the Western Wall and other Jewish holy sites in Israel, announced that a lawyer, Eli Freund of Haifa, was taking over as the new CEO of the Meron shrine. But according to a senior local resident who I spoke to, Freund has rarely visited Meron, and his impact on the site has been non-existent. Rabbi Rabinovich is also unable to impose decisions on the site, even though he is chairman of the committee, as... none of the competing "owners" recognizes his authority, nor that of the Israeli government.

One of the two Ashkenazi groups is headed by **Rabbi Avrohom Frohlich** – the former proprietor of a Judaica auction house in Jerusalem who closely associates himself with the Brisk community in Jerusalem, a group that utterly rejects the State of Israel's legitimacy...

He is closely followed in his inflexibility and refusal to consider any changes to Meron's infrastructure by his Ashkenazi counterpart, **Rabbi Mordechai Dov Hacohen Kaplan**, son of Safed's late chief rabbi, Rabbi Avraham Simcha Hacohen Kaplan;

Rabbi Dovid Derli of Tiberias, who heads one of the two Sephardic endowments; and Rabbi Matityahu Shrem, the head of the other Sephardic hekdesh, who lives in Rechasim, a neighborhood adjacent to Kfar Hasidim.

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Here's an interview with R' Avraham Frohlich from 2010, where he explains at least some of the reasons why the Meron grave has not been properly refurbished.

https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/israel-news/48584/rav-froehlich-speaks-out-on-meron-violence.html.

Snippet below:

We agreed to what must be done, with caution and care. We are asking two things. The professional committee; the architects, engineers and contractors, and by the way, we no longer trust the present architect so we are asking for an engineer, someone the chareidi community trusts, someone who exhibits an understanding for the religious sensibilities involved. He will be the person on whom we rely to understand what is going on.

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Meron has been the subject of a 'tug of war' between many different parties, secular and religious, Government and private, for many decades.

Part 1: What happened before L'ag B'omer

EXHIBIT 1: Fire and Rescue Services Report

April 19th, 2021:

Israel's Fire and Rescue Services Report publishes a report into what needs to happen for L'ag B'omer 5781 to pass safely.

(You can see the PDF of that report, in Hebrew, HERE.)

It's addressed to one 'Tzvi Hiller', who is apparently associated with Toldos Aharon in some capacity.

(I'm using all these qualifying statements, because until I check all these details out, I don't know if they are actually true, and I can't find an iota of information about this 'Tzvi Hiller' outside of this report, which is exclusively found **on Ynet.)**

Amongst other things, it says the following, at #7 in the section on 'SUGGESTIONS' (highlighted in the screenshot below):



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TRANSLATION of #7:

The enclosed area outside the building [i.e. RASHBI's Tomb]:

In the enclosed area outside the building, which is not covered, there should be at least two totally separate ways out... If the gathering exceeds 6,000 people, there should be at least three exits. If the gathering exceeds 9,000 people, there should be at least four exits.

EXHIBIT 2: 'Coronavirus' checkpoints and fences mandated by the Ministry of Health

Three out of 4 of the regular exits in and out of the Toldos Aharon Complex are blocked by 'Coronavirus' checkpoints and fences, mandated by the Health Ministry – in direct contravention of the above report:

If you go HERE, you'll find a very detailed investigation in Hebrew, examining what was going on with the exits in and around the Toldos Aharon complex, and the RASHBI compound, generally.

The author says he interviewed hundreds of witnesses before coming to his conclusion that it was all the gates, fences and checkpoints that the Ministry of Health insisted should be put up INSIDE the RASHBI compound itself, that actually caused the massive crush on the ramp that was the SINGLE EXIT LEFT OPEN from the Toldos Aharon compound.

Here's a google translated snippet of the original Hebrew (emphasis mine):

It turns out that what caused the seemingly terrible disaster, is the placement of many barriers between all the lighting complexes and the Zion complex.

Barriers had been set up in general, to delimit the areas, thus limiting the number of participants in one place in real time, in order to prevent infection of the corona virus, with no connection to public safety in the context of overcrowding or congestion, **but purely corona restrictions**.

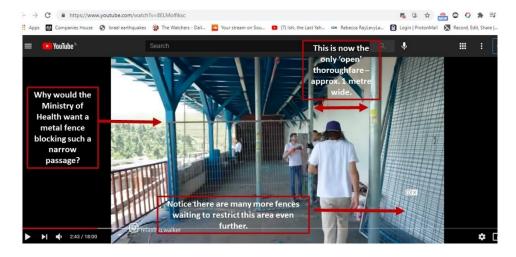
In all the years that have passed, before the Corona era, except for the main entrances and exits, no checkpoints have been set up inside the compound, and the events passed safely, although apparently even then the safety situation in terms of congestion was very bad.

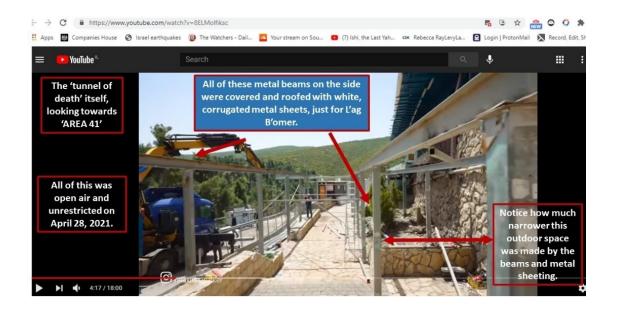
As stated this year, due to the requirement of the Ministry of Health, a number of checkpoints were set up, which caused a huge load in the stairwell where the disaster occurred.

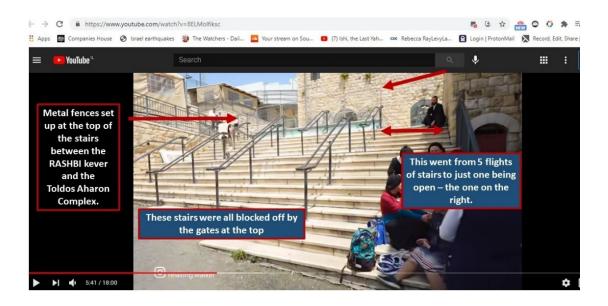
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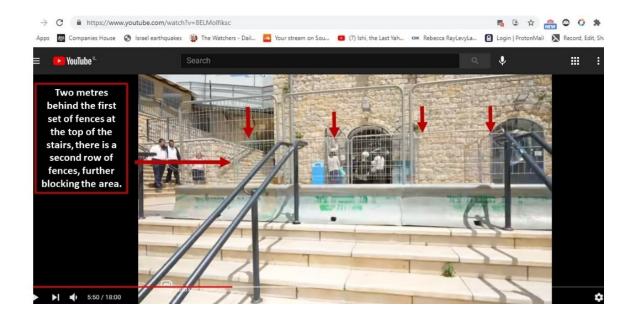
If you go <u>HERE</u>, you'll find a video walking around the RASHBI compound two days before L'ag B'omer, 5781 (April 28, 2021)

The following screenshots come from that video – and they give a sense of just how 'penned in' and blocked the whole compound was, by 'Ministry of Health'-required gates and fences.









According to that report, above, the following three additional exits into and out of the Toldos Aharon complex were blocked on this L'ag B'omer:

EXIT 1:

Via the back of the Tzion, down the stairs.

(We saw this exit already blocked with two sets of Ministry of Health fences on April 28, 2021, in the pictures above.)

EXIT 2:

From the top floor of the Tzion, via a 'balcony passage' that normally leads to a large central exit that opens out towards the Boyaner complex in Meron, and from there down some stairs to the Toldos Aharon complex.

This was blocked by Ministry of Health fences, before the night of L'ag B'omer.

EXIT 3:

From the Boyaner Complex itself, another wide staircase located in the women's section (but also used by men), which leads down to the Toldos Aharon complex.

This exit was also blocked by Ministry of Health fences, before the night of L'ag B'omer.

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That left just one exit open, the night of L'ag B'omer – the infamous 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs.

This exit was already known to create a dangerous, potentially fatal bottle neck, even on regular years where there were no additional fences, checkpoints, or overcrowding because of Shabbat.

EXHIBIT 3: 'Safety Pitfalls' report given to police

April 25th, 2021

Two safety engineers surveying the site transfer a 'safety pitfalls' report to the police where they:

:demanded as **early as January** that all the hadlakos at Meron be carried out at the same time in order to prevent large amounts of people from moving from place to place. "We warned about crowding not because of COVID but because of Shabbat," the engineers said. "We estimated that masses of people would arrive all at once and that's what happened."

(More on this in Part 3.)

EXHIBIT 4: 'War games' held in Meron

The week before L'ag B'omer, the Israeli government (police, MDA and Fire & Rescue services) conducts a series of 'war games' in Meron:

This comes from Ha'aretz:

"Earlier in the week the police conducted war games simulating the Meron celebrations, with results that were similar to what actually transpired a few days later. The worst thing is that it shouldn't have been a surprise."

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EXHIBIT 5: Police remove all cameras from the site

April 28, 2021

Police remove all non-police-controlled cameras from the site:

The day before L'ag B'omer, Wednesday April 28, 2021, many people reported that the police went through the Rashbi compound removing all the cameras – including from private institutions including those belonging to Rabbi Shraga Schnitzer and 'Hilula DeRashbi', and those belonging to Rabbi Kuperstock, and others.

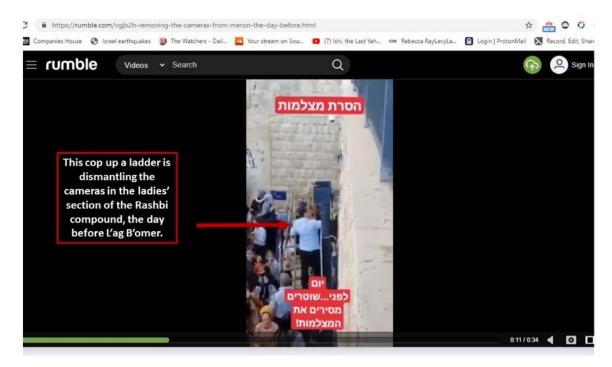


EXHIBIT 6: 'Official' Coronavirus guidelines for Meron

April 29th, 2021

The government puts out it's 'official' coronavirus guidelines for L'ag B'omer 5781.

The text below is a translation of THIS news story, that appeared on the 'Bhol Chareidi' news site, on **April 29, 2021,** the day before L'ag B'omer:

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Here's a little of what it says:

(To ensure we have clarity, I will put the original Hebrew, then my English translation underneath.)

שעות לפני פתיחת אירועי הילולת הרשב"י במירון מפרסם פרויקטור הקורונה נחמן אש את המתווה המלא לאירועי ל"ג בעומר במירון תשפ"א.

במסמך שהגיע לידי 'בחדרי חרדים' עולה כי בדיון שהתקיים אמש בהשתתפות שר הבריאות אדלשטיין, שר הפנים דרעי והשר לביטחון פנים אמיר אוחנה שם סוכם על מתווה האירוע בהר מירון על בסיס עבודת המטה שהתקיימה בין הגורמים .הרלבנטיים בשבועות האחרונים

בדיון סוכם שהמרכז הארצי לניהול המקומות הקדושים ומשטרת ישראל יעשו ככל הניתן על מנת ליישם את המלצת משרד הבריאות כדלקמן:

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

Just hours before the opening of the celebrations of the hiloula of the RASHBI in Meron, Corona Tzar Nachman Ash publicizes the full outline for the celebration of L'ag B'omer in Meron, 5781.

A document obtained by Behadrei Haredim states that in a discussion held last night with the participation of **Health Minister Edelstein, Interior Minister Deri** and **Internal Security Minister Amir Ohana**, the outline of the celebration on Mount Meron was agreed upon, based on the work done between the relevant parties in recent weeks.

At the meeting, it was agreed that the **National Center for the Management of Holy Places** and the **Israel Police** will **do everything possible to implement the Ministry of Health's recommendations** as follows:

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The 'health' guidelines for how L'ag B'omer should be conducted this year, 5781, was agreed upon by the following ministers:

Yuli Edelstein, Minister of Health
Aryeh Deri, Minister of the Interior
Amir Ohana, Minister of Internal Security,
Nachman Ash, the 'Coronavirus Tzar'.
And of course, the whole thing then went to Netanyahu for his agreement.

These politicians then tasked the police, and the **National Center for the Management of Holy Places,** with implementing these dangerous 'health' guidelines – with deadly results.

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We'll learn more about the police and 'National Center for the Management of Holy Places' in Part 2 of this document.

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EXHIBIT 7: Official Press Release states government is expecting 500,000 visitors to Meron this year.

If you go HERE, you'll find the official press release put out by Israel's Ministry of Religious Affairs on **April 29th**, **2021**, about L'ag B'omer this year.

There, you'll learn that the government was apparently expecting half a million people to attend the Meron festivities this year.

Way more than the 200,000 who actually tried to attend.

Here's another snippet from that press release:

Seven government ministries are partners in preparing the celebration.

This year, the Ministry of Religious Affairs will budget the celebration with about **NIS 15.5 million**, the **Ministry of Internal Security**, which took care of the influx of about **5,000 police officers** who will secure the many immigrants. **The police are equipped with modern technology**.

The Ministry of Transportation, which allocates about **4,000 buses**, which will make about 7,000 round trips....

The Ministries of Health and Justice were also partners in the discussions around the revelry.

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Let's just head back to the 'guidelines' for Meron that were put out by Nachman Ash, on April 29th, 2021 – the same day this press release came out on the website of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Translated snippet, below:

- 1. Transport only or by shuttles from the parking lots. There will be no restriction on getting to the mountain area anyone who wants to get there can do so.
- 2. Across the mountain, the existing crowd restrictions will apply 20 people in a closed space and 100 people in an open area.
- 3. It was agreed that the lighting area would be conducted according to a special layout for the "tav yarok" ('green passports'):
- A. The organized ascent to the fires will be made by buses, which can only be used by those with a "green passport", i.e. those who will be vaccinated and recovered, or with negative PCR tests up to 72 hours before the event, as coordinated by the Holy Places Administration and the Israel Police.
- B. There will be no more than 3,000 people next to each lighting.
- C. There will be three lightings in parallel for a total of up to 9000 people at one go.
- D. There will be up to 4 rounds of lighting.
- E. It was agreed and clarified that the "green passport" will not be checked at the entrance to the event.

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How many glaring contradictions can 10 sentences of text contain?

On the one hand, they said:

"There will be no restriction on getting to the mountain area – anyone who wants to get there can do so."

And the government was clearly expected half a million people to show up, as evidenced by the news release on the Ministry of Religious Affairs' website.

But, with the next breath, they said:

"[E]xisting crowd restrictions will apply – 20 people in a closed space and 100 people in an open area" – which was clearly totally unrealistic and unworkable, right from the start.

Next, they said that people would only be allowed to board the buses to come to Meron, and to attend a bonfire, if they could show a 'green passport'.

But then they contradicted themselves again by saying:

"The "green passport" will not be checked at the entrance to the event."

And also, even having just 3,000 people per bonfire clearly contravened the Health Ministry's own guidelines that shouldn't be more than **"100 people in an open area."**

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This 'agreement' for Meron publicised a bunch of rules that were totally unrealistic, to guarantee that 'when things went wrong', it would be so easy to point the finger at the pilgrims for 'not following the rules'.

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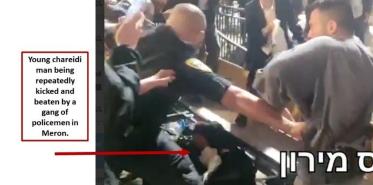
IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION:

- The Fire and Rescue Services report of April 19, 2021 said that crowds of above 9,000 people in the Toldos Aharon complex required at least 4 exits, to prevent dangerous overcrowding.
- Every year in L'ag B'omer, there are usually at least four exits out of the Toldos Aharon compound, as detailed above.
- This year, three out of the four usual exits in and out of the Toldos Aharon Complex were deliberately blocked by the police / Ministry of Health / government ahead of this year's L'ag B'omer celebration.
- Two safety engineers transfer a 'safety pitfalls' report to police on April 25th, flagging the danger of overcrowding this year in Meron due to Shabbat, and asking for the fires to be lit simultaneously, to minimize overcrowding. The police ignore this report which was written days before the Ministry of Health built a number of structures and checkpoints creating dangerous bottlenecks that would make the overcrowding EVEN MORE dangerous than had already been flagged by the safety engineers.
- The Government's own website says they were expecting 500,000 people to come to Meron this year (in the event, it was less than half this amount.)
- Whoever signed off on these additional three exits being blocked with 'Ministry of Health' fences in stark contravention of the Fire and Rescue services report from April 19th is responsible for the dangerous overcrowding, that at least contributed to 45 people dying, and 150 people being injured in Meron.

EXHIBIT 1:

Extreme Police Violence in Meron on L'ag B'omer

They show groups of feral policemen *mamash* violently kicking and beating *chareidim* – for no obvious reason – all over the RASHBI complex, in the hours leading up to the tragedy.



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This next one comes from Chananya Weissman's Rumble channel, HERE:

Gestapo roughing up random Jews at Meron

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SCREENSHOT FROM THE ABOVE CLIP:



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Another video comes from the Tomer Devorah blog HERE:

It shows a group of police brutally ejecting peaceful chareidim from Kever of the RASHBI, in the hours leading up to the atrocity:

SCREENSHOT FROM THE ABOVE CLIP:



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For every one of these clips, there are literally 100s of accounts of police brutality against chareidim in Meron, before the tragedy happened later that night.

One of Rav Berland's close students, Rav Nachman Horowitz, <u>left a message</u> on the Breslov Line around 6pm the evening of L'ag B'omer, warning about the police brutality that was going on.

Here's a little of what he said:

"Rabotai, [this is] literally a war. They [the police] removed all the women, now they are by the men. Wars! They are not allowing entry, people are sacrificing their lives, we need to pray...."

Two minutes later, he collapsed and had a massive heart-attack in the Kever.

There are unconfirmed reports that this occurred just after he got 'pepper-sprayed' by the police.

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EXHIBIT 2:

SENIOR FIGURES WARN OF DANGEROUS OVERCROWDING BEFORE THE ATROCITY, BUT ARE IGNORED.

THIS article appeared on the YNET site, shortly after the atrocity in L'ag B'omer.

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Here's a relevant (translated) snippet:

Going underground: Director General of the Center for the Development of Holy Places has remained silent since the Meron disaster.

Joseph Schwinger, director of the Center for the Development of Holy Places, has been the liaison between all the bodies involved in organizing the celebration for 20 years...

Around two hours <u>before</u> the terrible disaster in Meron, Yosef Schwinger, the director of the Center for the Development of Holy Places, and the person most identified with [organising] the *hiloula* of the RASHBI, removed responsibility [for the event] from himself.

[He said in interview]:

"The one who is responsible for operations in the field is the Israel Police, and it's forbidden to let them run away from this matter."

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Doesn't it strike you as odd, that TWO HOURS before the fatal crush in Meron, this guy was being interviewed live on TV blaming the police, and saying they were responsible?

Ynet explains this very strange occurrence like this:

"It is likely that Schwinger, nicknamed the "Meron Chief of Staff", already felt something was wrong at the time. "I'm already waiting to get to the next day," he said, and told [the interviewer] that he himself had been buffeted by all the crowds of people who were filling every spot in the grave complex.

"Children are almost being crushed, it's a very unpleasant spectacle," he said.

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DEPUTY MAYOR OF JERUSALEM YOSSI DAITSH WARNS POLICE OF DANGEROUS OVERCROWDING HOURS BEFORE THE ATROCITY:

This comes from **HERE**:

"We are standing at the entrance to the compound while thousands of people behind us were pushing to get in. There were barriers and a small and narrow passageway," Daitsh said.

"A policeman told us to go back and threatened to spray us with pepper spray if we did not do as he said. I asked him if he was insane. I said there were people there, children, they would be crushed, and people would die. I asked him to let some of them through and relieve some of the pressure on the crowd. But he would not listen," he said...

...Daitsh said that **Thursday's disaster could have been repeated in five or six different locations on Mount Meron that night.** "It is a miracle that no other such tragedies occurred....

... During the week leading up to the religious festivities, police forces conducted war games practicing various possible scenarios. **The force practiced mass casualty events such as a collapse of stands,** fire and other eventualities."

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EXHIBIT 3:

Many eyewitnesses state that when they were trying to leave the dangerously overcrowded Toldos Aharon complex BEFORE the fatal crush happened, the police blocked them, and forced them back into the crowd.

Here's some more video, from Chananya Weissman's Rumble channel, showing what some of these 'impromptu' police 'roadblocks' looked like.

And they were happening all over the RASHBI complex all evening, and particularly before that fatal 'crush' occurred just after Toldos Aharon lit their bonfire, at approximately 12:30am.

Terrorists at Meron setting up barricade to block the crowd

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SCREENSHOT BELOW:



If all this 'blocking' was being done in the name of 'COVID 19' regulations, how can we explain that the Ministry of Health believed that penning large crowds of people behind fences and gates for long stretches of time was meant to help 'prevent the spread of COVID'?

So, if all this deliberate overcrowding wasn't being done to 'prevent the spread of COVID 19', and wasn't being done to 'crowd control' and help people move around safely – **then why was it being done?**

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EXHIBIT 4: IDENTIFYING WHERE THE DEATHS OCCURRED

The following stills come from THIS drone footage of Meron, shot on April 30th, 2021.





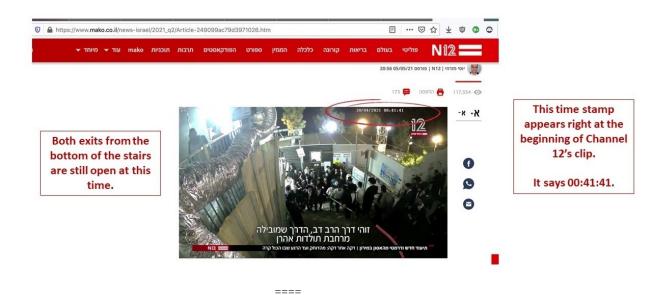
TIMELINE OF THE ATROCITY:

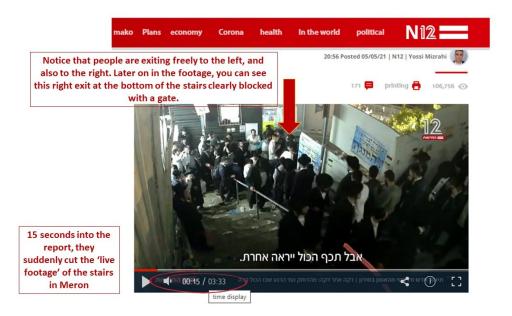
There are two sides to the 'Reb Dov Shvil' exit, which were marked 'AREA 41' and AREA 42'.

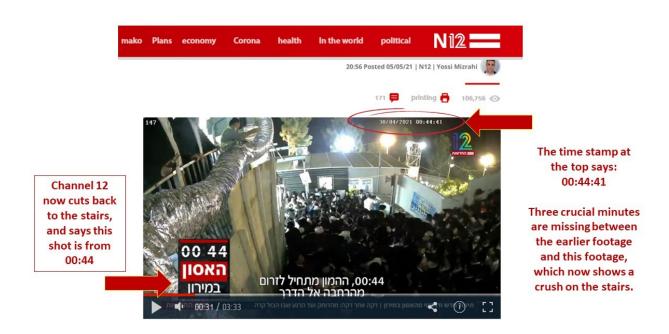
Eyewitnesses speak of the police pulling double gates across the bottom of the 'Reb Dov Shvil' exit repeatedly, at different times in the lead up to the atrocity.

In the screenshot below, you can see that both the left-hand exit (AREA 41) and the right-hand exit (AREA 42) are open, and people are moving freely at 12:41:41 AM.

(For a full analysis of the Channel 12 clip, please see the blog post 'Catching Channel 12 in the lie').







Between 12:41:41 am and 12:44 am, the right hand exit (AREA 42) is blocked by the police.

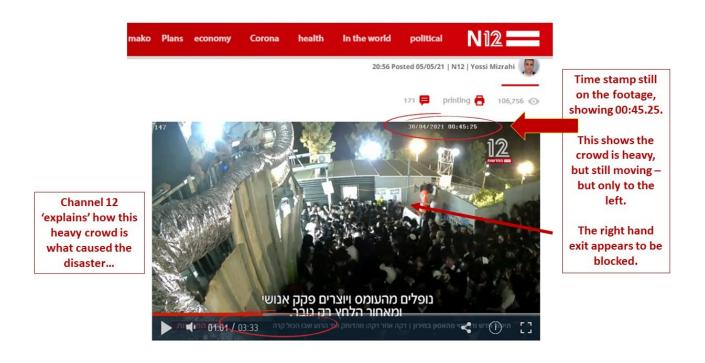
All movement is only out via the left hand exit (AREA 41).

At some point around 12:45am, that left hand exit (AREA 41) is also then blocked by the police.

By 12:46 am, people are already starting to be crushed and asphyxiated to death, as a result of both AREA 41 and AREA 42 exits being blocked by police.

The police could have easily opened the gates to AREA 42 (the right hand exit) - but they didn't.

By 12:54 am, 45 people have been crushed and asphyxiated to death, and another 150 people have been injured.





At 1:21 seconds, Channel 12 returns to the livestream, which now shows people starting to be crushed on the stairs.



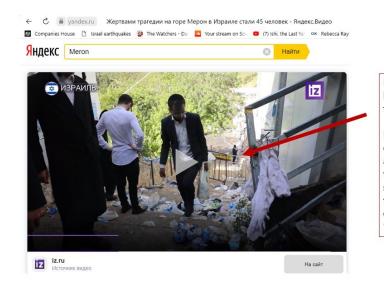
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The bottom of the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs, were 45 people are crushed to death, has two sides, 'AREA 42' and 'AREA 41'.

On L'ag B'omer BOTH SIDES of the stairs were blocked by police just before the fatal crush occurred.



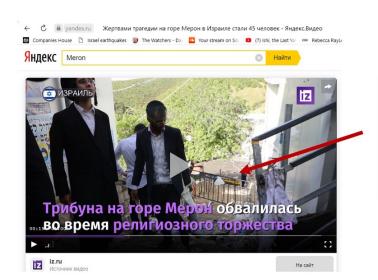
This screenshot shows a double-gate blocking 'AREA 42' – the right hand exit:



Notice the double gate blocking the exit / entrance to the right of the stairs.

Eyewitnesses describe a double gate being pulled across the stairs behind them, as they went up the stairs, then the metal ramp, to enter the Toldos Aharon complex shortly before the 'disaster'.

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Here is a clearer shot of a "double gate" blocking the right hand exit, down the stairs.

This footage was shot by a Russian TV crew the morning after the 'disaster'.

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The screenshot below comes from a report from 'ILTV', that shows the steps that lead down off to the right-hand side of the 'Reb Dov Shvil' main stairs ('AREA 42) at the time of the fatal crush.

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Most of the people who died in Meron were crushed on the RIGHT HAND side as you descend the 'Shvil Reb Dov' steps (AREA 42).



Bystanders are helping to pull people out of the crush at Area 42.

There are no police, or first responders there, trying to save lives.

Yet other video from Channel 12 clearly shows the police were present on the right hand side of the stairs, as the crush built up.

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On rivkalevy.com, there are many different videos showing the police were clearly blocking the exits on both sides of the fatal 'crush' at the bottom of the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs, at exactly the same time.

Below, there are some screenshots of these different videos

This footage was shot the morning after.

It clearly shows a gate, that is bent out of shape by the weight of the crowd it penned in, a little way down the stairs of 'Area 42'.

Picturing the scene: What really happened in Meron

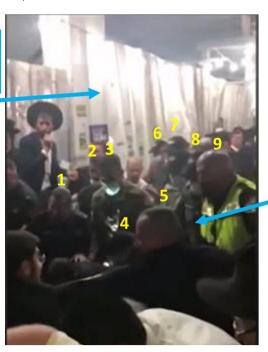


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At sometime between 00:41:41 and 00:44, the police blocked the RIGHT HAND exit ('Area 42') with a gate.

Around that same time, a large group of police (at least nine of them) also came and stood at the LEFT HAND exit, and blocked that exit, too.

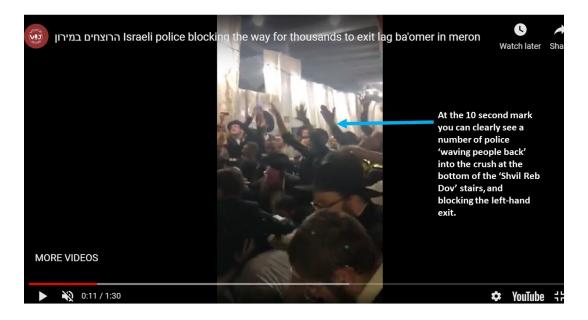
Notice that this is occurring BEFORE any of the metal sheeting has been ripped off at the back here.



You can see at least nine police (regular police and Border Police) standing at the LEFT HAND exit, 'waving people back' at the time the fatal 'crush' happened.

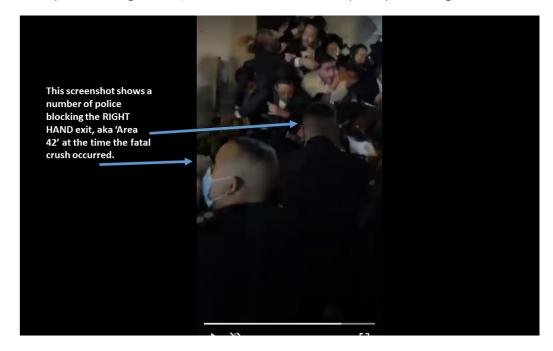
This policeman is actively pushing someone back into the crush with his arm.

In this screenshot, you can see police standing in AREA 41 (left-hand exit) pretending to 'wave people' back up the metal ramp.

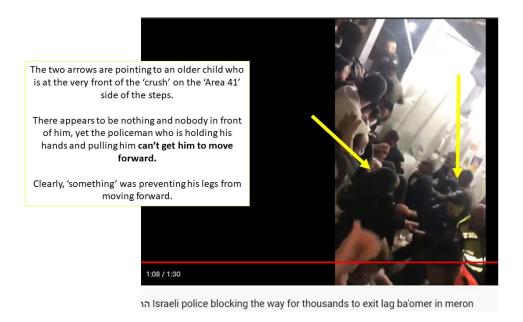


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Most of the fatalities occurred at the blocked RIGHT HAND exit, AKA 'Area 42'. This screenshot shows a number of police blocking that exit, with victims of the fatal crush piled up next to a gate in front of them.



In <u>THIS</u> post, I put up a video that showed some very distressing footage of what was going on at the 'Area 41' stairs in Meron after the killer crush had already developed. You can see that video for yourself on Youtube <u>HERE</u>, and on Brighteon <u>HERE</u>, if you want to.



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What exactly was blocking that left-hand exit, the exit out to 'Area 41' in Meron?

There is evidence suggesting that a combination of the following things were blocked Area 41 shortly before, during and after the fatal crush developed:

- 1) A standard police gate.
- 2) A group of at least 10 policemen plus at least one police woman, threatening the crowd with pepper spray and pushing them back.
- **3) A mysterious 'metal beam',** which can be clearly seen in a number of video clips and pictures in Area 41, immediately after the fatal crush has built up.



Let's cover some of the evidence for each of these.

1) 'Area 41' blocked by a standard police gate.

There are many eyewitness reports of gates being placed at the location of Area 41 throughout the day. At the time shortly before the fatal crush developed, many eyewitnesses later reported that they were screaming at the police to remove 'the barriers', and that their pleas were ignored.

Here's some of the images and witness reports that support the idea that 'Area 41' was blocked by a standard police gate:

The following image clearly showing a double gate barrier across the bottom of the 'Reb Dov Shvil' steps, apparently earlier in the day on L'ag B'omer, was uploaded to <u>Telegram:</u>



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This image, clearly showing a double gate by AREA 42 the morning after the atrocity was also uploaded to Telegram:



<u>Eyewitness testimony</u> from Yitzhak Deri, who lost a friend in the deadly crush and warned police to open the gates because otherwise people would die, 10 minutes before it happened:

"[Deri] pointed an accusing finger at the police: "Whoever thinks the cops are not guilty is greatly mistaken. The fence that was there, is what led to the incident. Why close the biggest fire [i.e. the lighting occurring in the Toldos Aharon complex] and not let people out?"

They also report that the police only removed 'the barriers' once they'd got permission from their superiors to do so.

What were the police on the ground waiting for?

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2) A group of at least 10 policemen plus at least one police woman, threatening the crowd with pepper spray and pushing them back.

Google translated snippet of another eyewitness account, given live on TV from Meron:

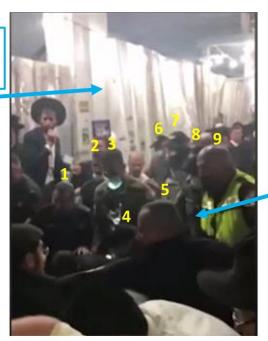
"[Q]uite a few dozen seconds after we passed the entrance to the path, a lot of policemen and at least one policewoman came to the entrance to the path and blocked the exit.

Anyone who knows this area at the time of L'ag B'Omer, this year and every year knows that police officers do not walk around in the mehadrin area at all [i.e. the area cordoned off for just men]... And certainly there are no policewomen in the whole area.

Suddenly at least 10 policemen appeared in one shot?!?!

They were at the 'disaster' long before the first responders and Magen Dovid Adam!! And after the disaster – most of them (not all!) did not reach out at all... they were not determined and urgent to help, to say the least."

Notice that this is occurring BEFORE any of the metal sheeting has been ripped off at the back here.



You can see at least nine police (regular police and Border Police) standing at the LEFT HAND exit, 'waving people back' at the time the fatal 'crush' happened.

This policeman is actively pushing someone back into the crush with his arm.

3) The mysterious 'metal beam' in AREA 41.

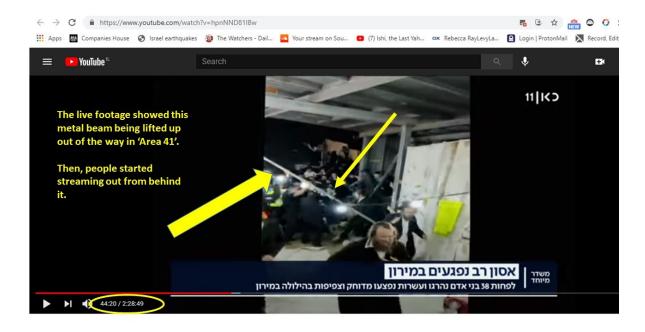
First, here's a shot of 'Area 41', that shows the bottom of the stairs, and the partial railing on the right-hand side, apparently from earlier on in the evening.

The police in the picture below are standing roughly where the outer edge of the 'crush' was located on that side.



The following screenshot comes from the 44 minute mark of the Kan 11 livestream video from Meron, the night of L'ag B'omer.

It clearly shows a heavy metal beam being 'moved out of the way', across the blocked exit at 'Area 41' shortly after the fatal crush developed.





This screenshot also comes from the Channel 11 'livestream footage', around the 49 minute mark:



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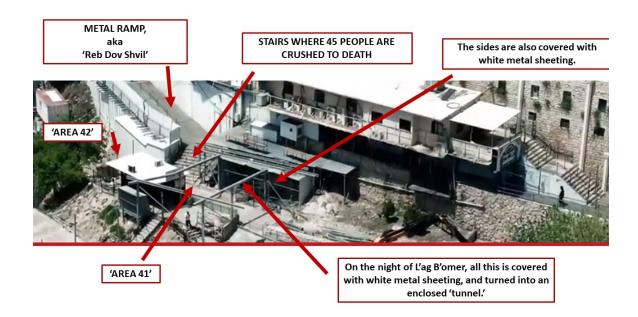
There were similar metal beams spaced the whole length of the 'tunnel of death', leading up to Area 41.

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In <u>THIS</u> article on YNET, there is embedded footage showing a mysterious metal beam still operating as a barrier at least 20 minutes after the fatal crush developed.

You can see a shortened version of the YNET video on Brighteon, <u>HERE</u>.

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The following screenshots come from that video:



Clip 1:

It shows just how 'fast paced' the terrible crush was, coming out of the only exit the police left open from the Toldos Aharon complex, at around 12:41 am – around 10 minutes after the Rebbe of Toldos Aharon lit his bonfire.

Clearly, it was impossible for *anyone* to 'turn around and go back' up that ramp at this time, as people were apparently being directed to do, by the police.

CLIP 2: Takes us from a side entrance straight up into 'AREA 41'.



As soon as the camera man makes the left, to turn into 'AREA 41' – you can see the police barrier, highlighted in the top left corner, above.

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If you watch the video, you can clearly see the metal barrier going up and down, on the pivot to the right, as it's being continually held up by someone there.

This video is being shot a full 20 minutes after the deadly crush began, and you can see that the metal beam seems to be functioning as a police 'barrier' – exactly like you get in carparks.



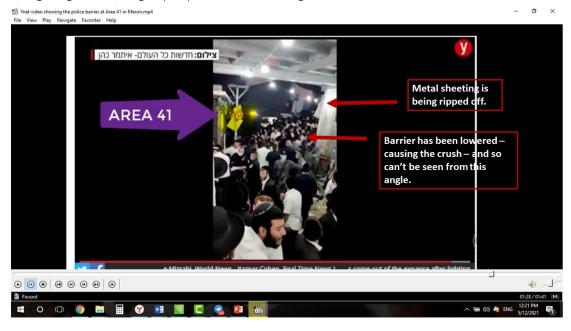
This next screenshot shows that the barrier was clearly at 'Area 41' directly next to the stairs where the fatal 'crush' occurred:



CLIP 3:

Shows AREA 41 at the time the crush happened, and the barrier is now 'invisible'.

Could it be in the lowered position which caused the crush, obscured by all the people being crushed against it? Or has it not yet been 'taking out of hiding' (more on that in a moment) and some combination of a regular gate and / or group of police caused the original crush in AREA 41?



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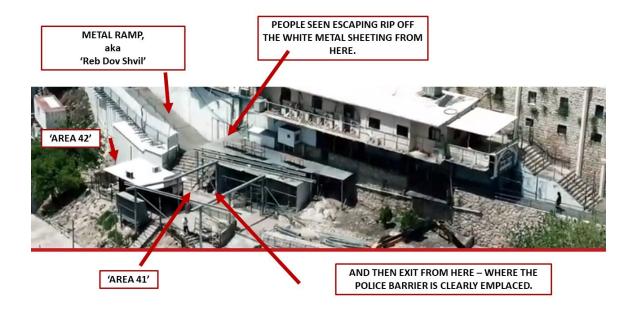
CLIP 4:

Shows people escaping from the crush, from THE BACK of the stairs, via the 'exit' created when they ripped away some of the metal sheeting from the sides.



Notice that the barrier is now visible again.

Now, let's explain how we see some people escaping the crush from the right hand side, as you see in Clip 4.



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Why don't the people in front of them also then just 'escape', at this point?

Here's the answer:



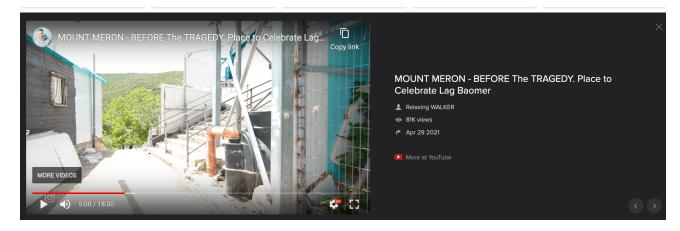
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The people on the stairs themselves were 'trapped' behind that permanent railing, you see above.

Even with the white metal sheeting ripped off, they were still stuck behind these metal railings to the side, and blocked at the front from hundreds of people who'd fainted, collapsed and even died, in the crush created by the police at the bottom of those stairs.

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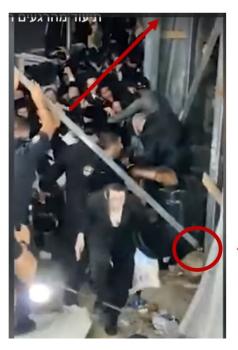
Now, let's prove that the 'metal beam' police barrier at 'AREA 41' was planned, and an integral part of the structure the police built there, especially for L'ag B'omer, 2021.



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Let's take a look at the front metal beam that's forming the 'X' shape you see in the structure directly in front of the stairs.





The top end of the beam was detached from the top of the 'X' by police, then the beam was swung around on the pivot bolt to block the exit out of 'AREA 41.



Notice the weird 'pivot' bolt at the bottom of the 'mysterious beam'.

This metal beam had to be 'moved out of the way' to start rescuing people from the fatal crush in AREA 41.

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Notice the orange pipe.





This footage and screenshots appears to show that the police built a structure in 'Area 41' specifically for L'ag B'omer that contained a 'secret barrier'.

This 'secret barrier' was clearly shown in action immediately after the fatal crush developed.

IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION:

- There was extreme, rampant police brutality towards worshippers all over Meron, the day of L'ag B'omer.
- Police were seen setting up checkpoints and forcing people back into the Toldos Aharon complex throughout the night.
- There was only one exit (out of a potential 4) that was left open on the day of L'ag B'omer, from the main Toldos Aharon complex, which was down the metal ramp and out the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs.
- The 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs has two sides: the right hand exit down the stairs was named 'AREA 42', and the left hand exit through the 'tunnel of death' that was especially built by the Ministry of Health / police for this L'ag B'omer was called 'AREA 41'.
- Most of the fatalities apparently occurred on the right hand side, by 'AREA 42'.
- Throughout the day before the fatal crush, the police were seen placing and removing gates across the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs.
- The biggest bonfire of the night is the Toldos Aharon bonfire. The Toldos Aharon Rebbe lit his bonfire at 12:30am, then shortly afterwards, a large number of people began to exit the heavily crowded plaza, to head down the 'Reb Dov Shvil' ramp.
- Sometime between 12:41:41 am and 12:44 am, police blocked the right-hand exit, AREA 42, with a gate.
- Sometime around 12:44 am, they also blocked the left-hand exit, AREA 41, with some combination of a gate / and / or metal barrier / and / or a group of policemen and women with pepper spray.
- The fatal crush begins immediately.
- Police refuse to open the gates to release the pressure on the crowd. Eyewitnesses relate they appear to be waiting for 'orders from someone else' before opening the gate.
- By 12:55, 45 people have been asphyxiated or crushed to death, as the police look on.
- There is clear video evidence of a strange metal barrier in AREA 41 that appears to have been 'built in' to the tunnel structure put up by the police / Ministry of Health, specifically for L'ag B'omer.

Part 3: What happened afterwards

1) Fake news reports trying to 'spin' the story away from the fact that the police had blocked both sides of the one remaining open exit at the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs.

Within two hours of the fatal crush occurring in Meron, at approximately 12:50 am, the MSM was flooded with 'identikit' news stories claiming that 'bleachers had collapsed' at Meron.

Many of these strangely 'prescient' stories have subsequently been scrubbed or amended, but here's an example of one that was captured before it was changed.

Here's the original slug:

www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/mass-casualty-event-in-meron-as-stage-collapses/2021/04/30/

Here's a snippet:

United Hatzalah volunteer EMT Yosef Chaim Ben Tzion who was one of the first responders at the scene and participated in the CPR relayed:

"A number of the injured are in critical condition and a large number of people were moderately injured after a grandstand collapsed with dozens of people on it.

"Doctors, paramedics, and EMTs from United Hatzalah who were providing medical security for the event rushed to respond and initiated CPR on a number of individuals while treating the others for their injuries."

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(Emphasis mine.)

Does it strike you as at all strange, that there is a quote from a Hatzalah 'First Responder', explaining that a 'large number of people were moderately injured after a grandstand collapsed with dozens of people on it' – when that never happened?

And it was obvious – to all the first responders who were called in to help, right from the start – that they weren't dealing with a 'grandstand collapsing'?

So why were so many of the MSM outlets carrying so many stories – immediately! – that there was a massive structure collapse in the Toldos Aharon complex, that had killed and wounded a large number of people with horrific injuries?

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In another scrubbed story, I recall there was a quote from Eli Beer saying that the injuries being seen were so awful, they were reminiscent of the bus bombings in Jerusalem.

And there were lots of quotes in the MSM from first responders talking about people being 'seperated from their limbs', and first responders not knowing which limb belonged to which victim.

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At the time, I put all this down to understandable confusion.

But then when the real story came out, as to what had occurred by the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs, and how 45 people had been asphyxiated to death – that slew of stories about 'balconies' collapsing in Toldos Aharon, and 'stages' collapsing in Toldos Aharon, and 'bleachers' collapsing in Toldos Aharon started to really bother me.

It also bothered me that so many of the MSM news site were running stories – immediately! – flagging the vast majority of victims as Toldos Aharon chassidim, including small children, and running 'in-depth' pieces about Toldos Aharon *chassidut*.

Like this:

https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/what-is-toldot-aharon-hassidic-sect-whose-members-were-killed-at-meron-666808

What did these journalists know – or think that they knew – that even before the victims were identified, they were so sure they were all from Toldos Aharon?

2) Videos start to surface that show that many of the structures, bleachers, stages and stairs in the Toldos Aharon were constructed in a way that can only be described as criminally negligent.

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The following screenshots come from a video that was uploaded to Chananya Weissman's Rumble channel, HERE:

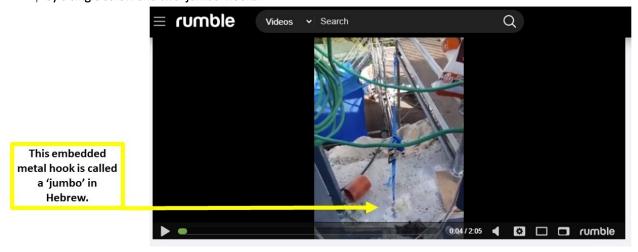
Ramp of death at Meron - built by the "police"

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It's in Hebrew, but here's a rough description of what the guy who took it is saying, together with screenshots.

a) Three story stage / walkway held up by just one screw and two hooks.

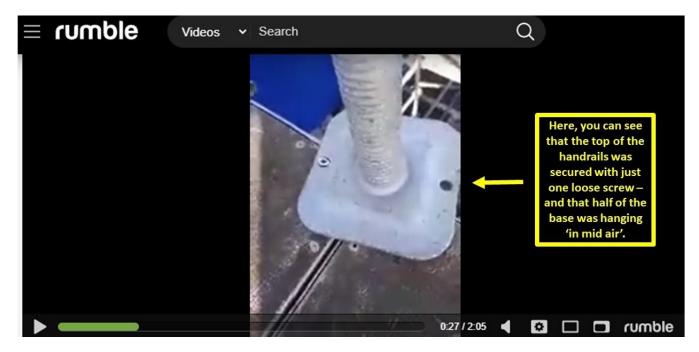
It's a three story walkway, or stage, possibly part of the main Toldos Aharon stage, in the Toldos Aharon complex. Either way, there were literally tons of people on it the night of L'ag B'omer – and it was all being held up **by a single screw and two 'jumbo' hooks.**



The above screenshot is of 'jumbo' hook #1.

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And here's a screenshot of the top of the handrails, secured by just one screw, and half hanging off the base:



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Watch the video so see exactly how this compromised the structural integrity of the three tiered stage / walkway it's attached to.

The guy in the video explains that there was many tons of people on this structure the night of L'ag B'omer, and it's only by some massive miracle that the whole thing didn't collapse.

And the whole thing was being held up all night by this single screw, and two blue canvas straps attached to a couple of 'jumbo' metal hooks embedded in rock, on either side of it.



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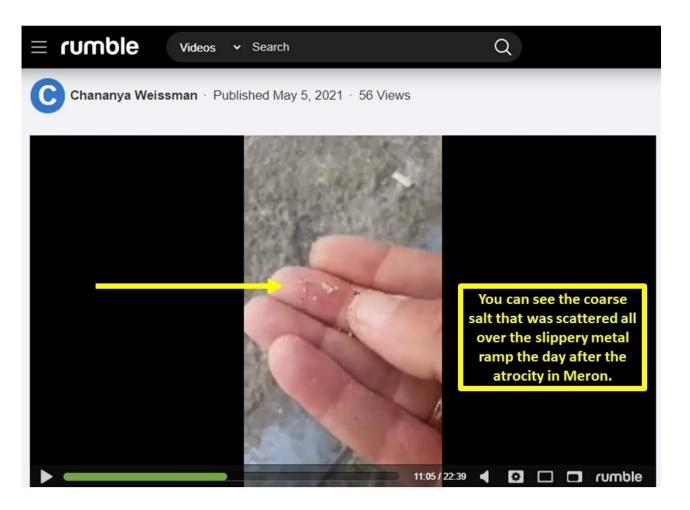
B) Some sort of oil / slippery substance on the metal ramp leading to the 'Reb Dov Shvil' stairs.

Many of the eyewitnesses explained how the ramp was unusually slippery around the time of the atrocity. Even two and three days after L'ag B'omer, people were still slipping on the ramp.

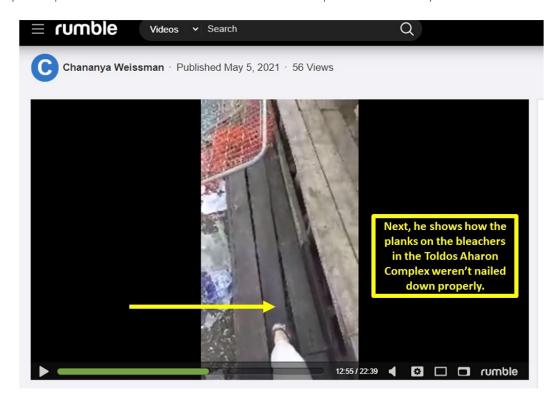
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In <u>this video</u> – also from Chananya Weissman's Rumble account – there's another guy who walks through the whole route in Meron, pointing out a number of strange things.

In the screenshot below, you see him picking up coarse salt from the metal ramp – and he explains that coarse salt is used to absorb oil:

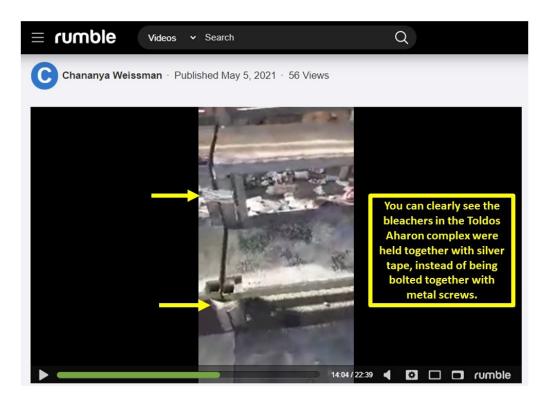


C) Many of the planks on the bleachers in the Toldos Aharon Complex weren't actually nailed down:



It's not hard to see how things like this could have easily contributed to a mass-casualty event happening in the Toldos Aharon complex itself.

D) Many of the bleachers in the Toldos Aharon complex WERE STUCK TOGETHER WITH SILVER TAPE, instead of held together with metal bolts:



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Let's zoom in on that tape:



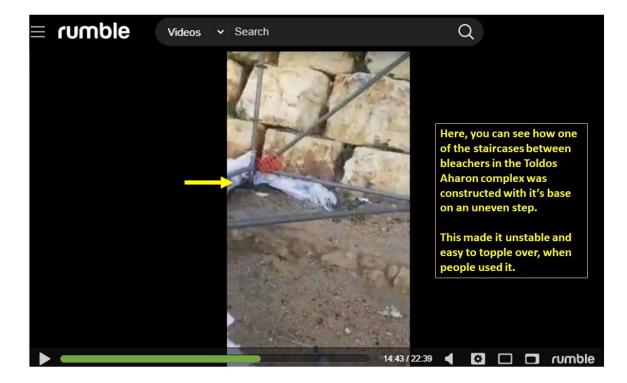
====

In the video, you can see that there was tape instead of screws all the way up this set of bleachers in the Toldos Aharon section, and all the way along them, too.

Take a look at around the 14th minute of the video <u>HERE</u>, as he walks along the bleachers located in 'Area 51'.

E) A three-storey-ed walkway connecting the different bleachers in the Toldos Aharon complex was constructed with it's base on an uneven step.

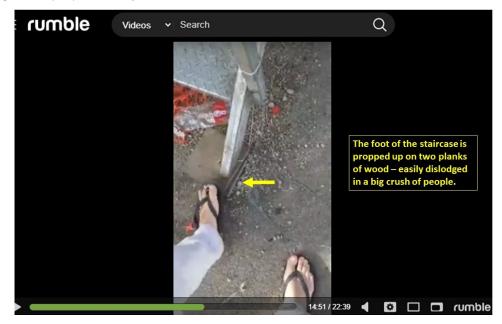
I.e. the back left 'leg' of the base was on a step, making the whole structure unstable and liable to topple over when people walked on it, and especially when it would be packed with people, later on that night.



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Here's that same staircase – propped up on a chunk of wood.

If that wood got dislodged on the night of L'ag B'omer, the whole of the walkway would have toppled over, causing a lot of people to be injured and even killed.



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We're talking about a big stairway here, with at least 3 flights:



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There were many, many other 'engineering errors' going on this year in the Toldos Aharon complex, and across Meron.

While we could chalk up one or two to laziness, or lax regulations, when you start to pull all the information together – and we're still not done here– it all builds up into a compelling picture that seems to paint the following:

Someone designed this year's L'ag B'omer celebration to be a mass casualty event.

There are just too many structures with serious problems that could have lead to an imminent collapse of almost every terrace, stage and walkway in the Toldos Aharon complex, if there weren't a huge number of open miracles going on.

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It only required one structure to 'collapse' in that heavily overcrowded area to have sparked a panic.

In turn, that could have caused a 'stampede' – that was also reported, without any basis, as the cause of the fatal crush - where thousands of people tried to rush down an oiled ramp, that had already been thoroughly 'blocked' at the bottom by a crush of people.

But no-one would have attributed that monstrous 'crush' – and the endless fatalities and injuries it would have caused – to police actions that deliberately blocked both sides of the exits at Areas 41 and 42 in a premeditated fashion just as the overcrowding in the Toldos Aharon complex reached its peak.

Instead, it would just have been blamed on the 'collapse' in the Toldos Aharon Complex.

Which in turn, would have been blamed on the chareidim, and the visitors for 'overcrowding' the site in contravention of the Fire and Rescue Services report.

And the parties who are really responsible for all this would have totally got away with murder.

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3. Actors show up in Meron, telling stories of how 'hero' policemen saved them on that fateful night, and how there were no barriers at the stairs.

You can see a particularly bad example of that 'acting' <u>HERE</u> (screenshot below). This individual was unmasked when he showed up to Meron with a camera crew *three days in a row*.



4. May 2, 2021: A report emerges that the families of the victims are mounting a class action – and strangely, are using the services of the same lawyer who is representing Netanyahu in his criminal trial.

https://www.algemeiner.com/2021/05/02/report-netanyahu-lawyer-to-represent-victims-families-of-mount-meron-disaster/

"Following a request from rabbis and representatives of many families, Amit Hadad will lead the legal campaign for the Meron disaster, demanding public responsibility for the disaster, which many believe was written and known in advance," a separate report from ultra-Orthodox online publication *Kikar HaShabbat* said.

But Hadad's involvement, Channel 12 said, may constitute a conflict of interest, since Netanyahu, as head of the government, could bear ministerial responsibility...

On Saturday, several hundred protesters gathered at Netanyahu's residence to demand a probe.

Calls for an inquiry by a state commission also come from high-profile officials, including ex-Israel Police chief Moshe Karadi and <u>current Defense Minister and Alternate Prime Minister Benny Gantz.</u>"

Within a day, that 'class action' disappears without a trace.

5. The government ministers responsible for signing off on the 'agreement' for Meron OPPOSE calling for an independent state commission:

From YNET:

"Ynet contacted all government ministers to understand their position regarding the establishment of a State Commission of Inquiry."

Every Likud Minister, bar Tzachi Hanegbi, opposed an independent state inquiry into the atrocity at Meron.

Other ministers including Aryeh Deri, Yaakov Litzman and Rafi Peretz also refused to support an independent state inquiry.

6. May 3, 2021: Netanyahu appointee, State Comptroller Matanyahu Engelman, announces a 'special state audit' of the atrocity in Meron.

"[T]hat will investigate the circumstances that led to the Mount Meron disaster, the preparation of the various bodies and the actions taken by them, both this year and over the years."

Comptroller Engelman said...the review would deal with three main levels:

The first is an examination of the conduct and activities of all parties, from the level of decision-makers to the ranks of the field, including the law enforcement system and the emergency bodies prior to and during the current event.

The second - the treatment of the Rashbi tomb complex over the years - including the actions taken to correct the deficiencies that arose in the State Comptroller's reports.

And the third will deal with a horizontal, forward-looking view - how religious mass events are held and arranged in the State of Israel, in order to prevent the recurrence of such a catastrophe in the future. This applies not only in relation to the celebration of Lag B'Omer but also to other events, such as Slichot events at the Western Wall or other celebrations."

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(I.e. the focus of the review is more on how to stop these religious 'mass events' from occurring in the future, than bringing the people responsible for the atrocity in Meron to justice.)

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7. May 10, 2021, Two safety engineers are taken in for questioning by the Lahav 443 Israeli police unit, and put the blame for the atrocity solely on the police:

(You can read the original story in Hebrew HERE, and the YWN English version HERE.)

The two safety engineers **detained** for questioning on their role in the Meron disaster **placed the blame for the tragic incident squarely on the shoulders of the police**, Yisrael Hayom reported.

During their interrogation, the engineers asserted that they faithfully and professionally fulfilled their jobs but their recommendations were not implemented by the police.

"The disaster happened only because the police chose to ignore the professionals despite the fact that the police themselves required the organizers to hire safety professionals."

The engineers said that they transferred a report of the safety pitfalls at the site to the police as early as April 25. According to documents that were revealed in the Yisrael Hayom report for the first time, the safety engineers demanded as early as January that all the hadlakos at Meron be carried out at the same time in order to prevent large amounts of people from moving from place to place.

Unfortunately, this recommendation was not heeded.

"We warned about crowding not because of COVID but because of Shabbat," the engineers said. "We estimated that masses of people would arrive all at once and that's what happened."

Furthermore, following a safety assessment of Meron last month, the safety engineer sent a letter on April 26 to the police officer at the Northern Police District responsible for licensing and security, stating that **a** balcony erected on the site "narrowed the entrance of the emergency exit leading to the Toldos Aharon [stairs]. In an emergency, this obstacle poses a danger and can lead to a bottleneck."

The safety engineer further warned in the letter that "due to the expected large crowds, all emergency exits must be accessible."

The safety engineers' lawyers issued a statement saying: "It is very unfortunate that instead of putting their own house in order, the police are seeking scapegoats."

"Our clients recommended in writing to various parties to carry out actions to reduce the safety risks at the site. The written recommendations were submitted months before the event. Ultimately it seems that the recommendations were rejected due to pressure from various parties of interest, who were vocal then and are silent today. The conduct of our clients was never lacking. They are experienced professionals who did their work in the best way possible but whose recommendations were not heeded."

Following their interrogation, the engineers were released to house arrest for five days, according to a statement by the police.

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IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY POINTS FROM THIS SECTION:

In the days after the atrocity in Meron, the following things occur:

- The MSM immediately put out 'identikit' stories including quotes from first responders claiming bleachers collapsed in the Toldos Aharon complex, even though no structure collapsed, and no injuries were related to any structure collapsing.
- These stories were quickly scrubbed off the internet.
- The MSM then put out fake stories that a 'stampede' caused the atrocity, even though livestream footage from the Toldos Aharon complex clearly shows there was no stampede.
- Videos from the next morning clearly show that many of the structures in the Toldos Aharon complex were put together in a way that appeared designed to 'collapse' at some point in the evening.

- Actors are sent to Meron to tape stories of 'hero' policemen rescuing them, and to state that 'there was no fence' at the stairs.
- On May 2, 2021, families of the victims launch a 'class action' suit using Netanyahu's personal lawyer Amit Hadad. Within a day, that whole 'class action' suit disappears.
- All the Ministers who signed off on the 'Coronavirus' agreement for Meron are against holding an independent state commission to find out what really happened at MEron.
- On May 3, Netanyahu's close associate, State Comptroller Matanyahu Engelman, announces he's
 going to launch a review into Meron. The main focus of that review appears to be how to limit
 'mass religious gatherings' in the future.
- Two safety engineers taken in for questioning publically point the finger at the police, as being responsible for what happened in Meron.

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Let's try to wrap this up succinctly, then we'll end with a list of questions about Meron that demand answers.

All year, the State of Israel has been actively targeting the chareidi community in Israel as being 'disease spreaders' and 'vectors of infection', and openly demonising them in the press, and treating Chareidim as second-class citizens – also in the name of 'fighting Coronavirus'.

After months of closing down every venue, every gathering, every religious place, the State of Israel suddenly decides to open up Meron for L'ag B'omer, with absolutely no limitations on the numbers of people attending.

And then, after a day replete with awful police brutality and life-threatening fences and over-crowding, 45 people 'coincidentally' die when the one remaining exit out of the Toldos Aharon complex is shut down by the police, following 'orders from above.'

Then very soon after, we're all bounced into another new 'war' to take our mind off investigating who gave those orders, and what really happened in Meron.

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So now, decide for yourself: was Meron a tragic accident, or state-sponsored murder?

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QUESTIONS THAT DEMAND ANSWERS:

- 1. Why were three out of four exits out of the Toldos Aharon complex blocked off by the police, in direct contravention of the Fire and Rescue services report?
- 2. Why was the only real exit out of the Toldos Aharon complex **blocked by gates / police** at the busiest point of the whole evening, shortly after the Toldos Aharon Rebbe lit his bonfire?
- 3. Why did the police allow more and more people to join the crush on the metal ramp without informing them the exit had been blocked on both sides (AREA 41 and AREA 42)?
- 3. Who gave the order for that exit to be blocked?
- 4. Why was that order given?
- **5. Why was no public announcement made** to tell people that the exit out of the Toldos Aharon complex had been blocked?
- 6. If you are going to tell me that the police closed the exit to prevent more people entering the plaza to 'prevent overcrowding', why wasn't the gate set up at the top of the metal ramp, instead of by the bottom at the stairs?

7. Why was the whole AREA 41 enclosed with white metal sheeting the day before L'ag B'omer, turning an airy, outdoor space into a narrow, confined 'indoor' space?

(Especially in 'Covid times', when the authorities have been making a big distinction between 'indoor' and 'outdoor' areas?)

8. Why did the police refuse to acknowledge that they had blocked the only exit out of the Toldos Aharon complex – and instead tried to blame the disaster on a mythical 'stampede' that never happened?

9. Why, immediately after the disaster at 1am, did the police put a message out on the public announcement system that everyone should leave the Rashbi complex immediately – which only added to the crush at all the blocked exits, and prevented ambulances from being able to drive up to the site of the fatalities?

(That's why we saw so many pictures of people being carried out by hand on stretchers, then taken a long way down the mountain by people running with them – the ambulances couldn't get up to the site.)

- 10. What other structures were built, what other bottlenecks were created, what other exits were blocked by the police and the Health Ministry at Meron before L'ag B'omer, to create so much dangerous and unusual overcrowding in the area?
- 11. Why were so many of the structures in the Toldos Aharon complex put together so shoddily, it's literally a miracle that nothing collapsed that night?
- 12. Why did the police, MDA and others run 'war games' simulating the collapse of structures in the Toldos Aharon complex and people being crushed to death, ahead of this year's L'ag B'omer celebration in Meron?
- 12. Why were there so many 'ready to go' stories in the MSM about a structure collapsing in the Toldos Aharon complex?
- 13. Why was there a 'hidden barrier' built into the tunnel structure located at AREA 41?
- 14. Why did the police remove all the privately-owned cameras in Meron the day before L'ag B'omer? What were they trying to hide?
- 15. Who stands to gain from this year's atrocity at Meron?

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OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST:

Telegram channel devoted to sharing information about Meron:

https://t.me/s/sarasarah777

More blog posts and videos about what happened at Meron on <u>rivkalevy.com</u>.

Chananya Weissman's RUMBLE channel with footage and photos from Meron:

https://rumble.com/c/c-782463