



Press Release

February 16th 2010

Israeli Authorities called to investigate Yeshiva rabbi for "inciting violence and terror"

A letter sent today by Yesh Din urges the Deputy State Attorney to open an investigation against Rabbi Yossi Palai of "Od Yossef Chai" Yeshiva, after the Rabbi posted an essay on the Yeshiva's website in which he suggested resisting the temporary settlement freeze by "sending a delegation to the nearby Arab village". Yesh Din: "Palai's words are a call for violent actions against Palestinians"

Israeli Human Rights Organization Yesh Din sent a letter Tuesday to the Deputy State Attorney, Shai Nitzan, demanding to open an investigation against Rabbi Yossi Palai of "Od Yossef Chai" Yeshiva, for allegedly inciting violence and terror.

Rabbi Palai, of Yitzhar settlement in the West Bank, posted an essay on the Yeshiva's website last December, in which he offered his readers several "tips" to "combat" the temporary freeze on settlement construction in the West Bank. Among other things, Palai suggested the settlers send "a small delegation of our own to the nearby Arab Village".

Attorney Neta Patrick, of Yesh Din's legal team, says that Palai's words are a clear call for violence. "Rabbi Palai calls for a retaliatory action in a Palestinian village – the so called 'price tag' policy – as a means to thwart the settlement construction freeze", wrote Patrick and Attorney Michael Sfar.

"Palai's suggestion to send a delegation to the nearby Arab village is a call for violent action. We believe this statement has crossed the line between freedom of speech and incitement. The fact the author is a Rabbi in a Yeshiva makes the statements all the more grave". The authors point out that members of Palai's Yeshiva were mentioned as suspects in the arson attack on the mosque in the West Bank village of Yasouf. "Therefore, we believe there is a need to open an investigation against Rabbi Palai, for allegedly inciting terror or violence".

**For further information:
Dana Zimmerman 054-245-7682**