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January 26, 2016

Today, You Are Not Quite A Man: Haredi Rabbi Arrested And Charged With Bar Mitzvah-Based Child Sexual Abuse

The alleged victims are three boys aged 13 to 14. The sexual abuse took place repeatedly over an extended period of time, and was based on misleading them about their halakhic (Jewish legal) status immediately after their bar mitzvahs.



Today, You Are Not Quite A Man: Haredi Rabbi Arrested And Charged With Bar Mitzvah-Based Child Sexual Abuse

Shmarya Rosenberg • [FailedMessiah.com](#)

A haredi rabbi from the port city of Ashdod, Rabbi Avraham Shemesh, has been indicted for allegedly fondling the genitals of young teen boys, Ha'aretz [reported](#).

Shemesh is a teacher in a haredi school in the city. His alleged victims are three boys aged 13 to 14. The sexual abuse took place repeatedly over an extended period of time, and was based on misleading them about their halakhic (Jewish legal) status immediately after their bar mitzvahs.

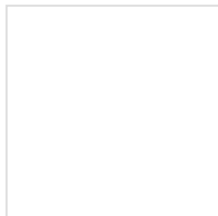
Shemesh allegedly had private meetings with individual students in the teachers' room of the school. The students were told the meetings were to tutor them one-on-one to help them learn material they missed while away from school.

Shemesh would lock the door to the teachers' room and close its curtains. Then he would tell the boys that in for them to be judged halakhically fit to lead prayers, he had to check to see whether they had pubic hairs (the actual halakhic definition of when a boy has become a man).

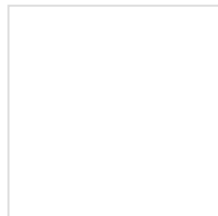
In one alleged case, a boy was out of school for several days because he was celebrating his bar mitzvah. When he returned, Shemesh called him to the teachers' room and explained that according to halakha, to be a prayer leader a boy must have at least two pubic hairs. He pulled down the boy's pants and underwear and then allegedly caressed and kissed his genitals. Shemesh allegedly did the same thing again four days later, and did it again several months after that.

Shemesh allegedly followed the same pattern with the other boys, as well.

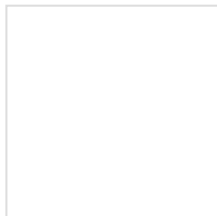
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This story may be true, but be aware of the paper's leaning.

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Posted by: God | [January 26, 2016 at 01:35 PM](#)

The first thing what we (Jewish people in the Jewish communities would have to do right now is denying it? let's take out a ballroom and call together the (jewish Hasidic community the tzibur) and will make an emergency pidyoin shevuyim campaign, will call it ,alilas 85, will say and cry out its a lie? Ah it never happened ? Ah the victims are crazy they are all lying ? It can't be? The victims made up their stories,? the victims are mental? Will take action against the victims and their families, ostracizing them, shunning them, harassing them, terrorizing them, we must show and give our full support to this pedophile? Its a mitzva of our Jewish Hasidic communities?? This man nebech is so so innocent,? We must come to his rescue? Nebech? Its alilas dam? ovey??gevald? How can we stay silent when a pedophile is suffering ovey?? We must support him fully??

Posted by: Crazy boy | [January 26, 2016 at 01:45 PM](#)

Rabosie rachmunim bnie rachmunim how can we sit still,quite when a innocent teacher a innocent Hasidic pedophile is suffering? Where is our rachmunis? Come on /askunim?/liaisons?/ with the big SUV? And nice cherry lights? Where are you all ? Why are you all sleeping ?when such a ,cushiver, pedophile is suffering? We gotta bail him out as soon as possible? Rachmunis ? Gevald a chushiver yid a pedophile is suffering ovey,??

Posted by: Crazy boy | [January 26, 2016 at 02:03 PM](#)

Reminds me of the Bobov tutor whose family asked R' Dovid Cohen what to do-- he said go to police. And all of Bobov turned on them and they had to move out of town.

Then you wonder how teenagers in Bobobv rape a 11 year old boy and why the yeshiva is putting cameras in all bathrooms (do they even work?) And in the end, you got a dead 11 year old who commits suicide!!! (yeah, blame the parents and their yichus for the suicide of an 11 year old-- way to go!)

My question is -- who raped those teenagers to begin with, so that they thought it was a thing to do? Could it be the tutoring Rebbe who was defended by the yeshiva? Lie with dogs, get up with fleas. The whole place stinks and there are innocent souls that will haunt the place forever.

Posted by: tired of b.s. artists | [January 26, 2016 at 02:08 PM](#)

Another week, another hasidic rabbi gets accused.

Posted by: Hawkeye | [January 26, 2016 at 02:17 PM](#)

Crazy boy--What is your solution to this indifference from the rabbunim is there one?

Posted by: jancsibacsi | [January 26, 2016 at 02:22 PM](#)

Hawkeye –

What makes him hasidic? Do you have some information the rest of us don't have?

Posted by: [Shmarva](#) | [January 26, 2016 at 02:32 PM](#)

Jancsibacsi, don't take this as a joke? Unfortunately today you can't trust anyone especially with children, no nobody, not a /father/grand father/uncle/cousin/family members/no not a teacher/ not a roish yeshiva/ not a rebbe/ not the biggest talmud chuchem let him have the biggest white beard,as long we are not serious and not willing to fight against molestation on children but supporting every single pedophile?this will keep on happening yull see? We must and should come together and talk about it,openly, in every Jewish Hasidic communities, we must be tuff and strong like yehuda shlomo rechnitz he gave a powerful powerful speech in Lakewood the night of,tu bishvat, powerful He screwed all rabunim and roish yeshivas with his powerful speech o yes,,this is how we must talk about sexual abuse this is how we must cry out against sexual abuse against children

Posted by: Crazy boy | [January 26, 2016 at 02:37 PM](#)

Crazy boy--As a chusid yourself you sound that chassidism should be banned or altogether done away with since there is so much corruption sexual or financial we hear of everyday and you yourself write about how no one can be trusted so i ask what can be done to stop all this destruction of young children by the elders do you have any ideas?

Posted by: jancsibacsi | [January 26, 2016 at 08:42 PM](#)

It wasn't abuse, just a machmir delayed bris mila inspection with metziza b'peh in case the original mohel missed something.

Nothing to see here folks.

Posted by: Yosef | [January 26, 2016 at 09:18 PM](#)

jancsibacsi

Education in schools regarding what behaviour is acceptable and what is not would be a good start, but it's a subject they don't even want to touch on in schools. All yeshivas should make it policy to call the police if there is any complaint of sexual or physical abuse. Unfortunately closed and cult-like groups are opposed to such policies because they don't like the media spotlight.

Posted by: Shayna G in NZ | [January 26, 2016 at 09:23 PM](#)

Shmarya,

My mistake. Earlier today, I had thought your article identified him as hassidic.

Posted by: Hawkeye | [January 26, 2016 at 09:42 PM](#)

Janci "As a chusid yourself you sound that chassidism should be banned or altogether done away with..."

Not long ago, a very prominent American Indian spiritual leader was also convicted of molesting and raping minors. Does that mean that American Indian traditional culture should be banned? I highly doubt you would say that. Instead, I'm sure you'd say that American Indian cultures should be preserved. Well the same is true for Hasidic cultures. The fact that the Hasidic cultures have been corrupted doesn't mean that authentic Hasidic cultures, which don't have to be and weren't always any where near as oppressive as they are today, shouldn't be preserved and renewed. Because being Hasidic can also mean the niggunim, the dancing, Yiddish, East European traditions, ecstatic prayer, devotion to God, charity, and supber support networks. That's what Hasidic Judaism is at its core. And that's what it needs to go back to.

Posted by: Baal Shem Tov HaSheni | [January 26, 2016 at 09:58 PM](#)

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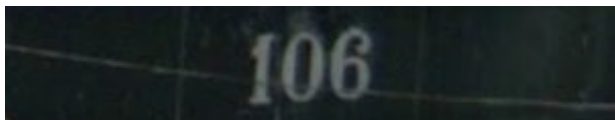
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