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Girl Molested During Simhat Torah Celebrations At Chabad Of Sherman Oaks, CA

The LA Times [reports](http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-chabad6oct06.o.415068.story?coll=la-home-local) (<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-chabad6oct06.o.415068.story?coll=la-home-local>):

Los Angeles police arrested a transient on suspicion of molesting a 7-year-old girl at a Chabad synagogue in Sherman Oaks, authorities said today.

Officers were called to the temple in the 14900 block of Ventura Boulevard on Thursday evening after being contacted by the mother of the girl.

Eyal Magid, 28, whom police described as a transient known to some members of the congregation, was arrested at 6:30 p.m. as he left a service for the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. Magid was booked at the Van Nuys jail on suspicion of felony kidnapping and was being held in lieu of \$600,000 bail.

Synagogue officials did not return calls for comment.

According to sources familiar with the case, the girl was with other children in an upstairs area of the temple when she was lured away. The attack took place in what was described as a small room or hallway....

Fox (<http://www.myfoxla.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=4558787&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>) News (<http://www.myfoxla.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=4558787&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>) adds Magid was "known to frequent Chabad of Sherman Oaks."

I wonder if alcohol played a part in this? If Chabad in Sherman Oaks is anything like the many Chabad Houses and synagogues I've seen, most if not all of the male attendees were probably drunk and the children were probably lightly, if at all, supervised – a near-perfect environment for a molester to operate in.

[Hat Tip: Michelle.]

Posted at 02:54 AM in [Chabad](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/chabad_theology/) (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/chabad_theology/), [Crime, Litigation, etc.](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/crime/) (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/crime/), [Pedophilia & Related Crimes](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/mikva_abuse/) (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/mikva_abuse/) | [Permalink](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html) (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html)

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The role that chabad plays in this type of thing is that it encourages everyone to participate in chabad events, regardless of how mentally unwell they may be. Chabad turns no one away. Our shul, for example, is frequented by many people with mental disorders, who are not allowed to step into other synagogues. Some of these include people with schizophrenia, bipolar, alcohol/ drug addiction and one guy with pedophilia-type issues. But to chabad, every yid is a yid and deserves a chance to be mekareved. It is actually surprising that more of these stories don't take place on a regular basis. Parents need to watch their kids very carefully.

Posted by: [onionsoupmix](http://onionsoupmix.livejournal.com/) (<http://onionsoupmix.livejournal.com/>) | October 07, 2007 at 11:09 AM
(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85488382#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f06f4968834)



jesus, what a hard on for chabad. The guy did an intentionally criminal act and you want to hold Chabad responsible is all. You guess that there was alcohol? Have you ever been to this Chabad - it is on Ventura Boulevard and it is sedate because the street is so busy that they are afraid people will get hit crossing the street. The rabbi there is not some raging drunkard - any boozed there on ST is monitored and no one gets out of hand.

I wonder what it is like to be shmarya the annoying - is it like being bontshe the silent, but when you get to heaven, they ask you to shut up?

Posted by: [nb](http://www.www.com) (<http://www.www.com>) | October 07, 2007 at 04:56 PM (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85517356#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef2e0988833)



I've seen dozens of Chabads all over the world and I've never, ever seen one that was dry or close to it on Simhat Torah.

Were the children playing upstairs watched by an adult? If not, why not?

If so, was that adult sober?

Did Chabad know of this man's illness before the attack? If so, why did it allow him to roam the building unsupervised?

I've been at Chabad Simhat Torah celebrations where esteemed senior rabbis vomited all over the place and 12 year old children of shluchim were taken to hospital with alcohol poisoning.

Ask yourself how this child was "lured away" without an adult noticing. Explain how that happened and answer my questions posted above. Then we'll see.

Posted by: [Shmarya](http://www.failedmessiah.com/) (<http://www.failedmessiah.com/>) | October 07, 2007 at 05:07 PM (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85518014#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f071dcd8834)



At Chabad in Owings Mills the drinking was very little on ST--thank G-d !!! and recently I have been to Chabad weddings in Pikesville and Charlotte without liquor and little wine. So the tide is turning.

Posted by: Mike Kane | October 08, 2007 at 04:02 AM (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85554086#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef323908833)



In our community, we received an e-mail alert of a known non-Jewish criminal who is posing as an Orthodox Jew and hanging out at Chabad. Anyone is welcome at Chabad....

Posted by: Chabad of Refuge | October 08, 2007 at 03:43 PM (http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85657446#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07c6548834)



I am very sad to see this story. I am a member of Chabad of Sherman Oaks, and to be honest this synagogue is a home away from home for many families. It is a very welcoming but yet a cautious and aware community. True Chabad philosophy is one that is welcoming to all fellow jews or those who are interested in the faith. However, in every community fluke cases arise, and community members must work together.

As for the Rabbi at Chabad of Sherman Oaks:in this community: they and their families are amazing they are the pillar's of this community. I pray that this issue is resolved quickly and we can move forward in a positive direction.

Posted by: Chabad of sherman Oaks | [October 08, 2007 at 06:36 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85673972#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07d7f08834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85673972#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07d7f08834)



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Posted by: Chabad of sherman Oaks | [October 08, 2007 at 06:40 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85674322#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef3da598833\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85674322#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef3da598833)



Shmarya was the last comment not good enough for you to retract your words, mr. truth?!

Posted by: zanvil | [October 08, 2007 at 07:29 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85678450#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07dc5a8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85678450#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07dc5a8834)



Again, as I wrote above:Were the children playing upstairs watched by an adult? If not, why not?

If so, was that adult sober?

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Posted by: [Shmarya \(http://www.FailedMessiah.com/\)](http://www.FailedMessiah.com/) | [October 08, 2007 at 08:44 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85684460#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07e50f8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85684460#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f07e50f8834)



We had a Chabad rabbi for a year. He was a nice guy, but he allowed all sorts of weirdos to crash at his parsonage. We had a chosid who would go score dope, while wearing combat pants and a karpote! We had a dropout kid from a frum family, who became so disruptive and violent the shul had to put a court order out on him to keep him away (he used to break in). We had others who were merely eccentric but harmless- I didn't mind them. I think the rabbi did this out of goodness of heart and an ideology of kiruv- but it was very irresponsible. (The board didn't renew his contract, and now we have a rabbi from the Union for Traditional Judaism- which seems to be a better fit for our community.) Not all chabadniks have bad intentions, but they are so wedded to their philosophy that they naively put people in harm's way.

Posted by: Yochanan Lavie | [October 09, 2007 at 02:04 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85707840#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef3fe9b8833\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85707840#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef3fe9b8833)



As for Chabad of sherman Oaks Questions:

The guy in question was not known to be sick, he was in remission from substance abuse and had visited AA meetings regularly. In addition since he came to Chabad he was able to straighten out, find a steady place to live.

As for the comments posted, generally at Chabad there is always someone supervising the kids--whether a youth director or parents. In this case all the kids had left and the girl in question was the only kid playing in the synagogue. It seems like this guy had a moment of insanity. But as for the community we were all very alert, but as stated before things happen. It is a place of worship and for that reason the rabbi and the community members wanted to give people the benefit of the doubt. In addition from all the Chabad's I have been to Chabad of Sherman Oaks has the most steady community--and it is rarely visited by strangers.

Posted by: Chabad of sherman Oaks | [October 09, 2007 at 02:33 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709318#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0811d8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709318#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0811d8834)



It's good to hear the children were supervised. Why was she left alone, though? Did the staff member just leave?

Posted by: [Shmarva \(http://www.FailedMessiah.com/\)](http://www.FailedMessiah.com/) | [October 09, 2007 at 02:36 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709560#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f08117b8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709560#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f08117b8834)



The child was upstairs playing while her parents were having lunch--the whole story happened in a matter of 5-10 minutes. By the time the parents had time to notice their daughter was missing they already started looking for her, and it took about 5-10 minutes for her to be found.

As for the alcohol: to the best of my knowledge no one in question was drunk. Not sure about the suspect.

In addition to the posted comment I don't believe the child was lured away. The vicinity in question is small and she was upstairs playing when supposedly the suspect came upstairs.

You have to realize it is a small building.

Posted by: Chabad of sherman Oaks | [October 09, 2007 at 02:38 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709676#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0811fd8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709676#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0811fd8834)



In other words the youth director or another Chabad employee left her alone.

Posted by: [Shmarya \(http://www.FailedMessiah.com/\)](http://www.FailedMessiah.com/) | [October 09, 2007 at 02:41 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709830#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0812968834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85709830#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0812968834)



No the program had ended and the parents were benching while the daughter went upstairs/ by this time there was no program. You have to understand that shul environment is different than a school.

Posted by: [Chabad of sherman Oaks | October 09, 2007 at 02:09 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85768926#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f085a7d8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85768926#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f085a7d8834)



I will take every story like this one with a grain of salt . You guys remember the Macmartin school case some 20 years ago and the poor people who were falsely accused for years. We do not know exactly what happened . Let the authorities investigate and then pass judgment . You should never believe an hysterical mother, especially if she is Israeli (like me)

Posted by: [Isaac Surany | October 10, 2007 at 09:09 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85983898#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f096ef28834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=85983898#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f096ef28834)



Shmarya:

I know your agenda against Chabad, I won't try to convince you. Your holier than thou attitude is ridiculous, please show me ANY Orthodox, or other shul that has a youth leader or other responsible adult supervising all kids all the time, that's what parents are for, if a parent can't watch their kid they shouldn't bring them. Don't blame a shul, that tries to do good things for the community. I know that Chabad, it's one of the most stable places I've been to, they have two wonderful rabbis one of whom doesn't take a salary, and through his family donates a lot of money to that community and others. The people who Daven and study there are very nice and welcoming. This story, although they are blameless, has affected the community strongly.

Is the lesson here, that we should "throw out" every person who doesn't look right?

BTW, I heard from people in the know that this happens very often in MANY shuls.

Let's at least give Chabad the credit, that they took care of this right away and acted responsibly I wonder how many other Shuls have done that.

Posted by: [Jay | October 14, 2007 at 01:01 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86339974#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef733a18833\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86339974#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef733a18833)



please show me ANY Orthodox, or other shul that has a youth leader or other responsible adult supervising all kids all the time, that's what parents are for, if a parent can't watch their kid they shouldn't bring them.

True. Still, if the girl was left alone by that youth leader, then we'd have a problem that goes past parental responsibility.

BTW, I heard from people in the know that this happens very often in MANY shuls.

I've not heard that but would print any credible information you might have.

Let's at least give Chabad the credit, that they took care of this right away and acted responsibly

That appears to be true.

Posted by: [Shmarya \(http://www.failedmessiah.com/\)](http://www.failedmessiah.com/) | [October 14, 2007 at 01:05 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86340128#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0b82578834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86340128#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0b82578834)



Kudos for at least some positive feedback.

BTW, just spoke to a regular there, she tells me this happened not on ST (when there is L'chaims taken), but on the Shmini Atzeret DAY lunch, the police were called while a member ensured that he wouldn't run away.

Interesting, that they were willing to risk all that negative publicity and a ruined ST just to do the right thing, Huh Shmarya? maybe Chabad has some morals after all?

Posted by: [Jay | October 14, 2007 at 02:12 AM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86342612#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef7365f8833\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86342612#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef7365f8833)



I know and have seen numerous amonts of child neglet i am not at all surprised tnat this toot place if you can not be esposible for your children do not have them

Posted by: [joan | October 17, 2007 at 05:48 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86748216#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0dda2c8834\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86748216#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54f0dda2c8834)



why not take some of the telethon money and put it into productive programs like usy on shabbat the children run around like animals

Posted by: [billy | October 17, 2007 at 05:53 PM \(http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86748652#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef976088833\)](http://failedmessiah.typepad.com/failed_messiahcom/2007/10/girl-molested-d.html?cid=86748652#comment-6a00d83451b71f69e200e54ef976088833)

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