

23 May 2016

Dear friends,

It is indeed rare that I am presented with the opportunity to recommend an institution with the level of unequivocal praise that I write to recommend Beit Midrash Derech Chaim, Israel's first Chareidi Hesder Yeshiva.

To many the combination of Torah learning, army service and academic study is an unholy alliance to be avoided at all costs. This is particularly true in the Chareidi world. As has been well documented, this philosophy has led to widespread poverty in the Chareidi population as well as to a painful and dangerous split in Israeli society. The fact that a yeshiva has opened which seeks to address these pressing issues, and has been successful in doing so, is a true blessing to the State of Israel.

It has been by good fortune to observe the phenomenal growth of Derech Chaim and the change that it has effected over the past three years. The students who have already entered active service in the army are proving that when appropriately prepared, the Chareidi soldier can contribute significantly to the IDF, and in the future to society as a whole. The magnitude of this contribution cannot be underestimated.

The success of Beit Midrash Derech Chaim is critical to Israel's continued growth and vitality. Supporting this institution is thus supporting a bright future for not only the Chareidi population, but for the entire State of Israel as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ivry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ambassador, Maj-Gen (ret.), David Ivry

David Ivry:

Served as a combat pilot in the Israel Air Force

1977-1982 – served as Israel Air Force Commander

1983-1985 – served as Deputy Chief of the General Staff

1985-1996 – served as Director-General Ministry of Defense

2000-2002 – served as Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.