

Gush Etzion

PROTECTING A JEWISH PRESENCE IN THE LAND

Jewish communities existed in the Gush Etzion region (the Etzion Bloc), located southwest of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, since before the establishment of the State of Israel. This area is replete with Biblical scenes and stories of heroism and bravery, starting with the time of Abraham and Isaac. But in 1948, all the Jewish communities in Gush Etzion were destroyed and 240 men and women were killed, while an additional 260 were taken captive. Immediately after the 1967 war, when Israel recaptured Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, brave Jewish pioneers flocked back to resettle their beloved land.

Today, there are 22 communities and small farms spread out over a large geographical area. The Gush Etzion Regional Council oversees and supports security activities for the small communities in the region. Although life in Gush Etzion often feels relatively peaceful, the threat of terrorist activities continuously lurks. Security and safety concerns are an undeniable ongoing reality of living in Gush Etzion. And in recent months, terrorist attacks are on the rise. Hostile Arabs regularly throw Molotov cocktails and rocks at passengers and pedestrians, while assault, stabbings, shooting, and arson attacks have become routine—innocent families face danger and injury every week!

Recently, Arab arsonists set a fire just outside the community of Bat Ayin. The fire spread quickly, threatening residents and homes. To prevent electrical explosions, emergency crews shut off the power to the entire community, which also shut down many of their emergency systems. With so many terrorist attacks, and a recent increase in earthquakes, the Gush Etzion Regional Council desperately needs two portable emergency management systems to help them coordinate and manage emergency events. An easy-to-install day/night surveillance camera, a generator, a smart tablet, and a powerful flood light will enable Gush Etzion's first-responding teams to manage emergency events effectively. Additionally, they need several portable surveillance cameras to help them identify infiltration access points and apprehend hostile Arabs, who regularly infiltrate small local farmlands, damage trees, and cause significant financial damage to local farmers.

The Gush Etzion Regional Council desperately needs vital surveillance and emergency equipment to protect and defend Jewish communities from the constant threat of terrorism. The dedicated pioneers of Gush Etzion have returned to resettle their ancestral homeland. Your help today will equip them with the tools they need to prevent hostile infiltrators and manage emergency events. Your donation will keep these men, women, and children safe as they fulfill Biblical prophecy in Israel's Heartland.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

- ❖ **Regional Communities Include:** Bat Ayin, Elazar, Gevaot, Har Gilo, Migdal Oz, Sde Bar, Sde Boaz, Tekoa
- ❖ **Historical Significance:** First settled in the 1920's. Four kibbutz settlements were destroyed by the Jordanians on the eve of Israel's independence in 1948, it was re-settled in 1967, right after the Six Day War
- ❖ **Geographical Significance:** Strategically protects the southern approach to Jerusalem
- ❖ **Population:** over 25,000 residents



You can help equip security personnel who must be constantly on alert against infiltrations as they patrol 24/7



The Lone Oak, a centuries-old oak tree in Gush Etzion, remained a symbol of Jewish continuity in the Land of Israel throughout the 19 years of exile from Judea

GUSH ETZION SURVEILLANCE & EMERGENCY PROJECT BUDGET

2 Portable Observation Kits (\$9,875 each)	\$19,750
5 Portable Surveillance Cameras (\$2,090 each)	10,450
TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED	\$30,200

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