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# INTERNATIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE 2006

The State of Israel takes pride in its knowledge and capabilities on the subject of homeland security. In order to make these abilities and experiences known to a wider audience, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted an international convention on the topic in Israel. The four-day conference

took place in March 2006, and was attended by 120 participants from the United States and Canada.

In addition to offering a presentation of Israel's expertise in homeland security, the conference was designed to further promote cooperation between Israel and North America in areas of common

interest to all three counties.

The conference was opened in Jerusalem where the participants met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Tzipi Livni.

The first day focused on the homeland security forces in Israel, their organizational structures and activities.



The participants in the conference met with the Director General of the Ministry of Public Security, Rani Falk; Tel-Aviv District Commander, Major General David Tsur; and the Head of the Security Division in the Israel Police, Commander Ze'ev Veldinger.

Director Falk gave a presentation on the Ministry of Public Security, its goals and missions and its operational arms – the Israel Police (IP) and the Israel Prison Service (IPS). He spoke about the challenges faced daily by the Ministry, its innovative programs designed to respond to these challenges, and the unique dilemmas faced by the Ministry and the Israel Police due to the need to stretch their admittedly limited resources to provide security for the public against terrorism as well as fighting conventional crime. The presentation concluded with a briefing on the Ministry's professional cooperation with other agencies across the globe, including those in the United States and Canada.

The Commander of the Tel-Aviv District, Major General David Tsur, spoke about the



Israel Police, its organizational structure, personnel and goals. Commander Tsur described the characteristics of terrorism within Israel's borders and the IP's role in the overall counter-terrorism activities of the security forces.

The head of the Israel Police Security Division, Commander Ze'ev Veldinger, spoke about the procedures used to secure large scale events in light of experience gained from events such as the Maccabi Games and large scale demonstrations.

The guests visited *Mabat 2000*, the police's command and control center established to provide security in Jerusalem's Old City, and viewed the 280 modern surveillance cameras developed by Israel which are installed on the walls and throughout the alleyways of the area. The conference participants were briefed on the nature of the work in one of the most sensitive locations in the world.

The second day of the convention was dedicated

to the Israel Police Bomb Disposal Division, its role in homeland security, and to securing crowded public locations such as shopping malls and airports. Chief Superintendent Michael Cardach, Deputy Commander of the Police Bomb Disposal Division in the Operations Department of the IP, spoke about the division, its structure, missions and activities. Following the lecture, the guests were given the opportunity to take a close look at various demolition charges and other technology used by the Bomb Disposal Division.

The second half of the day was spent in Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport, the Arlozorov train station in Tel-Aviv and the Azrieli office towers and shopping mall where they viewed the sophisticated security layout in these public areas.

In the evening, then Minister of Public Security, Gideon Ezra, hosted a dinner for the participants in Jerusalem and

spoke about the Ministry's war against terrorism and crime.

The third day focused on the emergency agencies and services in Israel and their integral part in the homeland security layout in Israel. The representatives visited the *Asaf HaRofeh* Hospital and were briefed by Commander Yossi Wilner, Head of the Planning and Emergency Department in the IP, regarding the deployment of the Israel Police and the emergency services, the Israel Fire and Rescue Services and *Magen David Adom* (Emergency Medical Service), during a mass casualty disaster.

Following the briefing, the guests watched a large-scale exercise which simulated a mass casualty disaster. The simulation started in the city of

Nes Ziona and was concluded in the *Asaf HaRofeh* Hospital, demonstrating the process of receiving the injured from the incoming ambulances and their treatment in the emergency room. The simulation was a showcase of the experience and capabilities of the Israel Police, *Magen David Adom* and the Israel Fire and Rescue Services.

The final day was devoted to summaries and conclusions. In addition, the Commander of the Home Front Command in the Israel Defense Forces, Major General Yitzhak (Jerry) Gershon, completed the picture of homeland security in Israel by lecturing on the general perception of dealing with a state of emergency. Former Commander of Operations in the Israel Defense Force,



Major General Yisrael Ziv, also spoke.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion on homeland security.

