



Annual Report-for the Tax Year ending Dec. 31, 2007

The Metzilah Center

Registered Nonprofit Association no. 580442788

Full name and no. of association: The Metzilah Center for Zionist, Jewish, Liberal and Humanist Thought (Registered Nonprofit Association no. 580442788)

Main goal: Metzilah Center was founded in 2005 to address the growing tendency among Israelis and Jews worldwide to question the legitimacy of Jewish nationhood and its compatibility with universal values.

Metzilah was established with the conviction that Zionism and a liberal worldview can and must coexist; that public discourse, research, and education hold the key to integrating Zionism, Jewish values, and human rights in the Jewish state; and that the integration of these values is critical for the enduring welfare of Israel and the Jewish people worldwide.

Date of Report: August 6, 2008

Submission of Report to Audit Committee: August 6, 2008

Approval of Report by General Assembly: September 17, 2008

In accordance with to Section 37 of the Nonprofit Associations Law, 5740-1980, the Board of Directors is honored to present the Registrar of Nonprofit Associations with a report on the Center's activity, as specified in Annex 3 of said Law.

We begin by noting that the organization did not engage in activity of substance until February 2008, when Prof. Ruth Gavison joined the Metzilah staff after completing her duties on the Winograd Panel to investigate the second Lebanon War. During 2007, organizational measures were taken in

advance of the beginning of activity; systematic activity of the Board of Directors began, a grant was obtained in order to ensure the funding of the initial activity, and in the last few months of 2007 the staff was expanded as part of these preparations, including the hiring of a director general and considerable organizational activity ahead of 2008. This being the case, activity in 2007 was not a reflection of activity in a normal year.

1. Main Activities of the Association in 2007

A. Academic Publications

1. **“Conditions for the Prosperity of the State of Israel: ‘Where There Is No Vision, the People Cast Off Restraint’ – A Meta-Purpose for Israel and Its Implications.”** The article, by Prof. Ruth Gavison, proposes long-term objectives for Israel that will allow a worthy balance to be attained between social cohesion and partnership in the national endeavor, on the one hand, and controversies and multiplicity of opinions, on the other. The pamphlet was published in association with the Neaman Institute, in Hebrew and English.
2. ***Haim Cohen: Being a Jew.*** The book , edited by Prof. Ruth Gavison, presents a corpus of writings by the late Chief Justice of the Israel Supreme Court, Haim H. Cohen, on topics related to Metzilah’s core subjects (religion and state, “Who is a Jew,” the meaning of Israel’s Jewishness, etc.)
3. **“The Deviation Mechanism – Justifications, Chances, and Risks”:** This paper, by Dr. Zvi Kahana, describes the mechanism of deviation from the constitution and the Canadian experience in how the mechanism works. The paper was delivered at the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee in 2007 as an accompaniment to the Knesset’s activity in the constitutional process.

Paragraph in the financial statements	Expenditure as shown in the financial statements
Publications and production of pamphlets	NIS 49,078
Wages	NIS 61,082

B. Founding Conference of The Metzilah Center, Marking the Sixtieth Anniversary of the UN Partition Resolution

The conference (held in Jerusalem on Nov. 25, 2007) hosted lectures by Prof. Yitzhak Galnoor, Dr. Alex Yacobson, Mr. Nazir Majali, and Prof. Ruth Gavison. It was attended by 250 people and covered by various media. Surrounding the conference, circulation lists of potential target populations for Metzilah were prepared; in the future, we will use the lists to distribute our electronic newsletter and keep the public informed about Metzilah's activities.

Paragraph in the financial statements	Expenditure as shown in the financial statements
Events	NIS 43,196

C. Seminar Encounter

The participants, including twenty members of Israel's senior population, discussed the contents of the position paper "**Conditions for the Prosperity of the State of Israel.**" The encounter, held in Tel Aviv, was coordinated by Major General (Res.) Giora Romm with the participation of Prof. Ruth Gavison.

D. Position Papers/Studies in Progress

One of Metzilah's main working methods is the writing and publication of studies and position papers. Such projects are obviously long-term endeavors; here we mention those that began in 2007.

1. "**Access to Lands in a Jewish and democratic state,**" by Profs. Ruth Gavison and Haim Sandberg. The purpose of the paper is to examine basic arguments relating to the allocation of land on a national basis in Israel, and to

establish a normative factual infrastructure for discussion of these pregnant issues. The paper is expected to appear in the first half of 2009.

2. **Collection of position papers on Palestinian refugees and the right of return:** the papers challenge the claim, bruited by representatives of the Palestinian refugees, that they have the “right” to return to Israel sovereign territory. The first fruits of this effort will be published in the first half of 2009.
3. **“The Role of the State in Divided Societies – the Case of Israel,”** by Prof. Ruth Gavison with assistance from Hemi Avneri. This research project, in association with Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, takes up the implications of the fact that Israeli society is divided along religious, national, and cultural lines. The purpose of the paper is to examine the implications of this situation for the justification of the state, its roles, and the governing principles that should guide it.
4. **“Election methods, Including regional elements and a two chambers structure, in divided societies,”** by Prof. Avraham Diskin with assistance from Nir Atmor. This paper, the second part of the joint project with Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, examines the connection between regional elections and the multinational and multicultural foundations of Israeli society.

As noted, in 2007 Metzilah began working on the publication of a book to be titled *60 years to the 29th November UN Resolution: Sourcebook and Lectures*. The book, based on the conference that Metzilah sponsored on November 25, 2007, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the partition resolution, examines the partition plan, its background, the different sides’ views, the internal arguments among them, and their relevance for current realities in Israel. The book will include the lectures given at the conference and relevant historical sources from the era preceding the UN resolution. Projected publication date: summer/autumn 2009.

Paragraph in the financial statements	Expenditure as shown in the financial statements
Wages	NIS 106,097

E. Website Development

Intensive work was done during the year to set up the Metzilah website and to upload materials to it. The site provides general information about Metzilah and related contents: the position papers that were submitted to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, background materials for the “sixtieth anniversary of November 29” conference, and miscellaneous articles by members of Metzilah that appeared the national press during the year.

Paragraph in the financial statements	Expenditure as shown in the financial statements
Computers and website	NIS 32,599

F. Preparations for Full-Scale Activity

1. **Director General:** an important step toward full-scale activity was the decision to hire a director general. The feeling was that such an officer would be able to help the Center get itself organized and prepare for action. In early 2008, however, it was decided that the Center was not mature enough to have a director general. After a lengthy process of organizational consultation, Metzilah hired two coordinators, one for planning and one for development, in mid-June 2008.
2. **Logo:** Metzilah designed a new logo.
3. **Organizational communication:** Metzilah acquired a domain name in order to use “intra-net” e-mail.
4. **Offices:** a search for office space began. Metzilah expects to move into its new offices in Talpiyot, Jerusalem, in mid-August 2008.

G. Marketing Publication

Metzilah created an image pamphlet that describes its main areas of activity and its central personalities. The pamphlet is used to market Metzilah to the public and for resource development.

H. Resource Development

Metzilah hired the services of David Maeir-Epstein, Ltd., a resource-development specialist, to coordinate its resource-development activities. A multiannual fundraising plan was drawn up with this firm's guidance and many meetings with potential donors and funds were held.

Paragraph in the financial statements	Expenditure as shown in the financial statements
Hiring of a resource-development expert	NIS 21,600

I. Strategic Discussions

As part of its organizational preparations, Metzilah held several strategic discussions in 2007 to focus its activity and establish its uniqueness relative to other organizations. At these meetings, a framework for action, a credo, and main working methods were set forth,. The meetings were attended by members of the Executive Committee and outside experts whom Metzilah invited to contribute of their experience.

J. Cooperation with Other Organizations and Institutions

Metzilah met with research institutes that are similarly structured or ideologically related (Taub Center, Israel Democracy Institute, Posen Fund, etc.), so that they might learn about our organization and to explore possibilities of cooperation.

K. Cooperation with Decision Makers

1. **Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee:** in the current Knesset, Metzilah and Prof. Gavison played no formal role in the

committee's constitutional proceedings. However, they maintained their contact with the constitutional process by providing the committee with materials and taking part in especially important discussions.

2. **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** in principle, relations with decision-makers on politically sensitive issues were not pursued due to Prof. Gavison's membership on the Winograd Panel. Nevertheless, discussions were held on matters of cadet training and foreign relations in Metzilah's areas of concern, foremost the justification of a Jewish state. These discussions resulted in the purchase of large quantities of our publication, "Where There Is No Vision," for Ministry staff and in additional meetings and lectures.
3. **Knesset House Committee:** decision-makers on the House Committee approached us in several matters on which Metzilah has expressed its views (the status of JNF-KKL land, land allocation, aspects of the constitutional process, etc.). We offered the greatest possible assistance while maintaining a low profile and will use the connections made in our future work.

L. Lectures

Metzilah receives many requests, from diverse parties, for lectures on its areas of concern. We conducted a modest number of activities of this kind, mainly by Prof. Gavison for the time being (list provided upon request). We intend to step up Metzilah's activity in these fields as soon as we expand our resources.

M. Media

1. Various members of Metzilah published newspaper opinion pieces on issues of concern to the Organization.
2. Shortly before the "Sixtieth Anniversary" conference, several interviews and articles about Metzilah and its members appeared, allowing the public at large to become aware of the Association.
3. Metzilah members took part in panel discussions and special programming about the sixtieth anniversary of the partition resolution in

various media, including an interview with Dr. Alexander Yacobson and Mr. Nazir Majali on Army Radio's late-night program for intellectuals and participation by Prof. Gavison in a panel discussion on the sixtieth anniversary, moderated by Yaakov Ahimeir, on Channel 1 Television.

4. On February 13, 2007, Yaron London and Moti Kirschenbaum interviewed Prof. Gavison on their Channel 10 television program about the book *Haim Cohen: Being a Jew*.

2. Organizational Structure of the Association in 2007

Metzilah is managed by an Executive Committee that is elected by members of the General Assembly and that convenes once per quarter on average. The Board of Directors oversees routine management. The Audit Committee convenes once a year and reports to the General Assembly.

a. Members of the General Assembly

Name	Date of most recent appointment
Prof. Ruth Gavison	March 28, 2005
Adv. Yoel Cheshin	March 28, 2005
Ziva Inbar	March 28, 2005
Daniel Liorit	March 28, 2005
Yael Giveon	March 28, 2005
Meira Unna	March 28, 2005
Prof. Shimona Gintzburg	March 28, 2005
Dr. Dan Avnon	June 26, 2006
Dr. Daniel Polisar	June 26, 2006
Prof. Gideon Shimoni	June 26, 2006
Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Giora Romm	June 26, 2006
Prof. David Kretschmer	June 26, 2006
Prof. Ella Belfer	Feb. 5, 2007
Dr. Zvi Zameret	Feb. 5, 2007
Dr. Alexander Yacobson	Sept. 11, 2007
Adv. Yoav Artsieli	Sept. 11, 2007
Adv. Yiron Festinger	Aug. 12, 2007

b. Members of the Executive Committee

Name	Date of most recent appointment	Date of resignation from Committee
Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Giora Romm (Chair)	June 26, 2006	
Dr. Daniel Polisar	June 26, 2006	
Prof. Gideon Shimoni	June 26, 2006	
Dr. Dan Avnon	June 26, 2006	Feb. 5, 2007
Prof. Shimona Gintzburg	March 28, 2005	Feb. 5, 2007
Meira Unna	March 28, 2005	July 25, 2007
Prof. Ella Belfer	Feb. 5, 2007	
Dr. Zvi Zameret	Feb. 5, 2007	
Dr. Alexander Yacobson	Sept. 11, 2007	
Adv. Yoav Artsieli	Sept. 11, 2007	

c. Audit Committee

CPA Revital Shimron, 39 Zarhi St., Jerusalem, I.D. no. 05977398-6. Date of most recent appointment: Sept. 11, 2007

d. Paid Officers (Director General and Direct Subordinates)

Name	Post	Commencement of employment	Cessation of employment
Gideon Vennor	Director General	Sept. 2007	Feb. 2008
Dikla Cohen	Organizational Coordinator	Aug. 2005	

Number of staff members employed in 2007: 8

e. Authorized Signatories

Name	Post	Remarks
Prof. Ruth Gavison	President/founder	
Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Giora Romm	Chair of Executive Committee	
Dr. Zvi Zameret	Member of Executive Committee	
Dr. Daniel Polisar	Treasurer	
Gideon Vennor	Director General	Surrendered signatory status upon conclusion of service
Dikla Cohen	Organizational Coordinator	Authorized signatory up to NIS 1000

Note: the Association's statutes of Feb. 14, 2006, allow the appointment of an authorized signatory who is not a member of the Executive Committee.

3. Related and Associated Corporate Entities

- a. In 2007, there were no other incorporated entities in which most members of the Association, or their relatives, were members.
- b. In 2007, no other incorporated entities were associated with The Metzilah Center.
- c. Below are the particulars of other incorporated entities in which officers of the Association also hold posts:

Name of Metzilah officer	Name of other incorporated entity	No. of other incorporated entity	Post in other incorporated entity
Dr. Alexander Yacobson	Te'ena Association	580253037	Member of Executive Committee
Giora Romm	a. Electra, Ltd. b. Visa ICC, Ltd. c. Qualito, Ltd.		a. Member of Board of Directors b. Member of Board of Directors c. Member of Board of Directors
Dr. Zvi Zameret	Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi		Director General
Dr. Daniel Polisar	Shalem Center		President
Adv. Yoav Artsieli	a. Eretz Aheret b. Hamelitz		a. Member of General Assembly b. Director of staff for implementation of Gavison-Medan Covenant

4. Critical Services to the Association in 2007

Service provider	General description of critical service	Annual value of service provided (NIS)
David Maier-Epstein, Ltd.	Resource development	21,600
Shavli Kop	Accounting	9,000
Tohen Media	Construction of Website	14,000

5. Main Uses of Donations during Past Year

Donor	Total donation received in reporting year	Purpose of donation	Use of donation during reporting period
Keshet Foundation	NIS 399,200	General support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Payroll– “Sixtieth Anniversary” conference– Development of position papers and studies– Production of Metzilah promotional material– Outside consultants: CPA, NPO fundraising expert– Website development

6. Cost of Resource Development during Year

- a. Services of outside expert on NPO resource development, David Maeir-Epstein, Ltd.: NIS 21,600.
- b. Production of fundraising brochure: NIS 13,398.

7. Unpaid Transfers of Funds and Assets Outside of Regular Activity

In 2007, no funds and assets were transferred on an unpaid basis, including any activity that deviates from regular activity or from direct activity as required by the statutes.

8. Real-Estate Transactions

No real-estate transactions were performed in 2007.

9. Transactions with Related Parties

No transactions with parties related to The Metzilah Center were performed in 2007.

10. Irregularities Identified by Authorized Party

No authorized party asked Metzilah to correct irregularities in 2007.

11. Exceptional Events

No exceptional events occurred in 2007.

12. Physical Deployment

Metzilah still has no offices. It expects to move into its new premises in Talpiyot, Jerusalem, in mid-August 2008.

13. Other Material Events

No other material events occurred in 2007.

14. Changes and Updates from End of Year to Date of Submission of Report

a. *The following paid officers joined the staff:*

Name	Post	Commencement of service
Prof. Ruth Gavison	Founder/President	Feb. 2006
Shira Gur	Development Coordinator	June 2008
Michal Margalio	Planning and Follow-up Coordinator	June 2008

- b. The Executive Committee (and the General Assembly) were expanded by the addition of the following persons:***

Name	Date of most recent appointment
Dr. Vered Noam	May 11, 2008
Dr. Gadi Taub	May 11, 2008

Signature of Members of Executive Committee

I, the undersigned, _____ and _____, two members of the Executive Committee, hereby confirm the foregoing details in this Literal Report for 2007, which was presented to the Audit Committee on August 6, 2008, and approved by the General Assembly on September 17, 2008.