

# Ora Cohen

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August 19, 2003 began as a wonderful day of anticipation for the Cohen family. The summer was drawing to a close, and Ora and her husband Shalom were planning on taking their five children to the Kotel – the Western Wall – for prayers in the evening. The trip was meant to be an evening of sight-seeing in the Old City of Jerusalem, ending on a spiritual high of prayers at Judaism's holiest site. And the day progressed flawlessly.

Following the service, the family boarded the number 2 bus for the 20-minute trip home, and settled into seats near the middle of the bus. But as they turned into the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood, a terrorist aboard the bus blew himself up, killing 23 people and injuring over 150 others. Ora and Shalom, and all their children were wounded in the attack. One of their daughters, Shira, lost an eye. Doctors succeeded in saving the second one after numerous operations. All the members of the family are under psychological treatment except for Ora. Although she needs it, she is too busy with the rest of the family and frequent doctor appointments for one or another of her kids to get the treatment she herself needs.

Shalom spent part of the time before the attack working as a carpenter, and the rest learning in a kollel. Ora cared for the home and children. Since the attack, Shalom had to cut back on his hours at work, and has had difficulty maintaining concentration during his studies.

Now, more than two years after the attack, Ora is faced with the necessity of undergoing surgery on her ears in order to repair the eardrums damaged in the bomb blast. She has not had the surgery until now because she has been unable to afford it. National Insurance is unwilling to cover the cost of the surgery, though they will cover her hospitalization expenses. Her health fund is unwilling to cover the surgery, since they claim it is a result of a terrorist attack, and that National Insurance should cover it. If she doesn't undergo this operation now, the situation will worsen to the point where she may lose her hearing.

The family still has many expenses due to the attack, such as cab fare to doctors appointments and therapy treatments for the whole family, babysitting when Ora goes for therapy or when she takes one of the other kids for their appointments. They have very little income of their own, most of which comes from National Insurance payments and benefits.

Thank you Society Young Philanthropists for providing \$3000 to help cover the costs of Ora's surgery.

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