



Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hillel Israel To Light 4th Chanukah Candle For Sderot *Jews Around the World Encouraged to Participate*

(December 3, 2007 • Washington, D.C.) On December 7, Hillels around the world will join in an act of solidarity with the people of Sderot. Hillel students, professionals and members of the Jewish community are asked to light their fourth Chanukah candle in honor of the more than 180,000 civilians in Sderot and surrounding communities who have been subjected to 6,000 kassam rocket attacks since April 2001.

The Sderot candle lighting on the fourth night of Chanukah, which coincides with Shabbat, is an effort to raise worldwide awareness of the challenges faced by both Israelis and Palestinians under attack near the Gaza border. Hillel Israel calls the project "Light a Candle with Sderot" and encourages all Jews around the world to participate.

"By dedicating one night of Chanukah to light a candle with Sderot, we can show our support, help boost morale, and demonstrate the unity of the Jewish people," said Yossi Goldman, president of Hillel Israel.

As part of "Light a Candle with Sderot," the new Hillel center at Sapir College in Sderot along with Hillel Israel will be assembling informational packets that include reports about the rocket attacks on Sderot; personal stories about life under the threat of attack; a brief video; and inspirational readings for the fourth night of Chanukah.

Sderot was originally founded in 1951 as a transit camp for new immigrants from Kurdistan and Iran. Since then, Sderot has absorbed immigrants from Morocco and Romania, and more recently from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

This year, Chanukah (also called the Festival of Lights) is celebrated from December 5 until December 12. The Hebrew word Chanukah means "dedication" and refers to the purifying and re-dedication of the Temple after the Maccabees arose victorious over their Assyrian oppressors.

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life seeks to enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. www.hillel.org

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