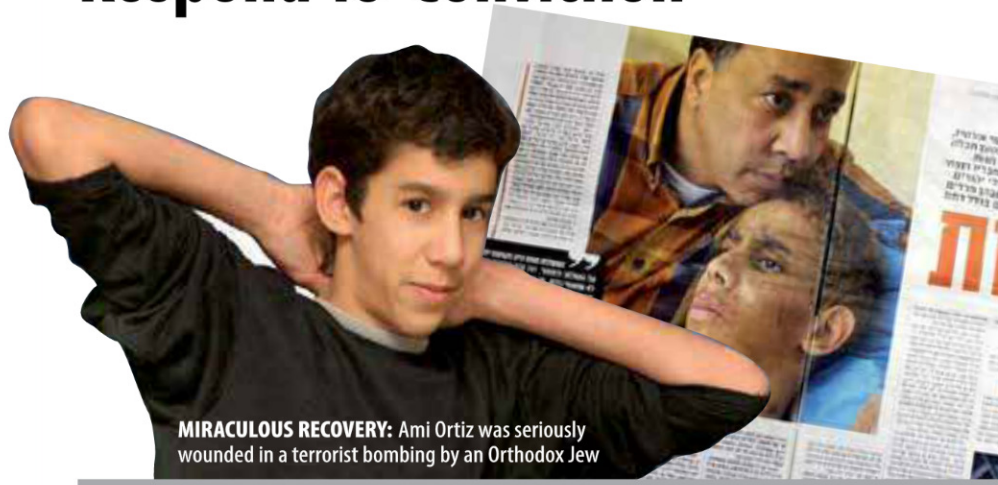


Messianic Victims of Jewish Terror Respond to Conviction



MIRACULOUS RECOVERY: Ami Ortiz was seriously wounded in a terrorist bombing by an Orthodox Jew

After three years of legal proceedings, a Jerusalem court rejected arguments that Jewish terrorist Jack Teitel was mentally unstable when he murdered two Palestinians in 1997 and attempted to murder a Messianic Jewish pastor and a prominent left-wing professor a decade later. Israel Today reported extensively on the severe wounding of Ami Ortiz, son of Pastor David Ortiz, when Teitel planted a bomb disguised as a Purim gift basket at their home in the Jewish settlement of Ariel in 2008. Reporter Ryan Jones spoke to David and his wife, Leah, about Teitel's conviction and where they go from here.

Leah: We also hope and pray that the justice served will be a deterrent against further acts of violence targeting the Body of Messiah in Israel.

IT: What would you say to him if you were face to face?

David: It's not what I would say, but what I will say when the moment is right. I won't have to ask why he did what he did, for he displays the hatred in his face. Rather, I will tell him, 'I walk as a free man because God has given us the ability to go forward and forgive.' I will tell him that he needs to repent and seek the Lord, whom Teitel [as an Orthodox Jew] professes to follow.

IT: Do you believe that the hostility of anti-missionary groups toward Messianic Jews could again manifest in open violence?

David: This is a resounding yes. We continue to pray and strive for people like Teitel to be found and caught before they can harm others. And there are many [in the Orthodox community] like him. It's very similar to Hamas. I have worked many years with radical Islamists; there is almost no difference in the raw hate and bitterness that has possessed these people.

IT: What are Ami's feelings toward Teitel?

David: Ami thinks about Teitel's children and that their father has ruined their lives, too. Ami has no bitterness toward Teitel but sees him as a lost soul. ■

Israel Today: How do you feel about Jack Teitel's conviction?

David Ortiz: We are very satisfied with the conviction but also pray that all those who are thinking of doing like acts will be exposed. Our prayer is that this will not happen to someone else, and that the name of Yeshua [Jesus] will continue to be glorified among His people Israel.

Leah Ortiz: The media asked if we are happy this is almost over. I said yes, but for Ami it isn't over. He has had 14 operations, will now have laser treatment for the scars that cover his body, and unless the Lord intervenes, he will always have to live with the pain of nerve damage and blown out eardrums.

We hope that in addition to the first degree murder charges, [Teitel] will also receive a sentence for the crime against our son. I think it will further help Ami to put it all behind him.

IT: Were you concerned that Teitel might get away with his crimes?

David: My lawyer asked me how I would feel if, despite our best efforts, Teitel was put in a mental institution for maybe five years and then released. I told him I would feel like [the biblical prophet] Habakkuk, who, though he didn't understand God and the disasters taking place around him, still managed to praise the Lord.

IT: What are your personal feelings toward Teitel today?

David: From the beginning we have seen him as a lost soul that desperately needs Yeshua. However, at this point he is an extremely dangerous and unrepentant person who needs to be in prison so that he cannot harm anyone else. Nevertheless, we pray for his salvation.

