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## Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	331
Land:	Gaza-Vestbredden
Kilde:	United State Department of State
Titel:	Country Reports on Terrorism 2016 - Foreign Terrorist Organizations - Kahane Chai
Udgivet:	19. juli 2017
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	6. september 2017





## **Country Reports on Terrorism 2016 - Foreign Terrorist** Organizations: Kahane Chai

**United States Department of State** 

Publication 19 July 2017

Date

United States Department of State, Country Reports on Terrorism 2016 - Foreign Terrorist

Organizations: Kahane Chai, 19 July 2017, available at: Cite as

http://www.refworld.org/docid/5981e3cfa.html [accessed 30 August 2017]

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aka American Friends of the United Yeshiva; American Friends of Yeshivat Ray Meir; Committee for the Safety of the Roads; Dikuy Bogdim; DOV; Forefront of the Idea; Friends of the Jewish Idea Yeshiva; Jewish Legion; Judea Police; Judean Congress; Kach; Kahane; Kahane Lives; Kahane Tzadak; Kahane.org; Kahanetzadak.com; Kfar Tapuah Fund; Koach; Meir's Youth; New Kach Movement; Newkach.org; No'ar Meir; Repression of Traitors; State of Judea; Sword of David; The Committee Against Racism and Discrimination (CARD); The Hatikva Jewish Identity Center; The International Kahane Movement; The Jewish Idea Yeshiva; The Judean Legion; The Judean Voice; The Qomemiyut Movement; The Rabbi Meir David Kahane Memorial Fund; The Voice of Judea; The Way of the Torah; The Yeshiva of the Jewish Idea; Yeshiyat Haray Meir

**Description:** Radical Israeli-American Rabbi Meir Kahane founded Kach – the precursor to Kahane Chai – with the aim of restoring Greater Israel (Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza). Its offshoot, Kahane Chai (translation: "Kahane Lives"), was founded by Meir Kahane's son Binyamin, following his father's 1990 assassination. Both organizations were designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations on October 8, 1997. The group has attempted to gain seats in the Israeli Knesset over the past several decades but has not won a seat since 1984.

**Activities:** Kahane Chai has harassed and threatened Arabs, Palestinians, and Israeli government officials, and vowed revenge for the December 2000 death of Binyamin Kahane and his wife. The group is suspected of involvement in a number of low-level attacks since the start of the Second Palestinian Intifada in 2000. Since 2003, Kahane Chai activists have physically intimidated Israeli and Palestinian government officials who favored the dismantlement of Israeli settlements. Kahane Chai was last linked to an attack in 2005, when a member of the terrorist group shot dead four people on a bus in Shfaram, Israel. The group was dormant in 2016.

**Strength:** Since 2005, Kahane Chai's core membership has been estimated to be fewer than 100. The group's membership and support networks were overwhelmingly composed of Israeli citizens that lived mostly in West Bank settlements.

**Location/Area of Operation:** Israel and West Bank settlements, particularly Qiryat Arba in Hebron

**Funding and External Aid:** Has received support from sympathizers in the United States and Europe.

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