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## **War and terrorism in Jewish law**

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**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, [2010]**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**urn:nbn:de:kobv:517-vlib-10524**

## PREFACE

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah again expresses its gratitude to the Rodef Shalom Congregation for its support in technical matters connected with this volume. Special thanks go to Hanna Gruen and Irene Jacob for their careful proof-reading of portions of this book.

The essays and responses in this volume begin with a general overview of war as understood by Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the three major religions which concern us. This brief summary is intended to provide some background for the remainder of the book. As terrorism concerns us most, the book then continues with Mark Washovsky's essay on a halakic view of the human rights and civil liberties issues which confront us as we deal with terrorists. He focuses on the balance which we try to maintain as we seek security.

Michael Stroh turns to suicide bombers and looks at them through the eyes of martyrdom and religious fanaticism. As western religions are so far removed from this phenomenon, it remains puzzling as well as frightening to us. Moshe Zemer's brief thoughts along with several thorough responses view the hard choices to be made when dealing with the captives of terrorists. Families and governments are faced with this dilemma. Some additional topics akin to this theme were to be treated by two Israeli authors, but they were unable to produce those essays.

Pacifism may seem far removed from our realities, but precisely for that reason deserves a thorough examination which has been provided by Arnold Wolf 37, who unfortunately died a year ago. A responsum looks at this possibility further.

War and military service have become part of our lives, but for Judaism this is a new phenomenon. Emancipation and the