



apparatus and using thick gloves. "If you ever try to type ten letters wearing our gloves, you will realize how difficult it is to master fine motoric skills, let alone dismantling a ticking non-conventional device behind a breathing apparatus" explains Commander Levi.

Revidim specialists estimate the situation within seconds of creating eye contact with the device. They then scan their operational options and choose the least bad option to act upon. Assessing an "innocent" device can lead towards locating a suspicious canister of white powder, which will require a spur of the moment re-evaluation and change of plan.

The scenarios for which Revidim train are highly classified, but one can only imagine having to be the specialist handling a device with a live agent and chemical inside an air conditioning system of a large shopping mall, or a planned attack on a freight train transporting chemicals. This is the reason why Revidim specialists are also equipped with state of the art tools, most of which are classified.

Commander Levi understands the importance of having a specialist team like Revidim on his force, but at the same time hurries to minimize the panic the exposure of such a team can cause in the general public. "A non-conventional attack has yet to have been executed anywhere in the world, but it is always important to be one step ahead and be safe rather than sorry."

So how does it feel to be part of a team nicknamed "Doomsday's Specialists"? If you ask N., a member of the Revidim team, it

is a mixture of danger, excitement and pride. "I'm well aware of the personal risk" he says, "but at the same time I'm proud to be one of the elite specialists who respond to such cases. The fear is always there, but that fear is exactly what sharpens my attention and senses, and makes me a better police officer".

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# The Israel Witness Protection

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Israel Witness Protection*

In 2002, following an appeal from the State Attorney to the Commissioner of the Israel Police, an establishment committee was formed for the Israel Witness Protection Authority. The committee was headed by the then District Attorney of Jerusalem and current State Prosecutor, Moshe Lador.

The committee was established due to the following Israeli trends:

- Intimidations (direct, implied, via third party, and physical threats) preventing civilian witnesses from cooperating with law enforcement agencies in Israel
- The clear message from these intimidations which was that testifying in court and telling the truth is not worthwhile. Witnesses often end up changing their statements, even at the risk of proclaimed a hostile witness.
- Physical harm and even murder of prosecution and state witnesses.
- Lack of ability to offer cooperative witnesses solutions of protected locations and physical security for a long course of time.
- Negative impact on the deterrence in law enforcement, exposing crime and investigations in Israel.
- Impact on legal proceedings, lack of capability to bring felons to justice, perjury, retraction of statement and hostile witnesses.
- Expansion of crime, economic damage due to crime, and deterioration of the national and social strength of the State of Israel

# Protection Authority

## Office of the Director of the Witness Protection Authority



After surveying and analyzing the general phenomenon and its implications, both in Israel and abroad, and collecting professional opinions and recommendations, the committee recommended to establish an independent authority for witness protection in Israel.

The conclusions of the committee were presented to the Israeli Government which approved them and decided on January 1, 2006, to establish the Israel Witness Protection Authority which will be subordinate to the Ministry of Public Security and will be directed by Mr. Aryeh Livneh.

On November 16, 2008, the Israeli Parliament approved the Witness Protection Act. The primary functions as stated in the law are as follows:

1. Development of a comprehensive expertise and professional doctrine for witness protection
2. Setting criteria for monitoring threats and the development of protection tools for witnesses and their families (protection programs)
3. To be a guiding authority in the field of witness protection for all relevant bodies in Israel
4. Initiate international cooperation in the field of witness protection
5. To accompany the witness and his/her family in order to provide their personal and security needs, thus assuring the success of the program.
6. To coordinate cooperation with other government offices regarding the witness's everyday life, in order to grant maximum independence to the witness and his/her family

The Authority's activities are based on the principal of maximum secrecy.

### **Vision.**

The IWPA will create proper conditions for witnesses in general and prosecution/state witnesses in particular to agree to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities and testify against crime organizations and serious crime offenders in order to intensify the battle against organized crime and improve the sense of security and quality of life of citizens of the State of Israel.

### **Mission.**

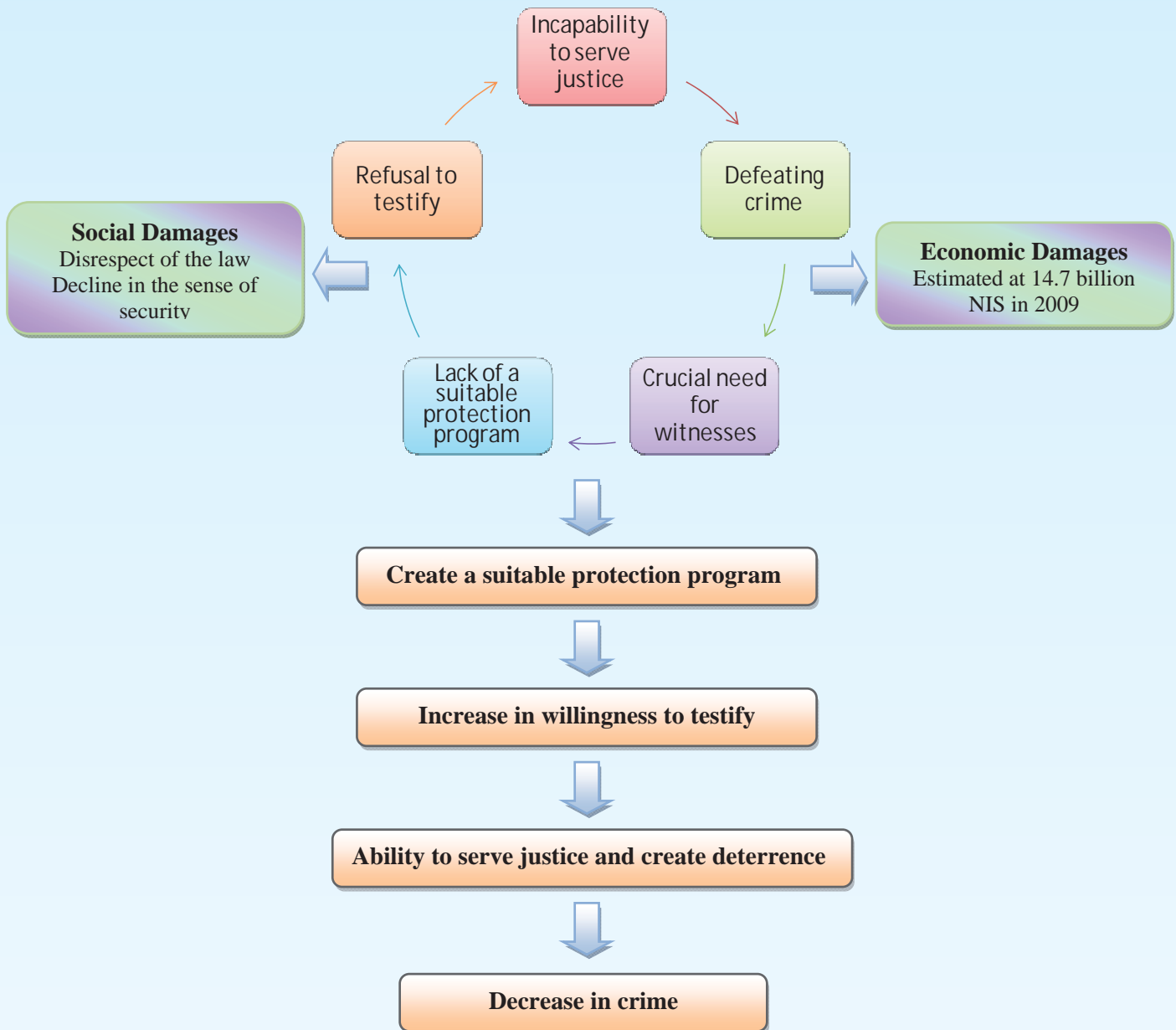
The mission of the IWPA is to effectively confront the phenomenon of threatened witnesses by criminals. The IWPA will protect the witnesses and their families before, during and after the trial.

### **Primary Roles and Mission**

- To develop a comprehensive professional doctrine for witness protection
- To provide protection and assistance programs for the witnesses
- To promote, in conjunction with other relevant government offices, international cooperation in the field of witness protection
- To define, in cooperation with the Israel Police and other law enforcement agencies in Israel, cooperation procedures on witness protection, as well as responsibility distribution between the two agencies.
- To work in conjunction with the Steering Committee and the Israel Police towards strengthening the civil duty of cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

## The Rationale Behind the IWPA

The IWPA as an integral part of the war against severe crime in Israel



### Roles and Functions

1. To offer operational solutions for protecting highly threatened witnesses and their families, while using designated task forces which will make use of the variety of tools and means at its disposal.
2. To prepare secure locations for protecting the threatened witnesses
3. To respond to the needs of the threatened witnesses and their families
4. To develop expertise and a professional doctrine
5. To create a working relationship with the State Advocacy; the Israel Prison Service; the Israel Police; and other relevant Government offices and law enforcement agencies.
6. To promote international cooperation

### Core Values

1. **Courage:** Being committed to our work, serving all individuals equally
2. **Integrity:** Basing our work on reliability, professionalism, transparency, and ethics (Code of Conduct)
3. **Determination:** Striving towards excellence and achievement while accepting responsibility and being a good example for others.

Every employee of the IWPA is obliged to act in accordance with the core values of the Authority, aspiring towards fulfilling its vision and completing its missions.