



UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN



Deadly Fire Leaves the University of Haifa Vulnerable to Further Disasters

A deadly fire of unprecedented proportions has wreaked enormous destruction in Israel over the last few days. The fire erupted in the Carmel National Park which surrounds the campus of the University of Haifa. Thousands of acres of the Carmel Forest, adjacent to the University of Haifa, were completely destroyed in the most serious fire in Israel's history. The fire has turned into a national tragedy, with over forty fatalities and 17,000 forced to evacuate their homes, as well as the thousands of acres of forest left totally ravaged.

The University of Haifa extends its deepest condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones in this tragedy and expresses its hopes and prayers for the recovery of the injured.

The campus had been closed since its evacuation on Thursday but was able to reopen on Monday morning. During the crisis the University of Haifa served as the Emergency Central Command Post for all forces, including fire services, police and the IDF and provided technical and logistical support.

The primary concern of the University is the safety and welfare of its students and faculty, totaling more than 18,000. The University is providing humanitarian aid to those who were affected by this disaster. Its most urgent priorities are a return to normal activity on campus and the establishment of protective measures for the campus, which escaped damage in this fire, but which remains extremely vulnerable to future fires due to its location in the heart of the Carmel Forest.

This emergency has brought to the forefront the vital need for immediate action to improve and upgrade safety and security on campus.

A \$10 MILLION DOLLAR EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED WORLDWIDE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT AND TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR THOSE IN NEED.