

Rabbi Mordechai Willig And OU-NCSY's Rabbi Baruch Lanner Coverup: A Chronology

Compiled by Shmarya Rosenberg, <http://www.failedmessiah.com/>

1. Beit din convened in 1989 to hear charges that Rabbi Baruch Lanner, a leader of the Orthodox Union's (OU) National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY), was emotionally, physically and sexually abusing children. (The OU is the parent body of the RCA.)
2. Rabbi Willig excoriates Lanner victims and their families at the beit din **before** evidence has been heard in a clear attempt to stifle their testimony.
3. The beit din finds Lanner guilty of abuse in a 2 to 1 vote.
4. The beit din does not call police.
5. The beit din allows Lanner and his supporters to publicly claim he has been cleared of all charges by the beit din.
6. Lanner continues to abuse women and children while remaining in the employ of the OU and of Hillel Academy.
7. No steps are taken by the beit din to end Lanner's employment by these organizations or to limit – or even to supervise – his contact with children.
8. June 23, 2000 – The New York Jewish Week publishes an investigative piece exposing almost thirty years of Lanner's abuse.
9. June 27, 2000 – Lanner resigns from the OU.
10. Dec. 26, 2000 – The OU releases a report accusing Lanner of sexually abusing girls and women and of physically abusing boys and girls. The report concludes employees of the OU and NCSY did not properly respond to "red flags" raised in the almost thirty years Lanner abused.
11. March 21, 2000 – Lanner on charges that he had sexual contact with two female students at Hillel Yeshiva. He is charged with two counts each of aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact, and endangering the welfare of a child.
12. June 27, 2002 – A jury convicts Lanner of fondling one student. He is acquitted of fondling another of his accusers.
13. Feb.19, 2003 – Almost 8 months after Lanner is convicted, more than three years after the beit din proceeding, years after the evidence against Lanner is made public, and under great pressure, Rabbi Mordechai Willig "apologizes" to Lanner victims and their families in front of hundreds of Yeshiva University students (but not in front of the families or many of the victims).
14. At the same time, Rabbi Willig says that rabbinic sexual and physical abuse against children should be reported to Jewish authorities and only "[at times](#)" to secular authorities, even though the beit din he sat on was made up of the premier rabbis of the YU, OU community and it failed to execute justice or protect children.

**Rabbi Mordechai Willig And OU-NCSY's Rabbi Baruch Lanner Coverup:
A Chronology**

Compiled by Shmarya Rosenberg, <http://www.failedmessiah.com/>

15. I don't have any record of Rabbi Willig modifying his statement to advise calling police to report all child sexual or physical abuse.
16. Willig claimed during his "apology" that his primary goal was "protecting children." Yet Rabbi Willig has taken no known actions to deal with sexual and physical abuse against children since that "apology" was made.
17. In contrast, Rabbi Yosef Blau, one of the three members of that beit din, has spent years fighting child sexual abuse, beginning even before the Jewish Week exposé was published.
18. The third member of the beit din, Rabbi Aaron Levine, is not known to have either apologized or to have taken any action to stem abuse. He is a professor of mathematics at YU.
19. Ironically, Willig's "apology" was seen by some as stemming YU's rightward move, the idea being that YU rabbis were increasingly being viewed as infallible, much in the same way haredim view their "gedolim." The apology was thought to be a weapon to stem that tide.