

Ex-Chabad of Poway Rabbi Sentenced to 14 Months in Prison for Tax Fraud

SAN DIEGO— Former Chabad of Poway Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein was sentenced to 14 months in jail on Jan. 4 for participating in a series of deceptive plans, most significantly a tax scam in which expected charitable contributions made to the synagogue were funneled back to donors.

Goldstein, 60, was likewise purchased to pay almost \$3 million in restitution to victims, that include the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and business that matched contributions their workers made to the Chabad.

” I stand here today, my head bowed in embarrassment, regret and dissatisfaction over the criminal activities that I have actually devoted to God and humanity,” Goldstein stated while dealing with the court Tuesday.

In what district attorneys have actually described the “90/10” plan, Goldstein accepted charitable contributions and after that would send out about 90 percent of the funds back to the donors, while filching the rest for himself. Donors would then wrongly claim on tax return that 100 percent of their contributions went to the Chabad, with Goldstein offering the incorrect donors with phony invoices.

In addition to the cash Goldstein went back to them, co-defendants whose companies participated in business contribution matching programs likewise swiped the coordinating contribution amounts supplied by the business, which were defrauded out of a minimum of \$144,000

The U.S. Attorney’s Office stated Goldstein got a minimum of \$6.2 million in phony contributions and eventually kept over half a million dollars through the course of the scams, leading to tax losses to the IRS going beyond \$1.5 million.

In a different plan, Goldstein likewise fraudulently acquired almost \$1 million in grant financing with the assistance of created files offered by ex-real estate representative Alexander Avergoon, who was sentenced Monday to more than 5 years in jail for defrauding financiers.

Goldstein pleaded guilty in 2020 to federal scam charges and was consequently gotten rid of from the Chabad.

Despite a joint suggestion of house detention from district attorneys and Goldstein’s lawyers, custody was required, according to U.S. District Judge Cynthia Bashant.

The judge stated much of Goldstein’s co-defendants believed their offenses would eventually benefit the Chabad, however she included, “Really, it was simply to benefit you. It was for your individual

advantage and your own greed and I can't neglect that truth.

" I simply do not believe that a house confinement sufficiently shows what you performed in this case. I believe it's crucial to send out a message to the neighborhood and to send out a message to you."

Goldstein was purchased to give up to authorities by Feb. 23 to start his sentence. His lawyers asked for that the judge advise Goldstein serve his sentence at Federal Correctional Institution Otisville, a center in New York state that Goldstein's lawyers stated was more accommodating for practicing Jews.

When charges were revealed versus Goldstein, district attorneys credited him for his management in the wake of the 2019 shooting and stated they would advise probation due to his cooperation with authorities, which resulted in a number of co-defendants' guilty pleas.

" Yisroel Goldstein exploited his position and stature as a faith leader to devote well-planned and thoroughly performed criminal activities of greed," U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman stated. "As his major criminal conduct was under examination, the rabbi ended up being a victim in a terrible attack on the synagogue he led. Today's sentence represent these amazing scenarios and our workplace's objective to constantly look for justice."



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