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## My Take on the News

By Tzvi Yaakovson - Dec 12, 2018

Poland to Mark Jewish Cemeteries

Here is another interesting report that I heard this week, in a different Knesset committee: The Polish government plans to place stone markers at the borders of about 1,400 Jewish cemeteries throughout Poland. This is the result of an agreement between Rabbi Mordechai Schudrich, chief rabbi of Poland and a member of the Conference of European Rabbis, and the Polish Minister of Culture, Pieter Galinsky. According to their agreement, all of the Jewish cemeteries will be mapped, their borders will be recorded in a computerized database that will be accessible to the public, and stones will be placed at the corners of every cemetery in order to delineate its boundaries. This is certainly a major breakthrough, and the Knesset Diaspora Committee has welcomed the development.

Rabbi Schudrich noted that about 200 out of the 1,400 Jewish cemeteries in Poland are already marked, but it is still necessary to place the new marking stones, since some of the fences were erected many years ago and have already begun to crumble. Moreover, the exact boundaries of some of the cemeteries are disputed.

He also said that hundreds of cemeteries have already been mapped, and some of the information has already been stored in the computerized database of Lo Tishkach, an organization under the auspices of the Conference of European Rabbis, and the Claims Conference. The remaining cemeteries will be mapped by the Antiquities Authority of the Polish Ministry of Culture, with the assistance of local authorities and of international databases. Using bar codes that will be placed on the stone markers, visitors will be able to access information about the history of each cemetery and the surrounding area, including the borders of the cemetery and the people who are buried there. Rabbi Schudrich thanked the public for being receptive to his efforts, and added that he hopes that his work will prevent the future desecration of cemeteries by local governments and businesses alike.

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