

## **JIMS study concludes:**

### **Most of Israel's Elderly Poor are Holocaust Survivors**

A new study (issued Dec. 26, 2010) by the Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies (JIMS) finds that the vast majority of elderly poor in Israel are Holocaust survivors.

87 percent of poor people who are aged 80 or more are Holocaust survivors; 56% of the poor aged 75-80 are survivors; and 55% of the poor aged 70-75.

JIMS fellow Boaz Arad, who authored the study, estimates that approximately 210,000 survivors live in Israel today. The study finds that no official tally of survivors exists in Israel, and only about half receive special benefits or even know about them. "The Israeli bureaucracy is inefficient and delinquent when it comes to survivors," says Arad. "Two-thirds of Holocaust survivors in Israel have not received disability reparations. Those who received payments from the Israeli Treasury, received on average NIS 1.6 million less than survivors who received payments directly from Germany."

JIMS estimates the property of Holocaust dead and survivors in Israel totals over NIS 800 million. By the end of two years of activity in December 2008, the state office charged with finding the survivors and restoring their property, the **Company for Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims' Assets**, accumulated over NIS 850 million in assets, received over 6,600 requests for property restoration and made payments to **only 10 survivors**, who received a total of NIS 5.5 million, though the office's operating costs were four times that amount. Recent press reports indicate the state company has given NIS 1.4 million to an Israeli theater company and hundreds of thousands of shekels to a multimedia center at Hebrew University, the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, the Beit Berl college and other groups. The study recommends closing such superfluous state agencies, locating survivors and acknowledging their property rights.