March 12, 2021

United Rescue Alliance discovered certain allegations against Yehuda Meshi-Zahav who is the founder of ZAKA Search and Rescue organization. First, we unequivocally are opposed to any sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual misconduct. These violations of a person should not be tolerated and victims of these actions should be fully supported. Second, we are not in a position to judge or investigate the veracity of the allegations. We support the investigation of the allegations and trust the authorities investigating will be able to determine the validity of the them.

The organization, ZAKA Search and Rescue which has been volunteering for 32 years to identify victims of terror, road accidents and disasters in Israel and around the world, has become a symbol of unity and bringing people together. ZAKA’s yellow vests and white overalls connect between religious and secular, Israelis from all parts of the country who work together for one goal – chesed shel emet (ultimate loving kindness). ZAKA’s mission extends beyond any one individual or consideration, and the organization will continue to carry out its work for the benefit of the citizens of Israel, the Jewish people and anyone in need with dedication and loyalty. As United Rescue Alliance we pray for the management, organization, members and volunteers that have received the testimonies of allegations.

It is only after a thorough investigation of the allegations is completed the founder of ZAKA and the organization that we can determine the proper course to take. Therefore, until the investigation is concluded, we feel it is best that we suspend our alliance with ZAKA Search and Rescue organization and Eshet Lapidot. Once a final report is issued by the investigating authorities and these organizations have had a chance to determine a proper response after reviewing the report, we will reevaluate our position.

Thank you,

Angel Poorman
Founder and President