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## Drunk and on drugs, driver convicted of killing six

By [Roni Singer-Heruti](#)

Yaron Bracha, 28, of Yehud, was convicted yesterday of killing six people, including his twin brother, in a traffic accident last March at the Ginaton intersection near Lod.

In finding him guilty on six counts of manslaughter, plus illegal drug use, Judge Edna Kaplan of the Tel Aviv District Court wrote: "The accused made a completely unreliable impression on me, and I did not believe anything he said. The accused failed in his attempt to use his own injury, his sorrow and pain over the death of his brother and the others, which is not in doubt, as a reason and source for his lack of memory."

Bracha's lawyer, Oron Ayalon, said he plans to appeal the verdict to the Supreme Court.

The horrific accident occurred shortly after 1 A.M. as Bracha and his twin, Eyal, were returning home from a relative's wedding. Bracha was driving while under the influence of alcohol, cocaine and marijuana. He ran a red light at the Ginaton intersection, speeding at 171 kilometers per hour. Eyewitness accounts and forensic evidence from the scene indicated that Bracha made no attempt to stop before the intersection. His Mazda collided with a Hyundai Getz that had begun turning left toward Ramle, killing all five occupants - Egged bus drivers heading home from work - as well as his twin, seated beside him.

During the trial, Bracha claimed he had no recollection of using drugs, that he is not a habitual user, and that the traces were perhaps left over from when he smoked on the Purim holiday, a few days earlier. His lawyer claimed the blood sample indicating Bracha was drunk had been taken illegally.

Bracha also denied running a red light, claiming it was the other car that did so, and insisted he was driving much slower than 171 kilometers per hour.

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