

## **BACKGROUNDER**

THE FOUNDER  
**IMRICH (IMI) LICHTENFELD**  
SDE-OR  
[www.kravmaga-ikmf.com](http://www.kravmaga-ikmf.com)



On May 26 1910, Imi (Sde-Or), was born in Budapest during the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Imi fled war ravaged Europe during WWII.

Shortly after arriving on Palestine soil, early Israeli leaders recognised Imi's fighting and tactical skills and in 1944, he was recruited to train several of the elite units in Hagana as well as Palmac. (Striking force of the Hagana and forerunner of the special units of the IDF).

In 1948, shortly after the establishment of Israel, the Israeli Defence Force was formed and Imi became the Chief Instructor for Physical Fitness and Krav-Maga at the IDF School of Combat Fitness. For about 20 years, Imi served in the Israeli Defence Force which gave him the opportunity to redefine and develop his skills, creating a unique method for self-defence and hand-to-hand combat.

It was in 1964, shortly into his retirement where Imi began modifying Krav Maga to meet the needs of civilians. He formulated techniques to suit everyone. From adults to children whom may need to defend themselves when placed in a vulnerable situation.

To disseminate his training material, Imi established two training centres in Israel. One in Tel Aviv and another in Natanya.

In 1978, He created the Israeli Krav Maga Association and trained a team of Krav Maga instructors. The instructors were accredited by him and by the Israeli Ministry of Education. In 1995 Imi formally dissolved the IKMA, and formed the International Krav Maga Federation (IKMF). The IKMF is still the only organisation in existence formed by Imi.

In his Golden Years, Imi maintained his training and personally supervised higher ranking instructors in Krav Maga. He spent time with those local and international. He monitored training progress and achievements. He acquired a following through his unique personality, sharing a depth of knowledge of Krav Maga.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1988, Imi left this world with his incredible legacy which is known today as the International Krav Maga Federation. He was 88 years old.