

Deadly crush at Israeli religious festival

At least 44 people were crushed to death and over 150 injured at the Lag Ba'Omer festival, which takes place annually at the foot of Mount Meron, northern Israel

Apr 30, 01.00 local time (22:00GMT): Stampede occurs after some revellers slip on steps, causing dozens more to fall, police sources tell Haaretz newspaper



LAG BA'OMER FESTIVAL

■ Annual pilgrimage to Meron by ultra-Orthodox Jews for religious holiday marked with all-night bonfires, prayer and dancing

■ Town is site of tomb of Rabbi **Shimon Bar Yochai** (right) – revered second-century sage, who ordained that anniversary of his death be commemorated with celebration of his life

■ This year's festival – estimated to have been attended by 100,000 people – was largest event held in Israel since Covid-19 pandemic broke out last year

