

THE COLLEGE ZIONIST

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZOA CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

FALL
2014

THE LIE
ABOUT
"OCCUPATION"

THE PROBLEM
WITH KERRY

*The Inevitable Failure of the
Palestinian Arab
Peace Talks*

WHY WOMEN
SHOULD
**SUPPORT
ISRAEL!**



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ZIONIST**
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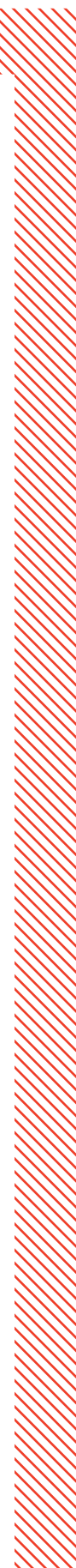


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ZOA Managing Director Message

The ZOA Campus Department has been on the frontlines of educating and empowering student leaders across the country through a variety of educational programs and leadership building activities. The department has continued to grow and is now operating on more university campuses than ever before. The ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel, the ZOA Campus Department's premier leadership building opportunity has been expanded and is well-known as an important primer in Zionist development.

The ZOA Israel trip is a comprehensive immersion into the core issues facing Israeli society and it is a tool for strengthening college students' Israel advocacy experience. For the first time ever, the ZOA Campus Department will be launching a Campus Fellowship opportunity in conjunction with this year's ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel. Campus fellows will receive a fully subsidized Israel trip or a cash stipend in exchange for their work with ZOA Campus Coordinators over an academic year.

In addition to our outreach and work to educate college students, the ZOA Campus Department plays a critical role in monitoring and countering anti-Israel groups and activities. Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and other hate groups have been leading the efforts to delegitimize and slander the Jewish State while alienating Israel's supporters on campus. The past year has seen a surge in mock checkpoints, eviction notices, apartheid walls, and calls for divestment from Israeli companies and academic institutions. Through widespread scare tactics such as the posting of "eviction notices" on Jewish students' dorm rooms to incidences of physical violence, the SJP has launched a war on Israel which often crosses the line into anti-Semitic, baseless hate of Jews. The ZOA's Campus Coordinators work with our allies on campus to monitor all anti-Israel events and refer all anti-Semitic incidences to the ZOA's Center for Law and Justice. The ZOA lobbied the Department of Education, for over seven years, to accept that Jewish students be protected under

the definition of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Since the decision was made to protect Jews, along with the other ethnic groups already protected, ZOA has been at the forefront of filing Title VI violations regarding campus anti-Semitism.

Students have come to know the ZOA as a source of empowerment and support. Through our leadership building trainings, free educational presentations and materials, legal support, and opportunities to get involved in the American political process, ZOA is paving the road for a future of strong Israel activists. Become a part of the movement and work with the ZOA as we strive for a better future for Israel and the Jewish people.

Sincerely,



David Kadosh
Managing Director
ZOA Campus Programs

ZOA Staff Message

"I am a Zionist because Zionists are proud. We believe in our nation and the strength of the Jewish people. The State of Israel is the Jewish homeland for the Jewish people and must be supported by Zionists the world over."

DAVID KADOSH

"I am a Zionist because I believe in a safe place for the Jewish people in the land in which we are indigenous. Zionists are also the only people in the Middle East who uphold the basic liberal values of freedom and equality. I am a liberal Jew, so naturally I am a proud Zionist!"

ZACH STERN



It is estimated that 2,000 years ago, Jews were about 2% of the world population (4.2 million out of 190 million). Today, we are barely a tenth of a percent (13 million out of 7 billion). Until Zionism, our survival was a miracle. Now, we are fully responsible for our own survival.

BRIAN ALBERT

"For the first time in 2000 years, we, the Jewish people, have the right to self determination, an achievement that has taken innumerable lives. For us, who enjoy to live a dream that became a reality, is a duty to protect it, thus I'm a Zionist!"

CESAR MORALES

ZOA Campus Staff

The People Who Make the Organization



David Kadosh
Managing Director,
Campus Programs
West Coast Campus
Coordinator



Zach Stern
Associate Director,
Campus Programs
Northeast Campus
Coordinator



Cesar DeGracia-Morales
Southeast Campus
Coordinator



Brian Albert
Mid Atlantic Campus
Coordinator

David Kadosh has worked in the ZOA Campus Department for the past 5 and a half years and currently holds the position of Managing Director. As a Campus Coordinator, he has worked throughout the Northeast and Western regional chapters. David is a graduate of Hofstra University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and two minors in Arabic and Middle East and Central Asian Studies. He is proficient in Arabic and Hebrew and took advanced Arabic classes at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. David has committed his professional and personal life to Israel and Jewish causes.

Zach Stern is the Associate Director of Campus Programs and is entering his second year as the Northeast Campus Coordinator. Originally from Minneapolis and a proud alumnus of the University of Minnesota, he spent eight months living in Tel Aviv after college and working in Israel advocacy for Fight Hatred. Zach is fully dedicated to the fight for Israel on college campuses and is excited to continue working with students across the Northeast!

Cesar DeGracia-Morales is originally from Panama City, having spent 6 years in Houston, he considers himself a proud Texan. He attended the University of Houston and studied Economics and Political Science. Cesar became a pro-Israel activist when after his Birthright trip he saw firsthand Israel Apartheid Week on campus. During his college years he founded the only pro-Israel club at his school. He also became involved with the ADL as a campus liaison, CAMERA fellow and a volunteer with the American Joint Distribution Committee, helping Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. His determination, fierce attitude and organizational skills make him an excellent resource when trying to counteract anti-Israel propaganda on campus. His "thinking out of the box" helped him create events at the University of Houston to raise awareness about human rights in the Middle East, beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and to partner with charities to help children in need.

Brian Albert studied International Relations at the University of Delaware. Brian made aliyah in 2006. In 2007, he was drafted into the IDF and served in the Golani brigade. In January 2009, he participated in Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip. Brian did his Masters in Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University and worked at the Moshe Dayan Center. With the ZOA, Brian hopes to help students take back the "Z word" from anti-Zionists who equate Zionism with racism. As a campus activist, IDF soldier, and now as a ZOA Campus Coordinator, Brian strives to make his contribution to the Jewish People.

President's Message

Hamas intimidation in Gaza



Morton H. Klein
President, Zionist Organization of America

World attention is still focused on the Hamas war against Israel. It's no secret Israel's image was being made to suffer by the endless scene of "civilian" casualties in Gaza. Because of bias and Hamas intimidation of journalists, we

hardly saw any Hamas missile teams or rockets being launched, or tunnels starting in private houses or under hospitals to send terrorists into Israel.

Not one of 37 images from three slideshows published by *The New York Times* during July showed even a single Hamas gunman. Hamas maintains a major military headquarters in a basement beneath the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, yet we've seen no such footage.

When a Hamas misfired missile killed 10 Palestinian Arabs at the Al-Shati refugee camp on July 28, Israel was wrongly blamed for days for committing a massacre. Only when an Italian reporter who had been on the scene was out of Gaza and free of Hamas threat and violence, did we learn the truth.

Israeli filmmaker Michael Grynspan recounted on Facebook the reply of a Spanish journalist who had just left Gaza to his question regarding the absence of footage of Hamas in action: "It's very simple. We did see Hamas people there, launching rockets. They were close to our hotel, but if ever we dared point our camera on them, they would simply shoot at us and kill us."

On August 3, media reports claimed that Israel had targeted and hit a UN school in Rafah, resulting in 10 deaths. Israel was widely condemned. Yet, only

a few publications, such as the *Wall Street Journal* disclosed that the Israelis had in fact targeted three Islamic Jihad terrorists on a motorbike outside the UN facility, which is where the missile struck, as the Israelis said all along.

In fact, of three UN schools that Israel was reported to have hit in a two-week period—and for which it received strong international condemnation—the evidence now shows that the civilian deaths in one case was probably the result of a misfired Hamas rocket, a second was hit by Israel fire while Palestinian terrorists were firing from within it and a third was simply never struck directly by Israel at all.

The media also accepts figures provided by Palestinian Ministry of Health. But this is merely a government department of Hamas, which is not only an internationally recognized terrorist organization but has a vested interest in inflating Palestinian casualty figures.

The truth is that Hamas deliberately embeds its forces among Gazan civilians and that it wants them killed in sufficiently large numbers so it can be made to appear that Israel deliberately kills civilians.

Even UN officials have confirmed that on July 16, "the Israeli military delivered text messages to virtually all the residents of Ash Shuja'iyya and Az Zaitoun neighborhoods in eastern Gaza city, approximately 100,000 people, warning them to leave their homes ... ahead of attacks to be launched in the area ... the Palestinian Ministry of Interior in Gaza reportedly instructed the residents ... not [to] flee the area ... the vast majority decided to stay."

Or again: On July 8, 7 Gazans were killed, and two dozen wounded in Khan Younis by Israeli strikes—but not because Israel struck recklessly and without taking precautionary steps. Israel had forewarned

Continued on page 34

WHY
**COLLEGE
STUDENTS**
*SHOULD
SUPPORT*
ISRAEL

Joshua Z. Lavine

New York University



In its 66 years as a country, Israel has accomplished many remarkable feats. Aside from giving the Jewish people their first sovereign state in 2,000 years, Israel has contributed to the international community in areas such as scientific discoveries to literary achievements and so much in between. Despite these contributions, Israel's legitimacy is continuously questioned.



The international community has its eyes set on the Jewish state. Anything and everything Israel does is scrutinized to the highest degree possible. College campuses are a hotbed for the delegitimization of Israel. Here is some information and advice that college students can use to combat the anti-Israel sentiment on campus.

The main question many students face is “why should

I support Israel?” Supporting Israel means supporting the only stable democracy in the Middle East. Its citizens, Jewish and Arab alike, are given equal status. Women are equal to men. The LGBTQ community is thriving in places like Tel Aviv, which is one of the most LGBTQ friendly cities in the world. There is freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Furthermore, Israel's citizens are allowed to assemble



and challenge the government when they see it is fit. Compare these realities to many Arab countries where the non-Muslim minorities, women, the LGBTQ community, and those who speak out against the government, are persecuted. [1]

Supporting Israel means supporting a country that defends its citizens. Common issues that those who attempt

to delegitimize Israel frequently bring up include Israel's “illegal” actions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank (Judea and Samaria). A proper way to respond to these critiques is to explain why Israel operates the way it does.

Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005 without any preconditions as an attempt to jumpstart the peace process. Since then, thousands of rockets have been fired into

southern Israel. Just as any country would, Israel has at times had to respond in military fashion to protect its citizens. [2] Despite these actions stemming from the Gaza Strip, Israel still donates humanitarian aid to the Gazan people that is mostly never reported in the media. [3]

In terms of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), Israel built a security barrier to protect its citizens during the midst of the Second Intifada, when numerous terrorists were able to infiltrate Israel. As a result of the security barrier, Israel's citizens are significantly safer now than they were before the barrier was built. [4]



Supporting Israel means supporting a country that promotes peace instead of war. At the 2000 Camp David Summit, then Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, offered 97% of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), all of the Gaza Strip, and a Palestinian capital

adjacent to Jerusalem in return for peace. [5] Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia told Yasser Arafat, the then Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, that if he were to reject Israel's offer, then he would be doing a disservice to the Palestinian people. [6] Arafat nonetheless rejected the offer and incited his minions to begin the Second Intifada. [7]

Supporting Israel means supporting a country that allows for its citizens to have freedom in education. [8] Students should be outraged by the American Studies Association's recent attempt to boycott Israeli academic institutions. [9] This organization seeks to delegitimize Israel through a scholarly lens and projects its focus towards college campuses. If this organization is to be successful, then students will effectively boycott the only country in the Middle East that allows its citizens to have the complete freedom to learn and grow intellectually. Pro-Israel students cannot allow boycotts like this to occur on their campuses.

College students in particular have the ability to make a difference, as many students are uninformed about the conflict in the Middle East. Oftentimes, their first impression is their only impression. When a student sees someone proclaiming how evil Israel is to the masses, they have the duty to let the listeners know that there is another side. If the current apathetic nature toward Israel by many students,

Jewish in particular, remains, then the virulent anti-Israel sentiment on campus will continue to swell and become acceptable discourse everywhere.

As a new wave of intellectuals step into global leadership roles, fresh ideas will be brought forth. It is time for pro-Israel college students to step up and let the international community know that they cannot get away scot-free anymore in their reckless bashing of Israel.

NOTES

[1] "Fact Sheets: Israel's Liberal Democracy." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[2] "Palestinian Authority: The Gaza Strip The Gaza Strip." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[3] "Israeli Humanitarian Operations: Aid to the Gaza Strip." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[4] "West Bank Security Fence: Background and Overview." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[5] "Camp David 2000." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[6] Weinstein, Jamie. "Yasser Arafat's Widow Admits Palestinian Terror Campaign in 2000 Was Premeditated." dailycaller.com. The Daily Caller, 28 Dec. 2012. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[7] "Al-Aqsa Intifada: Background & Overview." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[8] "Israel: Education." jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Jewish Virtual Library, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

[9] "ASA Members Vote To Endorse Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions." theasa.net. American Studies Association, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2014.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several hands pointing their index fingers towards the center. The hands are of different skin tones and are wearing light-colored, possibly grey, long-sleeved shirts. The pointing fingers are arranged in a way that they all seem to converge towards the center of the page, creating a sense of collective accusation or pointing out a truth.

About The **LIE** **“OCCUPATION”**

**ALEXANDRA
ZIMMERN**
University of Wisconsin



As the adage goes, “If you repeat a lie enough times, it becomes truth.” On college campuses around the country, students repeat hate-filled lies about Israel. While only the most radical anti-Israel students use the terms “apartheid” and “ethnic cleansing” as rhetorical weapons, the term “occupation” is used almost across the board. The word “occupation” has become so mainstream that even many pro-Israel students now deem it acceptable. This normalization is a result of both misinformation in Jewish communities on campuses and unrelenting false anti-Israel propaganda promoted by Israel haters. Even some supposedly “pro-Israel” students devote all their campus advocacy efforts to “stopping the occupation.” They fail to realize that calling Israel’s administration over Judea and Samaria (the so-called “West Bank”) an “occupation” misconstrues reality, undermines the strong Jewish connection to the land, and endangers young people’s support for the Jewish state.

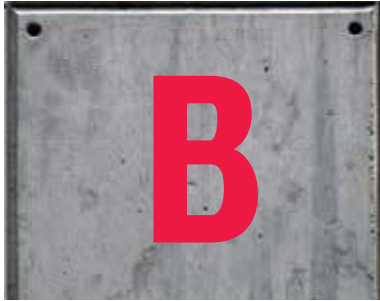


Many pro-Israel college students believe Israel is an occupying power. These students, regularly bombarded with anti-Israel propaganda on campus, fail to challenge this claim; many act ashamed of or embarrassed by Israel. Some even believe that this “occupation” is the sole cause of the conflict in the Middle East. For a pro-Israel student to subscribe to such beliefs shows the power of the language used by Israel haters on campus. In

order to maintain a coalition of students supporting Israel, advocates must understand the strong implications of the words used in their arguments and must fearlessly object to terms like “occupation,” which are erroneous and deceptive.

Based upon the 1907 Hague Regulations, a state is considered occupied when it “is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army.” [1] Prior to the 1967 War, after which Israel’s supposed “occupation” began, it was Jordan that illegally occupied Judea and Samaria. The international community did not consider Jordan’s control of the land legitimate; Judea and Samaria were still portions of the UK’s Palestine Mandate that had yet to be allocated to any nation. Thus, it was not sovereign territory of any entity. The

last time an entity had sovereign control over this land was under the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Based on the San Remo Conference of 1920 and the League of Nations' Mandate for Palestine established in 1922, the British became the legitimate administrative power over Palestine. This is significant because the British created the Mandate for Palestine specifically to establish a "Jewish national home." [2]



Before the dissolution of the League of Nations, the United Nations in article 80 of the UN Charter recognized the legitimacy of the Mandate system. Essentially, the legal basis for Israel's claim to Judea and Samaria (and Gaza) has been uninterrupted and continues to this day. This means Israel has the right under international law to administer Judea and Samaria and that legally, there is no occupation. Those who claim otherwise misread the definition of occupation or wish to rewrite history to fit their own political agenda. The more a lie (or serious error) is repeated, the more it is accepted as truth.

Calling Israel's administration over the disputed territories an "occupation" also ignores the rich and long Jewish connection to Judea and Samaria. The accusation that Israel is an occupying power denies the religious and historic connections Jews have to the land west of the Jordan River. Hebron in Judea, for example, is the second holiest city for the Jewish people. Jews have lived in the land almost continuously for the past 4,000 years. Given these historical facts, it is simply false to claim that the Jewish state illegally occupies this territory.

Those who legitimize the false claims of "occupation" also perpetuate the notion that Israel is exclusively to blame for problems in the Middle East. Many people naively contend that an Israeli withdrawal from Judea and Samaria will lead to peace. This logic, however, is flawed in that it ignores the conflict before 1967, when Israel did not "occupy" Judea and Samaria; Arab violence against Jews existed even then, beginning decades before the establishment of Israel in 1948. In 1929, Arab "rioters," emboldened by their leaders, destroyed the Jewish community in Hebron. These "rioters" murdered their Jewish neighbors, ranging from students to rabbis to entire families. Days later, Arab mobs attacked the Jewish community in the holy city of Safed, murdering 18 Jews and destroying over 200 Jewish homes. [3] There was no so-called "occupation" when these events occurred.

Nonetheless, many students continue to insist that "the occupation" is the center of the conflict. In doing so, they ignore the overwhelming and systematic Arab incitement and violence against Jews that are the true barriers to peace.

Student groups that claim to be pro-Israel, such as J Street U, spread this false message of "occupation" around universities, effectively evoking outrage towards the Jewish state. Though Israel's policies, like any nation's, can and should be debated vigorously, students who label themselves as Zionists cannot continue to spread messages that are false and place the blame for the conflict exclusively on Israel. When the only message a student spreads on campus is that the "occupation" must end and that when it does there will be peace, the student has spread misinformation about the Jewish state and has therefore done nothing worthy of being called "pro-Israel," even if he/she is well-intentioned.



Pro-Israel students must understand that their job on campus is to defend Israel from those who wish to demonize her. This does not mean students must defend the Netanyahu government or every piece of legislation introduced in the Knesset, just as someone "pro-America" does not have to defend the Obama administration. Nonetheless, pro-Israel advocates do have a responsibility to understand the history and reality of the Jewish State and to challenge falsehoods promoted by those trying to delegitimize Israel. It means that these advocates have to speak out against claims of "occupation," even though doing so is widely unpopular. Without objecting, "occupation" will become increasingly accepted by society and more students will embrace radical anti-Israel movements. Israel desperately needs this generation of Zionists to expose repeated lies and disseminate the truth. The burden is on our shoulders.

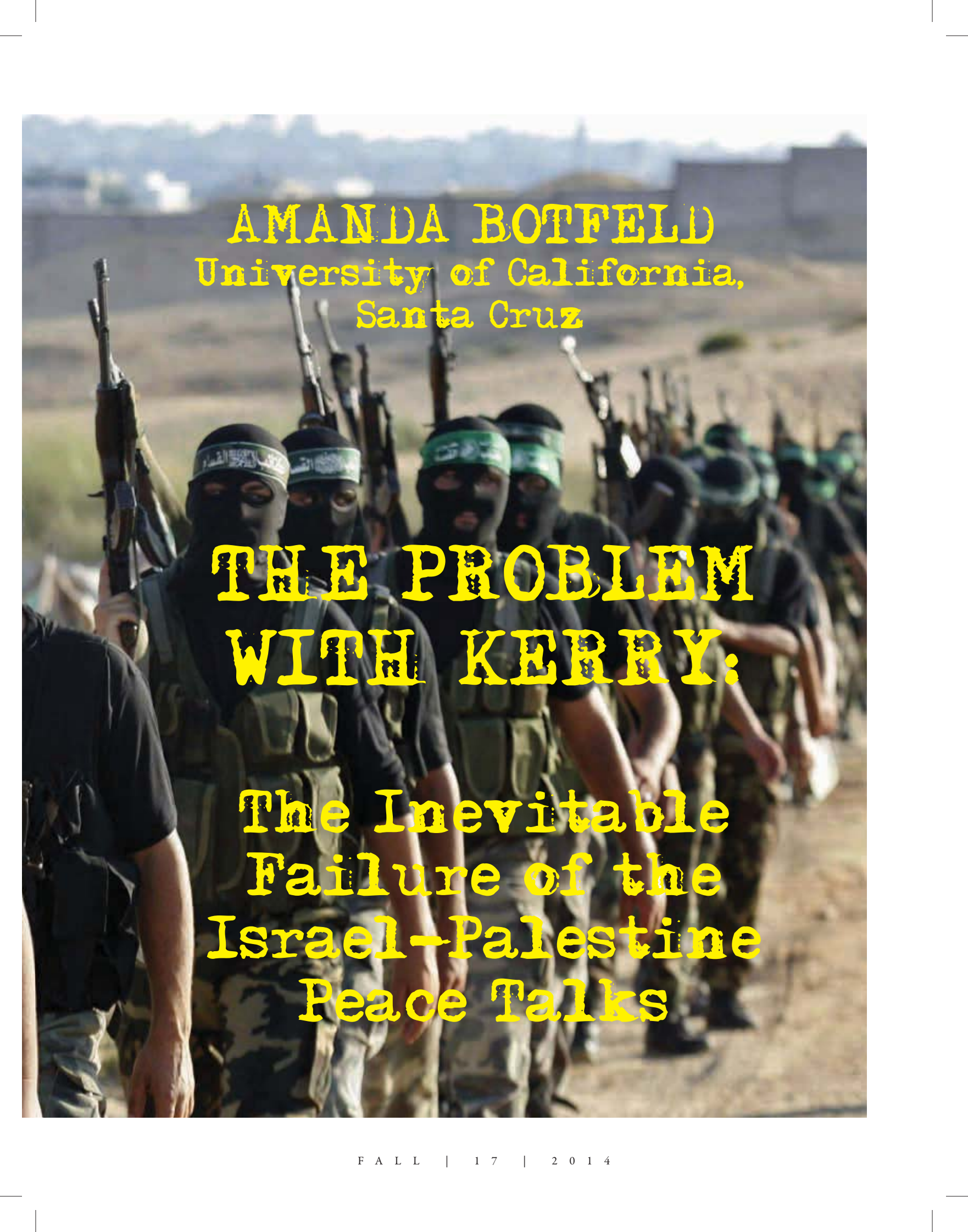
NOTES

[1] Army Publishing Directorate, Treaties Governing Land Warfare (October 18, 1907), December 7, 1956

[2] United With Israel, Today in Zionist History-The San Remo Conference, April 25, 2014

[3] Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, Anti-Jewish Violence in Pre-State Palestine/ 1929 Massacres, August 23, 2009





AMANDA BOTFELD
University of California,
Santa Cruz

THE PROBLEM WITH KERRY:

The Inevitable
Failure of the
Israel-Palestine
Peace Talks

Last summer, US Secretary of State John Kerry made it his mission to broker peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinian Arabs. Nine months later, it should come as no surprise that his efforts have failed, his was a doomed and reckless undertaking from the beginning.

Before the talks began, there was already an unavoidable complication on the Palestinian Arab side. The Palestinian territories are divided into two regions: one in Judea and Samaria (commonly called the West Bank) and the second in Gaza. The Palestinian Authority (PA) governs the territories in Judea and Samaria. Hamas governs Gaza.

Hamas, which the United States has designated as a terrorist group since 1992, was excluded from the negotiations. Kerry entrusted sole negotiating power to the PA. As a result, Hamas issued a statement saying, “The Palestinian negotiators have no legitimacy and are not authorized to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.”

In case that wasn’t clear, Hamas also said, “The Palestinians are not bound by any agreement that results from the current negotiations.” This has been Hamas’s official stance throughout the duration of the talks.

While it is unfortunate that an internationally recognized terrorist group is a governing power, Kerry’s assumption that this could be pushed under the rug was bafflingly shortsighted.

An estimated 1.7 million Palestinian Arabs live in the so-called West Bank. 1.4 million live in Gaza. By failing to acknowledge close to half of the Palestinian public, it was only a matter of time until this issue came to a head.

And it did. In the last hour of the already spiraling negotiations, the PA signed an agreement to merge governments with Hamas. The talks have officially been on “pause” ever since.

Kerry was shocked. He gawked at the PA-Hamas unity deal, saying it “came as a complete and total unannounced event, without any heads-up.”

It is easy to blame the PA for jumping into bed with Hamas. After all, Hamas regularly calls for suicide bombers and refuses to recognize Israel. [Should we make this last sentence stronger?: “After all, in its charter, Hamas calls for the murder of all Jews and the destruction of Israel.”]

Only a week after signing the unity agreement, senior Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal delivered a speech confirming their violent strategy. “Our path is resistance and the rifle, and our choice is jihad.”

Mashaal continued, “There is no past or future without jihad and resistance. Jihad is our path.” Both before and after

the merger, Hamas has been entirely straightforward about its goals.

The PA has been rather frank as well. The PA and Hamas have tried to join forces five times since 2007, and PA President Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly said their differences are next to nil. Speaking in Arabic in a televised interview in 2013, Abbas said, “As far as I am concerned, there is no difference between our policies and those of Hamas.”

But the Americans insist on seeing Abbas through rose-colored glasses. During the same month, US President Barack Obama said, “I genuinely believe that you [Israel] do have a true partner in President Abbas.”

This seems to be a bit of a stretch. In 1982, Abbas published his dissertation, *The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and Zionism*, which insinuates that Jews intentionally caused the Holocaust.

He also reaffirmed his views in a televised interview in 2013, saying that the collaboration between the Nazis and the Zionists [should “the Zionists” be in quotes?] is inseparable, and added that there are “70 more books [on the subject] that I still haven’t published.”

His anti-Semitic Holocaust denial aside, Abbas has another problem looming in his past: corruption. The Palestinian President is estimated to be worth 100 million dollars. His government is infamous for taking bribes and pocketing humanitarian aid. Freedom of the press is non-existent; the PA arrests any journalists, bloggers, or media outlets that dare criticize the shady government.

This is particularly dangerous given the context of the Arab Spring. Throughout North Africa and the Middle East, people have taken to overthrowing corrupt dictatorships with momentum and vigor. The 79 year-old Abbas is on the tenth year of his four-year term.

In this climate, there is no guarantee a newly formed Palestinian state would last. But that is precisely why the

United States has pushed the negotiations so hard: Abbas may not be the best choice, but the alternatives to Abbas could be far worse.

In March 2014, President Obama stressed this by saying, “We do not know what a successor to Abbas will look like.”

Whether the unity deal lasts is irrelevant. If Obama is concerned that the Palestinian people would not elect a leadership who wants peace talks, doesn’t that point to a larger issue? Going against the will of the public is a recipe for disaster.

Furthermore, the Palestinian public is extremely critical of the peace talks. In a December 2013 poll, only 33% of Palestinian Arabs supported the negotiations, with 51% expressing opposition.

There have been multiple Palestinian Arab protests against the Secretary of State, with mobs chanting, “Oh Kerry, you coward, you have no room in Palestine,” and setting fire to his portrait.

The Israelis have not viewed John Kerry with much favor either. In February, only 17% of Israelis trusted that the US would maintain Israel’s security interests in a deal. In a leaked conversation, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya’alon mirrored this sentiment by saying, “The American security plan that was presented to us is not worth the paper it was written on.”

The Defense Minister lambasted the US for being out of touch with Israel’s security needs, saying, “There is no meaning to the satellites and the sensors that the Americans are offering. The five-year-old boy with the explosive belt will

in favor.

This is a very different atmosphere from when Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister during the Oslo accords, ran on a platform of a two-state solution. Roughly half of the Israeli government at that time was also optimistic about a two-state solution.

But after enduring two decades of failed negotiations and suffering the same number of violent intifadas, Israel has grown a bit wary about the effectiveness of these diplomatic exchanges. Indyk may blame Israel for trudging through the peace talks half-heartedly, but Israel is largely mistrustful of the negotiations, and many members of the Israeli government do not think the Palestinians are serious about peace either.

This skepticism can best be emphasized by the prisoner releases, another reason for the breakdown. As a precursor to the talks, Israel was required to release 104 Palestinian prisoners over a nine-month timetable.

The final round of prisoner releases was scheduled to take place in April. However, given that the talks were about to end with no deal in sight, both Israel’s Economy Minister and Deputy Defense Minister threatened to resign if the last round of prisoners were set free.

The two ministers, Naftali Bennett and Danny Danon, are two of the most prominent figures in Israeli politics. They are both on the Israeli right-wing, just like the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu now had to choose between US interests and defying his own party. To keep the internal peace, Netanyahu refused to release the last batch of prisoners, bringing him

In this climate, there is no guarantee a newly formed Palestinian state would last. But that is precisely why the United States has pushed the negotiations so hard: Abbas may not be the best choice, but the alternatives to Abbas could be far worse.

continue to try and hurt us when he grows up.”

Overall, he criticized the Secretary of State for being naïve and inexperienced, and famously called Kerry’s efforts “messianic” and “obsessive.”

In a speech discussing the aftermath of the talks, Martin Indyk, one of the negotiators for the US, faulted Israel for not being serious about negotiations. Why is this a surprise?

The Israeli Prime Minister’s conservative Likud party holds the most seats in Israel’s parliament, the Knesset. Almost all of them oppose a two-state solution at this time. The majority of the members on the Likud central committee are also not

international scrutiny. But this was not about petty politics. This was about Israel’s security.

Could Israel trust a neighboring Palestinian state to cease from waging a war of attrition? Well, the prisoner releases did not help. The prisoners were held on account of terrorism charges. According to the Washington Post, “many [were] convicted of murdering Israeli civilians.”

The PA, however, does not consider the prisoners to be terrorists. After every prisoner release, Abbas gave a commencement ceremony honoring the killers, hailing them as “heroes” and “martyrs.”

Many of them are glorified, such as Issa Abd Ramo, who murdered two innocent college students who were on a hike. Upon Ramo's release, Abbas held up his hand triumphantly and heralded Ramo as a "hero."

For his part, US President Barack Obama continued to endorse Abbas, even after Abbas's behavior at the prisoner release ceremonies. Obama affirmed that Abbas "does not engage in some of the wild rhetoric that you so often see in the Arab world when it comes to Israel."

Israel has been dumbfounded by the Americans' overwhelming apathy toward the Arab media. Netanyahu demanded that Abbas end what he calls the "incitement."

The incitement refers to the anti-Semitic rhetoric that is the PA's trademark: publishing glamorized pictures of Hitler in school textbooks; spreading false propaganda in broadcasts of young children singing songs about Jews raping and killing women in the streets; dehumanizing Jews by likening them to rats and crows; glorifying the murderers of innocent civilians by naming schools, summer camps, streets, shopping centers and soccer stadiums after terrorists; and, of course, tacitly endorsing murder of innocent civilians by idolizing the prisoners who have been convicted of their murders.

Netanyahu's plea went largely ignored, and those in the Israeli government doubted the Palestinians' desire for peace. The Israelis halted the last prisoner release and approved the building of 700 homes in the southern Jerusalem

neighborhood of Gilo [please make sure that what I've added is what Amanda was referring to].

Not to be outdone, Abbas submitted paperwork to be a part of 15 international conventions. Some of these conventions are in the UN. By doing so, Abbas attempted to circumvent the PA's commitment not to unilaterally seek international legitimacy.

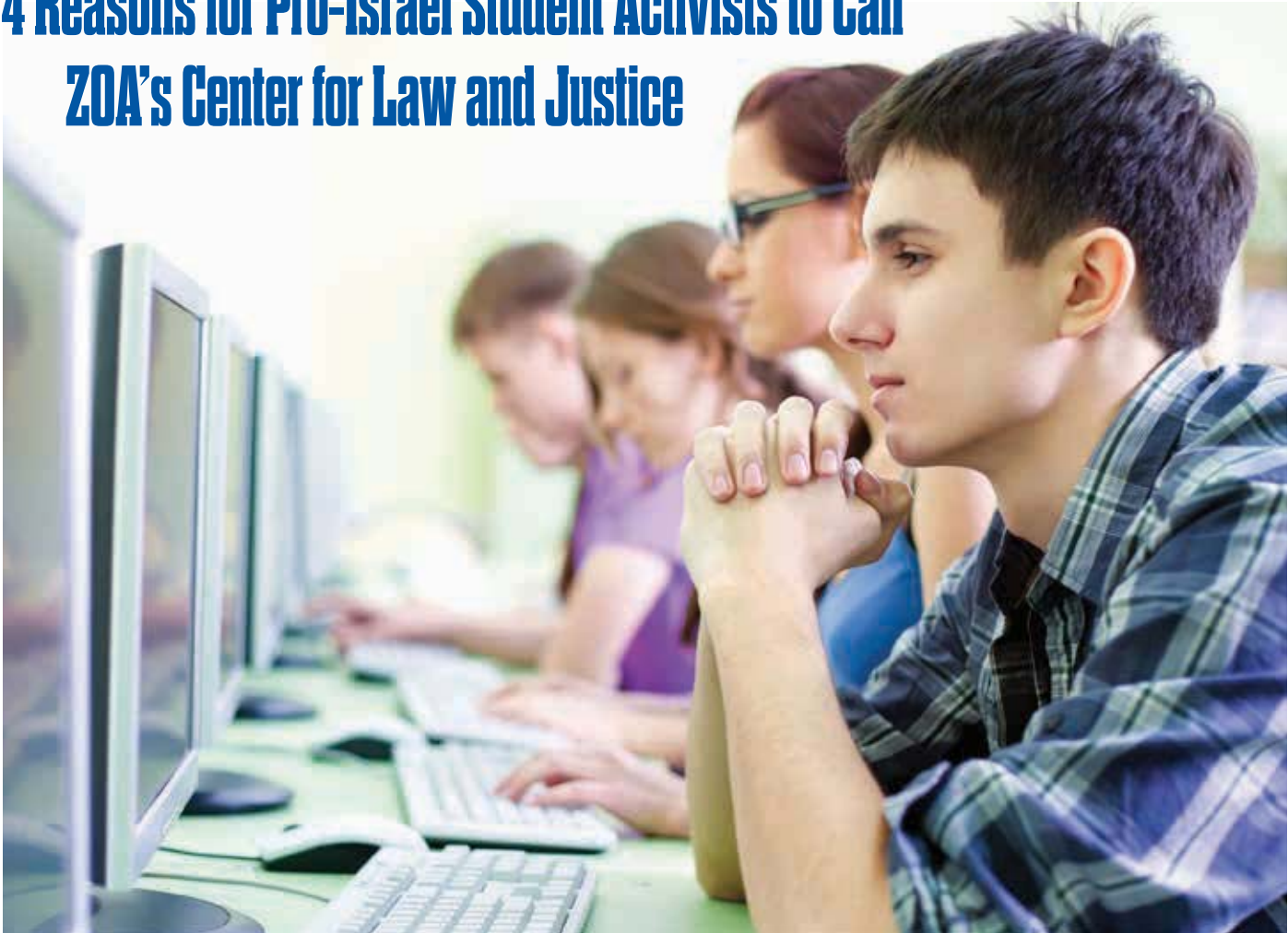
Kerry was taken off-guard by Abbas's brazen actions, possibly because Abbas's double-speak to the Arab media went almost unnoticed. Perhaps these events could have been foreseen if the Americans weren't quite so committed to their view of Abbas as a moderate and a peacemaker.

The real shame is that efforts like these make it harder to achieve peace. Kerry did not bring the parties together; he polarized them further. With the prisoner releases bringing up old fears, Netanyahu was forced to pull back from negotiations, a position he has embraced since 2010. Abbas adopted a strategy in which he does not have to talk to Israel at all.

Worst of all, Kerry perpetuated the notion that the next step is to draw up borders. That is premature. Instead, energy should be put towards building bridges and cultural integration, because neither side wants a neighbor it doesn't trust. It is only through a gradual, mutual shift to the center that a real solution can be achieved. Or we can try it Kerry's way instead.



4 Reasons for Pro-Israel Student Activists to Call ZOA's Center for Law and Justice



1. You are being threatened or harassed verbally or physically in the classroom, dorms, or elsewhere on campus (in person or via social media) because of your views on Zionism or for your Jewish affiliation or ethnicity.

2. Campus groups, students, faculty, or other members of your campus community are pressuring you to alter or cancel a pro-Israel event because they consider it offensive or too controversial.

3. You or your pro-Israel group is being discriminated against. For example, students or student groups are trying to prevent the formation of your pro-Israel group or students or student groups are trying to prevent you from participating in student government because of your support for Israel.

4. You have brought problems of campus anti-Semitism to the attention of school officials, and they have ignored them or failed to effectively address them.

ZOA works with students to combat anti-Semitism and hate on campus, including when it's expressed as anti-Israel or anti-Zionist sentiment that crosses the line into anti-Semitism.

We filed a groundbreaking legal action on behalf of Jewish college students under federal civil rights law, after they were subjected to anti-Semitism that wasn't being addressed. We led the campaign to ensure that a federal law called Title VI of the Civil Rights Act would be enforced to protect Jewish students. We are here to answer your questions, help you resolve problems, and protect your right to a safe and respectful campus environment.

Please contact Susan Tuchman, Esq., ZOA Director of Center for Law and Justice for inquiries on responding to harassment.

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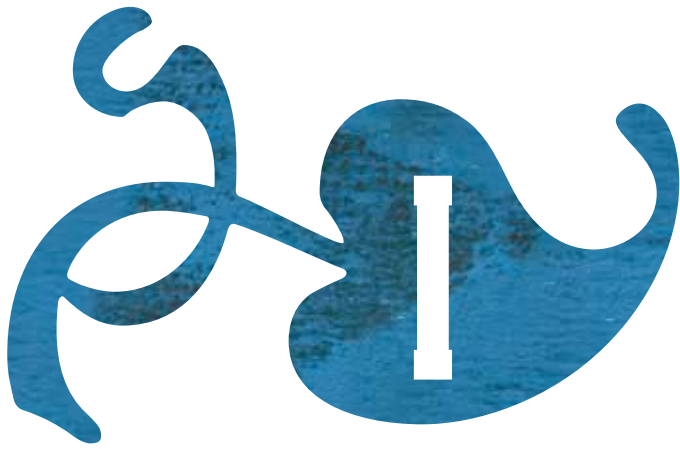
Why Women Should Support Israel



Devorah Yarmush

Stern College/Yeshiva University





“Israeli women...enjoy full and equal rights unrivaled anywhere in the Middle East—indeed, in most of the world.”

-Lior Weintraub,
Spokesman for the Embassy
of Israel, January 18, 2012 [1]

Women get paid seventy-seven cents for every dollar a man makes and are granted zero paid days of maternity

leave in the United States. They are objectified on billboards and have a weak presence in the US army.

But in Israel, women are thriving. Since Israel's rebirth in 1948, Israel has relentlessly dedicated itself to bringing opportunities to its minority groups. A year after Israel was established, the Israeli Knesset (Israeli Parliament) declared, “full and complete equality will be granted to women—equality of rights and

obligations in political, social, and economic life and in the entire system of law.” [2] Since that day, women's representation in government, education and employment status, and women's physical safety, have been at the forefront of Israel's dialogue and policies.

In fact, Israel's feminist-minded concern predates the founding of the State of Israel. Israel not only has female signatories on her Declaration of Independence, but the Jewish National Council, which predated the Knesset, had women active, voting, and within its ranks from the time of its establishment in 1920, the year US women were enfranchised. [3]

Since its inception, Israeli law demanded equality. The country has honored this commitment to women and their safety, by passing—

and continuing to pass—equality bills on behalf of its women. In 1951, three years after Israel's establishment, the Knesset passed the Women's Equal Rights Law, which established that all female members of Israeli society have a right to equal employment, education, health, environmental quality, and social welfare. It also states that all women have a right to be protected from violence, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. [4]

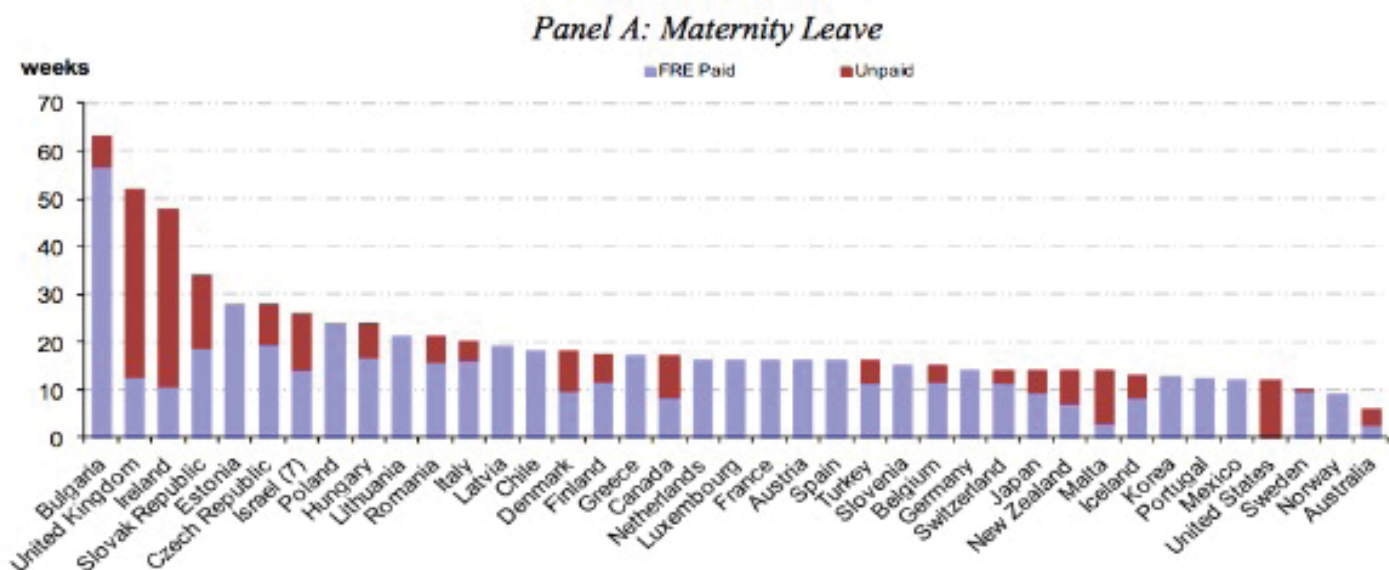
Many of these policies have come from women themselves, who have been politically active and working to implement these laws right from the start. Unlike its neighbors, Israel is a flourishing democracy, whose government offices are home to women, minority groups, and outspoken critics of the Israeli government itself. Israel's immensely diverse group of leaders makes up a government consisting of twelve parties, ranging from left to right, religious to secular, Jewish to Arab, and more.

Among these leaders are three government ministers, twenty-four members of Parliament, the heads of Israel's two main opposition parties, a general on the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, all of whom are women. [5]

A total of twenty-seven women sit in the current



Chart PF2.1.A: Child-related leave periods by duration of unpaid leave and the duration of the full-rate equivalent of the leave period if paid at 100% of last earnings, 2011/2012



Source: The Atlantic, The Countries Where Women Have the Best Lives, in Charts, March 8, 2013

2014 Knesset, and represent a wide array of political stances, including Labor (center-left), Meretz (left-wing), Hatnua (center-left; established by female political figure, Tzipi Livni), Yesh Atid (center), Likud-Beyteinu (center-right/right), and Bayit Ha-Yehudi (right). [6] Three of those political parties— Hatnua, Labor, and Meretz— are currently led by women. [7] Many women also hold ministerial and judicial positions.

But women's leadership in Israel goes even further. Golda Meir served as Israel's fourth Prime Minister (1969–1974), after serving as Minister of Labor and Foreign Minister. She was the world's third woman to hold such an office [8]—

America has yet to join the ranks of female-led countries.

Israel also integrates women into the military wonderfully. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) consists of a higher percentage of women than any other country in the world. Women also make up a majority (fifty-seven percent) of the IDF's non-career officers [9] and are eligible for roughly 90 percent of military jobs, more than any other country. [10]

Women are not just political voices or military agents, however. Women's presence in media is thriving, too. Lucy Aharish is Israel's first Arab prime-time news anchor on a Hebrew channel and serves

as a strong feminist voice. In the spirit of diversity, she's moving to a channel called i24, an Israeli TV channel aimed at providing viewers with alternate perspectives on the Middle East. It is broadcast from Jaffa, a city shared by Jews and Arabs, and is presented in three languages—English, French, and Arabic—but no Hebrew, in order to serve as a medium for non-Israelis.

The wide representation of women in the government, military, and beyond is no surprise, considering that women in Israel come from all over the world. Israeli women run the cultural gamut. Some public figures include Israel's 2013 Beauty Queen who is of Ethiopian descent, the 2014 Beauty Queen who is of Moroccan

descent, and Salma Fayumi, a Muslim woman from Kfar Kassem—and a nurse with a master's degree—who won second place in Israel's Master Chef reality television series. Niral Karantinji, an Arab-Israeli Muslim from Haifa won Israel's *Next Top Model* in 2006.

These women aren't the only women who are winning— women in the workplace are no different. While the Israeli workplace shares the global struggle of democratic women across the map, it values cultural integration, progressiveness, and is opportunity-minded, particularly for women. Back in 1954, Israel passed the Employment Women Law, making it illegal for employers to refuse to hire

pregnant women or for employers to fire women who take maternity leave or need to take off time from work during their pregnancies; Israel has honored this commitment to professional soon-to-be mothers ever since. [11] Working mothers, too, are accounted for in the workplace. Israel has put in great effort to be sensitive to working mothers to enable success. Reference this financial difference between working American mothers and working Israeli mothers.

Before making it in the corporate world, Israeli females are offered stellar, advanced education to reach their professions. In fact, in 2013 more women received PhD degrees than men for the first time in Israeli universities. The universities included Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University, and Bar Ilan University, and doctoral degrees in life sciences, exact sciences, engineering and medicine. In fact, the valedictorian of the 2013 class at Technion University was a Muslim woman named Mais Ali-Saleh who grew up in a small Arab village outside of Nazareth, in northern Israel. Ali-Saleh explicitly rejects claims made by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement that Israel is an apartheid state and firmly stated that Israel's academic institutions should not be boycotted. [12]

Given the opportunities that are open to women in Israel's government and military, and the impressive female presence in higher Israeli academic institutions, this feminist refuses not to support Israel. I am too invested in women's rights to turn my back on a country that urges social change and celebrates feminism. Feminists around the globe must unite in support of Israel, an exemplar in women's leadership. Demand that the world not ignore what Israel does for its women and girls. Insist that your campus community, which rallies on behalf of so many voiceless others, not stay silent in the face of feminism. Think of the strides Israel has made to

create a better society. Gender justice in Israel is one example of what is possible for American society and societies around the world.

NOTES

- [1] New York Times, *Women's Rights in Israel*, Jan. 19, 2012
- [2] United with Israel, *Israel: A Pioneer in Women's Rights*
- [3] United with Israel, *Israel: A Pioneer in Women's Rights*
- [4] Knesset, Women's Equal Rights Law, p. 69. 5711-1951
- [5] New York Times, *Women's Rights in Israel*, Jan. 19, 2012
- [6] United with Israel, *Israel: A Pioneer in Women's Rights*
- [7] Ibid
- [8] History Today, *The History Today Archive*
- [9] Arutz Sheva, IDF Most 'Female Friendly' Army in the World, March 7, 2013
- [10] Jewish Virtual Library, *Women in Israel: In the Israel Defense Forces*.
- [11] United with Israel, *Israel: A Pioneer in Women's Rights*
- [12] The Algemeiner, *Arab Valedictorian at Israel's Technion University is a 'Stereotype-Buster'*, July 18, 2013

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The Truth About UN Resolution 242:

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**Elliott Hamilton
Pitzer College**



The media tends to embody a hub of disinformation when discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict. Propaganda is seen as factual, anti-Semitic undertones are ignored, and gross exaggerations and oversimplifications become normative in casual debate. This is the case when anti-Zionists use terms such as “1967 borders,” “apartheid,” or “occupation;” none of those words holding any legal standing when put into the context of international law. However, one point of discussion is more difficult to back up, especially considering how anti-Israel advocates overgeneralize the legal meaning.

United Nations Resolution 242 is one of the most cited sources when discussing the legality of Israel's territorial gains. Following the Six-Day War, where Israel defended itself from four armies seeking its annihilation, the United Nations Security Council convened to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Israel had captured the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, Judea and Samaria, and Eastern Jerusalem in order to secure territory and remove the strategic advantages the Arabs held for eighteen years.

Anti-Israel propagandists often use the wording of this resolution improperly. They say that 242 calls for Israel to “withdraw from the occupied territories” of the “West Bank” and East Jerusalem. However, Resolution 242 consists of far more language than just that controversial statement. The most common misconception of 242 comes from the first recommendation:

(1) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the recent conflict

It is noticeable that the United Nations Security Council did not specify which territories Israel needed to withdraw from. Propagandists have a penchant for including “the” in front of “territories.” Consequently, people demonize Israel because such claims on 242 argue that Israel “occupies” Eastern Jerusalem and the “West Bank.” However, when you correctly remove the article, “territories” is open-ended and subject to interpretation.

In fact, Israel followed the recommendations of 242 on two different occasions. The first time was when Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula, which is three times larger than the State of Israel itself, following the Camp David Accords in 1979, when it signed a peace treaty with Egypt. Finally, Israel disengaged from the Gaza Strip in 2005 in an attempt to create peace with the Palestinians. The subsequent rocket attacks into Southern Israel became problematic as it relates to the Resolution 242's second recommendation:

(2) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

Anti-Zionists love to omit this part of the resolution. This clause justifies Israel's presence within Judea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights. Securing borders are central to Israel's survival as a nation-state. Between 1949 and 1967, the Arab armies used the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights to launch artillery strikes and commit terrorist attacks on the Israelis living below. By removing that territory from genocidal hands, Israel has eliminated much of the threats posed by the Syrians and more recently, the Palestinian terrorists. Since the

Gaza Strip was given to the Palestinians, terrorists launched thousands of rockets into Southern Israel, giving children fifteen seconds to hide for cover almost daily. Resolution 242 argues that Israel maintaining control over that territory would secure the border from “acts of force” that threaten to destroy Israel.

The second clause further demonstrates that Israel has not violated Resolution 242 due to the absence of a Palestinian state. Since there was none in 1967, it is impossible for Israel to acknowledge the “sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence” of “Palestine.” The argument that propagandists use to coin the “occupation” is legally unjustifiable on the grounds that no Palestinian state existed and the lands of Judea and Samaria are disputed territories.

Since Israel secured those lands in order to establish secure boundaries without violating the independence of its neighbors, Israel maintains its administrative rights to the land and its territorial right to establish settlements.

Based off the evidence above, people must acknowledge that Israel did comply with Resolution 242. Despite the fact that anti-Zionists continue to claim otherwise, Israel’s actions since the Six-Day War further demonstrate its intention on upholding international law. However, the media’s propensity to spread disinformation exemplifies the reasons why people should look at the facts and remain informed. The next time a Zionist is confronted that Israel violated 242, keep the facts in mind and be sure to dismantle any argument that claims Israel did not comply with international law.



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George
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College is a time for us, as students, to explore our views and transform into the young men and women who will lead the world in the coming years. We are encouraged to explore who we are, what we stand for, and what we hope to accomplish in our short time on this earth. In its purest form, college is supposed to be a time that encourages “tolerance for other people’s ideas and the freedom to express your own,” yet modern-day colleges only serve to perpetuate “tyrannical tendencies of monarchs, mobs, and majorities,” as former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg eloquently said at Harvard University’s commencement ceremony. The idea, espoused by Mayor Bloomberg -- that “a liberal arts education must not be the art of liberalism” -- has been ignored and replaced with the notion that if one does not agree, he or she must be wrong. This poisoning of academia has led to a distortion of facts and anti-Israel leanings, all perpetrated by those whom society trusts with the minds of the youth. College today is not what it should be. The ivory tower is replete with hypocrisy and if there is no change, we will lose the true value of a college education. We are already losing a right we hold dear: freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech is what enables me to espouse my love

of Israel. I am free to discuss the economic opportunities offered in Israel. I am free to discuss the diversity of the Israeli government. I am free to discuss Israel’s status as the Middle East’s only democracy and most gay-friendly country in this otherwise oppressive region. I am free to talk about the assistance the Israel Defense Force offers to ravaged nations.

The very existence of Israel is a complex topic rooted in history that dates back to the Biblical era. There is no simple answer. Israel’s history is pockmarked with controversial events that engender fierce debate and discussion. On today’s campuses, there are groups ranging from SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine) to J-Street to the ZOA (Zionist Organization of America). Each of these groups has its opinions and beliefs. As a pro-Israel student, I am consistently upset by the views espoused by SJP and even J-Street (a supposed pro-Israel organization), to a certain extent. SJP often calls Israel an oppressor of minorities and an abuser of human rights. It has gone so far as to actively promote BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) against Israel, a damaging movement that merely manages to harm both Israelis and Palestinian Arabs. The leader of J-Street, Jeremy Ben-Ami, announced that

Mahmoud Abbas (the President of the Palestinian Authority) does not need to recognize Israel, but Israel has to recognize Palestine. These views devastate me as a proud supporter of Israel and a young man who wants to see a successful Israel thrive in a peaceful world. If it were my choice, as an independent young man, I would not give these groups a platform with which to espouse their hatred. Yet, as a college student at a liberal arts college, I know that to squelch their views would simply harm the organizations that I fervently support.

At today’s colleges, where J-Street and SJP preach, pro-Israel supporters have begun to feel threatened. The promise of college has disappeared for those who are passionate for Israel. This hypocrisy represents the liberalization of academia, at the expense of the freedom of speech that colleges once promised their students. As long as

this situation continues unchallenged, pro-Israel supporters will continue to feel oppressed and a resolution to this complex solution will continue to evade us. Freedom of speech is not a privilege; it is a right, even on college campuses.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s speech at Harvard’s commencement was a call to arms. Academia must face the hypocrisy it is propagating. Students may appreciate the views of noted liberals like Cory Booker, Valerie Jarrett, and Al Gore; they must also listen to those like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Condoleezza Rice, and Christine LaGarde. When the latter three lose their ability to speak on college campuses, colleges lose what makes them intellectual bastions. Colleges must embrace Bloomberg’s belief that “a liberal arts education must not be the art of liberalism”; otherwise, these elite institutions will simply produce students unwilling to embrace differences.

Continued from page 7

residents that it would attack a house occupied by terrorists, but civilians nonetheless flooded the house in question. Why? Because, as the Wall Street Journal reported, “family members who survived said they thought if they stayed as human shields, they could stop the attack and dozens of men rushed to the roof.”

If Hamas didn’t send 4000 rockets into Israel, Israel would not have been forced to defend its citizens. As Winston Churchill once said, “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.”

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