

THE COLLEGE ZIONIST

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZOA CAMPUS ACTIVISM NETWORK

SPRING
2012



THE DRUZE PAGE 6



APARTHEID MYTH PAGE 10



1967 BORDERS PAGE 14

PALESTINIAN INCITEMENT

BY BARUCH LANE



Founded in 1897

ZOA
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

ZOA Staff Message

The People Who Make the Organization

Thank you for picking up the Spring 2012 issue of the College Zionist.

First time readers; the College Zionist is a ZOA publication written by students, for students. You will find stories about Israel that matter to you and will help you learn more about current events in the Middle East.

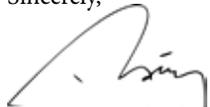
Every year it seems students are faced with new challenges when advocating for Israel on campus. No matter what the issue, ZOA's agenda is always the same; to educate students on the important current and historical foundations of Israel and the Middle East. In addition to Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations and Israel Fairs, it is essential to provide strong educational resources for students who are putting themselves at the forefront of Israel Activism on campus. It's important to know that deeply engrained Palestinian Arab Incitement and hatred of Jews is the reason for the lack of peace in Israel, a largely ignored fact. Our cover theme this issue focuses on just that. You'll also find an explanation of what it really means to be an Apartheid state, highlighting widely known and some not so widely known truths that exemplify Israel as not only the opposite of Apartheid, but the guiding light of democracy and human rights.

Among much recent talk of the "67' Borders", one writer outlines what these borders actually are, how they came about, and what they mean today. These are facts that every pro-Israel advocate should know. Simply put, you will find in-depth discussion by your fellow students on some of the most important issues facing Israel today.

Since the need for educated pro-Israel advocates is more important than ever, ZOA has created an educational series designed to address some of the most vital topics for Israel. The topics include "Judea and Samaria: The Jewish Homeland", "The Case for an Undivided Jerusalem", "Gaza: 6 Years Later", "The Dangers of Palestinian Incitement", and coming soon, "Zionism Defined". We are also looking forward to hosting our first ever ZOA Student Lobbying Mission to Capitol Hill. Check out our ads for details.

No matter how you choose to be active, it is more important than ever for pro-Israel advocates to be well-educated in order to defend Israel's rights. We hope these articles will get you thinking, and we look forward to continuing the discussion throughout the year. Always feel free to check out what's going on at www.thecollegezionist.org. **ZOA**

Sincerely,



Sharona Whisler
Managing Director, ZOA Campus Programs

David Kadosh
Associate Director, ZOA Campus Programs

Jason Holtzman
ZOA Campus Coordinator

Leo Nayfeld
ZOA Campus Coordinator

Avraham Davidov
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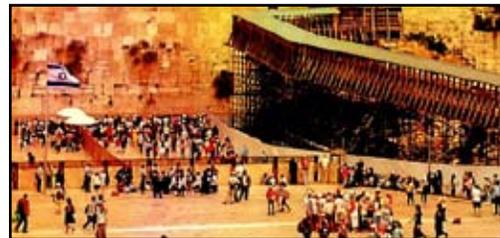
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ZOA Campus Staff

The People Who Make the Organization



Sharona Whisler Sharona Whisler began working for ZOA in 2007 when she graduated from The George Washington University. She was a student participant in the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel, Hasbara Fellowships and was an Israel Project fellow and intern. Sharona studied abroad at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and upon graduation from college, she was presented with the ICC of Greater Washington award for Outstanding Leadership and an award of recognition from Hasbara Fellowships for her years of activism on campus. She has worked for ZOA as a campus coordinator in New York, Washington, and Miami. She has staffed three ZOA Student Leadership Missions to Israel. In November, 2011 Sharona became the Managing Director of ZOA's Campus Department. Sharona lives in Miami with her husband, Josh.



Jason Holtzman is the ZOA Midwest Campus Director and proud to be a native of Philadelphia - the City of Brotherly Love. He recently graduated from Hofstra University with a BA in Political Science and a strong focus on Middle Eastern Central Asia Studies. Jason's passion is advocating for Israel and fair reporting of issues related to Middle Eastern affairs. While at Hofstra, he served in various leadership positions, including being the president of Hofstra's pro-Israel

group EMET for a year and a half. In addition, Jason completed an internship with the ZOA and did fellowships with other pro-Israel groups, such as StandWithUs and the David Project. He has also traveled extensively throughout Israel and the surrounding region to develop first-hand a connection with the land, the people, and the issues. Jason served as an intern for the Jerusalem Report, in the summer of 2009, where he wrote and published.



David Kadosh has been promoted to Associate Director of Campus Programs and has recently relocated to California to establish a Western branch of the ZOA Campus Department. He 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. David is proficient in Arabic and Hebrew. He is the co-founder of Hofstra University's Israel advocacy organization, EMET (Educating for Middle East Truth). David loves to travel, especially to Israel, having gone nine times so far! Since graduation, David has continued his work on Israel advocacy with the goal of getting young people more involved in the State of Israel. David has worked for the ZOA Campus Department for the past 3 years and was the Director of Young Professional Activities in New York.

Leo Nayfeld grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and first became active in Israel advocacy after participating on a P2K trip



in the summer of 2007 in which he spent a month in Israel and Poland. After seeing the horrors of the Holocaust, Israel became a much more meaningful and important part of Leo's life, and he fought to educate his peers at Miami University about Israel. While serving as President of Miami Students for Israel, Leo attended the ZOA Mission to Israel in the Winter of 2008/2009 and used the tools he gained back at Miami. Leo looks forward to instilling students in the Midwest with the values and beliefs of the ZOA, and is eagerly looking forward to the challenge that awaits him.



Avi Davidov is the ZOA Campus Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic region. He grew up in New York and is a graduate of Queens College where he majored in Jewish history with a concentration on Israel and the Middle East. Avi is fluent in Hebrew and Russian. Throughout high-school and college, Avi tutored Hebrew to Russian immigrants in his synagogue. While in college, Avi was active with pro-Israel groups that brought ZOA programs to campus. For Avi, Zionism is a passion. His father proudly served for Israel in the Sinai and was in the reserves during the Lebanon War in 1982. With strong Zionist values, Avi plans to make Aliya in the near future. In the interim, he hopes to strengthen Israel's reputation on campuses. Avi was a participant on the ZOA Student Leadership Mission to Israel and completed an internship with the ZOA in the summer of 2011.

President's Message

Viewpoint: The truth about the Palestinian Authority



We must go on the offensive by delegitimizing the delegitimizers – by speaking loudly and clearly the unalloyed truth about Abbas's PA.

Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority (PA) has launched into a bid to obtain statehood through the United Nations, refusing negotiations with Israel.

This is illegal.

The Oslo II agreement (1995), Article 31, Paragraph 7, is explicit: "Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations."

Clearly Abbas's goal is statehood without agreeing to end all claims against Israel.

Last May, Abbas wrote in *The New York Times*, "Palestine's admission to the UN would pave the way for the internationalization of the conflict as a legal matter. It would pave the way for us to pursue claims against Israel at the UN, human rights treaty bodies and the International Court of Justice."

In short, more conflict – not peace.

In addressing the UN on September 23, Abbas spoke of "the Land of Palestine, the land of divine messages," and referred to Muhammad and Jesus – but not to Moses or David, nor the biblical Jewish kingdoms nor the vast, rich Jewish history that long preceded the Arab conquest in the 7th century.

The American Jewish community has rightly opposed the Palestinian UN statehood bid. But far more is required. Israel and American Jewish organizations must stop taking defensive positions.

We must cease speaking of PA leaders as "moderates" and "peace partners" who "deserve a state." No one who deliberately murders Israelis, delegitimizes the country, erases Jewish history, promotes hatred and violence, and seeks to replace Israel with a state called 'Palestine' deserves anything, let alone statehood.

Instead, we must go on the offensive by delegitimizing the delegitimizers – by speaking loudly and clearly the unalloyed truth about Abbas's PA. From the prime minister down, in a sustained manner, the Israeli government and American Jewish organizations must tell the truth of the Arab war on Israel's existence.

They must tell the truth more forcefully about Israel – not an interloper, an alien invader of another's land, but a country located in the religious, biblical, historical heartland of the Jewish people, as known and accepted by the over one billion Bible believers around the world. It is called the Promised Land for a reason – because it was promised to the Jews by God. And it is, moreover, a country earmarked for the reconstitution of the Jewish nation by the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the 1920 San Remo Conference.

The American Jewish community must also tell the truth about the PA. Fatah, which governs the PA, calls in its unrescinded Charter for "demolishing the Zionist state" (Article 22) and for the "armed struggle" (Article 19) against Israel to continue as an indispensable element in the struggle to achieve that goal. Earlier this year, the PA signed a unity government agreement with Hamas, which calls in its Charter for the destruction of Israel (Article 15) and the murder of Jews (Article 7).

Naming schools, streets and sports teams after Jew-killing terrorists; honoring their families; publicizing false accusations that Israel has infected Palestinians with AIDS or made them addicted to drugs; delivering sermons denouncing Jews as the common enemy of mankind – all these things serve a culture of demonization of Israel and Jews that erases any prospect for peace.

As Abbas has said several times, "I do not accept the Jewish state, call it what you will."

He has also declared, "It is not required of Hamas, or of Fatah, or of the Popular Front to recognize Israel." He has told Arab leaders, "If you want war, and if all of you will fight Israel, we are in favor."

But do we tell the world this? Or do we continue to call Abbas a "moderate" and "peacemaker?" Under these circumstances, it is obvious that a PA state will be simply another racist terrorist state. It will be able to form alliances with foreign countries and terrorist groups. Hamas, with Iranian help, could well take it over. Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion Airport and Tel Aviv will be in range of hand-held missiles fired from PA territory; but, unlike now, there will be no Israel Defense Forces in PA territory to preempt such attacks.

A Palestinian state will also be a state ethnically cleansed of Jews. Abbas himself has said so: "We won't agree to the presence of one Israeli in it ... when a Palestinian state is established, it would have no Israeli presence in it."

Palestinian statehood is not the solution to these massive problems.

Iran, North Korea, Syria are all sovereign states – that fact hasn't moderated their regimes or turned them into peacemakers.

On the contrary, they have real sovereign power with which to pursue their terrible agendas.

It is vital that Israel's friends go on the offensive and make the truth widely known. The PA has enjoyed undeserved sympathy and support which persistent truth-telling can erode. Correspondingly, understanding of Israel's position can be improved, and with it, the incessant pressure to make further one-sided concessions can be accordingly reduced. But this will not happen if we allow the world to continue thinking of Abbas as a responsible peace partner. **ZOA**

Morton Klein is president of ZOA, the Zionist Organization of America.



An essential part of Israeli society, the Druze citizens of Israel have shown to be loyal and patriotic citizens since Israel's independence. The Druze are recognized as a distinct religious sect in Israel. According to their beliefs, they are descendants of Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses. People categorize the Druze as Muslims because of their religious dress and their use of the Arabic language.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DRUZE
ISRAEL'S LOYAL CITIZENS
★ ★ ★ BY AVI DAVIDOV ★ ★ ★

They were a faction

of Islam until the 11th century when they separated and became a distinct religion. Due to this separation from Islam, they were considered to be heretics by most Muslims. [1] When the Zionist leaders were ready to establish a state for the Jews in the Jewish homeland, they were looking for Arab allies that would help their cause. [2] As expressed in the declaration of Independence, “[Israel] will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed or sex. [3]” The Druze were aware that if they aid the Jews they will be given all rights as equal citizens within the Jewish state.

Anti-Israel advocates try to portray Israel as the “Jewish Only State” suggesting that Israel treats its non-Jewish citizens with

be recognized as Israeli and often take offense when people label them Palestinian. Riad Hassoun, the city clerk of Daliat-el Carmel, Israel, conveyed that when he is introduced as a speaker outside of Israel, they often refer to him as a “Palestinian Druze.” In a personal interview with Mr. Hassoun, he expressed that he takes offense when labeled a Palestinian for he is a patriotic Israeli. “I served my country for three years, I was the commander of my unit [in the army], and Israel is my country. I am not Palestinian; I am Israeli. We are always loyal to our land and we are loyal to Israel” said Hassoun. [4]

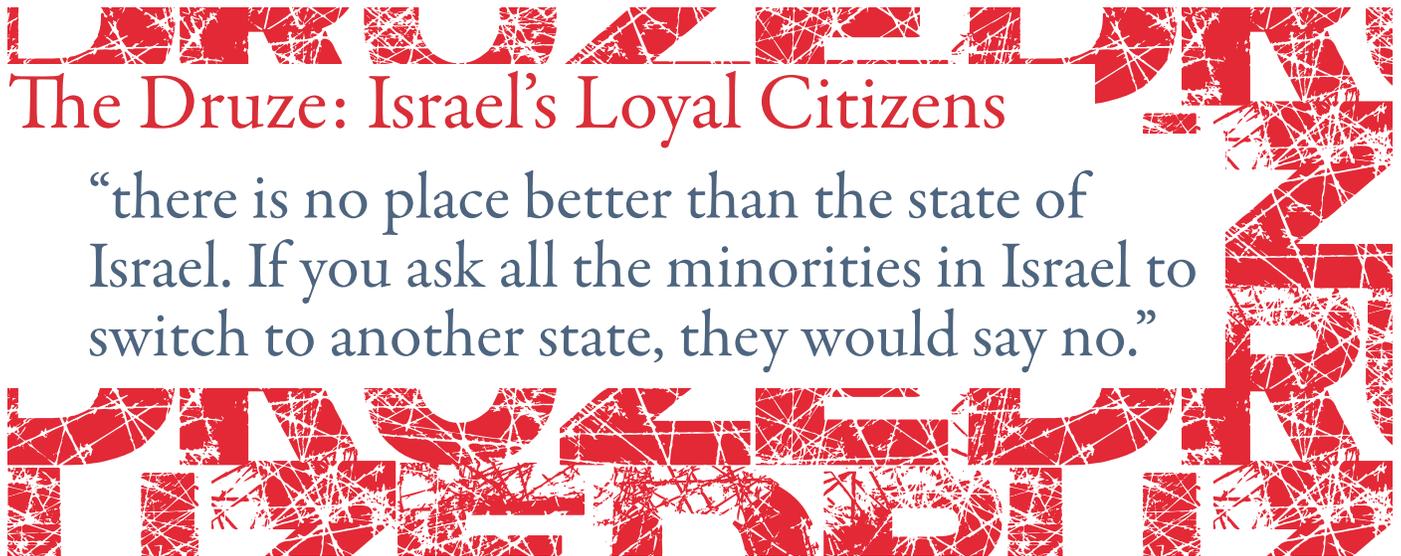
Where does the loyalty for Israel come from? Why have the Druze taken a different position on Israel than the general Arab stance? Mendi Safadi, a Druze from the Galilee region of Israel

than the Jews. He expressed that 94.6% of Israeli Druze serve in the IDF, compared to approximately 65% of Israeli Jews. Safadi stipulated that the only connection between the Druze and the Arabs is the language. “I am a Zionist and I do not have any connection with the Arab ideology, my connection is with the Arab language, the same connection an Iraqi Jew would have.” [5]

Often on campuses

we hear professors preaching that Israel does not give equal rights to minorities. Groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine say Israel treats Arab as second class citizens. Campuses across the world mark Israel Apartheid Week where they falsely compare Israeli policies to Apartheid

and sit in the Israeli Knesset. Is this similar to South African Apartheid? Whoever claims that Israel is an apartheid state does not know what apartheid means. Israel grants more rights to minorities than any country in the world. I have never had any feeling that an Israeli Jew is superior to any other Israeli.” Safadi mentioned that the Arab minority in Israel are lacking one thing. It is illegal for them to ally themselves with terrorist organizations and with enemy states that wish to destroy Israel. The reason why the Muslim Arabs are vehemently anti-Israel is because they do not believe in Israel’s right to exist. This is what separates the Druze from the Muslims. Safadi explained that if Israel was not in existence, Islamic extremists like Hamas and Hezbollah would be against



The Druze: Israel’s Loyal Citizens

“there is no place better than the state of Israel. If you ask all the minorities in Israel to switch to another state, they would say no.”

inferiority. While Israel is the only Jewish State in the world, and the homeland of the Jewish people for thousands of years, it has a substantial amount of citizens that are not Jewish. Many Arab citizens of Israel are critical of Israel and consider themselves Palestinian despite residing within Israel’s borders. However, Druze citizens of Israel choose to

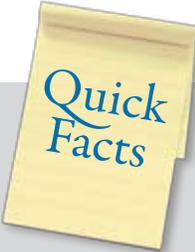
and chief of staff to Deputy Minister Ayoob Kara explained that the Druze religion originated together with the Jewish religion. “The prophet Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, is our prophet. We left Egypt together with the Jews and arrived in the land of Israel together.” Safadi explained that in certain cases the Druze show more patriotism towards Israel

South African policies. Although Druze, Safadi described that he proudly accepts Israel being a Jewish state, because it is the only state in the Middle East that gives rights to all its citizens. “Currently, there is a Deputy Minister who is not Jewish and serves in the government. There are 14 Knesset [Parliament] Members that are not Jewish

the Christians in Lebanon and Egypt. He described the conflict as religious and not territorial.

We are not prone

to see the story of the Druze in the IDF on CNN, BBC, or Al-Jazeera. We do not hear the fact that the chief of security for the President of the State of Israel



Quick Facts



BRIGADIER GENERAL HASSON HASSON, AN ISRAELI DRUZE, SERVES AS THE MILITARY SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT SHIMON PERES



THE DRUZE COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS A SEPARATE RELIGIOUS ENTITY WITH ITS OWN COURTS (WITH JURISDICTION IN MATTERS OF PERSONAL STATUS - MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, MAINTENANCE AND ADOPTION) AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.



DRUZE VOLUNTEERED WITH MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE HAGANAH BEFORE THE CREATION OF ISRAEL AND CONTINUED TO VOLUNTEER AFTER ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE. IN 1956, ISRAEL INSTITUTED COMPULSORY SERVICE FOR MALE DRUZE.

is Druze. We do not hear the positions of Deputy Minister Ayoob Kara, a Druze from the Likud party who advocates for a united Jerusalem.⁶ Rather, the media reports on an Arab Knesset member that boards a flotilla to the Gaza Strip in order to aid Hamas in its efforts to destroy Israel. The media is quick to falsely depict the Yisrael Beiteinu party as a fascist anti-minority party. However the media does not report the fact that representing the Yisrael Beiteinu party is a Druze Knesset member, Hamad Amar from the city of Shfaram.⁷

In an interview with Amar he said “there is no place better than the state of Israel. If you ask all the minorities in Israel to switch to another state, they would say no.”⁸ In the 2008 election, the Yisrael Beiteinu party ran on a slogan; “Without loyalty no citizenship.”⁹ Critics took this to believe that Yisrael Beiteinu was targeting the Arab minority. Disloyalty to the state of Israel is found in the Arab-

Israeli sector. Former Arab Knesset Member Azmi Bishara fled Israel due to charges of him aiding Hezbollah in the 2006 war against Hezbollah. Chairman of the Arab anti-Zionist Balad party, Jamal Zahalka utters from the Knesset podium “take back your democracy and give me back my land.” Hamad Amar was quick to point out that when the Yisrael Beiteinu party proposed transferring Arab neighborhoods within Israel to the Palestinian Authority, every Arab was against it because they value their rights as minorities in Israel. The position of Yisrael Beiteinu is that in order for one to get benefits from the state, one must give to the state. Therefore, they advocate instituting national service for Arab-Israelis, a service that Arab leaders oppose.

Israel is a thriving democracy with a large diverse population. The Druze have proven their love, patriotism, and nationalism for Israel. They expressed their gratitude for living in Israel; not only through words but through falling in battle side by side with their Jewish brothers in the IDF.

The truth of Israel's relationship with non-Jewish minorities should be correctly portrayed and not fabricated. **ZOA**

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AYOOB KARA, DRUZE MEMBER OF KNESSET

Leaving the ZOA

Josh Nason's last column as Managing Director

Dear Students,

After more than three years as a campus coordinator, I left ZOA in December to return to school. I find it fitting that the feature topic of my last issue of The College Zionist is Palestinian Incitement. In 2008, when I was a senior at Cornell University, PLO Ambassador Afif Safieh came to speak. Much of his speech was dedicated to how committed the Palestinians were to peace and non-violent resistance. During the Q&A session I asked him: "How can you seriously claim Palestinian commitment to peace and non-violence, given the incitement in Palestinian society, especially schools and textbooks?" His answer (paraphrased, of course) was that there is no problem with incitement, the textbooks are fine, and Palestinians come to their conclusions about Israel on their own. I doubt that many others remember my exchange with Safieh, but his denial has stuck with me.

If Safieh's denial of the problem is emblematic of the Palestinian reaction to accusations of incitement, the pro-Israel reaction is most often to treat it as an inconvenient truth. We treat an issue like incitement as an inconvenient truth at our own peril, though. The constant bombardment of anti-Israel messages and anti-Semitic imagery is profoundly influencing Palestinian society with disastrous results. At ZOA, we strive to make sure these types of issues come to the forefront. Sometimes it goes against the grain, but it is vital to get the message out.

As I wrap up my time as a ZOA campus coordinator, I want to thank all of my colleagues at ZOA and especially all of the phenomenal student leaders on campus. I look forward to seeing the great work you will continue to do in the future. Keep speaking up and telling the truth.

All the Best, Josh Nason **ZOA**

ZOA NATIONAL IS LOOKING FOR INTERNS
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**The
APARTHEID
LIBEL**

**ISRAEL
AND THE
PALESTINIANS**



**BY
ERIK
BLUMBERG**

Apartheid: a policy of racial segregation and political and economic discrimination.

There are many detractors of Israel who claim that Israeli Jews oppress minorities in Israel (especially Palestinian Arabs) in the same way that the colonialist Boer in South Africa oppressed indigenous black South Africans. Such claims have received the support of former United States president Jimmy Carter, who in his book *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid* wrote that “Israel’s continued control and colonization of Palestinian land have been the primary obstacles to a comprehensive peace agreement in the Holy Land.” [1] However if anti-Israel activists took a closer look at Israel they would see that Palestinian Arabs and all minority groups in Israel have freedoms that are fundamental for any democratic nation to provide to its people.

Regarding politics, all Israelis have the right to vote in elections and form their own political parties. In 2009 Ra’am Ta’al (the largest Arab political party in Israel) won four seats in Knesset while Balad (another Arab political party) gained three seats. [2] Currently there are 14 Muslim, Christian and Druze members of Knesset, constituting more than 10% of all members in Israeli parliament. [3] In addition, religious freedom in Israel is supported and funded by the Israeli government. For Muslims there are eight state-

sanctioned Sharia courts across the country that handle religious affairs related to marriage, divorce, personal status issues, and other issues facing their population. [4] The ten different Christian denominations have ecclesiastical courts dealing with such personal status issues that operate independently from the Israeli government. Druze also have their own religious institutions which are “funded by the state and their courts are part of the Israeli legal system.” [5] In the Druze court system, they have a committee to appoint judges, which is also funded by the state.

These religious freedoms for all Israelis are not only limited to the judicial realm. Christian denominations such as the Coptic Orthodox, the Ethiopian Orthodox and the Syrian Orthodox have established churches throughout Israel. In addition, the Russian Orthodox Mission in Moscow owns the property rights to all Russian Orthodox churches in Israel. [6]

To highlight the religious freedoms which apply to Israeli minorities, the only ethnic group whose religious freedoms are limited is the Jews. Israeli Jews do not have the ability to pray at their holiest site, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem (the location of the al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock), while all

Recent polls have shown that more than one-third of Palestinians support the recent brutal terrorist attack in Itamar, where five Jewish family members, including children ranging in age from 3 months to 11 years old, were stabbed to death in their sleep.

Israeli citizens have the freedom to pray at all Jewish holy sites (e.g. the Kotel). If Israel were truly an apartheid state, Israeli minorities would not be able to freely participate in government and practice their religions openly.

Such an illegitimate claim that is believed and spread by so many highlights the hypocrisy of declaring Israel to be an apartheid state. The truth is that Israeli Arabs have more freedoms living in a Jewish state than other Arabs have living in Arab countries across the Middle East. Most Arab nations do not allow their people to have freedom of speech and they violently suppress any political uprisings that are viewed as a threat to the totalitarian regime. In the face of political revolution, the violent nature of leaders such as Bashar Assad in Syria and Muammar Qaddafi in Libya has been demonstrated during the “Arab Spring”.

From a historical perspective, anti-Israel groups ignore how Jews were persecuted and expelled by Arab nations of the Middle East in reaction to the

re-establishment of the State of Israel. The government also is not threatening to either expel or persecute Palestinian Arabs in Israel while they try to work with the Palestinian leadership towards the formation of a Palestinian state.

The same cannot be said for the Palestinian leadership, as pointed out by Sarah Honig in her article *Another Tack: No Jews in Judea*. She appropriately

quotes Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas from July 2010 when he declared that although he was willing to allow NATO forces to be a third party supervising negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, he would “not agree to having Jews among NATO forces, or that there will live among us even a single Israeli on Palestinian land.” [7] He reiterated his comments

in December 2010 when he told the Palestinian people that he “will never allow a single Israeli to live among us on Palestinian land.” [8] In addition, the Palestinian Authority passed a law in September 2010 that any Palestinian “found guilty of selling land to Israelis” would receive the death penalty. [9] The sad reality is that the creation of



JEWIS AND ARABS GROCERY SHOPPING AT THE LEVY SUPERMARKET IN GUSH ETZION, WHICH IS IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA (WEST BANK)



ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS ENJOYING A DAY ON BEN YEHUDA ST. IN JERUSALEM IN 1984 AND AGAIN IN 1990, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED SECRET OPERATIONS TO BRING THOUSANDS OF PERSECUTED ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO LIVE FREELY AND SAFELY IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

a Palestinian state, whether it is through a unilateral declaration of statehood or through political negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian leadership, implies that Jews are expected to leave parts of Judea and Samaria that would become part of a Palestinian state. As Sarah Honig states in her article, a Palestinian state would have to be Judenrein (“clean of Jews”), a true apartheid state. [10]

Yet such an occurrence should be expected because it has already taken place. In 2005, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called for the evacuation of four Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria and all of the Jews living in the Gaza Strip. This was part of a disengagement plan designed to improve Israel’s security and status internationally in the absence of political negotiations to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The result was a Hamas-controlled regime in the Gaza Strip that not only attacks Israel with rocket strikes, but also

treats its own people poorly. For example, Hamas has passed laws that prevent women from smoking in public and force young girls to “wear a head scarf and loose-fitting garb.” In addition, Hamas has tried to prevent men and women from “mingling in public” and “confiscated novels it deems offensive to Islam.” The apartheid claims are falsely targeted at Israel when it should be directed towards Palestinian Arab leadership for their discriminatory nature. Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it, and an established Palestinian state free of Jews would complement the events that have taken place in the Gaza Strip and would be an apartheid state – really. **ZOA**

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Quick Facts



ARABS IN ISRAEL MAKE UP 20% OF THE POPULATION



DISCRIMINATED MINORITIES HAVE MADE THEIR HOME IN ISRAEL, SUCH AS THE BAHAI'



FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL, OVER 800,000 JEWISH REFUGEES WERE EXPELLED FROM ARAB COUNTRIES AND ABSORBED BY ISRAEL. NO REPARATIONS HAVE BEEN PAID BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW



IN ISRAEL, FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS GUARANTEED BY LAW. JERUSALEM'S BASIC LAW PROTECTS ALL RELIGIOUS SITES AND ALLOWS FREEDOM OF WORSHIP TO ALL PEOPLE



IN ISRAEL, MINORITIES FREEDOMS ARE NOT RESTRICTED AND ISRAELI-ARABS HAVE BEEN JUDGES, DOCTORS, LAWYERS, DIPLOMATS, AND POLITICIANS.

The “1967 borders”

have become a common reference point that many influential figures, including heads of state and media spokesman use when discussing Israeli territorial disputes. What these so called borders are actually referring to are the cease-fire lines that were drawn by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and his Jordanian counterpart in the aftermath of the 1948 attack on the newly established Jewish State. Drawn hastily, in green ink, these unclear lines marked the demilitarized zones between Israel and neighboring Jordan. It was understood that they were meant to be temporary boundaries, and were to be replaced in following years by permanent negotiated borders with Israel and her Arab neighbors.

In fact, Article 2, Paragraph Two of the 1949 Armistice Agreement makes that perfectly clear when it states:

[N]o provision of this Agreement shall in any way prejudice the rights, claims and positions of either Party hereto in the ultimate peaceful settlement of the Palestine question[.] [T]he provisions of this Agreement [are] dictated exclusively by military considerations. [1]

The temporary lines were indefensible, being only nine miles wide, and thus would make

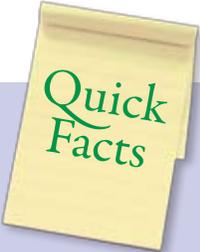
Israel vulnerable to repetitive attack. Beforehand, Israel had no clear borders, as there was never an autonomous Palestinian state. [2]

Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem (including the Old City) were then illegally occupied by Jordan for nearly two decades, from 1948 to 1967. In that period, all Jewish residents from eastern Jerusalem were expelled and all synagogues in the Old City were destroyed, many of them from the ancient first and second temple periods. The Jordanians desecrated the Jewish cemetery on Har Hazaitim (Mount of Olives), which has

some of the oldest and holiest graves in all of Israel. They then used the tombstones as urinals and construction material for highways and hotels.

In April of 1950, Jordan annexed Judea and Samaria (The West Bank), offering Jordanian citizenship to all residents. Many of these so called “citizens” continued to be treated as refugees, living in camps and relying on UNRWA for food, medical care, and education. This Jordanian takeover of Judea and Samaria was seen as illegal occupation by Israel, the US, the international community, and even the Arab League. In





Quick Facts



PRE-'67 BORDERS

PRE-'67 BORDERS REFER TO THE TEMPORARY LINES DRAWN UP BEFORE THE SURROUNDING ARAB COUNTRIES INITIATED THE SIX DAY WAR (1967) IN AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ISRAEL.



SIX SURROUNDING ARAB ARMIES INVADDED ISRAEL ON EVERY FRONT STARTING THE SIX DAY WAR



REFERRING TO THE AREA CAPTURED BY ISRAEL DURING THE SIX DAY WAR, PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON STATED: "IT IS CLEAR...THAT A RETURN TO THE SITUATION OF 4 JUNE 1967 WILL NOT BRING PEACE."



NEITHER THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1993 NOR THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ("OSLO 2") OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1995 CONTAINS ANY PROVISIONS PROHIBITING OR RESTRICTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN JUDEA, SAMARIA AND GAZA.

1960, King Hussein of Jordan announced to parliament that eastern Jerusalem was the "second capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan." [3]

Meanwhile, the Arab population in the Gaza strip was suffering economically under Egyptian military rule. The Egyptians did not offer citizenship to those living in Gaza. In fact, they made conditions very hard for the people in Gaza. Egypt heavily restricted movement to and from Gaza, and did not allow the Arabs living there to seek jobs outside of the strip. In attempt to financially strangle Israel, Egypt blockaded Israeli shipping ports in 1956.

This resulted in the 1956 Suez war, which transferred control of Gaza to Israel, but Israel relinquished the territory soon afterwards. Egypt then gained control of Gaza once more, this time using Gaza to launch deadly terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians. This led to tensions that eventually resulted in the Six-Day war.

In 1967, the Egyptian army, along with several other neighboring Arab countries moved nearly all of their troops to the Sinai-Negev border. [4] The Egyptian navy closed the Straits of Tiran, in an attempt to blockade and attack Israel. Israel demanded assistance from the United Nations, but they refused to act. For two weeks, Israel did nothing but plea for help. But no other country cared about the existence of the Jewish state, and so Israel was forced to act.

Twelve Muslim paramilitary forces then attacked Israel in the hopes of annihilating the Jewish state once and for all. In a miraculous victory, Israel gained control over territories that were previously occupied by Egypt, Jordan, and Syrian, including Judea and Samaria, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula. Israel, wanting to establish a peace with

the Palestinians living in those territories, tried time and time again to turn their enemies into their friends by offering them autonomy over land that had previously been illegally occupied, in exchange for a commitment to end terror and incitement.

The period that followed is marked by a cycle of desperate attempts, and depressing failures. For many, it seemed as though every time "peace-agreements" were made, Palestinian terror only increased. The more land Israel offered, the less peace it received. This chaos caused a stalemate in the resolution of the Israel Arab conflict, and made negotiating permanent borders impossible. While Israel was able to secure peace with Egypt and Jordan, the situation with the

1949 military lines are certainly no basis for peace. These "borders" would leave Israel a waistline of only nine miles wide at its narrowest point. If violence ever broke out, Israel's major cities, including Tel Aviv, would be left completely vulnerable to attack and Israel's major international airport would be left susceptible to rocket attacks and other forms of terror. Israel's security would be more than "at risk." It would be completely non-existent. **ZOA**

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“The modern state of Israel never had clear borders, and the 1949 military lines are certainly no basis for peace.”

Palestinians just got worse.

Under international pressure, Israel rescinded more and more territory. In 2005, the unilateral disengagement from the Gaza strip was given as a token of peace. Instead of peace, what Israel received in return was Hamas launching rockets at Israeli civilians. [5] In fact, every time Israel has given away land to the Arabs, they've been repaid with violence.

The modern state of Israel never had clear borders, and the

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PALESTINIAN INCITEMENT

BY
**BARUCH
LANE**

Illustration by
Daniel Ackerman
Florida State University





The Oslo Accords of 1993 required the Palestinian Authority (PA) to renounce terror and to promote peace among its population. Later, under the Interim Agreements of 1995 (Oslo 2), and then again in the Hebron Protocol of 1997 and the Wye River Memorandum of 1998, the PA reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from anti-Israel incitement and hostile propaganda. Yet time and time again the PA has failed to live up to their obligations under the Oslo accords and this seriously

calls into question their commitment to peace and coexistence with Israel.

In a letter dated September 9, 1993, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman, Yassir Arafat wrote to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin that “the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violations and discipline violators.” [1] This exchange of letters commenced the Oslo peace process, which, at least on paper, remains in effect until today. In the Interim Agreement of 1995, it is written that Israel and the PA “shall seek to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and shall accordingly abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression, shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction.” [2] Additionally, with the signing of the Hebron Protocol of 1997, the Palestinians reaffirmed their obligations regarding, “Preventing incitement and hostile propaganda, as specified in Article XXII of the Interim Agreement.” Both Israel and the

PA signed off on these obligations to promote peace and to foster mutual understanding, and renege on these commitments would seriously undermine the guilty party’s credibility in peace negotiations.

Despite their numerous commitments to condemn incitement and terror, the PA has not made any significant changes to their educational system and media institutions. PA schools and textbooks routinely deny Israel’s existence. Children’s television shows promote armed struggle and martyrdom as a legitimate and ideal way of life for Palestinian children. Religious leaders preach hatred against Jews and the West, and promote Jihad, or holy war, to exterminate the Jews and other “infidels” (non Muslims). As recent as this year, the PA has named sports teams, schools, libraries, and streets after terrorists who have committed mass murder against Israeli civilians. In a recent infamous incident, a town square in Ramallah was named after Dalal Mughrabi, a vicious terrorist who, in 1978 committed the worst terrorist attack on Israeli soil, killing 37 Israeli civilians including 13 children. To add insult to injury, the Palestinians announced that they would be naming a town square after Mughrabi during U.S. Vice President, Joe Biden’s visit to

Israel. The U.S. has been slow to condemn the PA’s glorification of terrorists, enabling the continued incitement of its population toward hate without fear of repercussions.

In 2007, Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), a non-profit media watchdog organization, released a report detailing its observations of the recently published Palestinian textbooks. The report highlighted Palestinian textbooks issued to 12th grade high-school students in PA schools. The study found that “the new 12th grade Palestinian schoolbooks make no attempt to educate for peace and coexistence with Israel.” In fact, the opposite was found to be true. The teachings in the textbooks “repeatedly reject Israel’s right to exist, present the conflict as a religious battle for Islam, teach Israel’s founding as imperialism, and actively portray a picture of the Middle East, both verbally and visually, in which Israel does not exist at all.”

The texts repeatedly referred to Israel and the Jews as “The Zionist enemy,” “The Zionist entity,” “The Zionist gangs,” and “the enemies of this people.” The creation of Israel is described as “the occupation”; “stole Palestine”; “stole its land”; “in 1948, when the Jews occupied Palestine.” Israel is portrayed as a racist, imperialistic entity and

Quick
Facts

CALLS FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST
JEWS CAN BE FOUND ON
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SHOWS.



MAHMOUD ABBAS, PRESIDENT
OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
WROTE A DOCTORAL THESIS
ENTITLED THE OTHER SIDE: THE
SECRET RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
NAZISM AND ZIONISM.



PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
TEXTBOOKS DISSEMINATED
TO 12TH GRADE PALESTINIANS
REJECT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST
AND REFER TO ALL OF ISRAEL AS
"PALESTINE."

Judenrein

PRESIDENT ABBAS PUBLICLY
STATED THAT HE WOULD NOT
ALLOW A SINGLE ISRAELI TO LIVE
INSIDE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE.

“Recent polls have shown that more than one-third of Palestinians support the recent brutal terrorist attack in Itamar, where five Jewish family members, including children ranging in age from 3 months to 11 years old were stabbed to death in their sleep.”

“resistance” through terrorism is promoted as the only legitimate form of “glorious heroism.” In the years that have passed since the report was published little has changed in PA education and textbooks. This grotesque portrayal of Israel in the new PA education system greatly reduces the likelihood that the next generation of Palestinian youth will see a need to make peace with Israel and to live with them as neighbors. The PA curriculum is encouraging Palestinian children to view Israel as an eternal enemy, with whom they must engage in an existential, mandatory, and religious war.

Palestinian incitement is not limited to the school system; it is pervasive throughout Palestinian society. Recent polls have shown that more than one-third of Palestinians support the recent brutal terrorist attack in Itamar, where five Jewish family members, including children ranging in age from 3 months to 11 years old were stabbed to death in their sleep. [3] Palestinian media and entertainment programming demonizes Jews and the West. Holocaust denial is rampant.

When UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) tried to introduce Holocaust education into PA and

Hamas schools, the Palestinian leadership vehemently protested. On March 1, 2011, the Al-Quds newspaper quoted Palestinian leader Nabila Al-Salah as saying that the “study of the Holocaust at UNRWA schools is disgraceful.” Famously, PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas’s doctoral thesis entitled *The Other Side: the Secret Relationship Between Nazism and Zionism* contains many references to Holocaust denial and historical revisionism, including a statement describing the Holocaust as “the Zionist fantasy, the fantastic lie that six million Jews were killed.” [4] Coupled with Abbas’s writings are his statements that he “will never allow a single Israeli to live among us on Palestinian land.” How could such a leader who promotes Holocaust denial and Judenrein be viewed as a moderate and a peace partner by the world?

The pervasiveness of anti-Semitic and anti-Western sentiment within Palestinian society cannot be ignored. Palestinian leaders, even the so-called moderate ones are promoting a culture of hate. Palestinian children are being taught that the Jews are descendants of apes and pigs, and that it is a religious duty

to drive the infidels into the sea. Palestinian textbooks and maps negate the existence of Israel. Palestinian media and entertainment constantly glorifies “martyred” terrorists, and portrays them as role models for future Palestinian leaders. In this culture of hate it is impossible to build a bridge of tolerance and mutual understanding that is required to bring lasting peace into the region. Until the Palestinian leadership truly chooses to end incitement and hostile propaganda directed towards Israel, peace will remain unattainable. **ZOA**

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Four

ISRAEL:

A Beacon of Light to
the Middle East

By Shlomit Cymbalista

As the declaration for change resonates throughout the Middle East, one regime seems to be standing out from the rest for the atrocious treatment of its people. The Syrian government has fallen into the chaos of the Arab Spring, but it is going above and beyond to make certain it does not fall to the same fate as its neighbors. The Syrian people have lived years under President Assad’s corrupt regime with “state-organized repression,”[1] no true constitution, limited human rights and civil liberties, inflation, and unemployment. [2] With the call for change echoing, these people have only continued to have their voices silenced and ignored.

There is no doubt that the recent unrest in Syria is frightening to all those involved, but special attention must be paid to President Assad’s response to the recent protests. Innocent civilians have been brutally murdered and thousands more injured. The Syrian people have not had the privilege of any warnings or cautionary shots before the government opens fire. Tanks and snipers have been sent in to keep demonstrators off the streets and water and electricity have been completely cut off from select cities. In some cases, Assad has even had his security forces confiscate food and medical aid from the people.³ There are those that may argue that this is a special case seeing as how it is a time of upheaval and uncertainty. However, what we must recognize is that when it comes to Syria, this is nothing new; this is just the tip of the iceberg.

In Syria the concept of Human Rights does not apply to all citizens, often disregarding women, homosexuals, political activists, Kurds, refugees, and more. The 2010 analysis of Syria by Human Rights Watch reported that “authorities continued to broadly

violate the civil and political rights of citizens, arresting political and human rights activists, censoring websites, detaining bloggers, and imposing travel bans.” [4] In Syria, women and have extremely limited rights, homosexuals are arrested for years without cause, and Kurds, being the ethnic minority, experience “systemic discrimination”, [5] repression, and denial of citizenship. “Free election” is a term that has not even crossed the minds of the Syrian people in the last decade of Assad’s rule.

Since the start of the Syrian uprisings in January of this year, over 3,000 protestors have been murdered and over 10,000 arrested by their own government. President Assad has sent military forces to not only open fire on protesters but to carry out horrific mutilations.

Human rights activists have simply disappeared, leaving others forced into hiding.

In many cases, medical attention has not been provided for those in need. Human Rights Watch had interviewed a number of witnesses explaining how soldiers have not allowed for doctors and nurses to attend to the protesters, thus leaving hundreds to die. In one of the interviews, a protester explains:

“People were lying on the floor [of the Omari mosque], all over the place, and there were a couple of doctors and nurses, and also local women struggling to help the injured. But they could not do much - they only had the basic supplies brought from the local pharmacies; the hospitals were blocked by the security forces and it was impossible to bring the necessary equipment or supplies into the mosque. Several people with serious injuries were dying, and there was nothing we could do to help them.” [6]

It is only a truly tyrannical government that could commit such horrific crimes and human rights abuses.

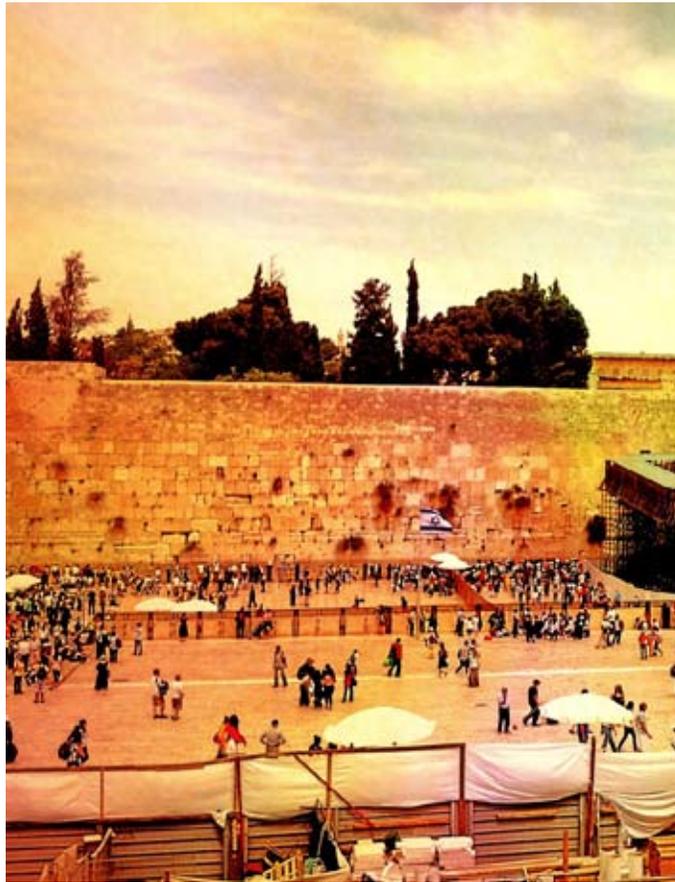
While Syria has been denying even the most basic civil liberties to the



people, its neighbor, Israel, has been a strong defender of human rights despite opposing claims. Israel is the only country in the Middle East to provide rights to women, homosexuals and minorities, and yet she is continuously condemned for supposed human rights abuse. Simply put, Israel is held up to a different standard as exemplified in a recent vote taken in the United Nations last summer.

The international community has indeed taken note of Syria's horrendous acts against humanity. Recently, a vote in the UN has led to the rejection of Syria from joining the Human Rights Council, [7] rightfully so. Ironically, while Syria was given the right to a vote to join the council, the UN has refused to even grant Israel a right to be voted in. Israel has been completely barred from the council. This difference in treatment is completely unprecedented. When considering the human rights situation and treatment of citizens in Israel, the comparison with Syria is immeasurable. It is perplexing that the UN is able to look at a country like Syria and condemn them for their human rights abuse, and then turn around and do the same to Israel. Israel is truly a protector of human rights for all.

Where Syria has been withholding medical aid to protesters when it is not even a state of war, Israel, when involved in Operation Cast Lead, had special hours each day where all military operations would be suspended in order to provide food, medical supplies, and fuel. Thousands of trucks were sent in daily to tend to the people of Gaza. [8] When dealing with protests or uprisings in their borders, the IDF never turns directly to firearms. Rather, it moderates protesters with other means such as tear gas, rubber bullets, or shock grenades as seen a number of times in the protests



of Naalin and Bil'in. [9] Assad has never entertained such a thought. He has sent in tanks and armed military forces directly to attack and silence his people.

In Israel, the protection of human rights is not something seen to be outdated. As recent as March of 1992, Israel's Knesset passed Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty declaring "that the basic human rights in Israel are based on recognition of the value of man, the sanctity of his life and the fact that he is free." This law was passed "to defend Human Dignity and Liberty, in order to establish in a Basic Law the values of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state." [10] There is no denying that ALL citizens are free to enjoy full equality before the law. This is true for Jews, Christian Arabs, Muslim Arabs, and Druze alike.

Unlike the minorities in Syria, Arab- Israeli citizens experience complete political freedom. This freedom is not simply limited

to voting in Israel's democratic elections or other involvement in the political process. Rather, Arabs share the right to sit on the Israeli Knesset. Currently, there are 14 Arab members to the Knesset, one of which is an Arab woman, despite their anti-Israel sentiments. In Syria, the Kurdish minority and women would never be given this opportunity. Christians, Muslims, and Jews all share religious freedom in whichever way they choose to worship. All citizens have the ability to attend University to receive a degree. In the University in Haifa, 20% are of the Arab minority [11], despite the lies that Arab rights are suppressed under the Israeli government; the facts seem to show the alternative.

It has become clear that Israel is truly a beacon of light for human rights in the Middle East. The Arab Spring had shed light on the atrocious abuse of human rights in this region of

the world. Where Israel has gone above and beyond to protect the rights of their citizens, Syria has proven to accomplish the exact opposite. The treatment of their people, particularly in the current state of chaos the country finds itself in, is appalling and should continue to be condemned by the international community. It must be recognized, that even in times of dispute and protest, Israel stands by their declaration to protect their people. **ZOA**

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UNRWA

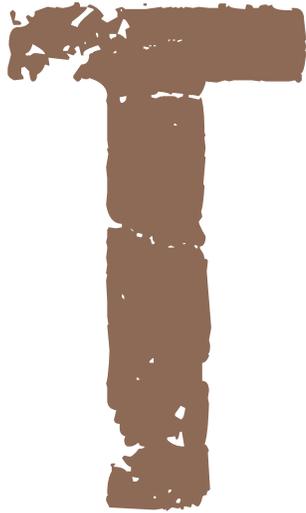
United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees

FRIEND OR

FOE

How the UN perpetuates
**THE PALESTINIAN
REFUGEE PROBLEM**

By Karla Padawer Solomon



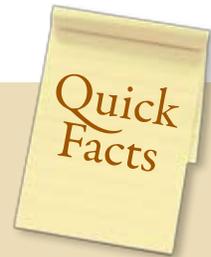
THE “PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM” HAS REMAINED UNSOLVED FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS AND HAS STUMPED SOME OF THE WORLD’S MOST BRILLIANT MINDS. HOW CAN IT BE THAT A POPULATION ONCE NUMBERING 700,000 HAS GROWN TO 4.8 MILLION PEOPLE WHO STILL LIVE UNDER THE LABEL OF “REFUGEE”?

Why has this population not been absorbed back into society and met with prosperity? The answer to these questions is one word: UNRWA. UNRWA is an organization that perpetuates the Palestinian refugee status, employs radical Islamic terrorists who teach Palestinian children to reject the existence of the state of Israel and to hate Jews, and even gets directly involved in terrorism against the state of Israel. UNRWA must be dissolved in order for Palestinians to have a chance at a peaceful and prosperous future.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was founded in 1949 after the War of Independence. Today, it provides education, basic food and shelter needs, medical, and social services to Palestinians in Israel (Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem), Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. UNRWA was originally established as a temporary organization. Its first mandate called for it to “carry out direct relief and works programmes in collaboration with local governments,” “consult with the Near Eastern governments concerning measures to be taken preparatory to the time when international assistance for relief

and works projects is no longer available,” and to plan for the future when the Palestinians will no longer need relief.¹ It seems that the original purpose of UNRWA was to rehabilitate the Palestinians. However, its policies as an organization as well as its educational services hurt the Palestinians more than they help.

The definition of a Palestinian refugee is different from that of any other refugee, which isolates the Palestinians. According to UNRWA, Palestinian refugees are “people whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict . . . [and] the descendants of the original Palestine refugees . . .”² The Palestinian refugee status is passed down from parent to child, so that not even their children can integrate into society. In contrast, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which takes care of all other refugees worldwide, defines a refugee as a person who, “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his



PETER HANSEN, COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF UNRWA, STATED: “OH I’M SURE THAT THERE ARE HAMAS MEMBERS ON THE UNRWA PAYROLL AND I DON’T SEE THAT AS A CRIME”



IN 1952, THE UNRWA SET UP A FUND OF \$200 MILLION TO PROVIDE HOMES AND JOBS FOR THE REFUGEES, BUT IT WENT UNTOUCHED.



AS RECENTLY AS 1994, ISRAEL GAVE MORE TO UNRWA THAN ALL ARAB COUNTRIES EXCEPT SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND MOROCCO.



UNTIL THE 1990S, ARAB GOVERNMENTS DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO UNRWA’S BUDGET IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEE ISSUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.”³ The UNHCR has successfully resettled hundreds of Palestinians to various other countries.⁴ It has also secured host country citizenship for thousands of refugees internationally. UNRWA, on the other hand, does not have a single resettlement program for its clientele, nor does it lobby the Palestinians’ host countries to secure their citizenship. UNRWA does not enable Palestinians to lead normal lives. The education it provides isolates the Palestinians even more.

UNRWA schools do not teach the students a curriculum that “promotes human rights and non-violent communications skills, conflict resolution and tolerance,” as the organization purports.⁵ UNRWA uses the host authorities’ textbooks and adds some of its own educational materials.⁶ Said textbooks contain maps that mark the entire state of Israel as Palestine, teaching the children that Israel must be obliterated and replaced with Palestine.⁷ Among the

literature studied in UNRWA schools, much of it is literature written by Palestinian poets to glorify shahada (martyrdom) and death for Allah, impress hateful messages about the Jews, and to indoctrinate Palestinian children into a culture of hatred.⁸

UNRWA has a history of employing terrorists, participating in violence, and producing Hamas operatives. Its schools screen teachers with ties to Al-Qaeda and/or the Taliban, but do not screen teachers with ties to Hamas, Fatah, or Hezbollah.⁹ In fact, the former UNRWA Commissioner-General admitted: “I am sure that there are Hamas members on the UNRWA payroll and I don’t see that as a crime.” He seemed to think that preventing terrorists from teaching radical Islam in schools would be politically incorrect, stating “We do not do political vetting and exclude people from one persuasion as against another.”¹⁰ Awad Al-Qiaq, once a top rocket engineer of Islamic Jihad, was the principal and a science teacher at an UNRWA school in Rafah, Gaza, until he was killed in May

2008. Said Siyam served as the interior minister and leader of the Executive Force of Hamas, but he also taught in UNRWA schools for over 20 years.¹¹ Hamas has launched many rockets into Israel from UNRWA property, including schools and hospitals.¹² The organization’s actions are endangering innocent lives and breeding the next generation of terrorists.

Some members of the international community have realized that UNRWA must be dissolved, and efforts to take down UNRWA have already been initiated, albeit slowly. A bill demanding transparency of UNRWA’s accounts and operations was introduced in Congress last year. Unfortunately it was not approved, but it’s not over. If Americans write to their Congress people and lobby for the bill to be approved, it could pass the next time around. Canada stopped funding UNRWA last year because of the organization’s employment of Hamas members.¹³

Hopefully, other countries will soon follow suit and instead give their money to the UNHCR and/

or private, effective Palestinian aide organizations that do not use the money for terrorism or promoting a terrorist ideology. People also need to urge their Congressman as well as UNRWA itself to lobby Syria and Lebanon for an extension of full citizenship to their Palestinian populations. If the American people take responsibility and demand to know where their taxpayer money is going, then they will be helping the Palestinians move towards a brighter future. **ZOA**

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UNRWA TEXTBOOKS TEACH PALESTINIAN CHILDREN HATRED OF ISRAEL



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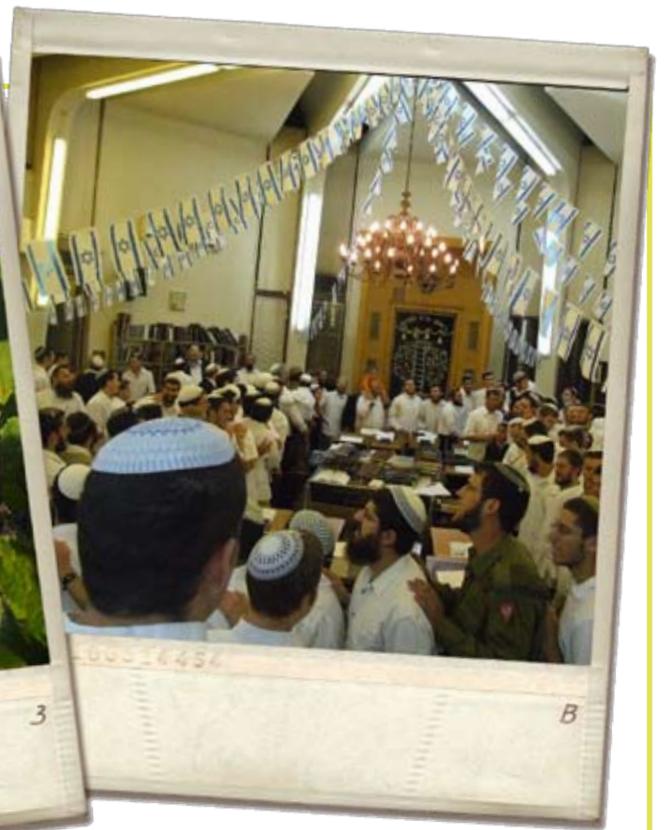
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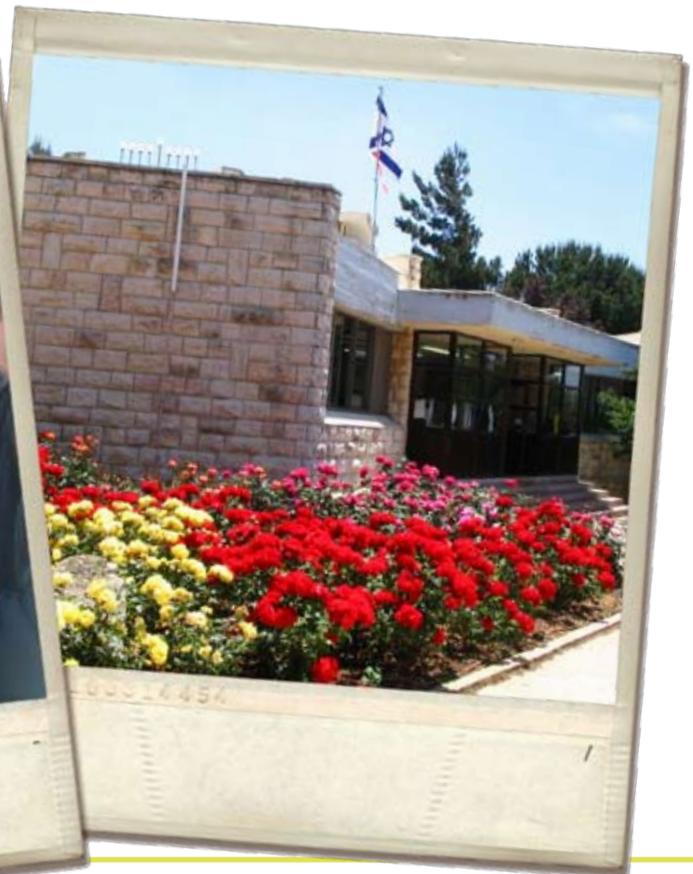
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The Community of

Beit-El

By Isaac Friedman



In 2009, President Obama said that “settlements have to be stopped.”¹ Secretary of state, Hillary Clinton defined that for him by saying “He wants to see a stop to settlements — not some settlements, not outposts, not ‘natural growth’ exceptions.”² That is, Jews may not build in Judea and Samaria. According to the President and his state department, Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are different than Jewish communities elsewhere in Israel. They are not towns and cities but “settlements”. What are settlements, and do they really prevent peace in Israel? One of these so called “obstacles to peace” is the thriving town of Beit El.

Beit El means “House of God” and it is the name Jacob gave to the place where he dreamed of angels ascending a ladder to heaven. The Beit El of today is located just north of the biblical site. Biblical Beit El is identified with the ruins located outside the Arab village of Beitin, almost directly under the contemporary town of Beit El.

Modern day Beit-El is a unique community. It is a small town nestled in the Judean Hills just north of Jerusalem, part of the ancient Jewish heartland of Judea that Israel re-acquired after the Six Day War (1967). It has a scenic view of the whole country from the Mediterranean to the Hermon in the north. It was founded on an abandoned airforce base in 1977 by several families, and is now made up of twelve hundred families with a total population over five thousand. Beit-El is home to a number of small industries. Among these is a small, family-owned, boutique winery.

Although the Beit El Winery is not very well known, it produces high quality wine which starts with the unusual combination of soil and climate that makes the Judean Hills a world famous wine country. The Jews of

the Judean Hills are heirs to a winemaking tradition that dates back to the Roman period and possibly earlier. The winery hosts visitors and gives educational tours during the harvest season. As Hillel Manne, the vintner, says, “we have an unsurpassed tradition. It obligates us to be something special.”

Beit El is also special because of its unique cultural Mosaic. It is the only place in the country with a community of Bnei Menashe. The Bnei Menashe themselves stand out even among the stunningly diverse range of ethnicities in Israel because they are the descendants of the “indigenous” ancient Jewish community of India and Myanmar (formerly Burma). The Bnei Menashe and is one

of the oldest continuous Jewish diaspora communities in the world.

The Bnei Menashe claim descent from the lost tribe of Menashe, which was exiled along with the rest of the Northern Kingdom (whose Capital was in Samaria) around 720 BCE. They lived in the mountains between India and Myanmar, and are closely related to the Kaifeng Jews.³ The Bnei Menashe continue to hold onto their own culture while integrating into Israeli society. They still speak their traditional languages, Mizo and Kuki, and have in fact translated the Torah into the former. Beit El is the site of the only Bnei Menashe community in Israel.

Beit El is also home to Israel

Beit El means “House of God” and it is the name Jacob gave to the place where he dreamed of angels ascending a ladder to heaven.

National News, commonly known as Arutz Sheva, one of the first ever internet radio stations. Arutz Sheva was started in 1988 by people living in Judea and Samaria in order to offer an alternative perspective to a particular Israeli media outlet that was biased against the communities of Judea and Samaria.⁴ Currently Arutz sheva publishes the fourth largest printed newspaper in Israel, and operates a news website in Russian, Spanish, French, and English, which also features live streaming radio and video in English, Russian, and French, in addition to Hebrew.

One of Beit El’s tourist attractions is the Beit El tefillin factory. Tefillin are leather boxes containing passages from Exodus and Deuteronomy, which are worn by Jewish men daily. Tefillin Beit El is famous for its quality products and ships worldwide. They also offer guided tours of the entire process from raw animal hide to the finished product.

The Beit El community, referred to as a settlement, has been defined. It is a town where people live and raise families. Is that an obstacle to peace? **ZOA**

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