

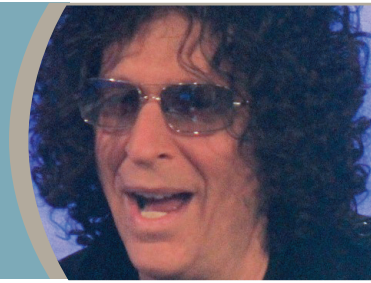
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Khamenei: Iran Has Foiled Plot to Use Protests to Overthrow System



Iranian Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

Iran has foiled attempts by its foreign enemies to turn legitimate protests into an insurgency to overthrow the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei claimed on Tuesday.

Comments on his Twitter feed and in Iranian media underscored the establishment's confidence

that it has extinguished the unrest that spread to more than 80 cities in which at least 22 people died since late December.

"Once again, the nation tells the US, Britain, and those who seek to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran from abroad that 'you've failed, and you will fail in the future, too.'" Khamenei tweeted.

The Revolutionary Guards, the military force loyal to Khamenei, said on Sunday

security forces had put an end to the unrest that it said had been whipped up by foreign enemies.

At least 1,000 people have been arrested in the biggest anti-government protests for nearly a decade, with the judiciary saying ringleaders could face the death penalty.

Khamenei asserted US President Donald Trump was grandstanding when he tweeted support for protesters he said were

Continued on Page A3

World Jewish Congress Chief Leaps to Trump's Defense

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The head of the World Jewish Congress, Ronald Lauder, came to the defense on Monday of his embattled boyhood friend, US President Donald Trump, as the angry public debate provoked by *Fire and Fury*, author Michael Wolff's controversial account of the Trump White House, rumbled on.

In an unsolicited statement, first reported by *The New York Times*, Lauder — a cosmetics fortune heir and life-long Republican — emphasized that he "had known Donald Trump for fifty years, dating back to his time as a student at the University of Pennsylvania."



Donald Trump - at the time president-elect - bids farewell to WJC head Ronald Lauder at his Mar-a-Lago, Florida estate in December 2016. Photo: Reuters / Jonathan Ernst.

Lauder said he had enjoyed "the privilege" of working with Trump on "some of the most complex diplomatic challenges imaginable."

"The President I have seen is a man of incredible insight and intelligence," Lauder continued. "But he is not a politician and that confuses his critics."

Lauder concluded: "When President Trump refuses to speak in stale political platitudes, his critics think he is missing something. But the truth is President Trump speaks

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10 Ways Israel Is Treated Differently

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat VAERA
פרשת וארא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 4:32pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:35pm



the **algemeiner**

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Opinion.

New York Times Editorial Board Falls Suspiciously Silent on Iran Protests



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

Since the protests against the Iranian dictatorship broke out on December 28, 2017, America's leading newspapers have weighed in with editorials voicing their institutional support — except for *The New York Times*, which has been strangely silent.

USA Today had an editorial: "The bravery of Iranians standing up to their repressive regime is breathtaking."

The *Wall Street Journal* had an editorial: "The world should support this fight for freedom, which is exposing the illusions about Iran that dominated the Obama Administration."

The *New York Post* had an editorial: "Iranians are sick of seeing their money funneled to the likes of Syria's bloody Bashar al-Assad and Hezbollah."

The *New York Daily News* had an editorial: *By the tens of thousands across a country mislabeled the Islamic Republic, Iranians are standing up against a regime that suffocates their freedoms and squanders their treasure to finance terrorism.*

They are being met with brutal force; as of press time, 20 protesters were reported dead across the country; 450 were jailed in

the capital alone.

All Americans should stand with women and men who seek to shake off the shackles of repression and steer their nation toward a more open, prosperous and democratic future.

The *Washington Post* had an editorial: "The popular demand for change is justified and deserves international support...Now is the time for Mr. Trump to focus on supporting the people of Iran."

The *New York Times*, unlike the other papers, has studiously avoided the topic. It ran some opinion columns, sure. But the institutional voice of the newspaper that sounds from the unsigned editorial column has been silent.

Here is a list of the other topics the *Times* has chosen to editorialize about instead of the Iran protests in the time since they began:

- US police tactics
- The war in Yemen
- Racism in France
- Judicial independence in Poland
- The size of the staff of the Internal Revenue Service
- Capital punishment (in the US, not Iran)
- The second term of New York mayor Bill de Blasio
- Voter laws in Florida
- State responses to federal tax law changes
- Tensions between North and South Korea
- New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's state of the state address

- President Trump's vote-fraud inquiry
- Admission fees at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
- The "two-state solution" to the Israel-Palestinian conflict
- Pakistan
- Land mines
- The New York City subway
- "Jeff Sessions's Endless War on Marijuana"

Doubtless these are all burning and timely issues on which *Times* readers are running out to their doorsteps every morning and tearing open their blue plastic bags to discover the positions of *Times* editorial writers.

But it's just outright weird that, during a period in which the Iran protests were front-page news in the *Times* newspaper and a regular topic for its columnists, the editorial column stuck to a suspicious silence.

It's this sort of thing that feeds suspicions that the newspaper's journalism is somehow compromised by the *Times* Company's lucrative business running luxury tours of Iran guided by *Times* journalists, or by the fact that the *Times* Company's largest economic owner, Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, owns Telekom Austria in partnership with OBIB, Austria's sovereign wealth fund, which is also a huge player in developing Iran's oil and gas business.

Maybe the *Times* editorial board members just can't reach a consensus on the issue, or newly installed publisher A.G. Sulzberger is too busy familiarizing himself

with the First Amendment to offer the editorial board some direction. Maybe they are all



People protest in Tehran, Iran, Dec. 30, 2017, in this picture obtained from social media. Photo: Reuters.

on an extended winter vacation, or working hard on their Pulitzer Prize entries, for which the annual deadline is approaching.

Whatever the reason, it's a sad day for freedom when the brave Iranians standing up to a brutal terror-sponsoring regime can't count on the timely or energetic editorial support of *The New York Times*. When freedom finally does come to Iran and the prisoners do emerge to say their thank yous, they will have plenty of other newspaper offices to visit.



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Panicky Critics of Israel Push Fake 'One State' Threat



STEPHEN M. FLATOW/
JNS.ORG

You know that critics of Israel are getting panicky when they start trotting out the old "one state" bogeyman.

"As a 2-State Solution Loses Steam, a 1-State Plan Gains Traction," a *New York Times* headline announced on January 5, above an article so palpably absurd that it can only reflect the mad panic among advocates of Palestinian statehood, as they see their dream fading away. And the fact that the *Times* chose to make this page one news says a lot about the fearful mindset among the left-wing news media, Israel-bashing pundits and Jewish peace camp types.

The article was written by David M. Halbfinger, who became the *Times*' Jerusalem bureau chief six months ago. Before taking up that position, Halbfinger served as one of the newspaper's Hollywood correspondents, and as its New York City metro political editor. It doesn't sound like those previous posts prepared him very well for understanding Israel and the Palestinians.

On the other hand, *sometimes* it seems as if the only "qualification," the *Times* requires for someone to serve as its Jerusalem correspondent (or bureau chief) is the ability to come up with ways to harangue and

smear Israel, and to make Palestinians look sympathetic. That's certainly what Halbfinger seemed up to with his "one state" declaration.

The basic idea is to threaten Israel: If you don't agree to create an independent Palestinian state adjacent to your major cities and airports, then you'll really be in trouble, because the Palestinians will demand that they become part of a single state, then they will outnumber you, and then — suddenly — no more Israel.

According to the "one state" idea, this would give the Palestinians "equal civil rights, including the freedom of movement, assembly and speech, and the right to vote in national elections."

What Halbfinger forgot to mention is that Israel already gave the Palestinians all of those things — it's only the Palestinian Authority (PA) that interferes with them.

In 1995, then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pulled Israel's forces out of the areas where 98 percent of the Palestinians live. As of 1995, Israel no longer determines the Palestinians' freedom of movement, assembly, speech or right to vote. They can move, assemble, speak and vote whenever the PA leadership lets them.



The Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Photo: Reuters / Ammar Awad.

In fact, just last May, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians went to 461 polling stations, and chose the members of the 391 municipal and village councils in the PA-controlled portions of Judea and Samaria. A total of 3,489 council members were elected.

The only reason that there has not been a Palestinian election for president is that the current occupant of that position, Mahmoud Abbas, won't allow a presidential election. Why doesn't Halbfinger write about Palestinians who are angry not at Israel, but at the fascist dictatorship under which they suffer? I think we all know the answer to that question.

Israelis laugh at the "one state" talk. Of course they would never accept a demand for one state with an Arab majority. It doesn't matter how many clever slogans that the Palestinians invent (with the help of their Western PR firms). And it doesn't matter how many critics of Israel shout phony accusations of "apartheid," or how many attacks-disguised-as-news Halbfinger writes in *The New York Times*.

The "one state" threat is a cheap propaganda exercise, whose only purpose is to try to scare Israelis and their American Jewish supporters. The irony is that it's *The New York Times* and J Street who are the ones that are genuinely scared. They're scared because their dream of setting up a Palestinian state a few miles from Tel Aviv is slipping away.

For eight years, they had an American president who really believed that a Palestinian state would bring peace in our time. *The New York Times* and these groups turned the Democratic Party virtually into an advocate

Continued on Page A4

World News.

Germany Pushes Legislation Targeting Antisemitism Among Immigrants

BY BEN COHEN

Germany's ruling conservative alliance is moving forward with legislation to counter antisemitism among immigrant groups that includes the prospect of deportation for offenders.

Draft legislation authored by parliamentarians from the ruling CDU-CSU coalition released over the weekend asserts that "those who oppose Jewish life in Germany or question Israel's right to exist cannot have a place in our country." The legislation also states that "unconditional acceptance of Jewish life in Germany" will be considered a "yardstick" for "successful integration."

"We must resolutely oppose the antisemitism of migrants with an Arab background and from African countries," Stephan Harbarth, deputy chairman of the CDU-CSU group in the German parliament, said on Saturday.

The parliamentary motion in favor of the legislation is to be tabled on January 27, to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It follows the widespread shock and dismay in Germany last month, when activists from Turkish, Arab and other Muslim immigrant communities staged several angry demonstrations opposing US

President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Among the provocations witnessed were the burning of Israeli flags and chants of "Down with Israel" and "Death to the Jews." Many of the demonstrators carried Turkish and Palestinian flags at the same time.

The demonstrations prompted German Interior Minister Heiko Maas to observe that in addition to the far-right, "we also have imported antisemitism, which is brought to Germany by people who come from other countries of the world." German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier declared that "no exceptions" would be made for immigrants when it came to the rejection of antisemitism as a national value.

Centrally, the draft legislation invokes Germany's Residency Act to hold out the possibility of deportation for offenders. "This phenomenon of antisemitism among Muslims who have lived in Germany for some time must be given special attention," the draft states, according to the newspaper Die Welt. It also urges the German government to "investigate" other measures to "more effectively" punish demonstrators who burn Israeli flags or other symbols of Judaism, or who chant antisemitic slogans.

Mossad Chief Confirms Israel Has 'Eyes and Ears' in Iran

BY JNS.ORG

The head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, Yossi Cohen, on Tuesday confirmed that Israel has active agents in Iran and warned of the Islamic Republic's aggressive military expansion throughout the region.

"The Iranians are spreading across the Middle East with a vast array of forces, and there is little holding them back," Cohen said during a meeting at Israel's Finance Ministry.

Iran is on course "to realize its dream of creating what almost amounts to a land and air bridge allowing them to dump troops across the Middle East," he said, adding that

Israel is monitoring the Iranians closely from abroad and from within Iran.

"We have eyes and ears, even inside Iran," Cohen said.

Commenting on the ongoing mass demonstrations in the Islamic Republic that began during the final days of 2017, the Mossad chief said, "The average Iranian citizen went out to protest due to the economic situation, and the expectation that President Hassan Rouhani would improve the economy. That's what's brought them out to the streets."

"We don't need to start speculating, even though I would, of course, be very happy to see a social revolution in Iran," said Cohen. "That's something that could perhaps happen in the future."

Syrian Army Reports Multiple Israeli Missile Strikes

BY JNS.ORG

The Syrian army alleged Tuesday that the IDF attacked Syria three times earlier in the day with jets and ground-to-ground missiles

A Syrian military statement broadcast on state-run media reported that Israeli warplanes fired on Al-Qutayfah in the suburbs of Damascus from Lebanese airspace at 2:40 a.m.

The Syrian military claimed that the

Fatah Official Reportedly Meets With Hezbollah Leader in Bid to Spark Anti-Israel Violence



A poster of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Photo: File.

BY JNS.ORG

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party has downplayed a Dec. 31 meeting in Beirut between Fatah official Azzam Al-Ahmad and Hezbollah terror leader Hassan Nasrallah, in which the two reportedly agreed to instigate a violent Palestinian uprising in Israel.

During the meeting, Fatah agreed to collaborate with the Iranian terror proxy "to activate a third intifada," the Hezbollah-affiliated Al-Mayadeen TV network reported.

In an interview with Al-Mayadeen, Nasrallah said his talks with the Palestinians centered on Jerusalem, and asserted that Iran

funded the recent wave of violent Palestinian riots against the recent US policy changes on Israel's capital.

Fatah's Al-Ahmad downplayed his meeting with the terror leader, claiming that Nasrallah agreed on a policy of non-violent civil disobedience "when I met with him as a representative of Fatah, but he also met with other Palestinians," The Media Line reported. "No to violence, no to weapons" is the official Palestinian policy, asserted Al-Ahmad.

Both Fatah and the Gaza-ruling terror group Hamas repeatedly called for violent Palestinian "day of rage" riots in the weeks that followed President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

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Defense

to the country in an authentic and genuine way that Americans understand and appreciate."

Lauder has previously defended Trump from complaints that the president's communications style is crude and needlessly

provocative. In an interview last April with journalist Phil Boas, Lauder observed that the "America that carried Trump to victory is a very different America."

"It's not the America that we see around us. It's an America that we don't see," Lauder said. "And it's a critical element."

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Overthrow

trying "to take back their corrupt government" and promising "great support from the United States at the appropriate time!"

The Iranian leader tweeted: "... this man who sits at the head of the White House - although, he seems to be a very unstable man - he must realize that these extreme and psychotic episodes won't be left without a response."

As well as Washington and London, Khamenei blamed the violence on Israel, exiled dissident group Mojahedin-e-Khalq and "a wealthy government" in the Gulf, a reference to Iran's regional rival, Saudi Arabia. Khamenei has called the protests -

which were initially about the economy but soon turned political - "playing with fireworks," but he said citizens had a right to air legitimate concerns, a rare concession by a leader who usually voices clear support for security crackdowns.

"These concerns must be addressed. We must listen, we must hear. We must provide answers within our means," Khamenei was quoted as saying, hinting that not only the government of President Hassan Rouhani, but his own clerical leadership must also respond.

"I'm not saying that they must follow up. I am also responsible. All of us must follow up," Khamenei said.

regime's air defenses returned fire on the Israeli aircraft and struck one of the planes. Israel then reportedly fired a ground-to-ground missile from the Golan Heights at 3:04 a.m., which the Syrian army also allegedly intercepted.

The Israeli military then reportedly fired a final round of four missiles from Tiberias, with the Syrian air defense system intercepting one of the rockets while the others ostensibly struck their targets and caused property damage near a Syrian military post.

"The Syrian army's general headquarters is warning Israel once again against the

serious ramifications of such aggressive acts and sees Israel as fully responsible for its moves," the Syrian army stated. "We will cut off Israel's arms of terror and restore security and stability on all Syrian lands."

Various reports in Israeli media said that the target of the alleged strike was a missile base belonging to the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah.

Last month, the Israeli Air Force purportedly struck a "military scientific research center" near Damascus, several days after Israel allegedly struck an Iranian military base in Syria.

World News.



Israel's first nanosatellite, BGUSAT, which was launched last February as part of an academic initiative by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Photo: Ben-Gurion University.

Israel Plans to Launch Unprecedented Coordinated Nanosatellites

BY JNS.ORG

The Israel Space Agency announced on Wednesday that it plans to launch an unprecedented group of nanosatellites in a coordinated formation at the end of 2018.

The expected launch, which will be carried out by Netherlands-based Innovative Solutions in Space using an Indian-made Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, is a joint venture between the Israel Space Agency and Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. The Israeli firms Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries were also involved in the project, providing propulsion systems, a digital receptor and a navigation system.

Researchers hope that the launch will prove that nanosatellites can maintain their flight formation for an entire year while orbiting the Earth at an altitude of 373 miles.

"Satellite miniaturization together with advanced Israeli technology will enable us to take Israel an important step forward in the field of nanosatellites," said Pini Gurfil, director of the Asher Space Research Insti-

tute at Technion.

"If we manage to prove in space that flying in formation is possible, it will be a major boost for the development of small satellites and technologies related to the miniaturization of electronic components, for efficient space processing and for space propulsion systems," he added. "The degree of innovation here can be compared to switching from a PC to a laptop and then to a mobile phone, which offers far more capabilities than its predecessors."

Last August, the Israel Space Agency launched Venus, a micro-satellite weighing 550 pounds that was jointly designed by Israeli and French aerospace firms for the purpose of monitoring climate change.

Preceding the launch of Venus, Israel launched its first nanosatellite, BGUSAT, last February as part of an academic initiative by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev that enables researchers to study climate change as well as agricultural and other scientific phenomena.

Israel is the smallest country in the world to launch its own satellites, and is also one of only 11 nations with the ability to independently launch unmanned missions into space.

Senior Hamas Terrorist Accidentally Shoots Himself in the Head

BY JNS.ORG

Hamas terrorist Imad al-Alami was rushed to a hospital in Gaza City on Tuesday after accidentally shooting himself in the head while cleaning his weapon.

Hamas member Fawzi Barhoum said the terrorist is in "critical condition." Alami, a hardline member of the Gaza-ruling terror group since the 1980s, worked to support Hamas's ties with Iran and was the first Hamas member to operate from the Iranian capital of Tehran. He returned to Gaza in 2012 after spending several years abroad. According to Hamas, Alami was previously injured in an

alleged Israeli airstrike in 2014.

Alami is the latest in a series of Hamas operatives who have been injured or killed as a result of their involvement with the terror group, with several similar operational mishaps purportedly occurring in Gaza last year.

A terrorist commander from Hamas, Ibrahim Hussein Abu al-Naja, was killed last June in what Hamas described as an "accidental" explosion. Three Hamas terrorists were injured last April in an explosion near Rafah, in what the terror group called a training "accident." Two additional Hamas terrorists were injured later that same month in another explosion in Gaza.

party platform dropped its previous support for Palestinian statehood. The people — on both sides of the Atlantic — have spoken. All that Israel's critics are left with is a bunch of stale slogans and pathetic scare tactics.

Stephen M. Flatow, a vice president of the Religious Zionists of America, is an attorney in New Jersey. He is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995.

Continued from Page A2
Critics

for the Palestinian cause. They pressured Israel to freeze all Jewish construction in the territories for 10 months.

But then democracy intervened. In 2013 and 2015, Israelis chose to re-elect a government that recognizes the deadly dangers of a Palestinian state, and nine-miles-wide borders. In 2016, Americans elected a president whose

Experts Praise Inclusion of Anti-Israel Campus Groups on BDS Blacklist

BY SHIRI MOSHE

Experts and activists have praised the Israeli government's inclusion of American anti-Zionist student groups in a new initiative announced on Sunday that will prevent the entry to the country of foreigners that promote a boycott of the Jewish state.

The blacklist published by the Israeli government includes 20 organizations, among them Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which spearhead boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) resolutions on campuses nationwide, and have been criticized for whitewashing Palestinian terrorism and creating a hostile environment for Jewish students.

Several experts who spoke to *The Algemeiner* on Monday pointed to the incendiary nature of the groups and their adverse impact on many college campuses.

Dan Diker, project director of the program to counter political warfare and BDS at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs think tank, said Israel's move may send a message to "university administrations that have been reluctant to draw a line in the sand."

SJP activists "threaten, intimidate, and harass students on campus," argued Diker, who co-authored an extensive report on the group in November. "They shut down free speech and they promote anti-normalization of relations not only with Israel, but with Jewish students on campus."

He observed that individual SJP members and chapters have been found to glorify terrorist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"They are, simply put, a tyrannical student organization that university administration has been afraid to confront, with several exceptions" — namely Northeastern University, Vassar College, and Fordham University, Diker said. "They have basically co-opted the university campus as a place for the peaceful exchange of ideas" to advance their own agenda — "the dissolution of Israel as a nation-state of the Jewish people."

"No civilized country can countenance that kind of behavior," he added.

Diker emphasized that Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs, which published the blacklist, "did a very judicious review of these groups."

"There are hundreds of BDS groups around the world, and they only took the 20 worst," he pointed out.

According to Asaf Romirowsky, executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, these include groups that have "open ties" to terrorist groups.

SJP, Romirowsky said, "has ties to Hamas. They are a subsidiary of American Muslims for Palestine [AMP]," which was also included on the blacklist.

Jonathan Schanzer, vice president for research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank, said in congressional testimony in 2016 that AMP is "arguably the most important sponsor and organizer" for SJP. At least seven individuals affiliated with AMP "have worked for or on behalf of organizations previously shut down or held civilly liable in the United States for providing financial support to Hamas" — namely the Holy Land Foundation, Islamic Association for Palestine, and KindHearts, Schanzer said.

Romirowsky argued that while pursuing illiberal ends, BDS advocates "try to play it both



Supporters of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign. Photo: Alex Chis.

ways, saying Israel is stifling conversation and academic freedom," even though they "are not looking for any kind of dialogue."

"They are basically looking ... to put the onus [for the conflict] entirely on Israel," he said. Ultimately, BDS "is not about a two state solution and it's not about reconciliation. It's all about the destruction of the state of Israel."

The organizations targeted by Israel's blacklist have refuted such claims, arguing instead that Jerusalem's actions are the primary obstacle to peace.

Rebecca Vilkomerson, executive director of JVP, charged on Sunday that BDS activists were being denied entry in reaction to the increasing support their movement is receiving worldwide, and represents an attempt "to intimidate and coerce us into silence."

"It could not be more clear from this most recent move that the rising global tide of support for BDS deeply alarms Israel," she wrote, "which recognizes it as a potent tool to change the status quo of Palestinian dispossession that has been an integral part of Israeli statehood."

Also on Sunday, SJP's co-founder Hatem Bazian — a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, who serves as AMP's national chair — tweeted that Israel's blacklist represents a declaration of "defeat in the face of global BDS success!"

The move was further condemned by some self-professed opponents of BDS — including Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of the lobbying group J Street, which advocates for "a sustainable two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

"Israel ban on entry for BDS activists undercuts democratic foundations of state," Ben-Ami tweeted on Monday. "The right way forward is to defeat the BDS movement by ending the occupation and saving its democracy, not trashing its democracy to keep out activists with whom it disagrees."

Supporters of the move contended that the Israeli government has a right to prevent the entry of non-citizens who actively oppose the Jewish state's existence, although some noted that it may conversely help the targeted groups' recruiting efforts.

"Every government, including Israel, has the right to set and enforce regulations on visas and entry into the country," said Gerald Steinberg, president of the watchdog group NGO Monitor.

"This policy serves as a warning and may make political warfare more difficult," Steinberg noted, "but it also gives the NGOs ammunition to paint themselves as victims under attack by Israel, thereby helping them raise funds and gaining media attention."

This opinion was shared by Diker who said he "would be unsurprised if the actions of the Israeli government would actually encourage more activism by some of these groups."

SJP, JVP, and AMP did not immediately respond to *The Algemeiner's* requests for comment.

U.S. News.

UNICEF Adding IDF to List of 'Grave Violators of Children's Rights'

BY JNS.ORG

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is spearheading a campaign to include the Israeli military on a UN blacklist of "grave violators of children's rights" that includes terrorist groups like Islamic State and Boko Haram, according to a new report by the NGO Monitor watchdog group.

The report, which according to Fox News was presented to senior UN officials in recent weeks, illustrates how a UNICEF working group — composed mainly of radical organizations involved in the campaign to delegitimize Israel — plays a central role in anti-Israel blacklist efforts.

The NGO Monitor report shows how UNICEF opted to ignore violations of children's rights by Palestinian organizations in the Gaza Strip, when it admitted "the working group was not in a position to document cases of child recruitment and use of children in armed conflict owing to a number of factors, including security and protection risks related to collecting comprehensive and detailed information."

The anti-Israel organizations behind the UNICEF working group have in recent years published false and misleading reports on the IDF's arrest and purported abuse of Palestinian minors involved in attacks that were later entered into a UNICEF database, lending them legitimacy. A number of these organizations, including Defense for Children International - Palestine, have ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terror group.

In response to a query from NGO Monitor, UNICEF's Palestinian territories branch did not deny that the organization has ties to terrorist groups, saying, "UNICEF has a clear policy that it does not fund...organizations which are listed as terrorist organizations by the United Nations." Among three organizations excluded from the world body's terrorist list are Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the PFLP.

NGO Monitor stated that UNICEF's reporting on Israel is "qualitatively different and more extreme than its reporting on other Middle East countries." A UNICEF spokesperson told Fox News, "The monitoring and reporting process is led by a working group, which brings together UN agencies and international, Israeli and Palestinian NGOs. These organizations are selected based on their ability to regularly provide accurate, reliable, impartial and objective data on children affected by armed conflict."

Pew Survey: Muslims to Outnumber Jews in the US by 2040

BY JNS.ORG

Muslims are expected to outnumber Jews as the second-largest religious group in the US by 2040, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center.

The study found that some 6.7 million Americans, making up 2.1 percent of the total US population, identify as Jews, while 3.45 million people, representing 1.1 percent of the population, identify as Muslims. Pew said its projections for the coming decades "suggest that the US Muslim population will grow much faster than the country's Jewish population."

The research center anticipates that the American Jewish population will continue to grow gradually until around 2030, and then start to decline due to low birthrates and assimilation.

Conversely, the US Muslim population is expected to increase rapidly due to high rates of birth and immigration. From 2007-2011, the number of American Muslims grew from 2.35 million to 2.75 million, and that population continues to rise at a rate of about 100,000 per year.

"By 2050, the US Muslim population is projected to reach 8.1 million, or 2.1 percent of the nation's total population — nearly twice the share of today," Pew stated.



Muslims praying in a mosque. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Israel Arrests Two Arab Women Over Alleged Islamic State Terror Plot

BY JNS.ORG

Israel's Shin Bet security agency, in a coordinated initiative with the IDF, arrested two Israeli-Arab women last month on charges of being in direct contact with the Islamic State terror group, incitement and plotting a terror attack.

A Shin Bet investigation revealed that Rahma Al-Assad and Tasnin Al-Assad, both 19, from the Bedouin town of Lakiya in the Negev, sought to carry out terror attacks against Jews in Israel. According to the Shin Bet, the Arab

terror suspects "considered various options" to carry out an attack and had been in contact with Islamic State terror operatives abroad.

The two women also intended to travel outside of Israel to join the terror group, and had posted content on social media praising Islamic State and inciting terrorism against Jews and Israel.

In August 2017, two Israeli-Arab brothers were arrested and indicted for supporting Islamic State. Last March, the Shin Bet disclosed that an Israeli-Arab citizen was arrested on suspicion of transferring funds to the terror group.

WARNING

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Opinion.

Will BDS Bully Roger Waters Hide Behind His Hollywood Lackeys and Refuse to Debate?



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

We Americans are often criticized for our candor. But speaking truth to power was the very foundation of the American revolution.

It's a lesson that the American Jewish community should bear in mind, as more BDS celebrities come out to bully the state of Israel into submission.

The BDS movement's objective is the destruction of Israel. And the world Jewish community has a responsibility to stand up for the world's only Jewish state. Two thousand years of antisemitism have taught us that "if we are not for ourselves, then who will be for us," as Hillel expressed it so eloquently.

Those who boycott must themselves be boycotted. There can be no tolerance for intolerance, no safe sanctuary for anti-Jewish bigotry. The year is 2018, and we Jews won't stand for this anymore.

My organization recently published a major ad pointing out Lorde's bigotry and hypocrisy for canceling a concert in Israel, while still performing in Putin's Russia. Not surprisingly, Roger Waters — one of the music world's most vitriolic critics of Israel — came to Lorde's defense.

Like many BDS advocates, Waters is an antisemite. This is not just my opinion; it is the conclusion of the Anti-Defamation League. "His comments about Jews and Israel have gotten progressively worse over time," ADL National Director Abraham Foxman said in 2013. "It started with anti-Israel invective, and has now morphed into conspiratorial antisemitism."

Having Waters accuse us of bullying — as he did in a letter to *The Guardian* signed

by 100 Hollywood types — is the height of hypocrisy. Waters has relentlessly and shamefully bullied performers scheduled to perform in Israel, and few have had the courage to denounce his bigotry directly.

Radiohead's Thom Yorke is one of the few who has taken on Waters. Despite pressure from Waters and his ilk, Radiohead not only played in Israel for the fourth time, but Yorke called out Waters for being "patronizing" and "offensive."

Waters and his fellow boycott advocates believe that they alone have the right to speak their minds, and they do so with the nefarious goal of destroying the state of Israel. It is further evidence of their own bigotry that they wish to deny us the right to defend the Jewish people. For Waters, Jews must take it on the chin, as they have for two millennia.

It was no surprise that Waters condemned us and recruited other well-known Israel haters, such as Ken Loach, Alice Walker and Angela Davis, to sign a letter supporting Lorde's boycott of Israel. I was dismayed, however, to see John Cusack, Viggo Mortensen and Mark Ruffalo associate with the BDS movement. Do they really want to be linked with an antisemitic campaign?

When artists ally themselves with the unrestrained antisemitism of Roger Waters, they have to accept that they will be tainted by his crass Jew-hatred.

Waters has compared Israel and its rabbis to the Nazis. He also compared artists who perform in Israel to those who performed in Berlin during the Second World War. His vile hatred for the Jewish people has also transcended mere words.

In 2013, Waters masqueraded as a Nazi in one of his concerts. Flanked by long draping banners, Waters' outfit was complete with a slick leather jacket, a red arm-band and an MP40 Schmeisser — the iconic Nazi machine gun used extensively by the Axis powers throughout World War II. To resolve any doubts

as to the performer's clear antisemitism, at the very same concert, the audience found itself orbited by a massive balloon in the shape of a pig and stamped with a Star of David.

These schemes were featured at Waters' concerts in Belgium and the Netherlands, countries where more than 130,000 Jews were murdered by the Nazis.

Waters and his ilk cannot distinguish between the democratic government of Israel — which respects and promotes human rights — versus the Palestinian autocrats and Islamists, who deny their people basic freedom and dignity. They also don't understand or care about the murderous regime of Bashar Assad, who has slaughtered and displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians without protests from these artists. They also don't understand the hypocrisy of defending Hamas, an organization that denies artists freedom of expression, promotes genocide against the Jewish people, engages in honor killings of Palestinian women, and uses Palestinian children as human shields in their bloody wars against Israel.

And, like Lorde, they all continue to support Russia — the same Russia that has backed Assad in his brutal campaign, which has resulted in the killing of 500,000 Arabs. Israel, by contrast, runs hospitals and clinics for Syria's victims, just across the border.

BDS does nothing to advance the cause of peace, tolerance and understanding; instead, it actually hurts the Palestinian people. Most proponents of the boycott live thousands of miles away, and do not represent the will of the Palestinians in the disputed territories — who must live with the consequences, and therefore oppose the boycott. Tens of thousands of Palestinians benefit from going to Israeli universities, from working for Israeli companies, and from employment in Israeli communities.

The reality that singers like Lorde are unaware of is that the Palestinian Authority



Roger Waters. Photo: Jethro via Wikimedia Commons.

refuses to negotiate peace, denies its own people civil and human rights, and cannot provide jobs or meet the basic needs of its people. I wonder if BDS supporters are aware of how women and gays, for example, are discriminated against there? Do they know that women can be murdered in "honor killings," or that gay people may be killed for violating Islamic prohibitions on homosexuality?

Do the BDS advocates explain to their followers that Mahmoud Abbas is a corrupt dictator, who is now entering the 13th year of a four-year presidential term — and that an overwhelming majority of Palestinians tell pollsters that he should resign?

I hope that Lorde will take advantage of the invitation from Israel's ambassador to New Zealand to meet, and to learn more about the country she has chosen to demonize. I hope that she will speak to performers like Madonna, Lady Gaga and Elton John, who had the courage to stand up to the pressure and found that Israel is a beautiful country — and a model of tolerance. I hope that she will speak to legends like Ringo Starr, who announced, just days after Lorde's cancellation, that he will be performing in Israel.

Most of all, I hope that Lorde admits she made a mistake — and reschedules her concert. She will be forgiven, and find a welcoming audience in Tel Aviv.

As for Roger Waters, I put out this challenge. Rather than write boring letters about me to *The Guardian*, why not agree to debate me on Israel and the Middle East?

I eagerly await your response.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom The Washington Post and Newsweek call "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the international bestselling author of 30 books, including his most recent, "The Israel Warrior." Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

Don't Cut Off UNRWA, Try to Reform It



DAVID BEDEIN
EFRAT ISRAEL

Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the UN, has now questioned the credibility of UNRWA as a recipient of American aid.

By no small coincidence, the General Accounting Office (GAO) — the investigative arm of the US Congress — is scheduled to issue a massive report on the indiscretions of UNRWA at some point during the month of February.

However, just because the US may suspend assistance of \$369 million to UNRWA, does not mean that this agency and its \$1.2 billion budget will soon disappear.

So what will replace the US aid to UNRWA?

Donor records show that in 2017, Saudi Arabia became the number three donor to UNRWA — after the US and the EU. They might make up much of the difference if the US abdicates its role in funding the UN body. And the Saudis may not represent a positive development when it comes to UNRWA.

While Riyadh shows a willingness to cooperate with Israel on matters of security and economy, the Saudis have quietly become the mainstay of newly radicalized UNRWA education. A new comprehensive study of all school books, commissioned by the Center for Near East Policy Research, and published by the Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, shows that UNRWA textbooks have deteriorated from mere incitement of children, into a systematic school curriculum of indoctrination for 515,000 UNRWA students to engage in total war against Israel and the Jews.

UNRWA will not go away — despite any US cuts to funding. Recognizing this reality,

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists, for example, that funding to UNRWA should be used to reform UNRWA polices.

All of this presents an opportunity for the UNRWA's donor nations to work in unison to adopt a "UNRWA Reform Initiative." Elements of this plan could include:

1. Asking for an audit of donor funds that flow to UNRWA. This would address widespread documented reports of wasted resources, duplicity of services and money sent to terror groups, which have gained control over UNRWA operations in Gaza and elsewhere.
2. Introducing UN human rights standards to UNRWA, in order to solve the Palestinian refugee issue by promoting resettlement in other countries. Current UNRWA policy is that refugee resettlement would interfere with the "right of return."
3. Canceling the new UNRWA curriculum, which incorporates principles of jihad, martyrdom and "right of return" by force of arms — in UN schools that are supposed to promote the UN slogan of "Peace Starts Here."
4. Ceasing paramilitary training in all UNRWA schools. UNRWA could demonstrate its commitment to UN peace education principles by canceling all paramilitary activities in UNRWA schools, which have

been continuing for more than a decade — and preparing children for war.

5. Insisting that UNRWA dismiss employees who are affiliated with terrorist organizations, in accordance with laws on the books in the US, Canada, the UK, Australia and the EU.

6. Insisting that UNRWA cancel its contract with "singing youth ambassador" Mohammad Assaf, who travels the world encouraging violence. Would this not be the appropriate time for donor nations to ask that UNRWA cancel that contract?

A "UNRWA Reform Initiative" should be endorsed by all mainstream members of the United Nations.

David Bedein, MSW, has devoted thirty years of research into examining UNRWA policies, producing numerous articles, books and films on the subject, while making presentations at the UN, the US Congress, the Canadian Parliament, the British Parliament and the Swedish Parliament. He directs Israel Resource News Agency and administers the Center for Near East Policy Research and is the author of "Roadblock to Peace — How the UN Perpetuates the Arab-Israeli Conflict: UNRWA Policies Reconsidered" and "The Genesis of the Palestinian Authority." His website is israel-behindthenews.com.

Opinion.

Threatening to Cut Palestinian Aid Is the Right Move



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.ORG

We didn't need the publication of a new book to know that Donald Trump is an unconventional — and, at times, inappropriate president. His use of Twitter provides many examples of this fact.

But amid another flurry of questionable tweets on January 4, Trump also talked about threatening aid cuts to the Palestinian Authority (PA). Many who commented on those tweets in the mainstream media treated the idea as a mistake. But while it's easy to mock Trump's social media habits, this one makes sense, and showed that, not for the first time, the president's instinctual distrust of experts and the foreign policy establishment may have served him well.

The minuscule amount of the national budget that goes to foreign nations generally serves American interests. In the case of Israel, which is the largest recipient, almost all of the money it gets is spent in the US. It's also part of a strategic alliance in which America receives a great deal back in terms of intelli-

gence and technology.

But not all foreign aid serves US interests. The money sent to the Palestinians illustrates this painfully obvious conclusion. Yet despite the abundant proof that keeping it flowing is counterproductive, the so-called experts seeking to restrain Trump can't seem to grasp this fact.

Aid to the PA is seen as necessary to prop up the only available interlocutor for peace with Israel. We're also told that funding the PA is a necessary part of its security cooperation with Israel.

There are elements of truth to these assertions. If the PA were to collapse, that would likely lead to Israel having to reassert direct control of the West Bank rather than the current situation in which the overwhelming majority of Palestinians are governed by the corrupt Fatah party led by PA leader Mahmoud Abbas. But the PA's need for cash to prop up its kleptocracy is exactly why the US should be using its financial leverage to make it clear to Abbas that a quarter century of his organization holding the US hostage in this manner can't continue. Abbas's threats of dissolving the PA are bluffs that should have been called long ago.

The same is true of security cooperation. Abbas relies on Israel to ensure his

survival against the plots of his Islamist rivals as much, if not more, than the Israelis rely on the PA to help keep terror under control in the West Bank.

The PA also uses the hundreds of millions of dollars it gets from the US to provide salaries and pensions to terrorists and their families. Congressional efforts to hinge US aid to ending the PA's subsidies via the Taylor Force Act deserve the president's support.

The same is true about the massive American contributions to UNRWA, the United Nations refugee agency that is solely devoted to the Palestinians. While UNRWA is credited with feeding and educating Palestinians, its main role is in maintaining the Arab refugees as a stateless people to perpetuate an ongoing threat to Israel's existence. An equal number of Jews were forced to flee their homes in Arab and Muslim countries after 1948, but they were absorbed in Israel and the West. Yet UNRWA has been part of the effort to prevent Palestinian Arabs from being absorbed elsewhere, thereby allowing them to cling to their dream of destroying the Jewish state.

UNRWA's schools have courses and books that promote hatred of Israel and Jews. Just as outrageous is the fact that UNRWA

employees are often involved with Palestinian terror organizations, and its schools and other facilities have been used to store Hamas weapons where they would presumably be safe from Israeli retaliation.

American governments have tolerated this situation because they felt there was no alternative. But whether or not it is because he isn't so versed in policy, and therefore is not burdened with the conventional wisdom that has made destructive programs seem reasonable, Trump appears to be unwilling to keep throwing good money after bad.

You don't have to be supporter of Trump or Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to understand that he is right to demand that if the Palestinians want US money they must, at the very least, come back to the negotiating table and cease funding and fomenting terror.

It isn't so much a case of "America First" to demand that recipients of US largesse cooperate with US policy, as it is one of common sense. Whatever his other faults, Trump's insistence on this is neither foolish, nor proof of his being unfit for office.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_tobin.

Continued from Below

Lie #3: - Now various sides want to claim the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, as the exclusive possession of only one people. This treats with contempt the mechanism that has maintained peace and our multi-religious landscape for generations.

The claim that "various sides want to claim the Holy Land, including Jerusalem, as the exclusive possession of only one people" is misleading. Only Palestinians have been

campaigning at international forums, such as UNESCO, to erase the Jewish connection to Jerusalem and the city's holy sites. Israel has been doing nothing of the sort.

Even if the author is narrowly referring to the view, shared by most Israelis, that all of Jerusalem should be recognized as the Jewish capital, and that the city should never again be divided, it's unclear how this would undermine the "mechanism that has

Continued on Page A10

UK Paper Features Lies About Christians Being Driven From Jerusalem



ADAM LEVICK
JERUSALEM

A Guardian op-ed by Theophilos III, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, ("Christians are at risk of being driven out of the Holy Land," Jan. 7th) is full of errors, lies and distortions:

Lie #1: - "there is a threat ... to the religious status quo, a threat instigated by radical settlers in and around Jerusalem, the heart of Christianity.

Theophilos's assertion that "radical settlers" threaten the religious status quo in Jerusalem is not true — as later in the article, we learn that the "radical settlers" are Jews who buy property in east Jerusalem.

However, Jewish groups purchasing land in (east) Jerusalem do not threaten the "status quo," at least in regards to what that term typically refers to: access to holy sites, such as the Temple Mount. (Alternatively, if he's not referring to the status quo at holy sites, he could be making a morally troubling argument that any Jew who moves into areas of the city where Jews were ethnically cleansed and forbidden to live under Jordanian rule is itself a violation of the 'status quo'.)

Also, note how he characterizes Jerusalem as "the heart of Christianity" —



People attend Christmas celebrations outside the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Dec. 24, 2017.
Photo: Reuters / Ammar Awad.

but fails, in this paragraph or anywhere throughout the op-ed, to acknowledge the Jewish connection to the city.

Lie #2: - The protection and accessibility of the holy places are understood through a set of rules called the "status quo," which has been followed by all religious and governmental authorities of the region through the ages.

Contrary to this assertion, the protection and accessibility of holy places has NOT been "followed by all religious and governmental authorities of the region through the ages."

For several hundred years under Ottoman control, non-Muslims were prohibited from visiting the Temple Mount. When Jordan controlled east Jerusalem, Jews were ethnically cleansed from that section of the city, and forbidden from visiting Jewish holy sites there.

By contrast, since 1967, Israel has granted access to all faiths at the holy sites.


Continued Next Column

the **algemeiner**

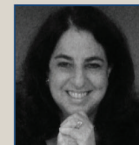
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Impressions.

Ten Ways That Israel Is Treated Differently

BY DAVID HARRIS

The recent focus on the Jerusalem issue is a telling reminder that Israel is treated according to a totally different standard than other countries in the international system.

Of course, Israel deserves attention and scrutiny — as does every other nation. But it also merits equal treatment — nothing more, and nothing less.

Yet here are ten ways that Israel is constantly treated differently from all other countries on earth.

First, Israel is the only state whose capital city, Jerusalem — with which the Jewish people have been umbilically linked for more than 3,000 years — is not recognized by almost all other countries.

Imagine the absurdity of this. Foreign diplomats live in Tel Aviv, while conducting virtually all of their business in Jerusalem, where the prime minister's office, the Knesset, the Supreme Court, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are located.

In fact, look at the listings of world cities, including places of birth in passports, and you'll see something striking — Paris, France; Tokyo, Japan; Pretoria, South Africa; Lima, Peru; and Jerusalem, sans country — orphaned, if you will.

Second, Israel is the only UN member state whose very right to exist is under constant challenge.

Notwithstanding the fact that Israel embodies an age-old connection with the Jewish people, as repeatedly cited in the most widely read book in the world, the Bible; that it was reborn based on the 1947 recommendation of the UN; and that it has been a member of the world body since 1949, there's a relentless chorus denying Israel's very political legitimacy.

No one would dare question the right of many other countries to exist, whose basis for statehood is infinitely more questionable than Israel's — such as those countries that were created by brute force, occupation or distant mapmakers.

Just look around at how many nations fit those categories — including, by the way, quite a few Arab countries. Why, then, is it open hunting season only on Israel? Could it possibly have anything to do with the fact that it's the only Jewish-majority country in the world?

Third, Israel is the only UN member state that's been targeted for annihilation by another UN member state.

Think about it. The leadership of Iran, together with Iran-funded proxies in Lebanon and Gaza, has repeatedly called for wiping Israel off the map. Is there any other country facing such a stated goal of genocidal destruction? Meanwhile, a majority of countries continues to conduct business as usual with Tehran, as if this threat to another nation was either welcome or somehow deemed irrelevant.

Fourth, the UN has two agencies dealing with refugees.

One, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), focuses on all the world's refugee populations — save one. The other, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), handles only the Palestinians.

But the difference goes beyond the anomaly of two structures and two bureaucracies. In fact, they have two strikingly different mandates.

UNHCR seeks to resettle refugees; UNRWA does not. When, in 1951, John Blandford, UNRWA's then-director, proposed resettling up to 250,000 Palestinian

refugees in nearby Arab countries, those countries reacted with rage and refused, leading to his departure. The message got through. No UN official since has pushed for resettlement.

Moreover, the UNRWA and UNHCR definitions of a refugee differ markedly. Whereas the UNHCR services only those who've actually fled their homelands, the UNRWA definition covers "the descendants of persons who became refugees in 1948," without any generational limitations.

Fifth, Israel is the only country that has won all its major wars for survival and self-defense, yet is confronted by defeated adversaries who have insisted on dictating the terms of peace.

In doing so, ironically, they've found support from many countries that, victorious in war themselves, demanded — and, yes, got — major border adjustments. A quick glance at, say, earlier maps of Europe amply illustrates the point.

Sixth, Israel is the only country in the world with a separate — and permanent — agenda item, #7, at the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council.

No other member state, including serial human-rights violators like North Korea, Syria, Iran and Sudan, has its own agenda item. Only the sole liberal democracy in the Middle East is treated

in this blatantly biased manner — because that's the way it works: the bad guys circle the wagons to protect one another, and, at the same time, gang up on Israel, creating an automatic majority against it.

Seventh, Israel is the only country condemned by name at the World Health Organization as a "violator" of health rights.

This canard is registered despite the fact that Israel provides world-class medical assistance to Syrians wounded in the country's civil war and Palestinians living in Hamas-ruled Gaza; has achieved one of the world's highest life expectancy rates for all its citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish alike; is among the very first medical responders to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur, from Haiti to Nepal; and is daily advancing the frontiers of medicine for everyone, something that can't be said for too many other nations.

Eighth, Israel is the only country that's the continuous target of three standing UN bodies established and staffed solely for the purpose of advancing the Palestinian cause and bashing Israel — the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People; and the Division for Palestinian Rights in the UN's Department of Political Affairs.

Ninth, Israel is the only country annually targeted by at least 20 UN General Assembly resolutions and countless measures in other UN bodies, such as the Human Rights Council.

Indeed, astonishingly, every year, Israel is on the receiving end of more such efforts than the other 192 UN member states combined. No one can seriously argue that this is remotely warranted, but it's a reality because in every UN body except the Security Council, where each of the five permanent members has a veto, it's all about majority voting.

When close to two-thirds of the world's nations today belong to the Non-Aligned Movement, and when they elected a country like Iran as their chair from 2013 to 2016, followed by Venezuela, that just about says it all.

And tenth, Israel is the only state targeted by the BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement.

Has anyone seen any significant campus activity that takes aim at true human rights offenders, including some in Israel's neighborhood, who behead, forcibly



The United Nations Security Council chamber in New York City. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

convert and expel Christians; drop chemically-laced barrel bombs on civilians; deny Palestinians full rights; persecute LGBT communities; and use capital punishment, even for minors, with abandon?

Has any student group tried to prevent undergraduates from traveling to any country other than Israel, as was the case with an earlier "pledge" circulated at UCLA?

Has anyone seen any flotillas or flytillas organized by European far-left groups that don't involve an anti-Israel angle?

Has anyone seen movements for companies to pull out of any country other than Israel?

Turkey, to take one example, has brazenly and unjustifiably occupied one-third of the island nation of Cyprus for 44 years, deployed an estimated 40,000 Turkish troops there, and transferred countless settlers there from Anatolia — yet there's not a peep about Ankara from those who purport to act in the name of "justice" and against Israeli "occupation."

Given political realities, tackling any of these instances of egregious double standards and blatant hypocrisy can be a daunting challenge. And, still worse, this list is not complete.

The old advertisement proclaimed that you don't have to be Jewish to love Levy's Jewish rye bread. Well, surely, you don't have to be a pro-Israel activist to be troubled by the grotesquely unjust treatment of Israel. All it takes is a capacity for moral outrage that things like this are happening in today's world.

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



347 BERRY LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/09/2017. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 32 Court Street Penthouse, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. AJ; 12/8/15/22/29; 1/5/12

Notice of Formation of Brooklyn Perfume Company LLC. Art. of Org. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 9/21/17. Principal Office: 120 Wyckoff St. Brooklyn, NY 11201, Kings County. SSNY designated as process agent. Process Service address: 120 Wyckoff St. Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful purpose. AJ; 12/8/15/22/29; 1/5/12

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ALWAYS A DOLLAR LLC .Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 10/24/2017. Office location Bronx County . SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served .SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: The LLC 4022 Baychester Ave., Bronx, NY 10466. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 12/15/22/29; 1/5/12/19

Notice of Formation of With Gratitude Box LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/7/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 305 Nevins St, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: any lawful activity. AJ; 12/15/22/29; 1/5/12/19

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SEAY STRATEGIES LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 08/14/2017. Office location: Kings county SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon Whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of process to: Seay Strategies LLC 57 Herkimer apartment 208, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 12/15/22/29; 1/5/12/19

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., Plaintiff, vs. Kathy R. Jones, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale and Order to Amend Caption duly filed on October 31, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on January 25, 2018 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 1239 East 88th Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 8067 and Lot 23. Approximate amount of judgment is \$518,052.84 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 4095/2013. Jeffrey R. Miller, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski

LEGAL NOTICE

& Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Ste. 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff
AJ; 12/22/29; 1/5/12/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR MORGAN STANLEY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-6AR, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-6AR, Plaintiff AGAINST MICHAEL GARNETT, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 18, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on January 25, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1185 EAST 92ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in Canarsie, Town of Flatlands, Kings County, New York (now Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York), BLOCK 8200, LOT 34. Approximate amount of judgment \$799,453.97 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 511466/2014. JAGESHWAR SHARMA, Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 50274
AJ; 12/22/29; 1/5/12/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust, Plaintiff AGAINST 778 Logan LLC; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 1, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 25, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 778 Logan Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4480 Lot 18. Approximate amount of judgment \$561,530.86 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 500021/2015. Helene Blank, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: November 30, 2017 50204
AJ; 12/22/29; 1/5/12/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, As indenture trustee successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as indenture trustee, for LXS 2007-5H, asset backed notes, series 2007-5H, Plaintiff AGAINST Almarie Maxwell; Betram Maxwell; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated March 13, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on January 25, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 8713 Avenue J, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

LEGAL NOTICE

All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8024 lot 4. Approximate amount of judgment \$761,913.57 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 23760/08. Sol Needle, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: November 17, 2017 50086
AJ; 12/22/29; 1/5/12/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE TERWIN MORTGAGE TRUST 2006-7, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-7, WITHOUT RECOURSE; Plaintiff(s) vs. JUDIE C. HUTCHINSON; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about September 29, 2017, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. On January 25, 2018 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 772 Lincoln Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208 Block: 4465 Lot: 111 ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$937,638.04 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 3370/08 Barton Slavin, Esq., Referee
AJ; 12/22/29; 1/5/12/

Notice of formation of a limited liability company(LLC) Name: SEPTEMBER SWELL,LLC . Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 09/27/2017. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: United States corporation agents,inc. 7014 13th Ave., suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 12/29; 1/5/12/19/26; 2/2/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST FREDERICK L. GRANT, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 02, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on February 01, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 660 WARWICK STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 4078, LOT 45. Approximate amount of judgment \$653,662.17 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 6144/2013. William D. Bowman Esq.,

LEGAL NOTICE

Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 50435
AJ; 12/29; 1/5/12/19

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Pennymac Corp, Plaintiff AGAINST Donald Bradley a/k/a Donald E. Bradley; Doreen Bradley; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 25, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 8, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 392 Fenimore Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4814 Lot 20. Approximate amount of judgment \$466,536.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 509000/2014. Steven Naiman, Esq, Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: December 19, 2017 50748
AJ; 1/5/12/19/26;

PUMPEDISA, LLC. Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 08/03/2017. Office in KINGS COUNTY. SSNY desig. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 4809 AVENUE N, #317, BROOKLYN, NY 11234. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
AJ; 1/5/12/19/26; 2/2/9

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: HERA PROPERTY CONSULTING,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/02/2017. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: United States corporation agents,inc. 7014 13th Avenue, suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/9/16

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST BY PURCHASE FROM THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION AS RECEIVER OF WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK F/K/A WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, Plaintiff against JESSIE LOZADA; BENJAMIN LOZADA; MRS. LOZADA, a woman who refused to identify her first name, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on March 27, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 15th day of February, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the building and improvements thereon erected, situate lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 167 Euclid Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11208. (Block: 4129, Lot: 23). Approximate amount of lien \$ 328,267.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 506966/2014.

LEGAL NOTICE

Zvi Storch, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY. 14614 (585) 232-7400
AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Melinda Michael LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 01/04/2018. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Shanna Walker 65 Grand View Avenue Staten Island NY 10303. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/9/16

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Polished & Professional Staffing, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 12/28/2017. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Ivette Torres 3139 Waterbury Ave. Bronx , NY 10465 . Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/9/16

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF CSAB MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff against WILLIAM A. STALLONE, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on November 29, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 15th day of February, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, together with any improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn , City and State of New York, designated on the Tax Map of the City of New York, for the Borough of Brooklyn, as said Tax Map was on May 27, 1981, for Block 7949, Lot 235, being more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the northerly side of Preston Court distant 527.85 feet Westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Northerly side of Preston Court with the Westerly side of East 56th Street; RUNNING thence northerly at right angles to Preston Court and part of the distance through a party wall 165.73 to land now or formerly of the right of way of the Long Island Railroad Company; THENCE westerly along said land of the Long Island Rail Road Company 20.01 feet to a point; THENCE southerly at right angles to Preston Court 165.34 feet to the Northerly side of Preston Court; THENCE Easterly along the Northerly side of Preston Court 20 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. Said premises known as 21 Preston Court, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234. (Block: 7949, Lot: 235). Approximate amount of lien \$ 303,103.81 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 500904-14. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee. Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 10 Bank Street Suite - 700 White Plains, NY. 10606 (914) 949-2574
AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/

Tradition.

Legal Notice.

Free Will: Use It or Lose It



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

In parshat Va'era we read for the first time, not of Pharaoh hardening his heart but of God doing so: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart," said God to Moses, "and multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt" (Ex. 7:3). And so indeed we find in the sixth plague, boils (Ex. 9:12), the eighth, locusts (Ex. 10:1, 20), and the tenth, the firstborn (Ex. 11:10). In each case the hardening is attrib-



uted to God. Hence the problem that troubled the sages and later commentators: if God was the cause and Pharaoh merely His passive vehicle, what was his sin? He had no choice, therefore no responsibility, therefore no culpability. The commentators give a broad range of answers. One: Pharaoh's loss of freewill during the last five plagues was a punishment for his obstinacy in the first five, where he acted freely. Two: the relevant verb, *ch-z-k*, does not mean "to harden" but "to strengthen." God was not taking away Pharaoh's freewill but, to the contrary, preserving it in the face of the overwhelming disasters that were hitting Egypt. Three: God is a partner in all human action, but we only usually attribute an act to God if it seems inexplicable in ordinary human terms. Pharaoh acted freely throughout, but it was only during the last five plagues that his behaviour was so strange that it was attributed to God.

Note how reluctant the commentators were to take the text at face value – rightly so because freewill is one of the fundamental beliefs of Judaism. Maimonides explains why: If we had no free will there would be, he says, no point to the commands and prohibitions, since we would behave as we were predestined to, regardless of what the law is. Nor would there be any justice in reward or punishment since neither the righteous nor the wrongdoer is free to be other than what they are.

So the problem is an ancient one. But it has become much more salient in modern times because of the sheer accumula-

tion of challenges to the belief in human freedom. Marx said history is formed by the play of economic forces. Freud argued that we are what we are because of unconscious drives. Neo-Darwinians say that however we rationalise our behaviour, we do what we do because people who behaved this way in the past survived to hand on their genes to future generations. Most recently, neuroscientists have shown, using fMRI scans, that in some cases our brain registers a decision up to seven seconds before we are consciously aware of it.

All of this is interesting and important, but contemporary

secularists usually fail to see what the ancient sages knew: that if we genuinely lack freewill, our entire sense of what it is to be human will crumble into dust. There is a glaring contradiction at the heart of our culture. On the one hand, secularists believe that nothing should constrain our freedom to choose to do whatever we want to do, or be whatever we want to be, so long as we do not harm others. Their supreme value is autonomous choice. On the other hand, secularists tell us that human freedom does not exist. *Why then should we invoke freedom-to-choose as a value if it is, according to science, an illusion?*

If hard determinism is true, there is no reason to honour liberty or create a free society. To the contrary: we should embrace Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, where children are conceived and hatched in laboratories, and adults programmed to stay happy by a regime of drugs and pleasure. We should implement the scenario of Anthony Burgess's *The Clockwork Orange*, in which criminals are reformed by brain surgery or conditioning. If freedom does not exist, why be bothered by the addictive nature of computer games and social media? Why prefer genuine reality to virtual reality? It was Nietzsche who rightly observed that the greater our scientific achievements, the lower our view of the human person. No longer the image of God, we have become mere incarnated algorithms. The truth is that the more we understand about the human brain, the better able we are to describe what

free action really is. At present, scientists distinguish between the amygdala, the most primitive part of the brain, conditioned to sensitise us to potential danger; the limbic system, sometimes called the "social brain," which is responsible for much of our emotional life; and the prefrontal cortex, which is analytical and capable of dispassionately weighing the consequences of alternative choices. The tensions between these three form the arena within which personal freedom is won or lost.

Patterns of behaviour are shaped by neural pathways connecting different parts of the brain, but not all of them are good for us. So, for instance, we might turn to drugs or binge eating or thrill-seeking to distract us from some of the unhappy chemicals – fears and anxieties, for instance – that are also part of the architecture of the brain. The more often we do so, the more myelin gets wrapped around the pathway, and the more rapid and instinctive the behaviour. So the more often we behave in certain ways, the harder it is to break the habit and create a new and different pathway. To do so requires the acquisition of new habits, acted on consistently for an extended period of time. Current scientific thinking suggests that a minimum of 66 days is needed to form a new habit.

So we now have a scientific way of explaining the hardening taking place in Pharaoh's heart. Having established a pattern of response to the first five plagues, he would find it progressively more difficult at every level – neuroscientifically, psychologically and politically – to change. The same is true of every bad habit and political decision. Almost all our structures, mental and social, tend to reinforce previous patterns of behaviour. So our freedom diminishes every time we fail to exercise it.

If so, then today's parsha and contemporary science tell the same story: that freedom is not a given, nor is it an absolute. We have to work for it. We acquire it slowly in stages, and we can lose it, as Pharaoh lost his, and as drug addicts, workaholics, and people addicted to computer games lose theirs. In one of the most famous opening lines in all literature, Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote, at the beginning of *The Social Contract*, that "Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains." In fact, the opposite is true. Our early character is determined partly by DNA – the genetic heritage of our parents and theirs – partly by our home and upbringing, partly by our friends, and partly by the surrounding culture. We are not born free. We have to work hard to achieve freedom.

That takes rituals, whose repeated performance creates new neural pathways and new rapid-response behaviour. It requires a certain calibrated distance from the surrounding culture, if we are not to be swept away by social fads and fashions that seem liberating now but destructive in retrospect. It needs a mental mindset that pauses

before any significant action and asks, "Should I do this? May I do this? What rules of conduct should I bring to bear?" It involves an internalised narrative of identity, so that we can ask of any course of action, "Is this who I am and what I stand for?"

It is no accident that the elements listed in the previous paragraph are all prominent features of Judaism, which turns out to be an ongoing seminar in willpower and impulse control. Now that we are beginning to understand the plasticity of the brain, we know at least a little of the neuroscience that lies behind the ability to overcome bad habits and addictions. Keeping Shabbat, for example, has the power to liberate us and our children from smartphone addiction and all that goes with it. The religion whose first festival, Pesach, celebrates collective freedom, gives us, in its rituals, the skills we need for personal freedom.

Freedom is less a gift than an achievement. Even a Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the ancient world, could lose it. Even a nation of slaves could, with the help of God, acquire it. Never take freedom for granted. It needs a hundred small acts of self-control daily, which is what halakhah, Jewish law, is all about.

Freedom is a muscle that needs to be exercised: use it or lose it. That is a life-transforming idea.

Continued from Page A7
UK Paper

maintained peace," and the city's "multi-religious landscape."

Lie #4: - one of the foremost threats to Christians in the Holy Land is the unacceptable activities of radical settler groups, which are attempting to establish control over properties around the Jaffa gate. The properties in question are in the heart of Jerusalem's Christian quarter, the seat of all the patriarchates and headquarters of the churches, and less than 500m from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. ... The Patriarchate has lodged an appeal with the Israeli high court of justice, but if our efforts prove unsuccessful the result would be immensely damaging to the integrity of the Old City.

Remarkably, Theophilos fails to reveal that the properties around the Jaffa gate that "radical settler groups" are "attempting to establish control over" were, in fact, already sold to a Jewish group by the previous Orthodox Patriarch, Irenaios I.

Theophilos went to court to ask that the sale be nullified, because, his lawyers argue, the sale was "part of the corrupt operations of the previous patriarch and his treasurer." (The broader context ignored in the op-ed is that the church is the second biggest landowner in Israel, and has been selling land all over Israel for years to private developers, due to the fact that the church is deeply in debt.)

Lie #5: - If the settler groups were to gain control of the properties, they would be able to pursue their aggressive campaign of removing non-Jews from the City and from these strategic centres at

LEGAL NOTICE

Azna Realty LLC Arts. Of Org. Filed w/ SSNY 12/27/17. Offin Kings Co. SSNY desig.as agt.of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 919 81st St., Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/9/16

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Thakor Madhoo, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 27, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on February 15, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 205 HALE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 3960, LOT 6. Approximate amount of judgment \$651,242.34 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 512152/2015. Leonard C. Spector, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 51064 AJ; 1/12/19/26; 2/2/

the heart of the Christian quarter, threatening the very presence of Christians in the Holy Land.

Theophilos' claim that settler groups are pursuing a "campaign of removing non-Jews from the city" – suggesting ethnic cleansing – is just absurd. Groups like Ateret Cohanim are indeed involved in a campaign to legally purchase property in east Jerusalem, whilst encouraging Jews to move there – but they certainly aren't attempting to kick non-Jews out of the city, and of course don't have the power to do so.

Finally, his suggestion that the sale – again, by his predecessor – of a few properties in or around the Christian quarter to Jews threatens "the very presence of Christians in the Holy Land" is lunacy.

As Dexter Van Zile, CAMERA's Christian media analyst, has written, "between 1949 and 2015, Israel's indigenous population of Christians has increased by 282 percent." "No other country in the Middle East," Zile noted, "has experienced a similar increase in its indigenous population of Christians." Indeed, elsewhere in the region, Christian communities have suffered catastrophic losses during the same time frame.

It is simply undeniable that Israel is the true "safe space" for Christians in the Middle East.

Though we're of course accustomed to errors, distortions and omissions in Guardian op-eds about Israel, this piece by the Orthodox Patriarch, suggesting some sort of sinister Jewish plot to ethnically cleans Christians from the Holy Land, rises to a whole other level of dishonesty.

Social.



Howard Stern. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Howard Stern Bashes Lorde for Cancelling Israel Concert, Asks, 'Why Is Israel the Bad Guy in the World?'

BY SHIRYN SOLNY

Famed shock jock Howard Stern went on a profanity-ridden tirade on his Sirius XM satellite radio show last week against international singer Lorde for cancelling her scheduled concert in Israel.

Stern said he was furious and confused after the "Royals" singer called off her upcoming June show in Tel Aviv — following pressure she faced from anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement activists — but kept her scheduled concerts in Russia, part of her world tour. The talk show host criticized Lorde for discriminating against Israel, but not Russia, a country he accused of "planting all kinds of problems around the world, all kinds of terrorism."

"She has no problem with Russia," Stern said about the 21-year-old performer. "The only place in the world

where she can't play is Israel. So what do you think's going on? What's the one thing about Israel that's different than all other places. There's Jews there...I hope Lorde has a good time in Russia."

Stern then lambasted former Pink Floyd bassist Roger Waters and questioned why Israel is a constant target of criticism. Stern asked his listeners, "Why is it that Israel is the bad guy in the world? Why Israel? Jews get enough s**t [and] get dumped on all the time."

Stern and his cohosts also refuted the claims of a caller who began accusing Israel of ethnic cleansing and land theft. They later spoke to another caller who claimed to be "Lorde's number one fan in Israel." The fan begged Lorde to hold a concert in the Jewish state and jokingly promised to have all the kosher restaurants in Israel serve bacon just for her.

Global Jewish Students Report Shared Challenges on BDS, Anti-Semitism, Apathy

BY ELIANA RUDEE/JNS.org

They may live thousands of miles apart, but student activists from around the world identify various shared challenges living as Jews in their respective countries and campuses.

At the 44th World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) congress in Jerusalem from Dec. 28-Jan. 1, 157 delegates from 36 countries gathered to connect with other passionate student leaders and explore various facets of

what it means to be a Jewish student leader today.

According to Yos Tarshish, the outgoing chairperson of WUJS, the newest major issues facing Jewish college students are anti-normalization efforts against students who "have any sort of connection to Israel" as well as the rise of far-right, neo-Nazi political parties.

Yanir Grindler, the WUJS chair at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, South Africa, said racial identity plays a "big part in the discussion on campus." Due to South Africa's previous history of apart-

heid, he said, students "often speak of white privilege because of white guilt"—the guilt that South Africans feel for the institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination committed against black South Africans from 1948-1991.

"South African Jews are seen as white before they are seen as Jewish...[they] assume that we represent Israel," and as a result, "student societies, movements, and NGOs that represent South African civil society won't engage with us because of our whiteness," Grindler told JNS.

Grindler said that during "Israeli Apartheid Week" on the Wits campus, BDS activists have aimed to persuade students by framing their agenda as a class-based and race-based struggle, erecting a mock demonstration "where one side is soldiers, representing white, middle class South African Jews and Israel. Jews are thought of as white, affluent students, and the other side is thought of as underprivileged students."

"There's the belief that if you're not engaging in race conversation, you need to wake up," he said. "In liberal arts universities, you have to be engaged in race politics, and it changes how people approach conflict."

In Austria, WUJS student activists claim that the biggest challenge comes not from the left, but from the far right.

Benjamin Guttman and Benjamin Hess, who study in Vienna and are co-presidents of the Austrian Union of Jewish Students, came to the WUJS congress on a mission to "make it clear that our anti-Semitic government isn't a partisan or political issue," said Guttman.



Student leaders from around the world at the recent 44th World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) congress in Jerusalem. Photo: WUJS.

He said the Austrian Freedom Party, which is part of recently elected Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's governing coalition, is a "far-right party founded by the members of the former Nazi party" and a "serious threat not only to Jews, but also to democracy."

Hess voiced his concern about various new members of the Austrian government and parliamentarians whom he described as "right-wing, anti-Semitic and...active in militant neo-Nazi organizations."

To address this issue, the Austrian student leaders have built coalitions between campuses and countries, working with WUJS to issue a statement against their government. Further, they plan to put together an open letter signed by WUJS representatives "to show that Jewish students stand united against this ideology," said Guttman.

Nurit Becker, a student in Mexico City, told JNS that her biggest takeaway from the congress was learning that apathy within the Jewish student community is both the main challenge she finds in Mexico and a common obstacle for students worldwide.

As the head of international relations for the Mexican WUJS delegation, Becker has made it her mission to address apathy in her country's universities through projects that activate students to get involved with issues that face the Jewish community. She said she also collaborates with other student leaders to "help each other and share campaigns."

Becker said that Mexico experiences very little anti-Semitism, and was surprised to hear about her peers' encounters with Jew-hatred and anti-Zionism.

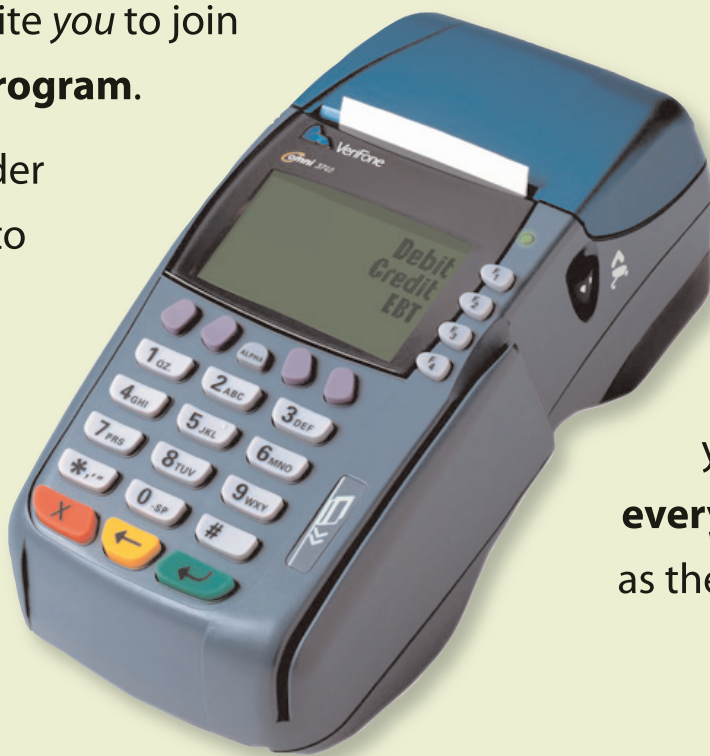
"At the congress," she said, "I learned that the life in Mexico for Jewish people is a completely different reality [from the situation in other countries]."

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