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## Abbas' Attack on Zionism Cites Late Intellectual's Denial of Jewish Peoplehood



The late Egyptian academic Abdel Wahab Elmessiri. Photo: File.

**BY BEN COHEN**

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' angry speech on Sunday castigating the US and Israel drew on the work of an Egyptian academic who dedicated his career to denying the existence of an independent Jewish people with political rights.

In his speech, Abbas described the late Egyptian academic Dr. Abdel Wahab Elmes-

siri as "one of the most important people that spoke about the Zionist and Jewish movement."

On Israel, Abbas said, Elmessiri "described this entity with these words: 'The significance of Israel's functional character is that colonialism created it in order to fill a specific role; it is a colonialist project that is not connected to Judaism, but made use of the Jews so they would serve as pawns, and they were, under the motto 'the

Promised Land' and 'the Beloved Land,' and they brought them here.'"

Abbas' comments drew furious condemnation from Israeli leaders. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin accused the Palestinian leader of saying "exactly the things that led him to be accused years ago of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial," while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the speech was a reminder that the

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## Netanyahu: Israel, India Both Face Threat From Radical Islam

**BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday he was discussing with India ways to strengthen security cooperation against the menace of from Islamist extremism that both democracies faced.

Netanyahu spoke while on a six-day tour of India, the first by an Israeli premier for 15 years, and is being feted by Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, whose Hindu nationalist party has long admired Israel for its tough posture against terrorism.

India, wary of upsetting Arab nations on which it



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu shakes hands with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi Photo: Reuters / Adnan Abidi.

was dependent for oil, and heeding the sentiments of its own large Muslim minority, kept a distance from Israel for decades. But under Modi, the two sides have embraced a closer relationship based on security and economics.

Netanyahu told a security conference that India and Israel were two democracies with a natural affinity, but their open and liberal societies faced risks.

"Our way of life is being challenged, most notably, the quest for modernity, the quest for innovation (are) being challenged by radical Islam and its terrorist offshoots from a

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## The Tradition of Kosher Wine

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat BO  
פרשת בא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 4:40pm | Shabbat Ends: 5:43pm



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## Opinion.

# Banning BDS Groups From Entering Israel Is Necessary and Just

MORTON KLEIN &  
LIZ BERNEY  
NEW YORK

Israel's decision to finally ban 20 of the worst organizations leading the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement is necessary for the country's security. It's also sensible and just.

BDS is a political and economic warfare movement, often combined with violence and intimidation, that is aimed at eradicating the Jewish state. No sovereign nation should permit the entry of those dedicated to its destruction. Israel, like every nation, has a duty to protect itself.

BDS groups and leaders enter Israel to harm the country and its people. They instigate and join weekly violent and disruptive anti-Israel demonstrations, during which they throw rocks at the soldiers serving in the IDF, and at Jewish civilians.

We've seen firsthand the harm that these BDS groups inflict right here in the US. The Zionist Organization of America has documented the heinous calls for "Death to the Jews" and violence perpetrated by BDS groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), on local American college

campuses. A recent Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA) study, "SJP Unmasked," details the group's violence, antisemitism, intimidation tactics and connections to terrorist groups.

Further, BDS groups are promoting the adoption of even more violent tactics. At the 2017 National Member Meeting of the virulent BDS organization Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), featured speaker Fadi Quran urged JVP's members to become "freedom fighters," adopt "resistance" tactics (a euphemism for anti-Israel violence), engage in "guerrilla disobedience," shut down traffic, build barricades with thousands of people, and target Israeli army supply chains and the Israeli economy. Another featured speaker honored at the same JVP gathering was Rasmae Odeh, who was convicted of murdering two Jewish students in a bombing in Israel.

To protect the safety of Israel's men, women and children, Israel cannot allow the entry of groups that promote violence, call for Jewish blood and honor Jew-killers.

BDS groups' connections to designated terrorist organizations should also make them persona non grata.

JCPA's study documented that many BDS organizations are front groups for the terrorist organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), as well as for Fatah, the leading governing faction of the Palestinian Authority, which still pays

terrorists to murder Jews.

Additionally, a former US Treasury official testified before Congress that officials of the faux charities implicated in funding Hamas have top leadership roles in the BDS group American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), which in turn sponsors and organizes efforts for SJP.

There is also something particularly fitting — a "poetic justice" — in barring entry into Israel of BDS groups who demand that nobody else should do business with or visit Israel.

Jewish lore is full of examples of poetic justice — "mida k'neged mida" (measure for measure). The Purim Megillah relates how the genocidal Haman receives the very same punishment he sought to inflict on the Jews, and how the honors that Haman sought for himself were accorded to Mordechai.

Giving BDS groups a taste of their "own medicine" may also have the salutary effect of awakening consciences. Maybe, just maybe, the hypocritical BDS leader who is now wailing about not being able to visit family members in Israel (or promote her anti-Israel hate group in Israel) will start to think about how her unbridled economic warfare on the Jewish state is harming other real families. Maybe she'll think about the families of the Jewish farmers whose produce is boycotted, or the families of Jewish and Palestinian factory workers who have lost their jobs because boycotts forced the facilities where

they worked to relocate or shut down.

Maybe she'll think of the Israelis who can no longer afford to travel to see their families because of the financial burdens that she has imposed on them. Maybe she'll think about the Israeli academics who lost teaching posts in the US because of her boycotts, and the Israeli students who have been harassed so badly that they've decided to leave American universities.

Maybe, if the perpetrators of BDS have any shred of decency left, Israel's ban will make them rethink the horrors and hardships that they are imposing on so many innocent people.

There is one problem with Israel's ban: it doesn't go far enough. While the 20 banned groups include some of the worst of the worst, such as JVP, SJP and AMP, there are other harmful BDS groups that Israel should add to its list of banned organizations. These include — Adalah-NY: The New York Campaign for the Boycott of Israel; Al-Awda; Birthright Unplugged; J Street; IfNotNow; Kairos USA; the New Israel Fund; Partners for Progressive Israel; Sabeel; Friends of Sabeel USA; all local chapters of SJP; all member organizations of US Campaign for Palestinian Rights; and all member organizations of any other group on the current list.

*Morton A. Klein is the national president of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and Liz Berney is ZOA's director of special projects.*



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## Thank You, Guatemala



DANIEL MARIASCHIN  
WASHINGTON DC

Guatemala's vote last month against the United Nations resolution opposing the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, has since earned the South American country little but opprobrium — and worse — from the Palestinians, their supporters and a host of others.

The secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Saeb Erekat, vowed that the Palestinians would "punish" Guatemala for its vote. The Palestinian Authority termed the vote a "shameful" act, with its comrade-in-arms, Bolivian president Evo Morales, charging Guatemala with "having sold its dignity to the empire [the United States] to not lose crumbs from USAID." Hamas, not to be outdone, called Guatemala's action "a grave offense against our people," and a "flagrant violation ... of our rights."

Eight other countries, led by the United States, voted against the resolution; 128 voted for it, 35 abstained, and 21 were absent for the vote, which took place on December 21. Headlines around the world called the vote a "repudiation," a "condemnation" and a "dramatic rebuke" of the Trump administration.

Still other critics wrote off Guatemala's vote as being influenced only by President Jimmy Morales' evangelical Christian faith.

The fact that 128 countries supported the

resolution — many of which, like Germany, France and the United Kingdom could have, at the very least abstained — doesn't make it right.

Guatemala's vote, which is being characterized by Evo Morales and many others as simply a play to curry favor with the Trump administration, is unfounded. Guatemala's record as a friend of Israel dates to the very founding of the Jewish state. Seventy years ago, Guatemalan Ambassador to the United Nations Jorge Garcia Granados assembled a group of Latin American countries to back the UN partition plan.

His commitment was on full display when, at one of the debates at the UN Special Committee on Palestine, he said: "The Jewish state is the reparation that humanity owes to a people that, for 2,000 years, without guilt and without defense, have suffered humiliation and martyrdom." Indeed, Granados cast the very first vote for the establishment of the state of Israel, and Guatemala was the first Latin American country to recognize Israel after her statehood was declared in May 1948.

In 1956, Guatemala became the first country to open an embassy in Jerusalem (with Granados appointed as its first ambassador). Guatemala and Granados are already memorialized in Israel; a number of cities, including

Jerusalem, have streets named after them.

While Guatemala did move its embassy to Herzliya in 1980, in the midst of the oil embargo and intense pressure from the United Nations and the Arab world, it has now announced the relocation of the embassy back to Jerusalem.

With the UN Human Rights Commission (now Human Rights Council) zeroing in on Palestinian-inspired one-sided resolutions against Israel some 20 years ago, it was Guatemala's ambassador to the UN, Antonio Arenales, who consistently resisted immense pressure and voted against those measures, often together with the United States and a few other countries.

Arenales also represented Guatemala at the infamous 2001 Durban Conference on Racism, where Israel was the subject of an unprecedented hate fest.

Between 2006 and 2014, reflecting changes at its foreign ministry, Guatemala did an uncharacteristic diplomatic U-turn and was supportive of the Palestinian narrative at the UN, and in other international forums. That changed in 2015, and has been on a positive track since then.

No doubt, with its December 6 vote on Jerusalem, and with its embassy move in sight, bilateral relations between Israel and Guatemala will surely take another leap forward. Cooperation in many fields has long marked relations between the two countries. In the 1960s, an Israeli cousin of mine — a veteran kibbutznik — served as an agricultural advisor in Central America, based in Guatemala.

Clearly, even the 35 countries that



Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales. Photo: Reuters / Luis Echeverria.

*Continued on Page A4*

## World News.

# Travel Giant Bans Uruguayan Eco-Hotel for 'Discrimination' Against Israeli Couple

BY BEN COHEN

A hostel in Uruguay that refused to honor the booking of an Israeli couple because of its owners' objection "to the policy of your country" has had its listing removed by the world's largest online travel companies.

Booking.com announced on Monday it was removing the Buena Vista hostel in the beachside resort of Valizas from its website, after confirming that the Israeli couple had been the victims of discrimination.

"As soon as we were made aware of this case, we immediately reached out to the customer, offered to cover the costs they incurred in finding an alternate place to stay, and have removed this property from our site," a representative from Booking.com said, in response to a complaint against the hostel lodged by an international Jewish advocacy group, the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC.)

The couple — Israeli citizen Amit Bradush, 22, and his unnamed partner — received a message from the hotel owner, Mauricio Piñero, after they made their booking informing them that he had refunded their payment.

"I am very against the policy of your country and you are not welcome in my house," Piñero — whose website carries a marijuana leaf symbol and advertises its vegetarian and eco-friendly lifestyle — told the Israelis on January 8.

In a separate Facebook post, Piñero denied being a "discriminator or an anti-Semite," but added that the "kids who come after finishing military service in Israel have a profile of celebration, arrogance and things that are not good."

Piñero was condemned by the Comité Central Israelita, Uruguay's umbrella Jewish



The Buena Vista hostel in the resort of Valizas, Uruguay. Photo: Twitter.

organization, and by Uruguay's minister for tourism, who promised to "investigate" the incident.

"In Uruguay, it is not acceptable to discriminate on the grounds of religion," Liliam Kechichian, the minister for tourism, said. "We hope that Israeli tourists will continue to visit Uruguay and enjoy the beauty of the country."

The Israeli ambassador in Montevideo, Nina Ben Ami, said she hoped the incident was "an isolated case" of "blind prejudice."

"It is an unpleasant case of discrimination against Israeli citizens, based solely on their identity," Ben Ami said.

In today's internet-driven travel economy, hoteliers and other accommodation owners who openly admit to discriminating against guests on the basis of religion, nationality, sexual orientation or similar personal status matters face potential ruin. In a widely-reported case in August 2017, a hotel in the Swiss Alps that restricted Jewish guests in their use of the swimming pool and kitchen facilities was abruptly removed from Booking.com's platform after the first complaints were filed, with other online travel giants, including Priceline and Expedia, quickly following suit.

Elmessiri argued that instead of being a real nation like the Arabs, the Jewish society that emerged in the State of Israel represented "the functional state" of a "functional group." As with Karl Marx and other Western social theorists who posited that the continued existence of the Jews was a consequence of their economic function in society, rather than their beliefs and aspirations as a community, Elmessiri defined the Jewish people according to their "definite, limited, abstract function rather than their complex, full humanity."

In his writings, Elmessiri claimed that the Jews imported these "functional group" traits into their "colonial project" in Palestine, developing "a myth of hypothetical sacred origin and attaching themselves to an original, sacred homeland, either real or fictive, from which they have come and to which they will eventually return."

A vocal supporter of the so-called "one-state solution," Elmessiri remains an intellectual figurehead for Arab opponents of "normalization" with Israel. At a Cairo seminar honoring Elmessiri in 2000, one participant declared that his writings proved that the "argument that Israel can be well understood from the outside is valid."

Elmessiri had demonstrated that "intellectuals do not need to normalize with Israel or go on trips to know it," remarked Abdel-Alim Mohamed, the then head of the Israeli studies section at Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

# German Authorities Swoop on Suspected Iranian Agents Spying on Jewish, Israeli Institutions



The sign of Germany's Bundesamt fuer Verfassungsschutz (BfV), the domestic intelligence service of the Federal Republic of Germany, which carried out the January 16 raids. Photo: Reuters / Wolfgang Rattay.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

German authorities conducted raids targeting ten suspected Iranian agents on Tuesday morning, amid growing concern about the Tehran regime's espionage activities in the country.

No arrests were reported during the police operations in Berlin and the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Bavaria. A spokesman for the federal prosecutor, Stefan Biehl, said the raids were prompted by information received from Germany's domestic intelligence service, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), which is in charge of Germany's counterespionage operations.

Biehl said the suspects were thought to have "spied on institutions and persons in Germany on behalf of an entity associated with Iran." According to the German magazine Focus, Iran is actively spying on Israeli diplomats, Jewish organizations and Iranian dissidents in the country. The magazine claimed that Tuesday's raids were connected to Iran's Quds Force — the foreign operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commanded by Gen. Qassem Soleimani — although authorities have not confirmed that.

The raids followed the sentencing in December of 21-year-old Mustafa Haidar

Syed-Naqfi to four years and three months in prison on charges of "working for a foreign intelligence service" by a court in Berlin.

The court found that Syed-Naqfi, a Pakistani citizen, spied "against Germany" and France on behalf of the Quds Force by compiling information about possible attack targets in Germany, among them German lawmaker Reinhold Robbe, who previously headed the German-Israeli Association, and a French-Israeli economics professor.

Investigators found detailed dossiers about the men and their daily routines, with hundreds of photos and video clips documenting their homes and workplaces, access routes to them, and information about security guards, surveillance cameras, and nearby police stations.

Germany's Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador, Ali Majedi, at the time, informing him that "spying on people and institutions with a particular relationship to the state of Israel on German soil is a blatant violation of German law."

Iran, often working with its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah, has carried out some of the most notorious international terrorist acts of the last twenty-five years, including the bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires in 1994, the bombing of the Khobar Towers complex in 1996, and the bombing of a tourist bus in the Bulgarian resort city of Burgas in 2012.

The region's hardcore antisemites have also embraced Elmessiri's work. In a July 2017 column in the Omani daily newspaper Al-Watan that charged Jews with engaging in "human sacrifice," writer Faiz Rashid ended by recommending that his readers purchase Elmessiri's book *Zionism and Violence: From the Beginning of Settlement to the Al-Aqsa Intifada*.

Elmessiri did criticize the prevalence of antisemitic conspiracy theories in the Arab world, but only from a tactical perspective.

"What benefit do we gain if we know that they are conspirators and criminals? So what?" he told the Cairo seminar in 2000. "The important question is how to utilize this knowledge in deterring the Israelis from penetrating Egyptian society and forcing them to halt the construction of settlements in the West Bank."

"In other words, this knowledge should be turned into a plan of action and resistance," Elmessiri emphasized.

Elmessiri was also a bitter critic of the US, arguing in a 2004 interview that America had fallen victim to a "hedonism" that had weakened its resolve.

"As the tendency to hedonism grows, what we call the inclination to fight erodes," he said. "Therefore, in Vietnam, for instance, the protests began after 20 or 30 thousand soldiers were killed, but in Iraq demonstrations started after only 300 soldiers were killed."

"One must tell the US that whoever wants to establish an empire should expect more than 300 casualties," Elmessiri concluded, before predicting that Israel would also shrink from future conflicts because of its diminishing "tolerance threshold" for casualties.

Continued from Page A1  
Denial

"root of the conflict between us and the Palestinians is their steadfast refusal to recognize the Jewish state in any borders whatsoever." Danny Danon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, declared that the "hateful words of the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, which seem to question the very right of a United Nations member-state to exist, are completely unacceptable and must be unequivocally condemned."

A graduate of Columbia and Rutgers Universities, Elmessiri, who died in 2008, taught at universities in Egypt and Malaysia during his academic career. Politically active, he was a founder of the reformist "Kefaya" movement in 2004, which grew from the national network of Palestinian solidarity committees in Egypt.

Regarded in the Arab world as an expert on Judaism and Zionism, Elmessiri was not known to have spoken Hebrew, nor to have conducted joint research on these subjects with recognized Western and Israeli specialists in Jewish studies. Nonetheless, his prodigious output included an eight-volume, Arabic-language Encyclopedia of Jews, Judaism and Zionism, as well as books with titles like *Zionism, Nazism and the End of History: A New Cultural Perspective*, *Israel and South Africa: Progression of a Relationship*, and *The Palestinian Intifada and Zionist Crisis: A Study in Per Netanyahu: Israel, India Both Face Threat From Radical Islam* ception and Dignity.

## World News.



Steven Spielberg. Photo: Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons.

## Lebanon Bans Steven Spielberg's 'The Post' Over Famed Director's Ties With Israel

BY JNS.ORG

Steven Spielberg's latest film, "The Post," has been banned in Lebanon due to the famed Jewish-American director's purported ties with Israel.

A source involved with the international rollout of "The Post" said the movie "was presented to the Lebanese censorship board, which nixed it, citing a 'boycott Israel' list that includes Spielberg due to his Oscar-winning Holocaust film 'Schindler's List' (the 1993 film shot some scenes in Jerusalem)," according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"The Post," which stars Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, tells the story of The Washington Post's decision to defy attempts by the US

government to suppress reporting on the Pentagon Papers. The film was released in the US on Jan. 12 and was set to be released in Lebanon on Jan. 18.

Earlier this year, Lebanon and Jordan banned the screening of "Wonder Woman," which casted Israeli actress Gal Gadot in the lead role, over her service in the Israeli military. Spielberg is not an Israeli citizen, nor has he served in the IDF.

Nevertheless, Spielberg has been supportive of Israel in the past, such as his donation of \$1 million to relief efforts in Israel following the 2006 Second Lebanon War with Hezbollah.

Spielberg's most recent works, including "BFG" and "Bridge of Spies," were both released in Lebanon.

## US Ambassador to Israel Sends Condolences to Family of Rabbi Killed in Terror Attack

BY JNS.ORG

US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman on Monday sent a letter of condolence to the family of Rabbi Raziel Shevach, who was killed Jan. 9 in a drive-by terrorist shooting near his home in the Havat Gilad settlement outpost.

Shevach, 35, was shot while he was returning home after being dispatched as a medical first-responder. He was survived by his wife and six children.

"As an emergency first-responder, a mohel (performer of ritual circumcision) and a revered teacher, Rav Shevach clearly was an extraor-

dinary person more concerned with others than himself. He epitomized the hard working, dedicated individuals who have built and sustained the State of Israel," Friedman wrote.

Immediately following the attack last week, Friedman used his Twitter account to blame the Palestinian Authority (PA) for the lack of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. "An Israeli father of six was killed last night in cold blood by Palestinian terrorists. Hamas praises the killers and PA laws will provide them financial rewards," he wrote. "Look no further to why there is no peace. Praying for the bereaved Shevach family."

*Continued from Page A1*  
**India**

variety of corners," he said.

Both Israel and India have long sought to counter Islamist terrorists — in Israel's case, mainly from Gaza and Egypt's Sinai region and, in India's case, mainly from Pakistan. Away from the public eye, India and Israel have been cooperating against the threat through, in part, intelligence sharing, officials say.

"We've discussed in this visit how we can strengthen our two nations in the civilian areas, in security areas, in every area," Netanyahu told the conference.

His trip to India comes just six months after Modi made the first trip by an Indian

prime minister to Israel, during which he did not go to Ramallah, seat of the self-ruling Palestinian Authority and a customary stop for leaders visiting the region.

Netanyahu toured the Taj Mahal on Tuesday and will also visit Modi's home state of Gujarat and India's financial capital Mumbai.

He will join an 11-year-old Israeli boy, Moshe Holtzberg, whose parents were murdered by Pakistan-based terrorists in Mumbai in 2008, for a memorial event at the Indian financial hub's Jewish center where the attack took place.

The boy, who lives with his grandparents in Israel, arrived on Tuesday as a guest of Modi.

## Netanyahu Says Modi 'Revolutionizing' Israel-India Ties, Signs Nine Bilateral Deals

BY JNS.ORG

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his Indian counterpart, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is "revolutionizing" ties between the nations as the two leaders signed nine bilateral agreements on Monday in New Delhi.

"You are a revolutionary leader in the best sense of the word 'revolution,'" Netanyahu said, noting that Modi's visit to Israel last summer was the first such trip by an Indian prime minister "in 3,000 years of our own sovereign existence and our history."

Netanyahu added that "something different is happening now because of your leadership and because of our partnership."

Modi said that Netanyahu's visit "is a long-anticipated moment in the journey of friendship between India and Israel. Your visit is also a fitting climax to the commemoration of 25 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel." He added that in Netanyahu, he has "a counterpart who is equally committed to taking the India-Israel relationship to soaring new heights."

The two leaders issued a joint statement that reaffirmed the "strategic relationship" between the countries, while also signing nine different bilateral agreements covering areas such as cyber security, space, the film industry,



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara at the Taj Mahal, Jan. 16, 2018. Photo: Netanyahu's Facebook account.

aviation, investment, and oil and gas exploration. The agreements kicked off work on the start of a bilateral free trade pact.

"The two prime ministers share a common vision for the relationship," the statement said. "They believe that in the next 25 years, the two respective countries should strive to raise bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors to a qualitatively new level in consonance with our strategic partnership."

Netanyahu has been accompanied by a 130-member business delegation on his trip, and has said he hopes to increase Israeli exports to India by 25 percent during the next three years. Bilateral trade between the two countries has grown from \$200 million in 1992, when ties were established, to \$4.16 billion in 2016. Israel, along with the US and Russia, is one of the largest defense exporters to India.

## Defense Minister: IDF Will Destroy All Hamas Terror Tunnels by End of 2018

BY JNS.ORG

Israel's Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman told Israeli television that the Jewish state has developed cutting-edge counter-tunnel technology that will enable it to destroy all Hamas terror tunnels by the end of 2018.

Lieberman's remarks followed last weekend's detection and destruction of a Hamas terror tunnel running under the Egypt, Gaza and Israel borders. It was the third terror tunnel the IDF has destroyed in recent months.

"By the end of 2018, we will have eliminated all of Hamas's attack tunnels. We may even manage to do so sooner, but the task is to destroy them all by the end of the year," Lieberman said.

Despite Hamas's continuous efforts to build tunnels, Lieberman assessed that the terrorist group will opt to exercise restraint rather than provoke a security escalation.

"I don't think that Hamas is interested in war.

I don't think it has a different assessment than we do on how such a conflict would end," he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was on a state visit to India, also lauded on Sunday the IDF's operations.

Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai commented on the tunnel's discovery in an interview with the US-based Arabic-language satellite TV channel Alhurra, saying the IDF now has an "underground version" of the Iron Dome missile defense system.

"Israeli genius and the Jewish mind have found a solution to the terror tunnels, and just as we have Iron Dome as part of our defenses, there is a technological iron dome underground. I want to send a message to anyone who is digging these tunnels: As you saw over the past two months, these tunnels can only bring death," he said.

Mordechai also warned that Israel has "intelligence about additional tunnels, and soon you will hear about their exposure."

*Continued from Page A2*  
**Guatemala**

abstained on the vote had misgivings about endorsing a resolution that blasted Israel's right to name its own capital. After 70 years, it was the right thing to do.

At the UN General Assembly, Guatemala did not only what was diplomatically correct, but what was morally correct, as well. Guatemala has been a good friend of Israel, and has stood against the tide of political correctness and the usual herd mentality at the United

Nations. It has now come under unjustified, withering criticism and bullying for doing so.

Instead, Guatemala should be thanked for its contribution to sanity and decency in the community of nations, a group woefully short on both.

Daniel S. Mariaschin is the executive vice president and CEO of B'nai B'rith International. As the organization's top executive officer, Mariaschin directs and supervises B'nai B'rith programs, activities and staff around the world.

## U.S. News.

# Dozens of Advocacy Groups Endorse Jewish Nominee for Top Education Department Civil Rights Post

BY SHIRI MOSHE

Dozens of advocacy groups on Monday called for the confirmation of Kenneth Marcus — a leading figure in efforts to combat campus antisemitism — to a prominent civil rights post at the US Department of Education.

The founding president of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law — which aims to fight anti-Jewish and anti-Israel discrimination in universities and colleges — Marcus was nominated to serve as assistant secretary at the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) under Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. He previously held the same position under President George W. Bush from 2003-2004.

Marcus' record was strongly endorsed by 60 "Jewish, Christian, education and civil rights" organizations in a letter sent to members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which is expected to consider his nomination this week.

The groups — representing "millions of your constituents" — praised Marcus' protection of both civil liberties and free speech rights during a career that has included posts at the US Commission on Civil Rights and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

During his service, "Ken championed the civil rights of all Americans in a wide range of areas, including strengthening Title IX enforcement, fighting against racial segregation, increasing fair housing rights for the disabled, and ensuring that Jewish, Sikh and Muslim students were protected under Title VI," the letter said.

The groups emphasized Marcus' commitment to the First Amendment, a point of contention among critics who believe his advocacy on behalf of Jewish students sought to infringe on the free speech rights of anti-Israel activists.

Marcus "has consistently counseled university presidents that censorship is never the proper remedy for addressing anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist expression," the letter noted.

The letter also cited Marcus' success in representing three residents of Berkeley, California who were investigated by federal officials for publically criticizing a housing project in their neighborhood. The Center for Individual Rights (CIR) said the case — which was ruled on by the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 2000 — made clear "that anti-discrimination laws cannot be used to chill the constitutionally protected expression of unpopular views."

Marcus' record has nonetheless drawn the ire of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) — a coalition of over 200 national advocacy groups — which called Marcus' "unsuited" to lead the OCR in a letter sent to HELP committee members last week.

The letter argued that Marcus failed "to demonstrate a commitment" to protecting "students of color" and "LGBTQ students" from discrimination, "immigrant and language minority children" from constitutional and civil rights violations, and all students "from sex discrimination."

It also accused Marcus of trying "to use the OCR complaint process to chill a particular political point of view, rather than address unlawful discrimination."

This same criticism was leveled by groups supportive of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel, which Marcus has identified as one of the leading factors driving anti-Jewish hostility on campus. These include the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, which said Marcus sought "to suppress Palestine activism on campus," and called on supporters to urge their senators to oppose his confirmation.

The American Jewish Committee — a founding member of the LCCHR — rejected these concerns in a letter to Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn) and Patty Murray (D-Wash.), respectively chairperson and ranking member of the HELP committee.

Calling Marcus "well fit" to lead the OCR, the AJC emphasized that Marcus has repeatedly "made clear that he did not believe that, as the LCCHR letter implies, mere criticism of Israel was actionable under Title VI."

"On the contrary, Mr. Marcus has repeatedly stated that most such criticism is protected speech," the group wrote. Rather, he only supported "the proposition that some extreme criticism of Israel constitutes anti-Semitism — a position AJC




Kenneth Marcus speaking at the Louis D. Brandeis Center's fourth annual National Law Student Leadership Conference. Photo: Louis D. Brandeis Center.

shares — and that in the appropriate circumstances expressions and actions related to that criticism can create a hostile environment actionable under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights

Act in the same way as with racist, homophobic or misogynistic expression and activities."

"Unfortunately," the AJC noted, "the LCCHR letter obscures that crucial proposition."


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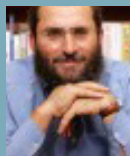
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## Opinion.

## An Open Letter to the Emir of Qatar

SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

Dear Sheikh Tamim,

You have recently invested a fortune in a PR campaign aimed at the Jewish community in the United States — in the hope of using Jewish influence to end the boycott of your country, and stop its growing isolation, which threatens the very continuity of your regime.

Newspapers are filled with reports that you have hired an Orthodox Jew, Nick Muzin, of Stonington Strategies, and his partners, as agents of Qatar to promote your image among American Jews, and to lobby the US government. There is non-stop chatter of rabbis, writers and community leaders accepting free trips to Doha, which is big news because your regime funds Hamas — which is responsible for an endless stream of funerals in Israel.

There is especially a great deal of talk of Qatar offering massive investment opportunities in companies and deals run by influential Jews — all in an effort to curry influence and make friends. Y

et even you must be surprised at how successful the effort has been so far. Orthodox Jewish lobbyists agreeing to work on behalf of the foremost funder of Hamas, which is dedicated to the annihilation of the Jewish people? Wow. You probably thought you'd be turned down. But no, community leaders are running to the Middle East to accept your hospitality — and who knows what else.

I have to admit, this is all kind of embarrassing. Jews being prepared to accept money even if it undermines the security of Israel? I didn't think it would happen. Jews being

prepared to accept free trips from you that help scrub your reputation clean? I didn't think there'd be any takers.

Still, your efforts are going to fail — which is why I'm writing. Not because I care about you wasting your money. Indeed, many of the people taking it have told me that better that it go to them, then to Hamas.

Rather, I write because I care about whether or not you finance terror, especially against Israel. And your current efforts to buy the Jewish community is going to hit a wall.

First, your calculation is based on the antisemitic premise that Jews are all powerful and control America — and the world. This is almost straight out of an "Elders of Zion" textbook. The Jewish people taking your money must be laughing that you actually believe this, even as they cash your checks.

Now, it's true that American Jews have some influence. And it's also true that some will help you improve your image for cash. But end your isolation across the Middle East, or cause the American government to turn a blind eye to your support of Hamas and Iran? Are you kidding me?

Don't be fooled by the fact that some Jews have been willing to accept hefty retainer fees to lobby other Jews on your behalf. They are not your friends or allies. They are opportunists. So how can you trust them? If they're prepared to sell out their own people, just imagine how quickly they'll turn on you.

Once someone demonstrates that they have no allegiances, then they are fundamentally untrustworthy.

The same can be said of the Jews who have visited Qatar or agreed to do business deals with you. You may have made backroom deals with them, but this will also backfire.

Jews who have accepted payoffs, without first demanding a change in your behavior, have sold out Israel. And you should be wary

of such amoral individuals, because the only thing that they're loyal to is money.

Great leaders, however, respect people who speak honestly — because their advice is often wise, even if it is difficult to hear. I am reminded of Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor, author, Nobel Peace Laureate and human rights champion. He stood up to President Ronald Reagan and famously said that it was necessary to speak truth to power.

And that is why I say to you, emir, it is time to halt funding for international terror, cease using Al Jazeera to incite the world against Israel, and stop supporting an Iranian regime that seeks hegemony over the Middle East and threatens Israel with genocide.

And if you don't stop, you will lose the support of the international community, and there will be regime change in Qatar. I know that right now your family controls some \$350 billion in sovereign wealth and investments. But if you're toppled, you'll lose it all.

Is Hamas worth it? Is paying for rockets against Jews worth it? What did my people do to you that are so hell-bent on our destruction, that you would risk your own?

You can take significant steps to demonstrate that Qatar is on a path to transformation. Like your Saudi neighbors, you can turn away from Iran and be willing to condemn their sponsorship of terror against your fellow Muslims, as well as others around the world.

You can command that Al Jazeera cease to demonize Israel and promote violence against the Israeli people. You can immediately ban the virulent Islamic extremist Yusuf al-Qaradawi, one of the world's foremost Jew-haters, from the airwaves which you fund.

When it comes to terrorism, there are no half-measures. You must cease all funding for Hamas until they renounce their charter to annihilate Israel. And you must expel the leaders of Hamas that you shelter. By doing so, you would gain immediate credibility with



Qatar maintains close relations with Iran and terrorist groups such as Hamas. Photo: File.

the international community for being serious about cracking down on terror. The same is true if you were to use your influence to release the four Israeli hostages that Hamas holds. Surely, as a Muslim, you cannot condone the refusal of Hamas to return the bodies of the two dead hostages to their families.

Reopening the Israel trade office would be an especially positive move that would demonstrate that Qatar is a country that wants to see harmony in the Middle East. Qatar will also benefit directly from exposure to Israeli technological and other commercial innovations.

Your isolation is likely to only grow if you persist in your current policies. Those Jews who accepted junkets to Qatar did not bring your country the positive publicity that you were no doubt promised. Even those who wrote positive articles about you barely got noticed.

Look around the region at what has become of ISIS, Hosni Mubarak, Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi. Your wealth will not save you.

Real changes in policy will enhance your security, your international standing, and your image in America, Israel and the Jewish community. And your legacy would be one of peace and transformation.

Peace be with you.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous Rabbi in America" is the international best-selling author of 31 books including his most recent, "The Israel Warrior's Handbook." Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

## Iran Has a Foreign Policy Doctrine

BEN COHEN/JNS.ORG  
NEW YORK

In a bid to show the world what responsible, considered citizens they are, Iran's leaders last week hosted their annual, gloriously named "Tehran Security Conference."

You will have to figure out for yourselves why anyone would want to exchange insights on security with a regime whose terror footprint extends from Buenos Aires to Beirut. But for the ruling mullahs, this was clearly a big deal, which is why the conference was addressed by, inter alia, President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Iranian military's Chief of Staff Mohammad Bagheri, and the Iranian parliament's Speaker Ali Larijani.

But it clearly wasn't a big deal for the rest of world. However much the Iranians like to brag, and whatever ludicrous picture is presented by Press TV and the regime's other propaganda outlets, the Tehran Security Conference simply doesn't attract the presi-

dents and prime ministers who turn up at Davos or the Munich Security Conference. Those foreign dignitaries who did appear were, shall we say, of a certain vintage — individuals like Jack Straw, a former British foreign secretary, and Massimo d'Alema, a former Italian prime minister.

Whether or not these names remain familiar, they form an integral part of the international echo chamber that urges faith in the "reformist" leanings of Rouhani. Jack Straw, for example, has traveled to Tehran on many occasions, never failing to make the sorts of comments (for example, praising the "lighter atmosphere" in Iran on a visit in 2014) that recall the fawning of the West European nuclear disarmament movement over the Soviet Union. In this view, the problem is not the peaceful, reasonable Islamic Republic, but a Western policy that is in thrall to the agenda of — as Jack Straw has said on more than one occasion — the "Israeli lobby."

In the wake of the recent anti-regime demonstrations that erupted in dozens of Iranian towns and cities, Iran's Western apologists have reinforced this line of argument, presenting Rouhani as an agent of change who wants to reach a historic understanding with the West, and variously belittling the

protests as being about economic issues alone, or being overly provincial, or being played up more by Western opponents of the regime than by Iranians themselves.

The flip side of this is the rosy Iranian view of regional and international relations, as presented at the conference in Tehran: Iran is fighting Sunni Islamist terrorism; Iran is protecting vulnerable minorities; Iran is a needed counterweight to the corrupt Saudis; Iran best represents the aspirations of the Palestinians, whose plight still defines the core of the Middle East's problems; Iran's growing power guarantees a multipolar, and therefore safer, international system.

Dig into this perspective a little more, and you find that there's actually a doctrine to describe it — or at least the beginnings of one. A paper delivered to the Tehran conference by Mohsen Eslami, an Iranian political scientist, named it the "State-Resistance Doctrine." In a turbulent Middle East left bereft by its inept, avaricious Gulf monarchies, Eslami argued, "resistance, as the most important model arising from the new conditions in the region, has been able to introduce itself as a successful and efficient model in the face of those models that have been borrowed from the West."

"The doctrine of resistance, as a new framework that has been put forth by Iran in official circles during recent years," Eslami continued, "has been able to show a good performance in practice and is now viewed as an efficient model by regional states and nations." But what does the doctrine actually involve? According to Eslami, "nation-states embark on strengthening their national

solidarity by putting emphasis on the three major elements of military power, indigenous economy and national culture. At the same time, they take steps to bolster their defensive deterrence in the face of external aggressions while boosting their power both inside and outside their borders through making their governments resistant."

To summarize, then. Place the military and its budget at the summit of the state. Work to achieve some form of autarky. Enforce state-approved education, culture and religious activities, and eliminate nefarious foreign influences. Finance and train military proxies in neighboring countries to follow your model.

It does all sound terribly familiar, doesn't it? But more to the point, to anyone who has remained unmoved by the Western embrace of Iran during the last decade, none of it is surprising if anything, the doctrine is quite elegantly put. The point is, this is the vision of foreign policy put forth at a regime-sponsored parley. These are the principles that guide Rouhani and Zarif as much as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in dealing with the outside world. Through its own words, the Iranian regime gives the lie to Western claims of "moderation."

Keep an eye out for the coming manifestations of the "State-Resistance Doctrine." You never know, it might turn out to be the source of the Islamic Republic's coming collapse.

Ben Cohen writes a weekly column for *JNS on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics*. His writings have been published in *Commentary*, *The New York Post*, *Haaretz*, *The Wall Street Journal* and many other publications.

## Opinion.

# Trump Has Worsened the Syrian Stalemate

IRINA TSUKERMAN/  
JNS.org

The US is currently at a great disadvantage in Syria. The Trump White House, despite blaming its increasing irrelevancy in the region on the Obama administration's inaction in pursuit of the nuclear deal with Iran, chose to box itself into a corner by disregarding sage advice that would have significantly shifted the calculus of power.

Rather than supporting the Kurds in Iraq and Syria — preventing Iran from building a land corridor connecting it to the Mediterranean, and thereby making it more difficult for Lebanon's Hezbollah to smuggle weapons and people in and out — the Trump administration chose a strategy that empowered Tehran's proxy, Baghdad; allowed Moscow to emerge as the great dealmaker; and served Turkey's interests with respect to the Kurdish issue in Syria.

Without the land corridor, Iran would have been geographically poorly positioned to expand in the direction of Central Asia, or indeed anywhere else. Instead, it is now in the best possible position to do so. Furthermore, Bashar Assad has called US-backed groups traitors, and, echoing President Putin, asked American and Turkish troops to leave.

The Pentagon says that a US presence will remain in Syria indefinitely, but should Iran and Russia-backed Assad turn serious, US troops might find themselves having to fight enemies on several fronts. It is unclear why the US, which has essentially accepted the premises that ISIS is finished and other terrorist groups are either subdued or subordinate to state actors, chooses to remain in the area without a clear plan to remove Iranian proxies. Washington seems to have no action plan to deal with Iran, though it is certainly a threat.

Assad is a pawn of Iran and Russia. Tehran is looking to get rid of him; Moscow is amenable to his staying — at least for now. Assad is content with his remaining fiefdom so long as the various groups that have subdivided Syria pay their dues, recognize Syrian sovereignty, and don't create additional problems.

Iran is getting exactly what it wanted: a land corridor to suit its expansionist plans, and a naval base that will give it access to strategic waterways. Once its navy becomes fully operational, it can then fight to deny access to everyone else. Resource-poor Syria was likely never the end unto itself for Tehran, but rather a means towards outward expansion.

The mullahs do not care how many countries are brought to ruin — so long as their path is smooth, and their access to the outside world is guaranteed. That Tehran does not have complete control over Syria at the moment is irrelevant. Its object is not to lord it over Sunni Arabs, Kurds and assorted others, but to assert Iranian hegemony and break through the sanctions and obstacles by finding new routes and creating new alliances.

Iran's Iraqi militias are spoiling for a fight. They are a battle-hardened, increasingly serious force against largely untrained Gulf troops, who also lack proper intelligence training. Iran feels so much in control of the situation that it is looking to completely co-opt the KRG in exchange for peace.

Russia is unquestionably the biggest winner of all. It has established itself as a credible power broker; has outsmarted and manipulated both the Obama and the Trump administrations; and is building a naval base, despite Russia's poor internal economy, sanctions, and increasing loss of legitimacy in the West. It has returned to its former sphere of influence and is setting the rules of the game.

Moscow is also very good at taking advantage of strategic errors made by others. Ankara, for example, which managed to ruin its relations with Assad early on in the civil war, will now have a great deal of trouble imposing its will inside the country. Russia is successfully building a relationship with the Syrian Kurds and assuming a protectorate over them even as Turkey seeks to isolate the YPG and deny the Kurds legitimacy in their struggle for autonomy. Russia is succeeding at bringing the Kurds to the table in peace process negotiations, something Turkey sought to deny.

Inexplicably, despite supporting Turkey's humiliation in Syria, Russia is also warming towards Ankara on other fronts — by providing oil from a formerly KRG-held pipeline, building a massive gas pipeline, selling Turkey S-400s, and coordinating on various security issues. Simultaneously, Russia is seen by Israel as the moderator of Iranian aggression — as the adult in the room who can diffuse growing tensions as Iranian proxies move ever closer to the Israeli border. Russia, acting from a position of strength, has refused to commit to such a position.

Turkey might appear to be down and out, but it has not given up its neo-Ottoman quest. President Erdogan is channeling aggression against everyone's favorite scapegoats, Israel and the US, in a valiant attempt to gain popularity on the street, even as he is losing battles against other emerging or aspiring hegemony. Indeed, his popularity inside Turkey remains high, and he is in no danger of losing his position.

Turkey, despite decades of secular law, has remained overall under Islamic influence, and it took only a few years of the openly Islamist leadership of the AKP, coupled with unabashedly nationalist populism, to bring a much more conservative culture to the fore. Erdogan's Islamism is hardly moderate. It is political and aggressive, and it sports a revolutionary brand.

As Morocco and Saudi Arabia battle with extremism, and seek to move away from the Islamist religious fervor of ISIS or the extreme orthodoxy of the religious clergy, Erdogan's Turkey is moving in the opposite direction. And despite international political defeats, the Turkish president is using the same populism that succeeded in Turkey to attract wide Sunni support on the Arab street all over the Middle East, while positioning himself as the new Sunni leader.

His primary tool is naked opportunism. He turns every history-focused Twitter battle with UAE leadership into a populist mantra for public consumption, and took advantage of the massive popular outrage over President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and intent to move the US embassy there. He likewise seeks to undermine Gulf leadership, particularly in Saudi Arabia, whose response to the Jerusalem issue has been muted if not disinterested.

It is in the areas of emotion, anger and smear campaigning that Erdogan has wide popular appeal. If Muhammad bin Salman

# Terrorism and Rejectionism: Twin Threats to Peace and Security

RICHARD D. HEIDEMAN /  
JNS.org

Rejectionism and terrorism are each

serious and interconnected threats to peace, as is refusing to engage in diplomacy. The connection with terrorism is narrow and deadly, because rejectionism demands not pursuing peace with Israel under any circumstances, and at all costs — which creates a climate of hate that has spawned the belief

*Continued on Page A10*

and President Trump are not careful, they may come out the losers. Ankara is growing closer to Tehran and Qatar, both of which are staunch opponents of the Gulf alliance (Iran is openly adversarial). Like Tehran, which uses cheap populism and the Palestinian issue to appeal to the masses and distract them from the regime's own crimes against Iran's minorities, Ankara somehow manages to portray itself as a defender of the Palestinians while simultaneously vilifying Turkey's Kurds, Armenians and other ethnic and religious minorities.

Sooner or later, these contrasting dynamics between the Arab states and the non-Arab aspiring hegemony will clash — not only in proxy states and through political stand-offs, but quite possibly in the streets. Whether that's something Saudi Arabia is willing to risk or can afford in the long term remains to be seen.

Israel is better positioned than it has ever been. Its growing alliance with the Gulf States is the world's worst-kept secret. It still maintains diplomatic relations with Turkey (which, admittedly, is a fairly negligible bulwark against future aggression). Likewise, the relationship with the US is in a very good place, and the relationship with Russia is tense but stable.

Still, Erdogan's increasingly heated rhetoric is a problem. Turkey's army is quite strong and is no longer run by secularists. Iranians and their militias are close to the Israel-Syria border. While Tehran might not wish for an immediate confrontation, more border incursions are not out of the question if Iran grows sufficiently strong and well-armed and if its regional alliances and colonization pan out as planned. And should Hezbollah prosper as a result of the land corridor, they may eventually be better positioned to launch another war.

Enter China. Chinese Uyghurs, a Muslim Turkic minority of approximately 100 million people, have been widely dissatisfied with the Chinese crackdown on Islam and other freedoms. Internal terrorist attacks have not sufficed; Uyghurs have moved on to Syria to join ISIS and other terrorist groups in a show of opposition. For the first time, Beijing recently sent its own troops to Syria to deal with this problem, a significant development that has been largely overlooked.

China is not without its own ambitions in the Middle East. After completing its first base in Djibouti — with an eye towards partaking in counterterrorism operations as much as safeguarding its own interests — Beijing may very well be looking towards building its own naval base in Syria.

Syria has already asked China, rather than the US, to assist with postwar reconstruction — a questionable request given Beijing's proclivity towards leaving massive infrastructure undertakings incomplete, but one that will establish China as a serious player in the Middle East. Beijing is leaning, however,

towards supporting Russia despite significant economic interests on other fronts. Will China prove to be the wild card that disrupts Turkey's plans, and takes it out of the equation?

Uyghurs may end up playing the role that Turkmen played earlier in the Civil War. Ankara may try to coopt them on the basis of common Turkic and Muslim identity. If Turkey ends up supporting Uyghur rebellion inside China, there is trouble in the air for both countries. If there is one thing that Turkey cannot take on right now, it's a stand-off with China.

While the direction in which these events will unfold remains unclear, it is evident that Turkey is the weakest link in the Syrian mess — yet one with sky-high ambitions and a powerful populist vote that can undermine well-meaning efforts at moderation. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States are militarily unprepared to take on Iran at the moment, and they have no plan for dealing with Iran should the dissatisfied minorities within its borders succeed at bringing down the corrupt leadership. It would be ill-advised to try to confront Iran directly right now. Rather, weakening its alliances and disrupting its proxies are the best way to go.

The US should work actively with friendly Gulf states to turn their forces into fully functional armies that are strong enough to be at least somewhat self-sufficient, and to be of significant help in pushing back against Iranian proxy expansionism. While this is a belated and long-term undertaking, it will put the US in a much better position to take decisive and necessary action in Syria and Iraq.

It is also time to start discussing options for Iran beyond the Islamic Republic. This will not be an easy discussion, but it is necessary. The regime is stronger than it has ever been, and it has gone too far to slink back to its shadowy, pre-nuclear deal ignominy.

And as for Russia? Very little can be done about it at the moment. For the time being, it should continue to be regarded exactly as it has been until now: as an aggressive, self-interested, adversarial state that is openly aligned with the enemies of the West, and that seeks the worst for the Middle East.

The mess on the ground in Syria is not simply a tangled web of unfathomable relationships. It contains a clear number of state and non-state actors, each with its own interests and plans of action. If the US is to emerge safely from this minefield, it will need to summon both prescience and the willingness to take the time to understand who is an enemy and who an ally.

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## Impressions.

# Kosher Wine – and Following Tradition for Tradition’s Sake

BY JEREMY ROSEN

Last year, there was not a single fatality on commercial airlines — and there hasn’t been a fatality on a US commercial flight since 2009. But in 2016, road accidents accounted for 37,461 fatalities in the US, and 335 in Israel.

You may be aware that there is a special blessing called Tefilat Haderech, the prayer for travel, which one says before venturing out. And more significantly, there is a blessing made, usually when one is called to the Torah in synagogue, for surviving a crisis of almost any sort, called Hagomel: “He [that is, God] who is so good to us humans and has been good to me.” It is not a full blessing, but it is taken seriously by people recovering from illness or who have survived any dangerous situation, including a “dangerous journey” — usually defined as crossing water, mountains or seas.

Surely, the facts are compelling that a transatlantic flight is far less dangerous than a drive from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, or from New York to Boston. So why don’t we change anything?

The simple answer is inertia. We won’t change anything unless we are forced to. Nowadays we suffer from unenlightened religious legislation and a belief that you can only retain or pile on new restrictions. Never, ever change them for the better or more sensible. This is a feature, sadly, of modern-day Orthodoxy. This reminds me of another such anomaly that I have dealt with before on my blog — the issue of non-Jewish wine. It’s another perfect example where both logic and practice demand a rethink.

We are just coming out of party season, the time of year when people drink more wine than usual. But what wine can one drink? Does it have to be kosher? And what is kosher wine?

Let me ask you this: Is your tap or faucet water kosher? Of course it is. What can be not kosher about it? It is possible it contains lead, fluoride, even bugs. But all that does not make it not kosher.

We might understand that kosher food involves ensuring that there is no forbidden ingredient, or that the process has not been compromised by other foodstuffs. But since wine comes from grapes, what could possibly need supervision? Why is it that one can drink whisky and vodka made and served by non-Jews, but one cannot drink wine unless it is supervised as being “kosher” and not touched by a non-Jew?

It is true that some cheap wines have had ox blood and even antifreeze added illegally, and some better wines add animal substances to clear the liquid of lees and impurities. But even if there is absolutely no unacceptable ingredient, the wine is still forbidden.

The Torah forbids idolatrous wine, Yayin Nesech, simply because of its association with paganism, corruption and values we hold abhorrent. Idolatry was such a major issue that anything forbidden because of it was forbidden even more strictly than, say, treifa non-kosher animals. But such wine is hardly to be found anymore (some might argue that communion wine falls into this category). Most wine nowadays is called Stam Yayin, which means ordinary non-Jewish wine. This, as well as bread and olive oil, was the subject of a series of special

rabbinic innovations some 2,000 years ago, as part of a campaign to prevent intermarriage.

Wine was the staple drink in the days when water was usually contaminated. The average person drank mead or beer, then vodka or whisky (and now we seem to be returning to water). But at banquets, wine, bread and meat were the essential features, which is why traditionally we celebrate festive meals with these three items, and start the meal with wine.

So to prevent people of different religious practices from sitting down together, the rabbis forbade eating bread, wine and olive oil with non-Jews. Olive oil soon fell by the way, because it

that it satisfies most definitions of Mevushal.

There are several different approaches to halacha. One is the simple one of saying that if it is forbidden, then just accept it as such without question or even without looking into the reasons and trying to be consistent, or even logical. If the Talmud says you should not leave water uncovered because snakes might spit venom into it, you will find some people saying this should stand even where there are no snakes.

Another point of view would be to examine the reason for the law and then try to be consistent. On the other hand, if the ingredient is not the issue, and



Illustrative. Photo: Gilabrand / Wikimedia Commons.

would have made any cooking impossible, and bread too would have prevented any traveling on business, so they modified it to allow commercial bread. But to reinforce the wine taboo, they imposed all the strictures of Yayin Nesech, such as not allowing others to touch the wine (which meant not just idolators, but also Jews who did not keep the laws of the Torah).

Similarly, one could not derive benefit such as trading in Stam Yayin. In medieval Europe, Rashi and Rabbeynu Tam actually made a living trading in wine. So that aspect of the law was soon observed in the breach. But one is bound wonder why the rabbis didn’t ban spirits. And if this meant that they didn’t want to be too restrictive, then why not allow wine in a private setting?

Halachically, boiled wine was not considered real wine fit for a banquet and was therefore allowed. There is much discussion about the amount of heat required to make wine Mevushal, boiled. There are, as ever, dissenting halachic voices, but the pasteurizing process that most popular wines and grape juices go through is of a high enough degree of heat

only the company, and if one can bring one’s spirits home to drink en famille, then why not bring ordinary wine home to drink, other than that usage has led to an established precedent? Yet throughout Jewish history, we have mixed with non-Jews, traded with them, socialized with them and even, according to the Talmud, discussed the law with them.

Up until the 1960s, you could have a kosher supervised wedding with non-supervised wine, but no longer. Once head coverings amongst Ashkenazi Jews were exclusively the custom of particularly strict Middle European Jews and hasidim. Times change, and conformity is a powerful tool.

I am not at all opposed to conformity. If one chooses to be strict, then why not? It is when excessive strictness is both pointless and unnecessary that one begins to wonder whether we have become unhealthily obsessive. If I am not in any danger, then thanking God for getting me out of it sounds to me a bit like a blessing in vain.



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

## LEGAL NOTICE

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 design. 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, NY. 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. 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/

## LEGAL NOTICE

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, NY. 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, NY. 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/

Azna Realty LLC Arts. Of Org. Filed w/ SSNY 12/27/17. Off in Kings Co..SSNY design 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

## LEGAL NOTICE

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/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Marta Marie LLC Articles of organization filed with. Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 01/02/2018. 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: Marta Castaing 279 Prospect Pl.#3 Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 1/19/26; 2/2/9/16/23

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, National Association as Trustee for Wells Fargo Asset Securities Corporation, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-AR14, Plaintiff AGAINST Janice Smith a/k/a Janice T. Smith a/k/a Janis T. Smith; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 29, 2016 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 22, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2 Paerdegat 3rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. 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 8031 Lot 6. Approximate amount of judgment \$640,204.53 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 503256/2015. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: December 28, 2017 50973  
AJ; 1/19/26; 2/2/9/

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff against ANDREA DANCE A/K/A ANDREA L. DANCE, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 10, 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 22nd day of February, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 1099 Stanley Avenue,

## LEGAL NOTICE

Brooklyn, NY. 11208. (Block: 4506, Lot: 31). Approximate amount of lien \$ 927,403.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 511630-14. Jeffrey Miller, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY. 14614 (585) 232-7400  
AJ; 1/19/26; 2/2/9/

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff - against - DERRICK GEORGE A/K/A DERRICK R. GEORGE, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on June 16, 2016. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, in Room 261, Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York on the 22nd Day of February, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. 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. Premises known as 4413 Clarendon Road, Brooklyn, (City of New York) NY 11223. (Block: 4944, Lot: 18) Approximate amount of lien \$360,048.71 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 506255/2013. Frank R. Hurley, Jr., Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY 14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 Dated: November 30, 2017  
AJ; 1/19/26; 2/2/9/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR WELLS FARGO ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-AR9, Plaintiff -against- JOYCELINE DOVE, GLADSTONE DOVE, WARREN BLAKE, NATIONAL CITY BANK, CITY OF NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on October 12, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at ROOM 224 F/K/A ROOM 274 OF KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 360 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201 on February 22, 2018 at 2:30 PM premises known as 298 SCHENCK AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Block: 3995 Lot: 23 Approximate amount of lien \$690,841.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 509904/2014 DORON LEIBY, ESQ., REFEREE STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: January 12, 2018 FILE #: WELLS 64337  
AJ; 1/19/26; 2/2/9/



## Tradition.

# The Story We Tell



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

It remains one of the most counterintuitive passages in all of religious literature. Moses is addressing the Israelites just days before their release. They have been exiles for 210 years. After an initial period of affluence and ease, they have been oppressed, enslaved, and their male children killed in an act of slow genocide. Now, after signs and wonders and a series of plagues that have brought the greatest empire of

struck the Egyptians and spared our homes.” (Ex. 12:25-27).

“On that day you shall tell your child, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt’” (Ex. 13:8).

“In the future, when your child asks you, ‘What is this?’ you shall tell him, ‘With a mighty hand, the Lord brought us out from Egypt, from the land of slavery.’” (Ex. 13:14).

Why was this the most important thing he could do in this intense moment of redemption? Because freedom is the work of a nation, nations need identity, identity needs memory, and memory is encoded in the stories



the ancient world to its knees, they are about to go free.

Yet Moses does not talk about freedom, or the land flowing with milk and honey, or the journey they will have to undertake through the desert. Instead, three times, he turns to the distant future, when the journey is complete and the people – free at last – are in their own land. And what he talks about is not the land itself, or the society they will have to build or even the demands and responsibilities of freedom.

Instead, he talks about education, specifically about the duty of parents to their children. He speaks about the questions children may ask when the epic events that are about to happen are, at best, a distant memory. He tells the Israelites to do what Jews have done from then to now. Tell your children the story. Do it in the maximally effective way. Re-enact the drama of exile and exodus, slavery and freedom. Get your children to ask questions. Make sure that you tell the story as your own, not as some dry account of history. Say that the way you live and the ceremonies you observe are “because of what God did for me” – not my ancestors but me. Make it vivid, make it personal, and make it live.

He says this not once but three times:

“It shall be that when you come to the land which God will give you as He said, and you observe this ceremony, and your children say to you, ‘What does this service mean to you?’ you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He

we tell. Without narrative, there is no memory, and without memory, we have no identity. The most powerful link between the generations is the tale of those who came before us – a tale that becomes ours, and that we hand on as a sacred heritage to those who will come after us. We are the story we tell ourselves about ourselves, and identity begins in the story parents tell their children.

That narrative provides the answer to the three fundamental questions every reflective individual must ask at some stage in their lives: Who am I? Why am I here? How then shall I live? There are many answers to these questions, but the Jewish ones are: I am a member of the people whom God rescued from slavery to freedom. I am here to build a society that honours the freedom of others, not just my own. And I must live in conscious knowledge that freedom is the gift of God, honoured by keeping His covenant of law and love.

Twice in the history of the West this fact was forgotten, or ignored, or rebelled against. In the 17th and 18th century, there was a determined effort to create a world without identities. This was the project called the Enlightenment. It was a noble dream. To it we owe many developments whose value is beyond question and that we must strive to preserve. However, one aspect of it failed and was bound to fail: the attempt to live without identity.

The argument went like this. Identity throughout the Middle Ages was based on religion. But religion had for centuries led to war between Christians and Muslims.

Then, following the Reformation, it led to war between Christian and Christian, Protestant and Catholic. Therefore, to abolish war one had to move beyond identity. Identities are particular. Therefore, let us worship only the things that are universal: reason and observation, philosophy and science. Let us have systems, not stories. Then we will become one humanity, like the world before Babel. As Schiller put it and Beethoven set to music in the last movement of the Ninth Symphony: *Alle Menschen werden Brüder*, “All men will be brothers.”

It cannot be done, at least as humanity is presently constituted. The reaction, when it came, was fierce and disastrous. The nineteenth century saw the return of the repressed. Identity came back with a vengeance, this time based not on religion but on one of three substitutes for it: the nation state, the (Aryan) race, and the (working) class. In the 20th century, the nation state led to two world wars. Race led to the Holocaust. The class struggle led to Stalin, the Gulag and the KGB. A hundred million people were killed in the name of three false gods.

For the past fifty years the West has been embarked on a second attempt to abolish identity, this time in the opposite direction. What the secular West now worships is not the universal but the individual: the self, the “Me,” the “I.” Morality – the thick code of shared values binding society together for the sake of the common good – has been dissolved into the right of each individual to do or be anything he or she chooses, so long as they do not directly harm others.

Identities have become mere masks we wear temporarily and without commitment. For large sections of society, marriage is an anachronism, parenthood delayed or declined, and community a faceless crowd. We still have stories, from Harry Potter to Lord of the Rings to Star Wars, but they are films, fictions, fantasies – a mode not of engagement but of escapism. Such a world is supremely tolerant, until it meets views not to its liking, when it quickly becomes brutally intolerant, and eventually degenerates into the politics of the mob. This is populism, the prelude to tyranny.

Today’s hyper-individualism will not last. We are social animals. We cannot live without identities, families, communities and collective responsibility. Which means we cannot live without the stories that connect us to a past, a future and a larger group whose history and destiny we share. The biblical insight still stands. To create and sustain a free society, you have to teach your children the story of how we achieved freedom and what its absence tastes like: the unleavened bread of affliction and the bitter herbs of slavery. Lose the story and eventually you lose your freedom. That is what happens when you forget who you are and why.

The greatest gift we can give our children is not money or possessions but a story – a real story, not a fantasy, one that connects them to us and to a rich

heritage of high ideals. We are not particles of dust blown this way or that by the passing winds of fad and fashion. We are heirs to a story that inspired a hundred generations of our ancestors and eventually transformed the Western world. What you forget, you lose. The West is forgetting its story. We must never forget ours.

With the hindsight of thirty-three centuries we can see how right Moses was. A story told across the generations is the gift of an identity, and when you know who you are and why, you can navigate the wilderness of time with courage and confidence. That is a life-changing idea.

### Continued from Page A7 Rejectionism

that terrorism is justifiable under the guise of freedom fighting.

Various Palestinian terror organizations – including the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), PIJ (Palestinian Islamic Jihad), the PLO leadership and Hamas – are committed to maintaining violent and murderous campaigns against the state of Israel and her allies. Their intent has never been to establish a Palestinian Arab state, but rather to eliminate the world’s only Jewish and democratic state – and establish another Arab nation from the “river to the sea” in its place.

Israel is often caught in this crossfire between terrorists and diplomats. Terrorists justify their attacks upon innocent civilians as tools that are necessary and appropriate in their quest to force the world to recognize an independent “State of Palestine,” without compliance with the agreements previously signed between the Palestinians and Israelis. Yet diplomats prefer to blame Israel for the lack of peace, making it appear that Israel is the only party at fault and, therefore, the perpetual problem.

Moreover, diplomats ignore the fact that what they call the “State of Palestine” is in reality an assumed name, created by little more than a unilateral executive order signed by Abbas that reportedly simply changed the name of the PA (the quasi-governmental administrative entity created under the Oslo Accords) to the “State of Palestine.” The US, which legally recognized the state of Israel upon its declaration of independence, has not recognized the PA/“State of Palestine” as a nation-state, and the Palestinians do not have full member-state status at the UN.

And countries who reject rejectionism often become the targets of the terrorists. An early example of this came in the wake of the 1979 Camp David Accords – the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. The Arab world was furious with Egypt for its détente with Israel, and feeling betrayed, Arab leaders at the time sought retribu-

tion against Cairo.

In November 1985, three Palestinian members of the Abu Nidal Organization terrorist group hijacked EgyptAir Flight 648 on a flight from Athens to Cairo. The hijacking resulted in the deaths of 58 civilians, including one American and one Israeli, as well as the maiming of countless victims. Because Libya and Syria were both recognized by the US State Department as state sponsors of terror, our law firm, Heideman Nudelman & Kalik, P.C., sued both countries on behalf of the American victims of this heinous act of international terror.

In contrast to the PA-PLO policy of rejectionism and terrorism, Cairo has steadily improved cooperation with Israel in recent years, re-opening embassies while actively working to rein in Hamas terrorists seeking to leave Gaza. Egypt has also destroyed Palestinian smuggling tunnels to the Sinai, and, for the first time, voted in favor of Israel joining a UN committee.

Egypt should be applauded for taking these bold steps. While other Arab countries are also beginning to work with Israel to achieve a peaceful and secure region, the pervasive threat of the rejectionists’ encouragement of terrorism jeopardizes these efforts.

The Palestinian leadership continues to rally global support for statehood, and claims to be seeking peace – but Abbas has



PA President Mahmoud Abbas at the OIC summit in Istanbul. Photo: Reuters / Osman Orsal.

neither appeared at the negotiating table, reduced the vitriolic language toward Israel, cleansed the PA’s textbooks of hate, nor used the billions of dollars that the PA has received in aid to truly benefit the Palestinian people. The PA continues to maintain an attitude of rejectionism, using threats and terror as a substitute for diplomacy.

While terrorism is rightly condemned and fought around the world, Palestinian rejectionism, though equally damaging, is not. In fact, in far too many places, it is welcomed and emboldened. Those who want peace, stability, economic development and security for all people of all religions must stand against and fight rejectionism as they do terrorism.

Richard D. Heideman is senior counsel of Heideman Nudelman & Kalik, P.C., the Washington law firm that represents American victims of terror. He is also president of the American Zionist Movement. The opinions expressed in this article are his own and not attributable to any organization. He can be contacted at [rdheideman@hnklaw.com](mailto:rdheideman@hnklaw.com).

## Social.



Texas Flip 'N Move host Toni Snow (left) asks a guest "You're not going to Jew us down?" in the Jan. 12 episode of the hit reality series. Photo: Screenshot.

## 'You're Not Going to Jew Us Down?': US Reality TV Host's Antisemitic Outburst Sparks Anger

BY BEN COHEN

The presenter of a top-rated US reality TV show is in the spotlight for using an antisemitic epithet during a scene in which a guest was challenged for not haggling over a price of \$36,000.

In the most recent episode of the DIY Network's "Texas Flip N Move" — a reality show in which houses and other lodgings are refurbished and then "flipped" at a profit — that aired last Friday night, Jan. 12, presenter Toni Snow asked the guest whether he was going to "Jew us down" after she and her sister Donna informed him that \$36,000 was their "price point" for a refurbished school bus.

After the delighted guest replied, "That's a done deal right there, all day," Toni Snow interjected: "You're not even going to bicker a little bit? Jew us down?"

A spokesperson for the Anti-Defamation League roundly condemned the show, pointing out the connection between Toni Snow's remark and the ancient antisemitic depiction of Jews as driven by financial greed.

"It is disturbing to hear the antisemitic term 'Jew us down' come from the mouth of one of the members of the cast of Texas Flip N Move," an ADL spokesperson told The Algemeiner. "It's disturbing that this remark could have passed muster with the producers and made it into the broadcast. If anything, it shows the enduring power of age-old stereotypes about Jews and money. We urge the DIY Network to remove these offensive remarks from any future broadcasts of this episode."

In response to a query on Tuesday afternoon from The Algemeiner, a spokesperson for Scripps Networks Interactive — which operates the DIY Network along with dozens of domestic and global channels that

include the Food Network and Travel Channel — offered an apology for the offending clip.

"On a recent episode of Texas Flip N Move, an inappropriate comment unfortunately made it past our team," the spokesperson said. "We were made aware of the issue shortly after it aired, and immediately pulled the episode to edit it for future broadcast. We apologize unreservedly for any offense caused."

Other public figures have found themselves severely criticized for using the same phrase. In April 2013, Oklahoma state Rep. Dennis Johnson (R) expressed regret after using the phrase "Jew me down" in a debate about small business development, while in 2011, Texas state Rep. Larry Taylor apologized after he exclaimed "Don't nitpick, don't try to Jew them down," in a dispute with the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association over its obligations to policyholders.

"Texas Flip N Move" is one of the DIY Network's leading shows, currently in its seventh season.



## Palestinian Girl Reunited With Mother in Gaza After Being Abandoned in Jerusalem by Father Following Medical Treatment at Israeli Hospital

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A seven-year-old Palestinian girl from the Gaza Strip has been reunited with her mother after she was abandoned by her father in Jerusalem on Sunday after receiving medical treatment in an Israeli hospital, the Hebrew news site Walla reported on Monday.

According to the shuttle driver who was transporting the two back to the Erez border crossing, the father had asked for the vehicle to pull over so his daughter could relieve herself. However, after the vehicle stopped, the father opened the door and took off running, leaving his daughter behind.

The young girl was brought to police station, where she was taken care while Israeli authorities



The abandoned Palestinian girl from the Gaza Strip at a police station in Jerusalem on Sunday. Photo: Israel Police.

arranged her return home to Hamas-ruled Gaza.

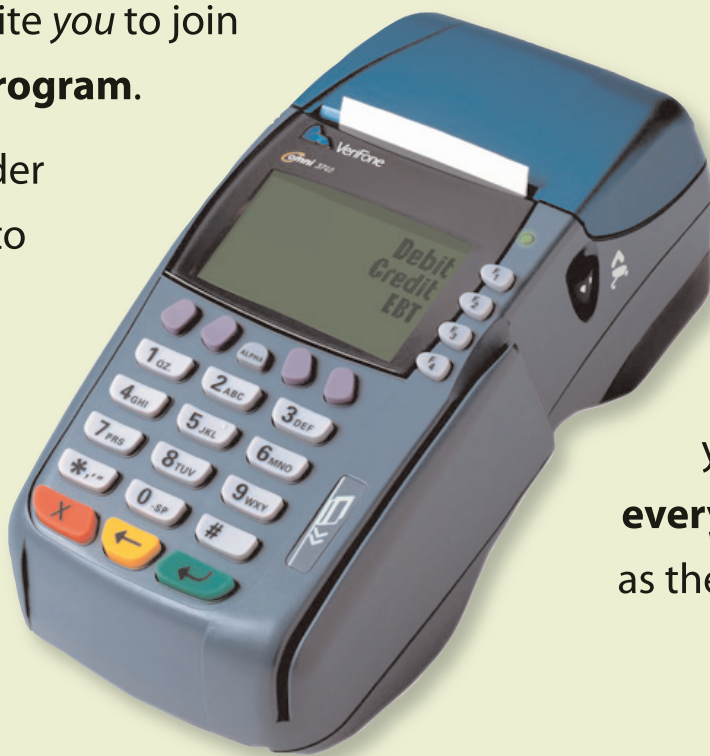
The father was found later in the day in central Israel and arrested.

# Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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