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Polish President Signs Holocaust Bill, Triggers Israeli, US Criticism



Polish President Andrzej Duda Feb. 6, 2018. Photo: Agencja Gazeta / Dawid Zuchowicz via Reuters.

BY REUTERS AND ALGEMEINER STAFF

Poland's president signed into law on Tuesday a bill that imposes jail terms for suggesting the country was complicit in the Holocaust, prompting sharp criticism from Israel and the United States.

Andrzej Duda said in a televised address the legislation would safeguard Poland's international reputation, but Israel called for amendments, saying the two countries had a "joint responsibility" to preserve the memory of the Holocaust.

The United States, a close

NATO ally of Poland, expressed disappointment at Duda's decision.

"(This bill) ... protects Polish interests ... our dignity, the historical truth... so that we are not slandered as a state and as a nation," said Duda, an ally of the ruling Law and Justice party (PiS) which introduced the legislation.

But it also "takes into account the sensitivity of those for whom the issue of historical truth, the memory of the Holocaust is incredibly important," Duda added.

The Polish law would impose prison sentences of up to three years for using the phrase "Polish death camps" and for suggesting

"publicly and against the facts" that the Polish nation or state was complicit in Nazi Germany's crimes.

PiS, a socially conservative, nationalist party that has clashed with the European Union and human rights groups on a range of issues since taking power in late 2015, says the new law is needed to ensure that Poles are recognized as victims, not perpetrators, of Nazi aggression in World War Two.

Israel says the law will curb free speech, criminalize basic historical facts and stop any discussion of the role some Poles

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Israeli Father of Four Killed in West Bank Stabbing Attack

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

An Israeli man was stabbed to death on Monday afternoon in a terrorist attack at a hitchhiking post at an entrance to the West Bank city of Ariel.

The assailant was able to flee the scene, despite being pursued by an IDF officer.

Israeli troops began conducting searches in the area in an effort to track down the attacker.

Later on Monday, the fatality was identified as Itamar Ben Gal, a 29-year-old married father of four from Har Bracha.



Rescue workers clean the scene following a stabbing attack at an entrance to Ariel, Feb. 5, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Yossi Zeligler.

Ben Gal, who was a teacher, will be laid to rest on Tuesday morning.

At a Likud faction meeting on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his condolences to Ben Gal's family and vowed to bring the perpetrator of the attack to justice.

Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon blamed the attack on the "incitement and payments to terrorists by the Palestinian Authority."

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African Migrants: A Filmmaker's Concern

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat MISHPATIM
פרשת מישפטים

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 5:05pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:06pm



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P.O.B. 250746, Brooklyn, NY 11225-3203
Tel: (718) 771.0400 | Fax: (718) 771.0308
Email: editor@algemeiner.com
www.algemeiner.com



Opinion.

Polish-Jewish Relations: A Case Study in What Can Go Wrong



David Harris

One day, I fear that what is currently happening in Polish-Israeli and Polish-Jewish relations will become a case study for how an outwardly strong partnership can unravel practically overnight.

The core lesson will doubtless be that the moderate voices — committed to finding common ground on difficult issues, as befits friends — were outshouted and outmaneuvered by shrill, uncompromising voices, for whom any concession was seen as weakness, if not capitulation.

This is particularly true, alas, in Poland right now.

Having already confronted European Union institutions on unrelated issues — and finding itself quite isolated among member states — Poland has now chosen to jeopardize its links with Israel and the Jewish world by going ahead with problematic legislation regarding World War II and the Holocaust.

As if this weren't enough for Warsaw, the United States has also spoken up, taking issue with the parliamentary measure and suggesting that its passage could adversely

affect Poland's standing in America.

The last time I checked, Poland needed friends — just like every other country, and all the more so, given its entirely legitimate and understandable security anxieties.

So who is there for Poland?

Well, for starters, Washington — the actor that, more than any other, has the will and capability to stand alongside Poland. Israel, with its long experience, has lots to offer as well.

Moreover, some in Poland attribute its NATO accession in 1999, in part, to the efforts of the American Jewish Committee, which testified in the United States Senate for the security pact's expansion.

Imagine a Poland today without NATO membership in light of what's been happening to the east.

Further, why does Poland, by its current action, seek to trigger a re-opening of painful and complex historical narratives? Who stands to gain from this? Apart from the hotheads, I can imagine only one political leader outside the country who is grinning — and Vladimir Putin is not exactly Poland's most trusted friend to begin with.

To be sure, some in Israel and the larger Jewish world have made a bad situation worse by pouring oil on the fire, especially in their irresponsible claims suggesting, in effect, that Warsaw — which was attacked mercilessly by German forces on September 1, 1939 — was Berlin's willing partner in



A memorial at the site of the 1941 massacre of Jews in Jedwabne, Poland. Photo: Au58 via Wikimedia Commons.

Hitler's Final Solution.

Yes, there is an undeniable and immensely painful record of Polish antisemitism before, during and after the war. Poland cannot dodge that history or seek, in effect, to outlaw discussion of any part of it. Democratic nations emerge far stronger from self-examination than self-denial.

But, however agonizing, this must not be the beginning and end of the discussion. There is far more to Poland's history regarding both Jews and its wartime record, and this can't conveniently be swept under the rug in a paroxysm of uncontrolled Jewish anger.

Poland was brutally occupied by two nations — Nazi Germany and the USSR. Thousands of its finest military officers were murdered, under Stalin's orders, in the Katyn Forest. Countless Poles were sent to both Nazi and Soviet camps.

Polish pilots played a vital role in the Battle of Britain. Without them, the

outcome might, in fact, have been quite different. Polish cryptographers originally broke the Nazi code, leading to the game-changing breakthroughs at Bletchley Park. The Polish underground alerted the world to the German plan to exterminate the Jewish people, and one unit, *egota*, worked to save individual Jews. And Polish soldiers fought valiantly at the battle of Monte Cassino — as my late father, who was there, testified — and elsewhere in the Allied struggle.

In other words, Poland made a significant contribution to shortening Hitler's dream of a "thousand-year" reign by 988 years.

Now fast forward to today.

Twenty-eight years after Poland led the remarkable effort to throw off the yoke of communism and reconnect to the Western world, a vibrant Jewish community has re-emerged and Israel looks to Warsaw for support in the European Union and

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BBC News Kicks Israel in the Face



PESACH BENSON
NEW YORK

Of the 120 Knesset members that the BBC could have interviewed for an Israeli point of view on Ahd Tamimi's trial, reporter Jeremy Bowen chose a disgraced, provocative politician — and well-known enfant terrible — Oren Hazan.

Viewers of "Is a Slap an Act of Terror?" on the prime time "BBC News at Ten," wouldn't be aware that Hazan, a Likud MK, has a history of disgraceful PR stunts and character issues — or that he had been suspended from the Knesset the same day that the segment aired.

This was not a random selection made by Bowen, the BBC's Mideast editor.

Hazan's history includes:

- Threatening Palestinians who were visiting imprisoned relatives.

- Accepting a Jordanian lawmaker's challenge to a fist fight (called off only by the personal intervention of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu).

- Sparking the ire of Israelis and French Jews by endorsing far-right French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen.

- Breaking protocol to take a selfie with President Donald Trump.

- Being suspended from the Knesset for mocking another lawmaker's disability.

- When Hazan sued Israeli Channel 2 for a report accusing him of pimping prostitutes and using and dealing hard

drugs while managing a casino in Bulgaria, the judge ruled that there was sufficient evidence of the drug use and pimping — and that Channel 2's only error was saying that Hazan had dealt drugs.

And on Tuesday, reacting to his current suspension, Hazan called Knesset speaker and former refusenik Yuli Edelstein "Stalin." You get the picture.

Bowen knew about the MK's provocative personality, and still selected him — clearly in the hope and expectation that Hazan would say something embarrassing and/or outrageous. Bowen saw the lawmaker as a useful idiot. And Hazan, happy to oblige, seized an opportunity to play to a narrow thuggish fan-base, and notch another 15 minutes of fame.

After showing footage of the teenage Ahd being escorted from court, Bowen pivoted towards the Israeli perspective, saying "Some Israelis are horrified by the imprisonment of children. But most feel that she should be punished and perhaps her family too."

And who are those "most Israelis" represented by?

Cue Hazan, who is not introduced to viewers, except for a caption saying "Oren Hazan, Israeli Member of Parliament."



The Israeli Knesset building. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

If I was there, she would finish in the hospital for sure. Nobody could stop me. I would kick, kick her face, believe me.

It's like spinning disgraced ex-congressman Anthony Weiner's views on #MeToo as a reflection of mainstream American views on the subject.

As for the rest of the report, Bowen's assertion that "settlements are illegal in international law" violates the BBC's style guide, which at least instructs journalists to acknowledge that Israel contests that view — which Bowen didn't do:

When writing a story about settlements, BBC journalists can aim, where relevant, to include context to the effect that 'all settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are considered illegal under international law, though Israel disputes this.'

While Bowen blames "the occupation" for the presence of Israeli soldiers in the West Bank village of Nabi Salah, and the courtyard of the Tamimi house, he doesn't mention why the soldiers were there — because Palestinians throwing stones at Israeli motorists had fled into the area of the Tamimi house.

Bowen also calls Ahd "a seasoned activist." But a closer look at the activism that made her a household name in the West Bank and earned her recognition from Mideast leaders, shows a young girl repeatedly attacking and haranguing Israeli soldiers over a significant period of time — hoping to provoke a response in front of a video camera.

And her parents can be described

Continued on Page A4

World News.

Turkish Leader Erdogan and Pope Discuss Jerusalem at Vatican Meeting

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Recep Tayyip Erdogan made the first visit by a Turkish president to the Vatican in 59 years on Monday, discussing the status of Jerusalem with Pope Francis, as scuffles broke out between police and demonstrators nearby.

Police, who put much of the center of the city under lockdown for the visit, said two people were detained after demonstrators tried to break through cordons to get closer to the Vatican from an authorized protest several blocks away.

Returning a visit made by the pope to Turkey in 2014, Erdogan spoke privately with Francis for about 50 minutes in the pontiff's frescoed study in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, which he uses mostly for ceremonial purposes.

A Vatican statement said the talks included "the status of Jerusalem, highlighting the need to promote peace and stability in the region (Middle East) through dialogue and negotiation, with respect for human rights and international law."

Both Erdogan and Pope Francis are opposed to US President Donald Trump's Dec. 6 decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

At the end of the private part of the meeting, the pope gave Erdogan a bronze medallion showing an angel embracing the northern and southern hemispheres while overcoming the opposition of a dragon.

"This is the angel of peace who strangles the demon of war," the pope told Erdogan as he gave him the medallion, made by the Italian artist Guido Verol. "(It is) a symbol of a world based on peace and justice."

The public part of the meeting, with reporters and Erdogan's entourage, was cordial, although both men seemed stiff at the start while seated at the pope's desk before journalists were ushered out.

Erdogan's motorcade entered a virtually

deserted St. Peter's Square after the streets that are usually bustling with tourists were closed due to security fears.

An authorized demonstration of about 150 people including Kurds and their supporters outside nearby Castel Sant'Angelo, a fortress on the banks of the River Tiber, turned violent when police in riot gear pushed back shouting and shoving protesters who tried to break through their lines. At least one demonstrator was injured, a witness said.

Some 3,500 police and security forces were on duty in Rome and authorities declared a no-go area for unauthorized demonstrations that included the Vatican, Erdogan's hotel and Italian palaces where he is meeting the president and prime minister.

Matteo Salvini, head of Italy's anti-immigrant Northern League, said in a tweet that it was "shameful" that the government was receiving Erdogan, calling him "the head of a bloody, freedom-killing Islamic regime."

Erdogan and the pope spoke by phone in December after Trump made his announcement on Jerusalem and agreed that any change to the city's status quo should be avoided.

The Vatican backs a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with both sides agreeing on the status of Jerusalem — home to sites holy to the Jewish, Muslim and Christian religions — as part of the peace process.

Among Erdogan's delegation was the Mehmet Pacaci, Turkey's ambassador to the Vatican. Erdogan recalled Pacaci to Turkey in 2015 when Francis became the first pope to publicly call the 1915 killing of as many as 1.5 million Armenians "genocide" — something Turkey has always denied.

Continued from Page A1
Polish President

played in Nazi crimes. Activists say the passage of the bill has encouraged a rise in antisemitism.

More than three million of the 3.2 million Jews who lived in pre-war Poland were murdered by the Nazis, accounting for about half of all Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Jews from across the continent were sent to be killed at death camps built and operated by Germans in occupied Poland — home to Europe's biggest Jewish community at the time — including Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor.

Duda said he would also ask the Constitutional Tribunal for a number of clarifications about the bill. The legislation provides exemptions for academic research and art.

Duda's top foreign policy adviser Krzysztof Szczerski told public television TVP that the law should be sent to the Constitutional Tribunal within a week.

Criticizing Duda's move, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement: "Enactment of this law adversely affects freedom of speech and academic inquiry."

Israel said it still hoped Poland would make amendments.

"We hope that within the allotted time, until the court's deliberations are concluded,

we will manage to agree on changes and corrections. Israel and Poland hold a joint responsibility to research and preserve the history of the Holocaust," the Israeli government said in a statement on Twitter.

Israel's education minister said on Monday he was "honored" Poland had canceled his visit to Warsaw this week because he refused to retract his condemnation of the bill.

"The blood of Polish Jews cries from the ground, and no law will silence it," Naftali Bennett later said in a statement.

According to figures from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Nazis, who invaded Poland in 1939, also killed at least 1.9 million non-Jewish Polish civilians.

The legislation, which comes at a time of electoral gains for anti-immigrant parties like PiS across Europe, has reopened a painful debate in Poland over the Holocaust.

Thousands of Poles risked their lives to protect Jewish neighbors during the war. But research published since the fall of communism in 1989 showed that thousands also killed Jews or denounced those who hid them to the Nazi occupiers, challenging the national narrative that Poland was solely a victim.

The bill will also make it illegal to deny the murder of about 100,000 Poles by units of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) during World War Two, a move likely to increase

Slovenia Postpones Vote on Recognition of Palestinian Statehood



National Assembly of Slovenia. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

BY JNS.ORG

Slovenia has postponed a controversial vote on recognizing Palestinian statehood.

Slovenia's STA press agency reported that the parliament's Foreign Policy Committee suspended a session on the recognition of Palestinian statehood on Wednesday, pending an official government position on the issue. Foreign Minister Karl Erjavec said that the government will likely discuss the issue next week.

Earlier this month, Erjavec said that Slovenian recognition would "strengthen Palestine's negotiation in the Middle East peace process."

Israel has urged Slovenia against recognizing Palestinian statehood. According to

Israel's Channel 10, Israeli Ambassador to Slovenia Eyal Sila warned Speaker of the Slovenian Parliament Milan Brglez and the chair of the Foreign Policy Committee Jozef Horvat against the move.

While Sweden is currently the only country to recognize Palestinian statehood since joining the European Union, several Eastern European countries — Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania — all recognized Palestine as a state before joining the EU, as well as Malta and Cyprus.

At the same time, several Western European country's parliaments, such as Spain, Portugal, France and Ireland, have symbolically recognized Palestinian statehood in recent years.

PLO Calls for New Offensive Against Israel at UN, ICC

BY JNS.ORG

The Palestinian Authority (PA) intends to go on an offensive against Israel at the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC), according to a report by Al Jazeera.

Following a meeting of the executive committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Saturday night, the group has stated that Palestinians must "begin devising plans to disengage from the Israeli occupation authorities at the political, security, economic and administrative levels..."

The Palestinian news agency Wafa reports that the PLO's executive committee seeks to "suspend recognition of Israel until the latter recognizes the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders, repeals the decision to annex East Jerusalem and halts settlement activities."

In a threat to halt ongoing security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the PLO executive committee called on the Palestinian Authority to "define security relations between the Palestinians and the Israeli occupation." Saturday's announcement comes less than



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas chairs a meeting of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the West Bank city of Ramallah on April 4, 2016. Photo: Flash90.

a month after President Donald Trump announced that the United States would officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In a sharp departure from the statements of previous US administrations that called for "two states standing side-by-side in peace and security," Trump has stated that United States would support a two-state solution if that arrangement is "agreed to by both sides."

Abbas has sharply criticized Trump's policies in the PLO executive committee, stating of Trump, "May your house be destroyed."

Continued from Page A1
West Bank

"Instead of inviting [PA President] Mahmoud Abbas to address the Security Council to

disseminate lies and hate, the council should unequivocally condemn this attack and demand that he stop paying stipends to terrorists," Danon said in a statement.

World News.



A look into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula from the Israeli side of the border.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Airstrikes in Sinai Peninsula 'Dramatic Evidence' of Growing Arab Alignment With Israel

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The Sinai Peninsula has become a safe haven for terrorists and jihadist activity in recent years. Despite considerable efforts by Egyptian authorities, not only have the terrorists not been defeated, but the threat they pose has steadily grown. The apogee of the attacks came in late 2015, when Sinai-based terrorists shot down a Russian passenger jet, killing 224 people on board. In the wake of that attack, however, Israel decided to enter the fray. The New York Times reported over the weekend.

According to the revelations, for over two years, Israeli drones, helicopters and jets waged a covert campaign against terrorist groups in Sinai, consisting of over 100 airstrikes on Egyptian soil — sometimes one attack a week — under the approval of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu viewed the military campaign in Egypt as a tool to make the Americans understand that Cairo was in need of Israel's help. Thus, for example, in February 2016, then-US Secretary of State John Kerry convened a secret summit in Jordan with Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah and Netanyahu.

At the meeting, The New York Times reported, Kerry proposed a regional agreement in which Egypt and Jordan would guarantee Israel's security as part of a deal for a Palestinian state. Netanyahu reportedly scoffed at the idea, reminding Kerry that the IDF was already buttressing Egypt's military. If Egypt was unable to control the ground within its own borders, Netanyahu reportedly argued, it was hardly in a position to guarantee security for Israel.

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Case Study

at the UN — where it currently sits on the all-important Security Council.

It's often said that moderates — those willing to listen to others and look for a "ZOPA," Zone of Possible Agreement — are rarely as motivated and passionate as more

Continued from Page A2
BBC

as propagandists in their own right. Her father, Bassam Tamimi goes on global tours campaigning against Israel, while her mother, Nariman, filmed the incident for which Ahdar was arrested. (Nariman was also arrested.)

Israel's covert campaign in Sinai benefited both sides: The Egyptian army was finally able to create some positive momentum in its fight against the terrorist groups in Sinai, a fight that has persisted for five years already. Israel, meanwhile, was able to reduce the threat it faced on along its southern border. The New York Times described the countries' collaboration in north Sinai as "the most dramatic evidence yet" of the geopolitical changes taking place in the region.

"Shared enemies like ISIS, Iran and political Islam have quietly brought the leaders of several Arab states into growing alignment with Israel — even as their officials and news media continue to vilify the Jewish state in public," the report said.

American sources quoted in the report said Israel's air campaign played a decisive role in helping the Egyptian armed forces gain an upper hand against the terrorist threat. The sources also said Israeli drones used in the campaign were unmarked, and that Israeli jets and helicopters covered up their markings. Some aircraft even flew circuitous routes to create the impression that they were based in the Egyptian mainland, according to the American officials. It was unclear, the officials said, whether Israeli special forces have set foot on Egyptian soil within the framework of the campaign.

Inside the American government, The New York Times said, the Israeli strikes are "widely known enough that diplomats and intelligence officials have discussed them in closed briefings with lawmakers on Capitol Hill."

extreme voices.

So far, regrettably, that seems to be the case in this current contretemps. But, as one who cares deeply about all that's been achieved since 1989, I refuse to be silent — or, for that matter, to abandon my moderation.

A version of this article appeared on the website of Poland's Gazeta Wyborcza.

The issues that Bowen reported on are legitimate, but British viewers would have been left aghast by this report — exactly the outcome that Bowen set out for. In a ruse of false balance, Bowen kicked Israel in the face.

This article was originally published by HonestReporting.

Palestinian Receives Life Sentence for Murdering Jewish Lover Over Nationalistic Motives

BY JNS.ORG

Mohammed Harouf, an Arab resident of Shechem in Samaria, was convicted Sunday of murdering Michal Halimi, an Israeli woman with whom he was having an affair, for nationalistic reasons.

Harouf will serve a life sentence for the murder, which is now considered an act of terror. As part of a plea bargain arrangement, the original indictment was amended to include that the murder was motivated by political reasons as opposed to personal reasons.

When asked by reporters at an earlier court hearing as to why he murdered 29-year-old Halimi, who was eight-months pregnant at the time of her death, Harouf replied, "I'll kill all the Jews!"

Harouf confessed to strangling and beating Halimi, then covering and leaving her body in Holon and getting away in her



Muhammad Harouf, a Palestinian convicted of murdering Michal Halimi, is brought to the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on August 2, 2017.
Photo: Yonatan Sindel / Flash90.

car. Halimi's body was discovered in the sand dunes near Holon on July 24. Halimi was a resident from the Jewish settlement of Adam, and was pregnant with a child as the product of her marriage.

As the perpetrator of a nationalistic crime against Israelis, Harouf's family now becomes eligible to receive stipends paid to terrorists by the Palestinian Authority.

Security Sources: Iraq Plans Military Operation to Secure Oil Route to Iran

BY JNS.ORG

Iraqi forces are preparing an operation to consolidate control of an area near the Iran border to be used for the transit of Iraqi oil, two officials said on Monday, highlighting concern about mountainous terrain where two armed groups are active.

The operation to secure the Hamrin mountain range could start this week, they told Reuters. The area lies between the Kirkuk oil fields and the town of Khanaqin at the Iranian border.

Iraqi oil officials announced in December plans to transport Kirkuk crude by truck to Iran's Kermanshah refinery.

The trucking was to start last week and oil officials declined to give reasons for the delay other than it was technical in nature.

The officials did not elaborate on the possible threats to the Hamrin mountain range. But two groups of insurgents are known to be operating there, one formed by remnants of the ultra-hardline militant Sunni organization Islamic State, while the other known as "White Banners," is new and little known.

The White Banners fighters are believed to be drawn from Kurdish populations displaced from the regions of Kirkuk and Tuz

Khurmato, in October, when Iraqi government forces and Iranian-backed paramilitary took over the area, according to Hisham al-Hashimi, a security analyst in Baghdad.

"The White Banners have no connection to Daesh nor to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)," referring to the semi-autonomous Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq, he said.

Iraqi military officials acknowledge the existence of a group called White Banners but refused to comment on its composition or leadership. The KRG has "strictly no relations whatsoever" with this group, a Kurdish official told Reuters.

Trucking crude oil to Iran was agreed under a swap agreement announced in December by the two countries, to allow a resumption of oil exports from Kirkuk.

Iraq and Iran have agreed to swap up to 60,000 barrels per day of crude produced from Kirkuk for Iranian oil to be delivered to southern Iraq.

Kirkuk crude sales have been halted since Iraqi forces took back control of the fields from the Kurds in October.

Kurdish forces took control of Kirkuk in 2014, when the Iraqi army collapsed in the face of Islamic State. The Kurdish move prevented the militants from seizing the region's oilfields.



An Iranian oil rig. Photo: Screenshot.

U.S. News.

Department of Justice Settles Lawsuit With Pro-Israel Group Targeted by IRS

BY BEN COHEN

The Department of Justice announced on Thursday that it has settled its final lawsuit with a pro-Israel group that was targeted by the Internal Revenue Service during the Obama administration.

The settlement on Thursday was with a pro-Israel non-profit called Z Street, founded by Lori Lowenthal Marcus in 2009. In its lawsuit, Z Street contended that it had been unfairly targeted by the IRS due to its support for Israel, and in particular its alleged support for Jewish activity over the pre-1967 "Green Line."

"Tax exemption eligibility should be based on whether an organization's activities fulfill requirements of the law, not a group's policy positions or the name chosen to reflect those views," Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Zuckerman said in a statement. "The attorneys at the Department of Justice work hard to ensure that all Americans receive equal treatment under the law. Today's settlement further illustrates this commitment."

Z Street, a non-profit whose mission is to educate the public on Israel and the Middle East, was among several non-profits the IRS under the Obama administration had unfairly targeted. Most of them were linked to the Tea

Party movement. In October 2017 the Justice Department entered into settlements with other Tea Party organizations to pay claims of each of the groups in the case.

In October, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said that the IRS's past practice was "inappropriate" and "wrong."

"It is improper for the IRS to single out groups for different treatment based on their names or ideological positions," Sessions said.

Z Street's Marcus told the Jewish Press that she was thrilled about the settlement after a nearly seven-year long battle with the IRS.

"It is thrilling to actually wrestle the IRS to the ground and force it to admit Z Street was targeted because we support Israel and the right of Jews to live everywhere, and that the Obama administration's IRS violated Z Street's constitutional rights by discriminat-



The Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, DC. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

ing against us," she said. While the group ultimately won its battle against the IRS, its lack of non-profit status prevented it from raising funds and effectively led to its operations being shut down.

Former US Lawmaker, Holocaust Survivor, Tom Lantos Honored With Budapest Statue

BY JNS.ORG

A statue honoring former US lawmaker and Holocaust survivor Tom Lantos was unveiled in Budapest, Hungary on Thursday.

The Hungarian-born Lantos, who served as a Democrat from California in the House of Representatives from 1981 until his death in 2008, was the only Holocaust survivor to ever sit in Congress. He was widely known for his advocacy of democracy, fighting antisemitism and standing up for human rights around the world, establishing the bipartisan Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983.

"During his whole life, his heart was in Hungary," said his widow Annette at the ceremony on Thursday, which would have been Lantos' 90th birthday, the Associated Press reported.

During the Holocaust, Lantos, who was a teenager at the time, was sent to a forced labor camp near Budapest. He eventually escaped the camp, got caught and was severely beaten, but managed to escape again. Lantos survived the final years of the war at a Budapest safe house established by Swedish diplomat Raul Wallenberg, where he also served in Wallenberg's anti-Nazi underground network.

"Tom Lantos called on all of us—not just those in government service, but all citizens, all human beings—to show courage in the face of fear, to smooth difficulties and correct mistakes," said David Kostelancik, the charge d'affaires at the US Embassy in Budapest.

The statue honoring Lantos comes amid a deep discussion and controversy in Hungary over the past year concerning the country's role in the Holocaust. Last June, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban was widely condemned by Jewish groups for praising World War II-era Hungarian leader and Nazi ally Miklos Horthy. More recently, Hungarian Jewish groups condemned a senior Hungarian politician, Sandor Lezsak, for a planned speech honoring Miklos Horthy on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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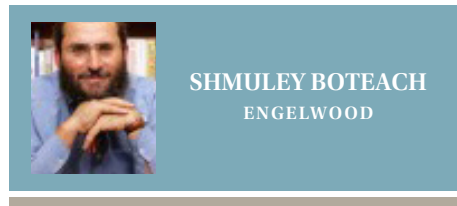
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Opinion.

Message to a Daughter in Her Last Moments of Singlehood



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Below is a message that Rabbi Shmuley Boteach delivered to his daughter, Shaina, before her wedding.

Shaina — these are my last words to you as the most important man in your life. In a few moments, it will be your husband Moshe who replaces me.

When you were born, your mother and I named you Shaina Brocha, and you have been just that — a beautiful blessing to us throughout your life. But now, you will embrace a new future with your married soulmate.

It is humbling for a parent to be forced to acknowledge that they cannot provide what their child seeks most in life, which is, not to be loved, but to be chosen. Love makes us feel protected. But chosenness make us feel special. To be loved is to be cherished. To be chosen is to be rendered irreplaceable. Love is warm. But chosenness is electrifying.

Your wedding falls during the Torah reading of Yitro, with its recounting of the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. At that place, God selected the Jews as His chosen people. The Jewish wedding ceremony reflects that awesome experience, with the groom waiting under the canopy for his bride, just as God waited for the Israelites with thunder and lightning. And the bride and groom stand under the chupah, just as God, according to legend, draped Mt. Sinai over the Jewish nation as a sign of protection.

And then he uttered the Ten Commandments with the first two being the very

essence of marriage: “I am the Lord Your God. You shall have no other Gods before me. Make me the One. Make me the Only.”

In marriage, we choose each other by giving each other primacy and exclusivity. When it comes to love there can be many. But when it comes to being chosen, there can be only one.

Today, you have been chosen by Moshe to stand together beneath the chupah. The ancient rabbis say that a chupah is also a recreation of Eden, which is why it is covered in beautiful flowers and other natural ornaments, something especially poignant seeing that today is Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish new year for trees.

Seeing you join a fine young man with whom you will build a life makes me feel like I have reversed some of the wounds that I endured as a child of divorce. I have been given the privilege of seeing love come alive from my own flesh and blood.

In the Torah, we learn that Adam and Eve owned absolutely nothing, not even clothing. Yet, in each other they found paradise. Their only possession was love, and they reveled in the fullness that their companionship provided. We commemorate that tradition today by having a bridegroom empty his pockets prior to his arrival at the chupah, so that his wife accepts him for who he is without any accouterments. With Eve believing in him, Adam gained confidence. He felt his existence was sufficient to make his wife blissful. Eve, too, felt desirable and essential. She was truly Adam's one and only. There was no one else in the entire world to distract him, and he loved her with every molecule of his being.

Last summer, Shaina, our family embarked on a painful journey of Holocaust memory, visiting many of the killing fields of Europe. It was almost too much to bear, as we traveled to Auschwitz, Maidanek, Tre-

blinka and Dachau. By the time we reached Budapest, the capital of a country that saw 500,000 Jews murdered in just five months, your younger sister Rochel Leah said to you, “This is shaking my relationship with God, who remained silent while so many innocents perished.” And you responded, “But we did not come to these places for God. We came to remember the lost six million, so that they are never forgotten. Even if it causes momentary distance from God.”

It was then that I knew that you had absorbed the central lesson in the life of Moses. When he receives the Torah in this week's parsha, events quickly spiral out of control, as the Jews build and worship a golden calf. Rather than preserving the Torah, Moses quickly destroys the Ten Commandments so that the Jews cannot be held accountable for a law which they have now broken. He puts the people before God. He loves the people more than he loves God.

And God loves him for it. Because a parent loves his children more than he loves himself.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, too, lived by this maxim, arguing with God at his public discourses, demanding that God send the Messiah and put a permanent end to human suffering.

And why are we all here? Why is marriage — so private and personal a commitment — celebrated in public?

Because love is never meant to be private. The exclusivity you have for one another leads to the inclusivity of a home that is built to welcome in guests and share your blessings with strangers. That's why you marry under a chupah, the tent of Abraham, which has only a roof and no walls, so that none can be locked out.

Today, we look to you for inspiration. Those who are in less than loving marriages, or who were hurt by love, want to



An Orthodox Jewish wedding. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

believe again that we too may be chosen. All those whom life has beat up and who felt superfluous or discarded are looking to you to heal. All those whom relationships have let down are looking at you to feel ennobled. Inspire us. Move us. Free us from cynicism and despair. Give us hope. By witnessing the two of you dedicating yourselves to each other, you offer us all a taste of paradise.

I bless you tonight, Shaina. May you embody your mother's beauty, selflessness, righteousness and loving-kindness. May you be all she is and more. May you also be like the matriarchs of the Jewish people. May you have the fortitude of Sara, who drew a line and protected the exclusivity of her relationship with Abraham. May you have the wisdom of Rebecca, who saw aspects of character in her children to which even her husband remained blind. May you have the industriousness of Rachel, to whom we are first introduced as a shepherdess and entrepreneur. And may you have the perseverance of Leah, who understood that relationships are built rather than created.

Go forth and build an eternal home among Israel and the Jewish people. Go forth and turn the ordinary into the extraordinary, the natural into the miraculous, and the darkness into sunlit paradise.

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 “Kosher Sex” and “Ten Conversations You Need to Have with Yourself.” He spoke these words to his daughter at her wedding. Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

Who Owns the Holocaust?



BEN COHEN
JNS.org

Who owns the Holocaust? That, ultimately, is the key question posed by the impending legislation in Poland that will criminalize any discussion, or investigation, or mere mention, of incidents of Polish collusion with the Nazi occupiers during World War Two.

My goal here is not to look into the details of the Polish dispute — save for noting that Warsaw's impassioned claim that its ire is driven by the phrase “Polish death camp” to describe Auschwitz is actually a straw man argument. Nearly all reputable scholars of the Holocaust — including those at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial — have repeatedly said, over several years, that this form of words is insensitive and inaccurate. It should be purged from our

Shoah lexicon, but through education, not legislation.

This dispute is about who sets the parameters for our understanding of what the Holocaust was and what it represented — and it is a problem that extends far beyond Poland's borders.

On a purely conceptual level, molding a particular historical event to fit a particular interpretation always involves simplification. Look at our own Civil War 150 years later — as we often do, and with great anger — and we still see it as North against South, a society of free individuals against a society built on slavery. All that is basically true, and yet it doesn't easily explain why there were so many Northern Democrats more loyal to Jefferson Davis than Abraham Lincoln, or why the citizens of Eastern Tennessee threw in their lot with the Union.

This is why the study of history is only possible in free societies where all avenues of inquiry are open, and where knowledge is “owned” by all. Here in the West, our understanding of the Holocaust's complexities has been hugely enriched by the histories, bibliographies, oral testimonies and images

patiently collected and interpreted by scholars in Israel, the US and Europe. But in the nations that were until 1989 under the boot of the Soviet Union, like Poland, the situation is the exact opposite; over there, “Holocaust education” for decades consisted of lies, distortions and shameful cover-ups.

It began with the Soviets, for whom there was no ideological or political room for something called the “Holocaust” in their account of the “Great Patriotic War.” In his monumental poem “Babi Yar” — a searing critique of the official Soviet representation of the Nazi massacre of 33,000 Jews by a ravine in Kiev in September 1941 — the Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko summoned up the ghosts of native Russian antisemitism when he imagined himself as young Jewish boy in the midst of a pogrom. (“To jeers of ‘Kill the Jews, and save our Russia!’/My mother's being beaten by a clerk.”)

Yevtushenko's goal was to remind his readers of the difficult, painful truth that the Communist Party's enforcers sought to suppress. The Holocaust was defined by the antisemitic legislation, persecution and eventual genocide — under the gaze and sometimes with the active participation of their non-Jewish neighbors — that defined the fate of the Jews under Nazi rule.

But just as the Communists sought to undermine this core truth at every turn, so do today's ultranationalists. It's not just Poland, after all. Croatia, Hungary,

Slovakia and Latvia are just a handful of the other European countries where similarly ugly disputes have arisen, always involving ultranationalist political leaders promoting the deceitful rewriting of history. In all these cases, the end has been the same: to portray the occupied non-Jewish populations as facing exactly the same trials and perils as their Jewish neighbors, and thereby launder their own soiled records of past Nazi associations.

Here, I believe, is where the rub lies. The Holocaust scholarship engendered in the open societies of the West is robust enough to withstand these political campaigns to rewrite history. In that sense, the current Polish dispute is just a particularly nasty example of a clash we've seen before, and not much more than that. The real losers in all this are the very people these ultranationalists claim they represent.

Consider the following sentences. “The conditions in those trains defy coherent language...They were packed in a standing position in sealed, windowless, and unheated cattle wagons, for a winter journey of thousands of miles.” You might well think that the subject here is the deportation of the Jews, but in fact, it is the eminent historian Norman Davies' description of the 1940 deportations of thousands of Poles by the Soviet NKVD to gulags in Siberia. So, as we see plainly here, the historical record rarely

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Opinion.

39 Years Since the Establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran



DORON
ITZHAKOV

On February 1, 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Mousavi Khomeini landed at Mehrabad Airport to the cheering of the crowds. Ten days later, he declared the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran — under his leadership.

The change brought about by the Islamic Revolution led by Khomeini, and its influence on modern-day Iran, is indisputable. That change was nothing short of a restructuring of identity, values, norms and patterns of thinking around the worldview of the leader of the revolution.

Since its establishment, the Islamic Republic has undergone several enormous changes. They can be divided into five distinct periods, each distinguishable by their essences and by the marks that they left on the Republic's discourse.

The first period can be dated from the Republic's establishment to the end of its eight-year war with Iraq. This war, which caused great loss of life and property, led to the construction of the "self-reliance" concept, which was the product of a sense of isolation. On the other hand, the war built the top echelon of the current military-security establishment. The bloody confrontation with Iraq left a mark on the worldview of senior officers in the military and the Revolutionary Guards, and contributed a great deal to the establishment of a network of personal connections, as is now reflected in the chain of appointments at the highest levels of the security forces.

Another symbol of this stormy period was the suppression of opposition elements that didn't identify themselves with the policies and practices dictated by Khomeini. The first gap emerged not long after the establishment of the Islamic regime — as a result of Khomeini's decision to turn on the revolutionary partners who had helped him topple the shah. Opposition elements that opposed the post-revolutionary path led by the leader were subjected to mass arrest, expulsion and even execution. The regime's iron fist impaired the opposition's ability to influence either Iran's internal affairs or its foreign policy.

Shortly after the end of the war, Iran overcame the significant challenge that it faced with the death of the Supreme Leader in June 1989. In many respects, the appointment of Ali Khamenei, who lacked the religious credentials of his predecessor, was a testament to the survivability of the revolutionary regime. The drastic step of dismissing Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, who was perceived as the most legitimate heir and had all the theological credentials, shed light on the post-revolutionary decision-making process. Despite challenges, the transition was crowned a success — not least because of the connection forged between the new leader and the Revolutionary Guards, which became his power base.

The second phase can be defined as Iran's "period of rehabilitation;" it was

during these years that the country's economy absorbed the consequences of the war with Iraq. The economic stagnation caused by the war left Iran's economic system in such a deep crisis that it returned to the GNP levels of almost 25 years earlier — that is, to mid-1960s levels. The period of rehabilitation coincided with the eight years of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's rule as President of Iran (1989-97). In fact, Iran's rehabilitation is associated with Rafsanjani, who delineated its policies and was responsible for putting them into practice.

One of the outcomes of this period was the transfer of a vast proportion of reconstruction and economic projects to the Revolutionary Guards. This enabled the security organization to become a financial conglomerate, and to act as the main concession holder in Iran.

Renowned Iranian-American academic Ray Takeyh evaluated Rafsanjani's tenure in office, and concluded that he showed initiative by offering paths and agendas that propounded the notion that practical demands must transcend revolutionary mandates. He sought to construct a modern state while remaining loyal to the essential pillars of Khomeini's ideology. Such a balancing act might have been possible if Rafsanjani had been able to maintain good relations with the new Supreme Leader. However, once Khamenei consolidated his power — and developed ties with the conservative faction — he emerged as a serious obstacle to Rafsanjani.

The election of Muhammad Khatami to the presidency (1997-2005) opened the third period, which was a time of change in the political balance of power in Iran. The era of Khatami was dubbed "the liberal period" to reflect his openness on issues related to foreign policy and relations with the West. His election reflected the desire of the Iranian people to move away from an isolationist foreign policy, and highlighted the discontent of the young generation with the overall pattern of Iranian politics. Khatami's call for "dialogue among civilizations" reflected this perception and was considered a response to Samuel Huntington's theory of a "Clash of Civilizations."

However, like his predecessor, Khatami lacked the necessary power base to implement the policies that he sought to promote. As a result, his status weakened. Conversely, the security establishment — which had become a dominant factor in the decision-making process — gained strength in full coordination with the Office of the Supreme Leader.

Despite the fact that Khatami was considered a reformist, a mass wave of student protests erupted during his tenure. The protests, which began over the closure of the newspaper Salam (which was affiliated with the reformist wing), ended in a brutal crackdown. This heightened popular resentment of the president, who had shown himself unable to stand up to the conservative establishment.

The election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the presidency in 2005 marked the beginning of a new era. Ahmadinejad's term of office, 2005-2013, was particularly turbulent due to his policies and statements on both

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Holocaust

gives comfort to our preconceived notions and prejudices.

If the Polish government's goal was simply to encourage greater awareness and education about Polish suffering under the Nazis, that would be a laudable goal. But by tying that aspect of Nazi rule so explicitly to the mass enslavement and extermination of the Jews, and by willfully misrepresenting documented evidence of Polish antisemitism and collaboration with the Nazis as a slander upon the Polish nation as a whole, they are engineering their own deserved failure, to the detriment of Poland's people.

For instead of enlightening the world about how the Soviets and the Nazis collaborated to crush the Polish national movement — and why that matters especially today — Poland's leaders are disgracing themselves by uncomplicatedly claiming three million

domestic and foreign issues. On the domestic level, his attempts to replace subsidies with allowances accelerated inflation, and his inability to deliver on his promise to bring oil revenues to the "food table" of the Iranian people led to a decline in popular support. Moreover, his messianic approach, invoking as it did the reappearance of the Hidden Imam and representing the worldview of the Hojjatieh Society (Anjoman-e Hojjatieh), was seen as defiance by senior clerics, including some who had been his supporters at the start of his term.

Ahmadinejad's outspoken statements on foreign policy issues only deepened the gap between Iran and the West, and served as a catalyst for the sanctions imposed on it; these caused near-total paralysis of its economy. Among the salient moments of Ahmadinejad's term of office were his calls to wipe Israel off the map, his Holocaust denial, and his association with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, through whom he was able to promote Iranian influence in Latin America.

And yet, Ahmadinejad's term of office will be remembered primarily for the large-scale social protests that took place in Iran following the publication of election results in June 2009. The suspicion of election rigging, and the ensuing suppression of the resulting waves of civil protest, caused a deep crisis in Iranian society, and undermined the foundations of the Islamic Republic. It is no coincidence that the leaders of the Green Movement (Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi) are still under house arrest and have no recourse to change their situation, despite current President Hassan Rouhani's campaign statements.

The fifth period began with President Rouhani's election in the summer of 2013. To a great extent, one can define Rouhani's election as reflecting both the will of the people and the mechanisms of the theocratic regime. Notably, during Rouhani's term, Iran continued expanding its influence in the Middle East, testing the stability of the Persian Gulf regimes, and challenging Israel's security. However, Rouhani's opponents, particularly the conservative-dogmatic wing and senior members of the security establishment, continuously criticize his policies, including his exposure of indiscretions among his cabinet members.

In this context, it is worth noting that Rouhani's second term in office has been characterized by a change of direction towards the line dictated by the hardliners and the Revolutionary Guards. That shift has been at the expense of the economic welfare of Iranian citizens — and contrary to his proclamations of greater political freedom



The entrance to Auschwitz-Birkenau.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Holocaust victims murdered because they were Jews for the general record of Polish wartime suffering.

You'd have thought that the Soviet Union was the last country they would want to emulate.

and the release of political prisoners.

For the time being, it appears that Iran's efforts to expand its influence in the region are going well, despite the collapse of state power foundations due to the "butterfly effect" of the "Arab Spring." Tehran has learned to take advantage of the political vacuum created in states that experienced political disintegration, establishing its hold through proxies such as the Shiite militias operating on its behalf. The establishment of Hezbollah in Lebanon served as a source of inspiration for Iran, and resulted, over time, in the forming of a network of fighting militias — with the aim of promoting a range of Iranian interests in various focal areas. It is therefore not surprising that a similar model was implemented after March 2003 in Iraq, and later in Syria and Yemen.

A look back at the past 39 years shows that the premiere achievement of the theocratic regime has been its ability to maintain its hold on power in the face of waves of domestic unrest and the challenges posed by adversarial rule, which threatened the country's sovereignty after the revolution. Another achievement is the adherence to the path of the founder of the Islamic Republic, which has been the centerpiece of the philosophy of the ruling establishment for almost four decades. Despite the fact that other Muslim countries did not adopt Khomeini's teachings — "Velayat-e Faqih" — he succeeded in advancing Iran's regional influence by means of proxy entities inspired by Iran. This is an important achievement for the post-revolutionary regime.

However, Tehran's quest for regional hegemony has sparked a wave of social protest that arose from the gap between the Islamic leadership's ambitions and the ordinary person's desire for a more affordable and improved standard of living. These expectations stemmed from promises made by President Rouhani that were reinforced after the July 2015 nuclear agreement (JCPOA), and the attendant release of Iranian assets worldwide. Although it is impossible to predict the future, the protests and the subsequent brutal crackdown in the country have created a rift between the Islamic regime and Iranian society that cannot be ignored.

Dr. Doron Itzhakov is a research associate at the Begin Sadat Center for Strategic Studies and at the Alliance Center for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University.

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Impressions.

As Israel Issues Deportation Notices for African Migrants, Concern for Their Uncertain Fate Abounds

BY BEN COHEN

The furor inside Israel over the fate of nearly 40,000 migrants from African countries presently concentrated in South Tel Aviv deepened on Sunday, as immigration authorities began distributing deportation notices clarifying that any migrant who leaves voluntarily within 60 days will receive \$3,500 and a plane ticket to an unnamed African country.

The deportation notices were handed out to asylum seekers who arrived at the offices of Israel's Population and Immigration Authority on Sunday to renew their residency permits. The notices emphasized that the unnamed third country destination, widely believed to be Rwanda or Uganda, had "stable government," an expanding economy, and had already absorbed thousands of returning migrants.

But the reassurance did little to dampen criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government from domestic opponents of its deportation policy. Some international Jewish groups have joined the criticism in recent weeks, pointing out the life-threatening circumstances that many past deportees from Israel have confronted after leaving Tel Aviv.

Ruth Berdah-Canet – a French-Jewish filmmaker who directed the award-winning documentary "For You Were Once Strangers," in which she intimately observed the lives in Israel of a group of asylum seekers from South Sudan in 2012 – said that some of the subjects of her film were among those who had faced violence and uncertainty after deportation from Israel.

On arrival back in South Sudan, carrying a cash payment from the Israeli government along with vital supplies, like medicines, purchased in Israel, several deportees were set upon by robbers who were awaiting them outside the airport, Berdah-Canet said.

As Berdah-Canet noted, the six months she spent making her film coincided with an early, if equally torrid, political debate in Israel about migrant communities that at the time had swelled to more than 60,000.

"There's something unique about this issue in Israel, because it cuts across society," she observed in an interview with *The Algemeiner* this week. "On other issues, like the IDF or the peace process, there are predictable divides between left and right, between religious and non-religious, between young and old – but go to a demonstration against the deportations, and it's not uncommon to

see an orthodox rabbi alongside left-wing activists."

Berdah-Canet believes that a deeper, historical memory of desperate Jewish dependence on the good intentions of strangers is what brings many Israelis together on the deportation issue, who would otherwise be bitterly opposed on other questions. At the same time, she was under few illusions that a significant part of Israeli society – a full 56 percent, according to a poll issued by Israel's Channel 10 on Sunday – wants to see the migrants gone.

"The debate is basically about how we reconcile our Jewish ethics and religion with the security of the state, when you are dealing with immigration challenges that are real," Berdah-Canet said. As the only democratic country in the world that shares a physical border with Africa, she noted, Israel has for more than a decade been a magnet for those fleeing religious and ethnic persecution in countries like Sudan and Eritrea – sometimes described as the "North Korea" of Africa. Nearly 500,000 of Eritrea's total population of 5 million have become refugees from a regime that persecutes its own citizens with torture, rape, executions and targeted killings, according to a recent UN report.

"In '06, '07, '08, the IDF started to see these people crossing from the Sinai," she recalled. "Some of them had missing organs, some of them had amputated limbs, many were starving – and the IDF cared for these people, they gave them food and medical attention. One of the mothers' from South Sudan in my film talked about what it was

like for her child to receive meat and yoghurt from the IDF after so long in the wilderness."

But as the trickle of migrants built up into a steady stream, the gritty streets of South Tel Aviv – where the migrants were "dumped," Berdah-Canet said – became the focal point of tensions with local Israelis struggling to make ends meet. As in similar big cities around the world where migrants congregate, Berdah-Canet said, seeing such tensions proved to her that "Israel is a normal country."

"A part of honestly loving a country means that you have to appraise its faults and change the issues you care about," Berdah-Canet said, as she explained why she became so attached to the plight of the migrants and how, in the process, "my Zionism reached a new point."

"Look, in Israel you can hear the same kind of vulgar racism that you hear from idiots everywhere," she observed. "But Israel was created as a home for the Jewish people, so our generation has a responsibility to two groups – those who gave their lives to make Israel a reality, but also those, like these new refugees, whose present reality is so harsh."

Recognizing that the Israeli government appears serious in its intention to deport the migrants, Berdah-Canet expressed hope that the most vulnerable among them – like families with children, and those fleeing persecution – would be spared deportation. She also highlighted various initiatives by Israelis to assist the refugees even after they are deported, such as a school in Uganda financed by Israeli donors that caters to around 40 Hebrew-speaking children who spent their early years together in South Tel Aviv's public schools. And there are, Berdah-Canet added, some occasionally happy outcomes, for example the South Sudanese asylum seeker who first appeared in her film, and is now studying at the well-regarded Inter-Disciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliyah.

Reflecting on the day-to-day dilemmas faced by a filmmaker who is living with her subjects as she charts their struggles, Berdah-Canet said it was sometimes impossible to remain a silent observer during her six months in South Tel Aviv. When the asylum seekers whom she tracked lost their jobs prior to deportation, the director helped out with money for groceries and other household items.

It was not something she had expected to do, Berdah-Canet continued, but it became her responsibility as the asylum-seekers lost one option after another in their fight to legally avoid expulsion from Israel. Over the next 60 days, as deportation notices multiply, many other Israelis will likely feel similarly obliged.



An African migrant in South Tel Aviv. Photo: Courtesy "For You Were Once Strangers" (dir. Ruth Berdah-Canet, 2015.)

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



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

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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/

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- JOYCELIN 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/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Tzvi Vchomid LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/14/2017. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Tzvi Vchomid LLC 134 South 9 Apt. 4-A Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: All lawful activity
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/23; 3/2

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-WMC1, Plaintiff, vs. JOSEPH SINGER, YOCHEVED R. SINGER A/K/A YOSSY SINGER A/K/A YOCHEVED SINGER A/K/A YOCHEVED KNOBLOCH, et. al., Defendants PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the office of the County Clerk of Kings County on December 11, 2017, I, Aaron D. Maslow, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on March 1, 2018 at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, County of Kings, State of New York, at 2:30 P.M., the premises described as follows: 1861 61st St Brooklyn, NY 11204 SBL No.: 5519 - 53 ALL THAT TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, State of New York The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 501886/2015 in the amount of \$532,366.32 plus interest and costs. Megan S. Kale, Esq. Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP Plaintiff's Attorney 700 Crossroads Building, 2 State St. Rochester, New York 14614 Tel.: 855-227-5072
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/

Notice of Formation of WOODHULL RECORDS, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/16/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to CFG-NY, Inc., 80 8th Ave., Ste. 301, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/

REFeree'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff - against - ANTHONY FONTANA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 17, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, in Room 274 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on the 1st Day of March, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. 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. Premises known as 1942 East 34th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234. (Block: 8500 and Lot: 64) Approximate amount of lien \$574,360.05 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 500204/2014. Charles L. Emma, Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY

LEGAL NOTICE

14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 Dated: December 19, 2017
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO LASALLE BANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-2, Plaintiff AGAINST ANNISA DANCE and RUSSELL DANCE, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 01, 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 March 01, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 686 WORTMAN 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 4546, LOT 100. Approximate amount of judgment \$844,763.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 511425/2014. David J. Hernandez, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 51088
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS PNC Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Renata Ramdass; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 14, 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 March 1, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 964 East 43rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11210. 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, Section 23 Block 7746 Lot 59. Approximate amount of judgment \$384,277.96 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 502013/2014. Steven H. Richman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: January 18, 2018 51322
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/23; 3/2

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Sweetcase Studio, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/19/2017. 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: Sweetcase Studio LLC 115 8th Ave. Apt. 6 Brooklyn, NY 11215 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 1/26; 2/2/9/16/23; 3/2

Notice of Qualification of GFE BROADWAY-BROOKLYN LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/17. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/03/17. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, Attn: George Fellows, 462

LEGAL NOTICE

Mariner Dr., Jupiter, FL 33477. DE addr. of LLC: c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 160 Greentree Dr., Ste. 101, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
AJ; 2/2/9/16/23; 3/2/9

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA, Plaintiff against ZISEL BRIEGER: LARRY BRIEGER, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 2, 2016. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 8th day of March, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the building 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 1252 58th Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219. Tax Account Number SBL #: 5704 - 28. Approximate amount of lien \$ 622,641.64 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 16371-11. Salvatore Scibetta, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY. 14614 (585) 232-7400
AJ; 2/2/9/16/23;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Homebridge Financial Services, Inc., Plaintiff AGAINST Josianne Valery; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 1, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 8, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 871 East 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. 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 4980 Lot 51. Approximate amount of judgment \$405,534.36 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 501049/2014. Joseph Defelice, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: December 27, 2017 50905
AJ; 2/2/9/16/23;

CW Fulton LLC Arts. of Org. filed w/ SSNY 1/22/18. Off. in Kings Co. SSNY design. as agt. of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 150 Myrtle Ave., Fl. 2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful activity.
AJ; 2/2/9/16/23; 3/2/9

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. CACTUS PAPER, LLC, Pltf. vs. NUR NOBI, et al, Defts. Index #507102/2014. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered Jan. 18, 2018, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on March 15, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 419 Eldert Lane, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 4178, Lot 1. Said property beginning at the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of McKinley Ave. with the Easterly side of Eldert Lane,
Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

Legal Notice.

No Breaks for Israel

SHOSHANA
BRYEN

Israel's red lines in Syria's civil war have included the following: returning fire against any entity that fires into Israel (whether Syrian, rebel, Hezbollah, or Iranian); not permitting Iran, Hezbollah or any of their Shiite proxies in Syria to establish permanent bases within a specific distance of the Israeli Golan border; and not permitting weapons beyond a certain level of lethality and sophistication to move from Syria to Hezbollah.

To enforce those lines, the Israeli Air Defense Force is suspected of carrying out attacks on a "scientific research center," artillery positions, a "munitions factory" and more. The Israeli government rarely confirms such strikes, but acknowledges that the Russians are informed of Israeli activity when necessary, in an agreed-upon effort to limit the damage and not engage Russian forces themselves.

This relationship has morphed into one of the most quietly effective ones in the Middle East. Not an alliance, certainly, but the pragmatic leaders of both countries have concluded that each benefits by coordinating with the other.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a full agenda last week, as he went to Moscow for a five-hour meeting with Russian president Vladimir Putin after their meeting in Davos. High on the list was Israel's growing concern about the expansion of Hezbollah missiles and missile production facilities in Lebanon — facilitated by Iran. "It's no longer a transfer of arms, funds or consultation. Iran has de-facto opened a new branch, the 'Lebanon branch.' Iran is here," wrote IDF Spokesman Brig. Gen. Ronen Manelis. "In Lebanon, Hezbollah does not conceal its attempt to take control of the state." But on this and other issues, Russia — Syria's longtime ally — is looking to reduce its exposure. As the shape of the Syrian war changes, Israel may find its working relations with Russia undermined by Moscow's desire to exercise influence in Syria generally from afar, and by its shifting relations with Iran.

Since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011, Moscow has enhanced its political position in Damascus and across the region. It has also strengthened its security position by upgrading its naval bases at Tartus and Latakia, while acquiring an airbase at Hmeimim. Russia is leery of committing troops to the war (Afghanistan looms large here), and there are, in fact, very few Russian soldiers on the ground. Now, as fighting on some fronts wanes, the Russians want to pull even those forces back. Visiting

Syria last month, Putin said that he would withdraw most of the troops while maintaining the bases. According to Haaretz, Putin told assembled Russian troops, "Friends, 'the homeland awaits you.'" He had earlier said that the military operation in Syria "is indeed in its final stages," and that the political process will begin to take precedence.

But while Russia makes plans to reduce its military presence in Syria, Iran is making plans to expand its influence — not in restricted air bases or naval bases on the coast, but in the Sunni heartland.

For Iran, Syria is part of the "Shiite Crescent," the land bridge from Iran through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, to the Mediterranean Sea. Not only is it crucial in terms of controlling and supplying Shiite revolution across the region, but it serves as a "lid" stretching across the northern borders of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel — providing a means of harassing all three countries through proxies. But Syria is an awkward partner in the "Crescent," being only 15-20% Shiite — and on top of that, Alawite — a heterodox branch of Shiism. In order to control Syria for the long term, Iran has to be on the ground, in force.

As early as 2016, as the Syrian Armed Forces disintegrated, US sources said that there were more than 80,000 militia fighters controlled by Iran in Syria. Confirming that number last week, Israel's ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said that there were 3,000 members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), 9,000 members of Hezbollah, and 10,000 "violent Shia militias recruited from across the Mideast, including Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan." The rest are Syrian.

As for Lebanon, Mohammad Raad, a Hezbollah leader, poured gasoline on that fire, claiming that Hezbollah "has capabilities that can destroy the Israeli army," and warning Israel against "doing something foolish ... that will be destructive." He called Israel "regionally and internationally isolated." Other Hezbollah leaders, seeking to cool the situation, denied Manelis's assertion of Iranian control.

Israel is far from "regionally isolated." In fact, Iran's greatest concern at the moment is the burgeoning rapprochement between Israel and the Sunni Gulf states — especially Saudi Arabia. Israel is further bolstered by Vice President Mike Pence's assertion that the US won't "let Iran dominate the region." But movement by Russia out of Syria, leaving the ground game to Iran, could change the shape of Israel's immediate neighborhood — to its detriment.

This article was originally published by The American Thinker.



An IDF soldier looks into southern Syria from the Israeli side of the border.
Photo: IDF via Wikimedia Commons.

Continued from Page A11
England
to play.

But in a game when both offenses moved up and down the field effortlessly and combined for a Super Bowl record 1,151 yards, Brady had the ball swatted from his grasp and it was recovered by Philadelphia to all but seal New England's fate.

The Eagles went on to kick a field goal to extend their lead to eight points and prevented the Patriots from engineering a last-minute, game-tying drive.

Up 15-6, the Eagles had a chance to build a comfortable lead towards the end of the first half but intended receiver Alshon Jeffrey deflected a Foles pass that was intercepted by Patriots defensive back Duron Harmon steps from the end zone.

The turnover proved costly as the Patriots marched 90 yards back down the field in less than three minutes, in a drive that was capped by a James White touchdown to pull within 15-12.

However, the Eagles replied with an impressive drive of their own that resulted in a touchdown on a gutsy trick play on fourth down from the Patriots one-yard line.

The Eagles, opting not to kick a field goal, snapped the ball to rookie running back Corey Clement, who flipped the ball to tight end Trey Burton, who then threw to a wide-open Foles for a walk-in touchdown and a 22-12 halftime lead.

It marked the end of a wild opening half that included missed extra points, a missed field goal and a botched Patriots attempt at a trick play of their own when a wide-open Brady failed to haul in an intended pass.

The Patriots looked poised to collect a record-tying sixth Super Bowl in 17 seasons when Brady threw his third touchdown — this one a short pass to Rob Gronkowski with about nine minutes to play — to give his team their first lead of the game, 33-32.

But the Patriots had no answer for the Foles-led Eagles.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick took the blame for the loss while Gronkowski, who was playing in his first game since suffering a concussion two weeks ago, said he knew his team were going to be in for a battle.

"You just knew that it was going to be a shootout the whole game and it was going to take all 60 minutes," said Gronkowski. "Unfortunately, we just didn't come up with the most opportunities to make to win the game."

Brady finished with a Super Bowl record 505 passing yards and three touchdowns but could not deliver when it mattered most, his desperate pass falling to the ground in the end zone as time expired.

"Losing sucks. That's part of it," said Brady. "You try to win and sometimes you lose. That's the way it goes."

The Patriots now enter an off-season some feel could mark the beginning of the end for their dynasty after ESPN reported in January about a rift between Brady, Belichick and owner Robert Kraft.

The trio have denied reports of any off-field tension but there will be no shortage of attention paid to their every move between now and next season.

The game, played under a translucent US Bank Stadium roof while temperatures outside plummeted, capped a season during which NFL ratings dropped after many players kneeled during the national anthem to protest racial inequality and as the league's concussion protocol entered the spotlight.

But no players protested while Grammy Award-winning pop singer Pink performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" ahead of the year's most-watched US television broadcast, attracting an audience of more than 100 million viewers.

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

being a plot 36 ft. 8 1/2 inches x. 103 ft. 4 inches. X 18 ft. 9 1/4 inches x 105 ft. 6 inches. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$115,092.90 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. LEONARD SPECTOR, Referee. THE MARGOLIN & WEINREB LAW GROUP, LLP, Attys. For Ptf., 165 Eileen Way, Ste. 101, Syosset, NY. #94062 AJ; 2/9/16/23; 3/2/

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT — COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF SW REMIC TRUST 2014-2 WITHOUT RECOURSE, Plaintiff — against — DARREN DOWNES, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on March 3, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, in Room 274 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on the 15th Day of March, 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 546 Chauncey Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. (Block: 1517, Lot: 117) Approximate amount of lien \$625,716.67 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 501136/2014. Jeffrey R. Miller, Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY 14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 Dated: January 26, 2018 AJ; 2/9/16/23; 3/2/

Notice of qualification of CHROME CAPITAL CONSULTANTS LLC. Authority filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/19/18. Office in Kings County. Formed in NJ on 12/15/17. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 1130 Bedford Ave #68 Brooklyn NY 11216. Purpose: Any lawful purpose AJ; 2/9/16/23; 3/2/9/16/

Social.



Marchers in a past Tel Aviv Gay Pride Parade. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Viewing Israel's Many Facets Through a Jeweler's Lens

BY JEFFREY BARKEN / JNS.ORG

"I wanted to write about all generations, one century, several families and [several] cities," says Israeli author Moshe Sakal, describing the ambitious initial outline for his novel, *The Diamond Setter* — a work that took him six years to complete.

The *Diamond Setter* was first published in Hebrew in 2014, and this spring Other Press will release an English translation compiled by Jessica Cohen. The work is remarkable for its experimental structure, the cultural histories it highlights and the various taboos Sakal confronts.

For English audiences, Cohen's translation reveals an author who is grasping to understand the consequences of a violent epoch that has divided people based on their faith and ethnicity, yet has seen the birth of an eclectic democracy that is a beacon of light in an otherwise oppressed region. Grateful for the protections Israel offers certain minorities, especially the LGBTQ community, Sakal's novel questions the extent to which Israelis are truly free to love — so long as physical and political borders bind them in.

Set in 2011, amid the trying first year of the interminable Arab Spring, Fareed, a young man from Damascus, ventures across the Israeli border. Determined to return an enchanted diamond called the Sabakh to its rightful owner, Fareed is also on a mission to explore his family's roots in the port city of Jaffa. Meanwhile, there is strident political and economic unrest brewing in Israel. Meanwhile, Tom, a young writer who is apprenticed to an aging and financially distressed jeweler named Menashe, muses about the shop's patrons. Tom's multifaceted narrative reveals a forbidden love affair that began in the 1930s, connecting Fareed to the jeweler. "Everything the reader believes is the truth," Honi, an Israeli soldier and Tom's lover, asserts during a literary conversation about the disjointed manuscript that Tom labors to complete throughout the novel.

"I always choose a narrator that knows much more than a standard narrator knows about the characters in the book. When you reveal a secret, there is a bigger secret behind it," Sakal tells JNS. This notion elevates the symbolism of Sabakh. When it comes to the diamond at the center of the story, different plausible backstories emerge, revealing past deceptions with consequences that persist, thereby confounding the book's present. Although Sabakh effectively connects the sprawling web of characters in the novel, there is a certain rigidity to the symbolism of the diamond that renders it a weighty emblem of the past. By contrast, Sakal uses the dating app Grindr to introduce a modern element, which he intimates has the same capacity to bring characters together.

Grindr is popular among the LGBTQ community, but Sakal could have chosen any app to draw the same circumferences of connectivity around his characters. Indeed, an Internet dialogue with Rami, Fareed's Arab host in Jaffa, is the catalyst that leads the Syrian to believe his "return" to Israel is both possible and worthwhile.

As Fareed begins to explore Israel's LGBTQ community, however, new acquaintances are quick to describe a sense of emptiness underlying Israeli tolerance. Beware of "pinkwashing" Khaled, one of Rami's Israeli-Arab friends, warns Fareed.

"Don't go ... and tell your friends how peachy everything is in the only democracy in the Middle East. Bottom line is we're second-class citizens and it doesn't make any difference that we're allowed to fall in love with men and Israeli society accepts us," says Khaled. This brings the question of borders to the forefront, and demonstrates how communication technologies like Grindr undermine the social-political reality in Israel. Dating apps work as homing beacons for singles to discover partners in their vicinity. By bringing a diverse group of Arabs and Israelis together through this mechanism, Sakal prompts readers to ask: What happens when precise borders — such as one a diamond might cut — disrupt the spiritual dimension that humans enter when seeking a soulmate?

"Dating apps in a country surrounded by borders create the ability to ignore these borders," Sakal says. In *The Diamond Setter*, this concept inaugurates a sense of yearning for another time — before wars displaced populations, and when the free movement of peoples was still possible in the Middle East.

Influencing the work on a linguistic level, Sakal's translator, Cohen, is careful to maintain even the most minute details distinguishing borders throughout the book. Depending on whether a chapter is told from the perspective of an Arab or a Jew, "We made a deliberate choice spelling Yafo (Jaffa) either with a Y as Arabs spell it or with a J according to the Hebrew spelling," Cohen tells JNS.

Given the complex and bold nature of Sakal's storytelling, there's likely some truth to the author's prediction that *The Diamond Setter* will be fully "understood in Israel only a century from now, and by non-Israeli readers, much sooner." Sakal knows that he has probed contentious issues and that Israelis — seeking diversion in books — are often reluctant to read works that dwell on the intractable "situation" (the Israeli-Palestinian conflict) that haunts their daily existence.

Thanks to Cohen's rich translation, however, English readers hungry for a better understanding of the social, political and economic forces influencing the only democracy in the Middle East now have a jeweler's loupe through which to view the country's many facets.

Philadelphia Eagles Stun New England Patriots for First Super Bowl Title

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

For a city that produced one of Hollywood's ultimate underdog stories, the Philadelphia Eagles delivered an equally inspiring script by upsetting the New England Patriots on Sunday for their first Super Bowl title.

The Eagles were underdogs throughout the NFL playoffs, and just as most expected little from fictional Philadelphia boxer Rocky Balboa, few onlookers outside the City of Brotherly Love expected them to beat the defending Super Bowl champions.



Nick Foles of the Philadelphia Eagles celebrates with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after winning Super Bowl LII. Photo: Reuters / Kevin Lamarque.

But Philadelphia, who embraced their lowly status with some players wearing dog masks throughout the playoffs, stunned New England with a 41-33 victory to cap a remarkable turnaround after finishing last in their division a year ago.

"We've been doubted since Day One," said Eagles tight end Zach Ertz, who caught what proved to be the game-winning touchdown. "This team, no one picked us. We come out here and we're World Champions."

The victory set off a wild celebration among the team's many green-clad supporters who made the trek to chilly Minneapolis, while uplifting music from "Rocky" blared through the speakers above a field covered in silver and green confetti.

The Eagles limped into the post-season with an offense handicapped by a seemingly hopeless backup quarterback following an injury to Carson Wentz in December, but Nick Foles proved more than ready to shine on the game's biggest stage.

Foles, who nearly retired after an underwhelming 2015 season with the St. Louis Rams, showed no nerves playing in his first Super Bowl and went toe-to-toe with Patriots counterpart Tom Brady, a five-time Super Bowl champion.

"I felt calm," said Foles, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player after throwing three touchdowns. "We felt confident coming in and we just went out there and played football."

The Eagles, who won three championships in the pre-Super Bowl era, had long been a tormented franchise and lost in their only two previous Super Bowl appearances, including to the Patriots in 2005, but dug deep to bring home a championship.

Trailing by a point late in the fourth quarter, the Eagles moved ahead for good when Foles connected with Ertz on a 11-yard touchdown to put his team ahead 38-33.

Philadelphia missed a subsequent two-point conversion attempt to leave the door open for the Patriots with a little less than two-and-a-half minutes

Continued on Page A10

Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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Contact Kutty for details:

Tel: 877.336.1925

Email: Kutty@tribulonline.com