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THE **algemeiner** JOURNAL

\$1.00 - PRINTED IN NEW YORK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019 | 17 ADAR I 5779

VOL. XLVII NO. 2395

Visegrád Group Cancels Summit in Israel After Poland Row



Jews from all over the world participate in the "March of the Living".
Photo: Yossi Zeliger/Flash90.

BY JNS.ORG

The Visegrád group of four central European countries announced it has cancelled their meeting in Israel after Poland's decision to pull out of the summit following comments by Israel's foreign minister about alleged Polish collaboration during the Holocaust.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry

said that the leaders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary would instead hold separate meeting with Israeli leaders this week.

"It will not be called Visegrád, because this entails the presence of all four," an Israeli official said. "It's going to be a summit with Visegrád members."

On Sunday, the same day that Netanyahu appointed Yisrael Katz Israel's new foreign minister, Katz told Israel's i24 News channel that

"I am the son of Holocaust survivors, we will never forgive and never forget, and there were many Poles who collaborated with the Nazis."

Quoting former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Katz added that "Shamir said that every Pole sucked antisemitism with his mother's milk. Nobody will tell us how to express our stance and how to honor the dead."

Polish Ambassador to Israel

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Vandals Desecrate 90 Jewish Graves in East France Ahead of Marches

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

Vandals have daubed swastikas and antisemitic slogans on around 90 graves in a Jewish cemetery in eastern France, local officials said on Tuesday, shortly before planned marches nationwide against a rise in antisemitic attacks.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited the cemetery on Tuesday in the village of Quatzenheim, near the city of Strasbourg, following the overnight desecration, walking through a gate daubed with a swastika as he entered the graveyard.



Strasbourg's Grand Rabbi Harold-Abraham Weill inspects graves desecrated with swastikas in Herrlisheim, north of Strasbourg, France, Dec. 14, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Vincent Kessler.

"It's important for me to be here with you today," a solemn looking Macron told local leaders and members of the Jewish community after paying respects at one of the desecrated graves.

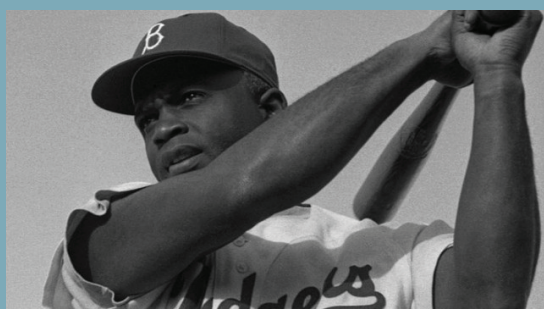
Many French political leaders, though not Macron himself, are due to join Tuesday evening's march in Paris against antisemitism, which remains a scourge in France.

Figures released last week showed there were more than 500 antisemitic attacks in 2018, a 74 percent increase from 2017.

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Remembering Jackie Robinson

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat KI TISA
פרשת כי תשא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 5:21pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:21pm



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Opinion.

Why Jordan Is the Key to Israeli-Palestinian Peace

DANIEL ARBESS
NEW YORK

Last week's Mideast security conference in Poland might have looked like a bust for the Trump administration, which hoped to consolidate European support for a harder line on Iran, and Arab support for Trump's as-yet undisclosed "Deal of the Century" for Israeli-Palestinian peace. Neither of those things happened, but, in the process, plenty of stage-setting was accomplished.

Many European leaders stayed home, and Saudi Arabia, whose king recently stripped reformist Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) of his responsibility for the "Palestinian file," accused Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu of misleading the Israeli people into believing that relations with Israel's Arab neighbors would continue to improve without a resolution of the "Palestinian issue." Other Arab leaders jumped on the bandwagon, restating their old trope that the "Palestinian issue" — not their own exploitative authoritarian and, in some cases, Islamist terror-promoting regimes — is the root cause of instability in the region.

Trump official Jared Kushner told the conference that both Israel and the Palestinians would have to compromise for the "Deal of the Century," while the Palestinians, whose chief negotiator described the conference as

a "plot against the Palestinian cause," skipped the event altogether.

But looks can be deceiving — especially when it comes to the Middle East.

The Trump administration is constructively giving its erstwhile allies a chance to show their true colors, and that itself has intrinsic value. The Europeans will eventually get in line on Iran or suffer the economic consequences. The Arab states are already aligned with the US relative to Iran, and Saudi chatter won't obscure the fact that the Arabs were fed up with the Palestinians long before the Iranian regional menace got this far. And what might the Palestinian leaders be suggesting is their true "cause" by not showing up at all? Seems unlikely to be peace negotiations.

Israel is a strong nation, but it has always had a weakness for peace. This is what led Israel to allow the Biblical territories of Judea and Samaria (miraculously won in the multi-front 1967 war meant to destroy the Jewish state) to be designated as "disputed" — which, with 50 years of Palestinian obstinance, are now being positioned as "occupied" and eventually even "apartheid."

Nonsense. Israel agreed to the Oslo two-state framework in 1993 and unilaterally walked away from Gaza in 2005. For their part, Palestinian leaders have over the decades proposed nothing for final status peace negotiations, instead dismissing several Israeli initiatives that would have given them most of the West Bank territories captured in the Six-Day War.

It should finally be clear from the Palestinian Authority's refusal to engage at all with

Israel or the United States since 2017 that Arafat and his successors shrewdly played on Israel's willingness to sacrifice land for peace — entertaining Oslo's "two state" discussions only as cover for their ultimate cause of rejecting and resisting the existence of the Jewish state.

That ship has sailed. The Jewish nation is a regional military and economic force. Everyone, especially West Bank Palestinians, would be better off if Israel were to eliminate the confusion and mixed signals of simultaneously settling and negotiating away territory, finally declare victory in the Six-Day War, and annex and stop apologizing for settling Judea and Samaria.

The Palestinian homeland is Jordan, the majority of whose population is in fact Palestinian. Jordan should restore Palestinian citizenship benefits (abandoned 30 years ago) to West Bank Palestinians, and the Hashemite kingdom should give Palestinians on both sides of the Jordan River legitimate consideration in the affairs of Jordan. Law-abiding West Bank Palestinians could remain in Israel as permanent residents, with all of the civil rights as other inhabitants of Israel. They don't need another nation state in the Biblical heart of Israel.

Under this "True State" scenario, Israel and a newly legitimate Jordan would collaborate more closely than ever on both security and economic integration of West Bank Palestinian residents in Israel's economy. Ask the West Bank Palestinians (not their corrupt "leaders") where in the Middle East — or anywhere else, for that matter — they would enjoy a better life.

Jordan's King Abdullah (left) with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2014.
Photo: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

One critically important caveat: The transition from Oslo and the end of the Palestinian Authority (PA) would need to be closely managed to avoid disrupting the security at the Jordan River. Coordinating security with Jordan and Israel was probably the only useful role played by the PA; there needs to be continuity after Oslo reaches its terminus. Jordan's Hashemite monarchy could remain, but its ongoing legitimacy, and therefore stability, would require greater investment of resources in the well-being of its Palestinian citizens.

Whatever happens with the Arab-Israeli alliance, the outcome of the upcoming Israeli elections, and Trump's "Deal of the Century," the United States and Israel shaping incentives for Jordan to assume a larger role in the security and administration of its West Bank Palestinian citizens could be one of the most constructive stabilizers for the entire region.

Daniel J. Arbess is a policy analyst and investor, the CEO of Xerion Investments LLC. He is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations and co-founder of No Labels, a bipartisan US political organization.

the
Algemeiner Journal

(USPS 927800) is published weekly (except for the week of Passover and Succos)

Subscription rate \$40 per year

Algemeiner Journal

508 Montgomery Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225-3023

Periodicals Postage

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New York Times Claims Osama Bin Laden Motivated by 'News Coverage of Displaced Palestinians'

IRA STOLL
BOSTON

The New York Times is suddenly and retroactively blaming Israel for motivating the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, without much evidence to support the claim.

A recent *Times* news article about deadly attacks in Africa by affiliates of the terrorist group Al Qaeda blames them on President Trump's decision to obey an American law that required him to move the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

The *Times* reports, "The attacks came fully seven months after President Trump moved the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the disputed holy city, which Mr. Trump recognized as the country's capital. Widely seen as inflaming tensions and as a demonstration of the administration's favoritism toward Israel in its long conflict with the Palestinians, the move drew condemnation at the time from many corners, including Al Qaeda and other extremist militant organizations."

The *Times* mentions that the Jerusalem embassy move "drew condemnation ... from many corners" but fails to mention that it also drew praise from many corners, including from the elected government of Israel and

many American Jews and Christian Zionists.

But that's just a mild precursor compared to the *Times* September 11 revisionism, which comes in a paragraph of the article that immediately follows the description of Jerusalem. The *Times* reports, "The suffering of the Palestinians has long been an animating cause for Al Qaeda, a stand-in for the victimization of Muslims at the hands of Western powers. Biographies of Osama bin Laden say that as an adolescent, he cried watching news coverage of displaced Palestinians who had been forced off their land."

These are new claims by the *Times*, which has previously had rejected them. For example, on September 23, 2001, a former Jerusalem bureau chief of the paper, Serge Schmemmann, wrote, "the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11 were apparently not about Israel and the Palestinians, at least not directly. ... There were no indications that the architects of the attack had American support for Israel as their primary motivation."

On October 12, 2001, the *Times* published an op-ed by a former US diplomat, Dennis Ross, headlined, "Bin Laden's Terrorism Isn't About The Palestinians." Ross wrote that any claim that the attack on America "was about the plight of the Palestinians" was as "absurd" as Saddam Hussein's claim that he had invaded Kuwait in 1990 to help the Palestinians.

Not even the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, bought

this nonsense. The *Times* reported in 2002:

Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, sought to distance himself unequivocally from Al Qaeda in an interview published today, warning Osama bin Laden to stop justifying attacks in the name of Palestinians.

"I'm telling him directly not to hide behind the Palestinian cause," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying in The Sunday Times of London, referring to recent statements by Al Qaeda leaders.

"Why is bin Laden talking about Palestine now?" Mr. Arafat said. "He never helped us. He was working in another, completely different area and against our interests."

That 2002 *Times* report referred to "Al Qaeda, which has in the past mentioned the Palestinian issue only glancingly."

For Israel and its friends, it's a bit of a complicated issue. Associating Al Qaeda with the Palestinian cause could help discredit the Palestinians by associating them and their supporters with an evil terrorist group that is extremely unpopular with Americans across the political spectrum who vividly remember the 2001 attacks. However, the association could also feed the fantasy that if only the Israel-Palestinian issue could be somehow resolved, Al Qaeda and other similar anti-American and anti-Western terrorist groups would immediately surrender and cease their violent attacks.

Anyway, one wonders what "biographies" — not just one, but plural — of Osama

Continued on Page A4

World News.

Poll: Gantz Drops, Labor Gains, Likud Still in the Lead

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/
JNS.org

The Israel Resilience-Telem joint list is gradually losing ground and would win 18 seats if the Knesset election were held today, according to a poll that ran on the *Channel 12* evening news broadcast on Sunday.

The poll projected 30 seats for the Likud.

Yesh Atid under Yair Lapid was closing its gap with Gantz and was projected to win 12 seats. Negotiations between Yesh Atid and the Israel Resilience Party about a possible merger are reportedly stalled. This is the last week the parties have to strike a deal before the Feb. 21 deadline to submit final Knesset lists.

The poll predicted 10 seats for the Labor Party, which prior to the party primaries last

week had dropped to single-digit seat predictions in most polls.

The poll predicted seven seats each for the New Right and for MK Ahmad Tibi's Taal Party, which has split from the Joint Arab List.

Meretz and the rest of the Arab parties were predicted to win five seats each, as was Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon's Kulanu Party.

Only four seats were predicted for Habayit Hayehudi and National Union, which announced over the weekend that they would be running on a joint list. This means the two parties are still hovering just over the minimum electoral threshold. If they fail to make it into the next Knesset, it could be a major blow to the entire right-wing camp.

Four seats were also projected for Yisrael Beytenu under former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

Farrakhan Unleashes 'Torrent of Attacks on Jews'

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The remarks of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and another speaker at Sunday's Saviours' Day event at the United Center in Chicago were rife with antisemitism, according to an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) report.

Farrakhan, the ADL noted, "unleashed a torrent of attacks on Jews, claiming that anti-black racism 'was started by Jewish rabbinical leaders' in ancient times, and that Jewish racism towards Africans is ultimately responsible for the 'enslavement... colonization... dehumanization...[and] denial of self-determination' to black people throughout history."

The National of Islam leader "reiterated classic anti-Semitic beliefs about Jews and money, claiming for example that Jewish principles 'have exploited the American people through institutional usury and predatory lending practices,'" the ADL said. "He

rehashed the tired cliché that the federal reserve is run by 'a family of rich Jews.'"

Furthermore, the ADL recalled, Farrakhan "blamed Jews for 'pervasive rape culture...sex trafficking and prostitution,' and for emasculating black men."

Farrakhan, the ADL continued, "outrageously claimed that ancient Jewish texts condone pedophilia, and that 'pedophilia and sexual perversion exercises in Hollywood can be traced back' to Jewish religious texts."

Referring to the controversy surrounding his ties with some of the heads of the Women's March, Farrakhan claimed "the wicked Jews want to use me to break up the women's movement," according to the ADL account.

Before Farrakhan's address, the crowd heard from Michael A. Hoffman II, described by the ADL as a "Holocaust denier and anti-Semitic ideologue."

Hoffman, the ADL said, "suggested that ancient Jewish texts are equivalent to teachings 'from the Church of Satan.'"

Innovation Is Not Just About Tech, Says Bank Leumi Exec

BY MEIR ORBACH/CTech

Every industry needs innovation and it is not all about tech, said Shmulik Arbel, head of the corporate and commercial division at Bank Leumi, one of Israel's two largest banks.

Arbel spoke at Calcalist's WeTech-Berlin conference, held at the Hilton Berlin, Tuesday. The two-day event is held in collabo-

ration with real estate company Aroundtown Property Holdings PLC, Israel's Bank Leumi, its digital banking subsidiary LeumiTech Ltd., accounting firm KPMG, and the European investment fund Target Global.

Innovation requires connections between people, technologies, and industries, he said, adding that he finds it essential to bridge the gap between traditional industry and tech.

Polish Parliament's Deputy Speaker Urges State Ban on Acting Israeli Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz



Acting Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz. Photo: Reuters / Pool / Sebastian Scheiner.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The ultranationalist deputy speaker of the Polish parliament has called for Israel's acting foreign minister to be barred from entering the country, following his comment that Poles "suckle antisemitism with their mother's milk."

In a letter to the Polish foreign minister on Monday, Stanislaw Tyszka — who represents the far-right Kukiz '15 party — urged that Yisrael Katz be placed "on the list of undesirable people" who are prevented from entering Poland.

Tyszka referred to a clause in the Polish constitution that allows the government to forbid entry into the country to certain individuals "if required by national defense or security, or protection of public safety and order, or the interest of the Republic of Poland."

"If, as a state, we do not finally start reacting strongly to the offensive statements of foreign politicians, we will not be respected in the world," Tyszka wrote in his letter to Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz. "Recognizing Yisrael Katz as persona non grata is actually the duty of the Polish government in

the current situation."

Katz's remarks in a TV interview last Sunday about Polish collaboration with Nazi Germany during World War II caused a furor among Polish leaders. Speaking just after he was appointed acting foreign minister by Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu, Katz emphasized that he was the son of Holocaust survivors.

"The memory of the Holocaust is something we cannot compromise about; it is clear and we won't forget or forgive," Katz said. "Poles collaborated with the Nazis, definitely. As [former Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhak Shamir said, they suckle antisemitism with their mothers' milk."

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Monday canceled Warsaw's participation in a summit of central European countries in Jerusalem, decrying Katz's comments as "racist."

Legislative efforts in Poland in recent years to make discussion and research of Polish collaboration with the Nazis a criminal offense have resulted in the most serious fracture to Polish-Jewish relations since the fall of communism.

Continued from Page A1

Summit

Marek Magierowski called the comments "shameful and racist" and said Katz's "really astonishing" remarks were "utterly unacceptable."

The comments were made after Netanyahu said at the recent Warsaw summit that Poles cooperated with Nazis during the Holocaust, and that no one has been sued

for asserting this truth, criticizing Poland's Holocaust Law, which forbids accusing Poland of complicity with the Nazis under penalty of law.

Morawiecki replied on Twitter that Poland was a victim of Nazi occupation and never cooperated with Germany during World War II.

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Desecrate

Among incidents in recent days, "yellow vest" protesters were filmed hurling abuse at Alain Finkelkraut, a well-known Jewish writer and son of a Holocaust survivor, on Saturday.

France is home to the biggest Jewish community in Europe — around 550,000 — a population that has grown by about half since World War Two, but antisemitic attacks remain common.

A rabbi and three children were killed at a Jewish school in Toulouse in 2012 by an Islamist gunman, and in 2015 four Jews at a kosher supermarket in Paris were among 17 people killed in the city by Islamist militants.

This month, artwork on two Paris post

boxes showing the image of Simone Veil, a Holocaust survivor and former magistrate, was defaced with swastikas, while a bagel shop was sprayed with the word "Juden," German for Jews, in yellow letters.

"These acts are disgusting," Prime Minister Edouard Philippe told parliament last week.

"We need to educate and remind people about our history, to talk about the horrors that hide behind those criminal acts. We also need to punish (more) and we know that we can't be hesitant on that."

Macron will host a dinner on Wednesday with the head of CRIF, the umbrella body that represents the Jewish community in France.

World News.



The Kinneret in Tiberias. Photo: Andreas Fjellmann via Wikimedia Commons.

Kinneret Reaches Best Water Levels in Two Years and Rising

BY JNS.org

Despite dour summer predictions by Israeli weather experts that Israel would suffer a sixth year of insufficient rainfall and an ecological disaster at the Sea of Galilee, officials are now announcing that the water level in the Kinneret would rise above the lower red line for the first time in two years, easing restrictions on pumping from Israel's largest natural freshwater source.

A particularly rainy winter has raised the level of the Kinneret by nearly 4.9 feet—a relief given that it dropped by 4.1 feet during

the summer of 2018, leaving the critical water source just 7.5 inches from the black line, below which the Kinneret would become impotable.

Water Authority officials reported that the waterline is expected to rise above the lower red line by the beginning of March, and noted that this year's heavy snowfall on the Hermon is also expected to raise the water level by dozens of centimeters.

The Kinneret waterline decreases between 0.5 centimeters and 1 centimeter daily during the summer due to water evaporation.

Netanyahu: Arab Countries Know Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Can't Be Resolved Before Iran's Regional Aggression Is Rolled Back

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met on Monday in Jerusalem with a visiting Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations leadership delegation.

Commenting on the regional situation, Netanyahu said, "With the Arab countries, as with many Muslim countries, the question is how to fight militant Islam."

Referring to the US-sponsored Middle East diplomatic summit in Poland last week, the Israeli prime minister stated, "In Warsaw,

you saw something spectacular. There were 60 foreign ministers, with the representatives from half a dozen Arab countries who got on the stage and spoke about Iran."

"They said Iran is the greatest danger we face," he continued. "One was asked about Israel's military action against Iran's efforts to entrench itself in Syria and the answer was, 'Every country has a right to defend itself.'"

"They spoke about seeking solutions to problems in the Middle East," Netanyahu recalled. "They said, yes, we want to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem, but it cannot be solved unless we roll back Iran's aggression. That's a change."

Continued from Page A2
Motivated

Bin Laden the *Times* is talking about. And one wonders how believable are these improbable *Times*-cited reports of Bin Laden's adolescent tears. One biography of Bin Laden is by Michael Scheuer, a former CIA official who has complained of a "fifth column of pro-Israel US citizens" who are "unquestionably enemies of America's republican experiment." That erodes his credibility. Another Bin Laden biography, by Jonathan Randal, reports that Bin Laden, "like so many other Saudis, had a long record of indifference about the Palestinian cause."

Unless the *Times* itself has independent confirmation or reason to believe this tale

about Bin Laden's tears for the Palestinians, or is willing to fill *Times* readers in with more detail about the source, it is strange for the newspaper to shift its narrative so dramatically about the "animating cause" of the group behind the deadly attacks on America in 2001.

One hint of this story's possible source does come in a previous *Times* article, from December 2017, which begins, "Osama bin Laden was just 14 when his mother noticed that he had stopped watching his favorite Westerns. She found him fixated instead on news reports about Palestinians, tears streaming down his face as he watched TV in their home in Saudi Arabia. 'In his teenage years, he was the same nice kid,' his mother related. 'But he was more concerned, sad and

Norwegian Newspaper Apologizes for Evoking Nazi Occupation by Using Phrase 'the Jewish Question'

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Norway's largest newspaper apologized on Monday for using the phrase "the Jewish question" in a recent article on left-wing political attitudes toward Jews.

Aftenposten issued the apology following the publication of an article on Feb. 12 which examined the "line between criticism of Israel and antisemitism." The introduction to the article asserted that "the Jewish question is splitting the left on both sides of the Atlantic."

In a statement, *Aftenposten* news editor Tone Tveøy Strøm-Gundersen acknowledged that the term "the Jewish question" had a "dark history associated with the persecution of the Jews during World War II." Approximately 800 of the 2,000 Jews in Norway were deported to concentration camps during the Nazi occupation.

"We should of course not use it," Strøm-Gundersen continued. "There is therefore every reason to complain about its use."

Critics of the newspaper's choice of wording included Guri Hjeltnes, director of the Center for Holocaust Studies in Norway. The phrase "the Jewish question" was, she argued, "inextricably linked to the destruction of the Jews and 'the final solution,' which was the Nazi planning and execution of the industrial genocide of the Jews during World War II."



An apology in the print edition of Norwegian newspaper 'Aftenposten' over the use of the phrase 'the Jewish question.' Photo: Twitter.

Added Hjeltnes: "*Aftenposten* was the main newspaper of the occupying power during World War II and it should have learned its lesson." During the 1930s, the paper was known for its pro-Nazi editorial line; following the German invasion of Norway in 1940, *Aftenposten* became the main Nazi propaganda organ in the country.

Aftenposten was last accused of antisemitism two years ago, over an article on US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser, Jared Kushner.

A Jan. 12, 2017 article in *Aftenposten* referred to "the Jew Kushner" having pushed for the appointment of David Friedman as US ambassador to Israel. The paper apologized on that occasion as well for what it described as an unintentional "negative association" involving Kushner's religion.

UK and Israel Sign Post-Brexit Free Trade Deal

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The United Kingdom and Israel finalized a post-Brexit free trade agreement on Monday.

British Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox flew to Israel for the signing of the deal, which was first announced last month.

After the signing, Fox spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by telephone.

Netanyahu "congratulated Secretary Fox on the signing of the trade agreement and said that Israel views it with great importance," a Prime Minister's Office statement said. "The prime minister added that Great Britain is an important friend of Israel and noted that the agreement reflects that. He said that it was good for both parties."

"Prime Minister Netanyahu emphasized the importance of increasing pressure on Iran and cooperating with the sanctions imposed by the US with the goal of bringing about a



British Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox arrives at Downing Street in London, Jan. 22, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Toby Melville.

change in Iran's aggression," the statement added.

UK-Israel trade totaled more than \$10 billion in value last year.

The UK is set to withdraw from the EU on March 29. The British political scene is currently in turmoil following Prime Minister Theresa May's failed effort to get parliamentary approval for a negotiated deal with the EU on the terms of the departure.

frustrated by the situation in Palestine,' she said, according to Lawrence Wright's account of bin Laden's trajectory and Al Qaeda's rise in his book, "The Looming Tower."

Even that, though, is a truncated account; the full quote from the Wright book has Bin Laden's mother claiming that her teenage son would "weep" about "the situation in Palestine in particular, and the Arab and Muslim world in general." The Wright book passage mentions nothing at all about "displaced Palestinians who had been forced off their

land." The rest of the Wright book passage explains also that during the same period, Bin Laden became more religious, with some ascribing the change "to a charismatic Syrian gym teacher at the school who was a member of the Muslim Brothers."

The *Times* could just as easily have blamed the gym teacher or the Muslim Brotherhood; instead, it blames the Jewish state of Israel.

Ira Stoll was managing editor of *The Forward* and North American editor of *The Jerusalem Post*.

World News.

UK Jewish Groups Express Solidarity With Labour MPs Who Resigned Over Antisemitism in Party

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A number of top British Jewish groups weighed in on Monday following the resignation of seven Labour MPs — who cited, among other issues, pervasive antisemitism in the Jeremy Corbyn-led party as a reason for their move.

Marie van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, stated, “Today a group of seven Labour MPs announced their decision to leave the Labour Party and sit as an independent group in Parliament. In a searing indictment of the Labour leadership both Luciana Berger MP and Mike Gapes MP accused the party of being institutionally antisemitic. In the light of the horrific abuse aimed at Jewish MPs, we stand in solidarity with all those who have been targeted.”

“Labour has failed to deal with antisemitism since the Jewish Community’s Enough is Enough demonstration called on the Labour leadership to act against this racism,” van der Zyl added. “This is a moment of great shame for the Labour Party and a tragedy for the thousands of Jews who have supported the Party for generations.”

The Community Security Trust (CST) also commented on the resignations, saying in a statement, “It is shocking that the problem of antisemitism in the Labour Party has been allowed to fester and grow so much, that several of the MPs who today resigned from the party cited antisemitism as one of the reasons. The fact that Luciana Berger, one of the best known and admired Jewish MPs in Parliament, feels compelled to leave the Labour party due to the antisemitism she has personally suffered is a moment of shame that should cause outrage and alarm across the country.”

Dave Rich, the CST’s deputy communications director, tweeted, “Don’t underestimate the enormity of a Jewish MP forced to quit the party she has belonged to all her adult life due to the antisemitism she has faced *from within that party*. This is a shameful moment for Labour and a chilling moment for British Jews.”

Jonathan Goldstein, chairman of the Jewish Leadership Council, stated, “Luciana Berger and others have been forced out of their political home by anti-Jewish bullies. ... This is desperately sad to see. ... The Labour party has disgracefully let her and others down whilst allowing racism against Jews to flourish. British Jews of all political persuasions have been let down because of the antisemitic rhetoric that has entered our political spaces.”

“There can be no greater indictment of a progressive party than the fact it is now tearing itself apart because the leadership has failed to deal with anti-Jewish hatred,” he added. “This is a failure of the Labour Party and blame must lie solely at the leadership’s door.”

“We are proud of Luciana and others for standing up for themselves and for what’s right,” he said.

Chairman of the Campaign Against Antisemitism Gideon Falter declared, “The fight from within the Labour Party is dead.”

“The once fiercely anti-racist Labour Party has become institutionally antisemitic under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn,” he asserted. “He had every opportunity to tackle antisemitism within his Party, but his failure to do so and his appalling personal choices during his political career should leave nobody in any doubt that he himself is an antisemite.”

“Many Labour MPs and members implored Mr Corbyn to act and gave him an unreasonably generous amount of time to act,” Falter continued. “He has not acted and he will not act. Moreover, those who have been swept into positions of power behind Mr Corbyn have shown that they have no intention of addressing antisemitism and instead will wield their power to obstruct the fight against antisemitism.”

“We applaud the seven MPs who have today drawn a line in the sand,” said Falter, “They have decided that if they must choose between the political Party that they have given their lives to build, and the cause of anti-racism, then they must side with the anti-racists against their Party. We are thankful for the solidarity and leadership that they have shown.”

Voices of support even came from within Labour itself. The Jewish Labour Movement stated, “It’s deeply regrettable that the leadership of the Labour Party’s failure to tackle antisemitism has precipitated the resignation of our Parliamentary Chair, Luciana Berger MP and others.”

“Countless Jewish Labour Party members have resigned in these last few years in protest at the abject failure of the Party to address a growing culture of antisemitism, obfusca-



British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn delivers the keynote speech at a Labour conference in Liverpool, Britain, Sept. 26, 2016. Photo: Reuters / Phil Noble.

tion and denial,” the group added.

“It will be for our members now to decide what they, and we, do next,” it noted, hinting at potential future defections.

Avi Mayer, the assistant executive director of the American Jewish Committee Global, tied the resignations to a larger trend across

Europe, tweeting, “In the span of a single week: The French government announces that anti-Semitic incidents are up 74%. The German government announces that violent anti-Semitic attacks are up 60%. Seven British MPs leave the Labour Party due to ‘institutional anti-Semitism.’ Europe, wake up.”

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Opinion.

Trump's Warsaw Summit Warned Iran Against a Second Holocaust



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Last month, President Trump called for a European Summit to begin to reorient the continent against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus far, a number of European nations — England, France, and, ironically, Germany chief among them — have proven hesitant to back Trump's departure from the flawed and dangerous P5+1 agreement, which not only rewarded Iran with \$150 Billion but also essentially paved their path to a nuclear weapon after the expiration of its sunset clauses in less than seven years. Poland agreed to host the summit and I traveled to Warsaw to join Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the leagues of delegates from the across the globe coming together to confront Iran.

Admittedly, Warsaw, which I have been to many times and which I enjoy, is always a tough visit for me.

The city, once known throughout Europe as "the little Jerusalem," saw the world's greatest ever decimation of a Jewish community. In 1938, the Jewish population of Warsaw hovered close to three hundred thousand. Following the German occupation of Poland in 1939, the population would balloon to four hundred thousand. The Jews from in and around the city were forced to live inside an area consisting of less than one and half square miles, known as the "Jewish Residential District of Warsaw" — or, as we know it today, the Warsaw Ghetto. There were an average of 9.2 persons per room in the Ghetto, and

malnourishment and disease would claim nearly 100,000 lives. Three hundred thousand more would be killed by bullets and gas, with two hundred and fifty thousand being sent to their deaths in Treblinka in the summer of 1942 alone. If you've done the math already, you know: almost none survived.

Today, little of the old Warsaw remains. Following the Polish Home Army's heroic uprising in the summer of 1944, the German Nazis would destroy more than eighty-percent of all of the city's infrastructure — more than ten thousand buildings — including roughly all of Warsaw's bridges, hospitals, factories, cultural centers, and monumental structures. Still, fragments of the past have lasted. Visitors can still see portions of the ghetto wall, Janusz Korczak's original orphanage, the last remaining Synagogue (which is active and in use), and Umschlagplatz, the square from which those hundreds of thousands of Jews would be sent to their deaths in Treblinka. Perhaps the most moving part of any Jewish visit to the city, however, is the mass grave at Mila 18, headquarters of the Jewish Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and where its heroic commander Mordechai Anielewicz and his comrades would take their lives on what is assumed to be May 8, 1943 (there were no surviving eyewitnesses).

Since then, more than seventy-five years have passed. Amazingly, the threats facing the Jewish people have not.

Just days ago, yet another member of Iran's top brass threatened to murder hundreds of thousands if not millions of Jews. Speaking to a rally marking the fortieth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Yadollah Javani, deputy head for political affairs for the regime's Revolutionary Guard, declared to eager crowds that if the United States dared "shoot a single bullet at us...we

will raze Tel Aviv and Haifa to the ground." Apparently, the Iranians would hope to see Warsaw become the world's third largest site of Jewish communal destruction.

Thus, even as I visit the city more and more, the bleakness and horror of its history never seem to fade. After all, the German Nazi monsters who wrought this slaughter have found malign inheritors to carry their dark and blackened flame.

This time, however, this city finally felt different. In February of 2019, the world — at last! — is not content to sit idly by as a sinister enemy of the Jews plot their demolition. Led by the world's sole and moral superpower, the United States, and the government of Poland, nations from across the globe gathered to counter the menace known as the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose disregard for human life is matched only by the vitriol with which they threaten to annihilate the Jewish State.

Shortly before his meeting with Netanyahu, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared in no unclear terms "you can't achieve peace and stability in the Middle East without confronting Iran." At the helm of a department that often prefers to plumb the region's complexities, the simplicity of America's top diplomat on this moral issue was especially welcome: Without "pushing back" against Iran's malignant influence in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Iraq, peace in the greater Middle East was "just not possible."

"The three H's — the Houthis, Hamas and Hezbollah — these are real threats" Pompeo explained, referencing three of Iran's adopt-an-army projects currently sewing death and extremism across the Middle East.

The highlight of the conference, however, was the speech delivered by Vice President Mike Pence. In an address that made the hair in every Mullah's beard stand, Pence

presented the Trump Administration's resolve in crippling Iran's economy until it ceases to radiate violence across the region.

Speaking at a Middle East conference in Poland, Pence accused Iran of being the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, adding that it was the "greatest threat to peace and security in the Middle East." Most importantly, the Vice President explicitly called out Iran for plotting a "new Holocaust," echoing the Mullahs' own genocidal rhetoric in his accusations.

Harsh words were also meted out for those American allies who have astonishingly chosen to sidestep American sanctions against Iran, establishing special mechanisms two weeks ago that will allow them to maintain trade-links with Iran. Speaking quite clearly to France, England, and Germany, Pence warned that their actions would only "strengthen Iran, weaken the EU, and create still more distance between Europe and the US."

With every crucial word, Pence augmented the power of his nation and position with the moral power of his message.

Through the three long years that President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry negotiated the Iran nuclear agreement, neither even condemned Iran for their genocidal incitement against Israel. Though the United States is a signatory to the 1948 United Nations Anti-Genocide Convention which expressly prohibits genocidal rhetoric against any nation, neither American leader dared condemn Iran for promising to slaughter another six million Jews.

Vice President Pence, in a single speech in Warsaw where so many Jews died in the holocaust, corrected that horrendous moral omission. And in so doing he showed that America's commitment to the pledge of "Never Again" is rock solid and not to be trifled with.

The writer, "America's Rabbi," whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous rabbi in America," is the international bestselling author of 32 books, including his most recent, "The Israel Warrior." He served as rabbi at Oxford University for 11 years where Cory Booker was his student President. Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

The Forward's Backwards Approach to Antisemitism



JEFFREY LAX
NEW YORK

As leaders on the far-left, including Linda Sarsour, Ilhan Omar, Tamika Mallory, and Marc Lamont Hill, have plunged progressively deeper into antisemitic positions, *The Forward's* opinion editor, Batya Ungar-Sargon, has equivocated on the issue of antisemitism itself.

In a November 19 opinion article — published in the midst of the Women's March and Sarsour-Farrakhan controversies — Ungar-Sargon professed to be "shocked by the language" from Sarsour, conceding that it "deploy(ed) a classic anti-Semitic dogwhistle ... [that Jews] masquerade as progressives but always choose their allegiance to Israel over their commitment to democracy and free speech." Ungar-Sargon conceded that this accusation of Jews having dual loyalties were "a staple of anti-Semitic literature."

But in the very same piece, Ungar-Sargon summons the temerity to declare that "Sarsour successfully toes the line of being

anti-Zionist without being anti-semitic." This follows a May opinion article in which Ungar-Sargon declared, without any citation or support whatsoever, that it was Sarsour's goal "to eradicate anti-Semitism."

If you're having difficulty reconciling the position that someone like Sarsour can frequently say antisemitic things "without being anti-semitic" while wanting to "eradicate" antisemitism, you're not alone.

What is most revealing about Ungar-Sargon is her frequent criticism of American and Israeli Jewish communities in response to these controversies.

In a November 21 opinion piece in which Ungar-Sargon again partially defended Sarsour, she wrote of the Jewish community, "We have our share of 'Louis Farrakhans.'" Ungar-Sargon didn't stop there, accusing some Jews of welcoming these Farrakhan types.

Perhaps she believes that she is insulated from the implications of her writing because she is Jewish. But the accomplished opinion editor should know better. Just being a member of a group doesn't allow you to criticize or discriminate against it without cause. A woman may not refuse to hire other women. A Jew may not refuse to hire other Jews. In the college classes I teach, I have had a number

of African-American students tell me that in some African and African-American circles and cultures, light-skinned individuals will discriminate against darker-skinned people. This is not okay simply because both groups identify as black. Such treatment remains firmly discriminatory, unequivocally bigoted, and has no place in our society.

Ungar-Sargon's comments reflect ignorance, classic antisemitism, and textbook, deep-rooted bigotry. Unsurprisingly, Ungar-Sargon lacks the courage or integrity to put forward the name of one single Jewish person that she accuses of being a "Louis Farrakhan," nor even one solitary example of how any such person has been "welcomed" into the Jewish community.

Incredibly, Ungar-Sargon's views of the Jewish community are the least problematic of her missives. Readers of her column have observed Ungar-Sargon's relentless determination to play down antisemitism.

In a piece from May 15, Ungar Sargon stunningly declared that Jews "don't face systemic discrimination" and "don't have to deal with ... workplace discrimination, or poverty." In other words, she refutes — with no evidence whatsoever — any claims that Jews are regularly denied jobs because they wore a religious head covering to an interview or because they revealed they could not work on Saturdays or because they had a Jewish last name or because of their Jewish heritage. This surely comes as a surprise to those of her Jewish readers that have experienced such terrible things firsthand.

She also makes these claims at a time when



Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-MN) participates in a news conference at the US Capitol in Washington, DC, Feb. 7, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Jonathan Ernst / Files.

American Jewry represents approximately two percent of the population while suffering over 57 percent of all religious hate crimes. Recent statistics demonstrate not just that Jews are definitively victims of discrimination, but that African-Americans and Jews represent — by far — the two groups most systemically victimized by hate crimes. This is to say nothing of the ubiquitous reports of antisemitism against students on college campuses.

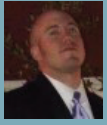
No doubt, Ungar-Sargon's agenda is aided by her demonstrably false claim that Jews are not systemic victims of discrimination. That's why, without statistics or citation, she insists on repeatedly publishing this myth in *The Forward*, even while reams of data demonstrate that she is not telling us the truth.

When former Brooklyn Assemblyman Dov Hikind recently took to Twitter to express displeasure at the antisemitism he observed emanating from the Women's March and lamented what he referred to as "so-called" Jews who participated in antisemitism, Ungar-Sargon quickly criticized Mr. Hikind, tweeting,

Continued on Page A7

Opinion.

Stop Whitewashing Ilhan Omar's Antisemitism



SEAN DURNS
WASHINGTON

"Strong language," Winston Churchill once said, "is often used by weak men and it is never used more strongly than on a weak case." The Washington Post's opinion pages are filled with plenty of strong language about Israel and antisemitism — and correspondingly few facts.

With growing frequency, The Washington Post has published op-eds that effectively whitewash or obfuscate on antisemitism when it emanates from the left. The recent controversy over Ilhan Omar's most recent antisemitic tweet offers several examples.

On February 10, the Democratic freshman congresswoman tweeted "It's all about the Benjamins" to explain why some of her fellow members of Congress were condemning a previous tweet of hers that accused Israel of "hypnotizing the world." When asked to clarify whom she was talking about, Omar replied "AIPAC!" Omar was stating that money — Jewish money — was buying the votes and opinions of her fellow members of Congress.

Numerous pundits and politicians — Democrat and Republican alike — condemned Omar's comments for their use of the antisemitic stereotype that Jews exert unseemly political influence. As The Washington Post itself reported: "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the entire Democratic leadership on Monday condemned Rep. Ilhan Omar for suggesting

that Israel's allies in American politics were motivated by money rather than principle, an extraordinary rebuke of a House freshman in the vanguard of the party's left flank."

In a signed statement, Pelosi and other Democrats called Omar's "use of anti-Semitic tropes and prejudicial accusations about Israel's supporters" deeply offensive, and insisted on an apology.

White supremacist and Holocaust denier David Duke defended Omar. So did op-eds published in The Washington Post.

Decrying those who said Omar's tweet was antisemitic, Duke exhorted, "The most powerful political moneybags in American politics are Zionists." Writing for The Washington Post's Plum Line blog, Paul Waldman wrote that Omar "has to be careful about making claims that play into stereotypes, and the stereotype about Jews using money to control the world is one of the most pernicious there is."

According to him, Omar wasn't antisemitic, but just "criticizing the relationship between the United States and Israel," albeit in "an unfortunate way." Accordingly, Omar "just has to be more careful about how she presents that criticism."

But the real problem, as the Post blogger sees it, is that "the whole episode reveals how insanely narrow the debate over the subject of Israel is in Washington." The reason? AIPAC, which is really "the Likud lobby, representing the interests of the Israeli right wing."

Another Post op-ed by Mairav Zonszein, a freelance journalist who has worked for Jewish Voice for Peace — an organization that has partnered with convicted Palestinian terrorist

Rasmea Odeh and the ADL describes as a "radical anti-Israel activist group" — went even further.

Zonszein wrote that Omar's tweet "didn't strike me as antisemitic."

"By now," she claims, "many in Washington have come to embrace a consensus that being a good American means supporting Israel — regardless of its human rights violations or democratic record."

Yet when it comes to American support for Israel, there is a consensus. And both Waldman and Zonszein are well outside of the mainstream. The truth is less conspiratorial than they, or Omar and David Duke, would have you believe.

Many members of Congress support Israel because the majority of Americans — those they are elected to represent — support Israel. Citing a Gallup poll, the left-wing Israeli paper Haaretz reported in March 2018 that 74 percent of Americans hold a favorable view of Israel. The reasons for that support are complex and multifaceted. Among other things, Americans see a fellow democracy, with many shared values and principles, as well as a military partner and key ally in the war against Islamist terrorism.

Further, AIPAC does not give money to lawmakers — a fact that Waldman admits but Zonszein obfuscates. Nor is AIPAC, which doesn't take money from the Israeli government and is explicitly bipartisan, the "Likud Lobby." Since its inception more than half a century ago, AIPAC has worked with Israeli governments of all political stripes. As Morris Amitay, a former executive director of AIPAC, told the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA): "We met with the Israeli left, center and right. We took no positions on Israeli internal politics and stuck to basics in making the case that a secure Israel is in the best interests of our country."

Indeed, the Israel-related lobby that donated the most money to political candidates wasn't AIPAC, but the far-left J Street, which is hypercritical of Israel.

And as the blogger Elder of Ziyon has documented, actual pro-Israel lobbying wouldn't even crack the top 50 of lobbying causes. Numerous other countries, including South Korea, Japan, and "Arab countries" all have strong lobbying organizations that rival AIPAC's influence.

The claim that debate about Israel is "silenced" or "narrow" is easily disproved by reading The New York Times, The Guardian, or any of the other media outlets that, like The Washington Post, frequently publish opinions and commentaries that are critical of Israel. Indeed, one would be hard-pressed to think of another similarly-sized nation that is so often the focal point of debate and discussion in the US and elsewhere.

Both Waldman and Zonszein are curiously charitable in interpreting whether Omar is antisemitic or not. On February 12 — the day before their commentaries were published — it was reported that Omar would be speaking at an Islamic Relief USA dinner on February 23 alongside Yousef Abdallah. As The Jerusalem Post reported, Abdallah "has advocated for violence against Jews and expressed antisemitic sentiments on his social media pages." Omar's Congressional office denied that Abdallah was scheduled to be at the event, but flyers and the original event itinerary prove otherwise.

However, neither Waldman and Zonszein saw fit to mention Omar's connection to Abdallah.

"The price of greatness," Winston Churchill observed, "is responsibility." If The Washington Post is going to continue to claim to be a great newspaper, it must act more responsibly and ensure that that the op-eds and blogs that it publishes prioritize facts over narrative.

Sean Durns is a Senior Research Analyst for the Washington D.C. office of CAMERA, the 65,000-member Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America.

Why Crown Heights Hate Crimes Aren't Newsworthy



ERIC STARKMAN
LOS ANGELES

Noting the recent spate of hate crimes against Jews in his community, Rabbi Yaacov Behrman, who heads the Crown Heights-based "Jewish Future Alliance," innocently asked, "Where is the public outrage? Indeed, why isn't this front-page headlines?"

In the wake of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's controversial comments, and reports of rising attacks on Jews around the world, Rabbi Behrman deserves an answer. As someone who ran a successful crisis communications firm in New York for 25 years, I'm happy to explain.

The mainstream media has abandoned all pretense of objectivity. Whereas in the past journalists viewed themselves as unbiased chroniclers of the news, their focus today is on manufacturing it and dominating the ensuing conversations. A journalist's influence today isn't determined by the quality or accuracy of their reporting, but rather the size of their Twitter following and the frequency of their television appearances.

As the spark of the Omar controversy, journalist Glenn Greenwald tweeted a story

about GOP House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy threatening action against Omar and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib for their comments on Israel. The tweet included this personal comment: "It's stunning how much time U.S. political leaders spend defending a foreign nation even if it means attacking free speech rights of Americans."

"It's all about the Benjamins baby," Omar retweeted in support.

Forward opinion editor Batya Ungar-Sargon joined the conversation, asking Omar to identify who's "paying American politicians to be pro-Israel." To which Omar responded, "AIPAC!" Ungar-Sargon then admonished, "Please learn how to talk about Jews in a non-anti-Semitic way. Sincerely, American Jews."

Twitter isn't a community engaged in Talmudic-like discourse and debate. Rather, it's a forum where people shout and scream at each other, often using obscenities, and offer up opinion bonbons. The tweeter who gets the most retweets is deemed the wisest. Twitter also gives its users an exaggerated sense of importance; Ungar-Sargon does not speak for all American Jews. Indeed, some Jews commenting on an article about the controversy argue that Omar's tweets weren't antisemitic.

One could mistakenly conclude from reading the most trafficked Twitter comments that America's black leaders overwhelmingly support the BDS movement. In fact, some black leaders vigorously oppose the

movement and are at the forefront of efforts to defeat it. One such leader is New York Assemblyman Walter Mosley, whose district includes parts of Crown Heights.

Mosley knows Israel's history and appreciates that Ralph Bunche, a black political scientist, contributed mightily to the country's founding. He also understands that the BDS movement is driven by antisemitism, and his district makes him an authoritative source on hate crimes. Unfortunately, Mosley has less than 5,000 Twitter followers, so journalists don't deem his comments worthy.

The Crown Heights hate crimes don't reflect the worldview of America's mainstream journalists. Hate crimes are largely of interest to them if attackers are wearing MAGA hats and chanting support for President Trump.

So, if Rabbi Behrman wants the Crown Heights hate attacks to make front-page news, he needs to spend considerably less time studying Torah and build up his Twitter following from the measly 5,000 followers he has now. By comparison, Omar has 587,000 followers.

But it's debatable whether it's worth the effort because the mainstream media has lost

its credibility with the American public. For example, a recent poll found that more than two-thirds of the public think that the news media "is more concerned with advancing its points of view rather than reporting all the facts."

The mainstream media's refusal to cover the Crown Heights hate crimes underscores that the American public is a lot smarter and more perceptive than reporters on Twitter understand.

Eric Starkman is a Los Angeles-based writer. For 25 years, he owned and managed a New York PR and crisis communications firm. Earlier, he was a journalist with major publications in the US and Canada



Hatzalah ambulance in Crown Heights
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Continued from Page A6

The Forward

"So-called Jews! You should be ashamed of yourself, Assemblyman."

To be clear, I would not classify Ms. Ungar-Sargon, or other Jews that share her views on antisemitism, as "so-called" Jews. Their identity is their heritage. It cannot and should not be taken away.

But, just like anyone else, with any other heritage, from any other group, their individual views, and their individual actions, beliefs, and statements are fully their own responsibility; and those personal views

are what should determine who they are as people, beyond their immutable race, color, nationality, gender, heritage, culture, or other inherited identity.

It is my hope that Jews and all others who reject all forms of antisemitism will stand up to this hateful rhetoric and continue to do what many have already been doing: turn Ungar-Sargon, and *The Forward*, away.

Jeffrey Lax is an attorney, professor, and department chair at the City University of New York (CUNY). He writes for *Medium* and sometimes hosts a talk radio show in NYC.

Impressions.

Ten Arab Entities Among 25 Most Racist Nations on Earth

BY ELDER OF ZION

When I recently saw an op-ed that casually referred to Israel as “racist,” I decided to see if anyone had actually ranked nations on their racist character by any sort of objective criteria.

Some of the most recent, fact-based results came out in 2016, from Insider Monkey, combining public data from two other surveys.

Ten of the entities are Arab. At least 12 of them are

#	Country	% Who don't want neighbours of another race	% of people who witnessed racist behaviour
1	India	43.6	64.3
2	Lebanon	36.3	64.4
3	Bahrain	31.1	85.7
4	Libya	54.0	33.5
5	Egypt	N/A	39.7
6	Philippines	30.6	49.1
7	Kuwait	28.1	37.9
8	Palestine	44.0	32.0
9	South Africa	19.6	61.8
10	South Korea	29.6	36.5
11	Malaysia	31.3	34.4
12	Nigeria	21.0	42.5
13	Iraq	27.7	37.8
14	Kyrgyzstan	28.1	35.9
15	Ecuador	34.5	32.0
16	Algeria	19.8	41.0
17	Pakistan	14.5	48.8
18	Yemen	34.0	31.2
19	Hong Kong	18.8	40.4
20	Russia	17.0	38.5
21	Thailand	39.8	19.0
22	Cyprus	26.7	26.1
23	Turkey	33.8	19.1
24	Morocco	13.8	35.6
25	Japan	22.3	29.7

officially Muslim. (Hong Kong appears to be a mistake, by the way.)

“Palestine” came in second in the percentage of people who would not want neighbors of another race, behind only Libya.

You will be hard-pressed to find the adjective “racist” appended to any mention of Lebanon or Japan or Turkey — but using that word before Israel doesn’t even raise eyebrows. That’s the power of anti-Israel propaganda.

Just another piece of evidence that the people

Remembering Jackie Robinson

BY HAROLD BRACKMAN

Jackie Robinson was born 100 years ago. In 1947, when he broke baseball’s color barrier, Jewish slugger Hank Greenberg was almost alone among active players in befriending him. Greenberg, who took a five-year hiatus from baseball to fight the Nazis, once said: “I felt that every home run I hit was a home run against Hitler.”

In the 1940s, African-American papers acknowledged the Jews’ disproportionate support for the civil rights cause, and reciprocated with their support for Jewish victims of Hitler. The Chicago

Greenberg, who was continually taunted for being Jewish. But unlike Robinson, who was ordered by Brooklyn management not to respond to racist taunts, Greenberg warned the bigots that he would physically retaliate.

Greenberg was the first major-leaguer to enlist in the army in World War II. Unlike many other players, he volunteered for combat. Along with his four home run titles, he also won four battle stars. But the only time he really felt like a hero, Greenberg said, was the day that he sat out a key pennant race game to attend synagogue on Yom Kippur.

In May 1947, Greenberg told Robinson, “Don’t



Jackie Robinson. Photo: Wiki Commons.

Defender condemned both Great Britain and the US State Department for their “unbelievably shameful double crossing” of Holocaust survivors whose desperate attempt to reach Palestine on the ship *Hatikvah* was brutally thwarted by British sailors using tear gas and fire hoses.

They also praised Jewish journalists like Walter Winchell and Shirley Povich. Famed columnist Winchell had conspicuously accompanied African-American boxing great Sugar Ray Robinson around Miami when its hotels still posted signs that read, “No Negroes, Jews, or dogs allowed.”

Jackie Robinson bore the brunt of a fierce racist backlash on and off the field. When the Philadelphia Phillies visited Brooklyn, their manager Ben Chapman ordered his players to harass Robinson with a barrage of racial insults so venomous that Jackie reportedly came close to a nervous breakdown. Chapman reportedly also hurled insults at a Jewish GI who had lost a leg.

The most dramatic display of Jewish solidarity with Jackie Robinson came from Greenberg. Probably no major league player before Robinson had been more abused by players and fans than

pay any attention to these guys who are trying to make it hard for you. ... I hope you and I can get together for a talk.”

Many other Jews, such as Boston city councilman Isadore Muchnick, also supported Robinson — and Robinson reciprocated that Jewish support.

In 1966, when a Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) official in New York shouted at Jews, “Hitler didn’t kill enough of you,” Robinson demanded the official’s dismissal. When Black Nationalists singled out Jewish-owned stores in Harlem for picketing, Robinson denounced their “use [of] the slimy tool of anti-Semitism [and] racism.”

Unfortunately, a few years ago, the movie *42: The True Story of an American Legend* played up Dodger General Manager Branch Rickey’s Methodist faith without including identifiable Jewish characters who supported Robinson. But they did — and that’s an important part of the story.

Historian Harold Brackman is coauthor with Ephraim Isaac of From Abraham to Obama: A History of Jews, Africans, African-Americans (Africa World Press, 2015).

who pretend to be the most liberal for some reason embrace the least liberal causes — as long as that cause happens to oppose a liberal, tolerant Jewish state.

Elder of Zion has been blogging about Israel and the Arab world for a really long time now. He also controls the world, but deep down, you already knew that.

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of New York, KINGS County. MVMF III FIN TRUST, Plaintiff, -against- JOSEPHINE JEAN PIERRE; PHENICIEN JEAN PIERRE; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR MORTGAGEIT INC.; PRA FUNDING, LLC; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; KINGS SUPREME COURT; NEW CENTURY FINANCIAL SERVICES; CAVALRY PORTFOLIO SERVICES, LLC, ASSIGNEE OF CALVARY SPV I LLC, ASSIGNEE OF SPRINT; ARROW FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC; MIDLAND FUNDING NCC-2 CORP; NYC ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; NYC TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; NYC DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PARKING VIOLATION BUREAU; EMMA JEAN PIERRE, Index No. 6953/2009. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated, January 3, 2017 and entered with the Kings County Clerk on January 26, 2017, Elena K. Makau, Esq., the Appointed Referee, will sell the premises known as 689 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11230 at public auction in Room 224 at Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on March 7, 2019 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 known as Block: 5240; Lot: 80 will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment, Index No. 6953/2009. The approximate amount of judgment is \$1,476,235.56 plus interest and costs. FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 2/1/8/15/22

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 2008-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Joel Milord, individually and as surviving joint tenant of Dolly Thomas, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 2/21/18 and entered on 3/23/18, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 07, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 4608 Avenue M, Brooklyn, NY 11234. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 7871, LOT: 42. Approximate amount of judgment is \$563,432.42 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 501159/2014. Jeffrey R. Miller, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 2/1/8/15/22

LEGAL NOTICE

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 7, 2019 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) 430-4792 Dated: December 20, 2018 60032 AJ; 2/1/8/15/22

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 594 MARCY LLC articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 12/12/2018. 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: Felice Priante 1769 W. 13th Street Brooklyn, NY 11223 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/1/8/15/22; 3/1/8

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, STATE OF NEW YORK MORTGAGE AGENCY, Plaintiff, vs. GLORIA LOPEZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on December 21, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 14, 2019 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 190 Cozine Avenue Unit 6-1J, Brooklyn, NY 11207. 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 and State of New York, Block 4415 and Lot 1155. Approximate amount of judgment is \$286,823.65 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 509296/2014. Jack Segal, Esq., Referee Schiller, Knapp, Lefkowitz & Hertz, LLP, 200 John James Audubon Parkway, Suite 202, Amherst, New York 14228, Attorneys for Plaintiff AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST JOHN J. VOTTO, LINDA M. VOTTO, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 1-15-2019 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 3-14-2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1462 East 65th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234. 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: 8386 Lot: 72. Approximate amount of judgment \$607,622.77

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plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #511154/2014. Jack Segal, Esq., Referee Carter Conboy Case Blackmore Maloney & Laird, PC 20 Corporate Woods Blvd. Albany, NY 12211 26801 61080 AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR NAAC MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff AGAINST SANTO LOPEZ, CRISTOBALINA ARROYO, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 02, 2018 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 14, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 100 HENDRIX STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 3933, LOT 24. Approximate amount of judgment \$966,864.28 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 408/2014. ROBERT HOWE, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 60529 AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P., Plaintiff against BERISH ROTTENBERG, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Fein, Such & Crane, LLP, 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered December 14, 2018, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 14, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 4412 10th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219. Block 5607 Lot 40. All that certain lot, 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. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$956,249.26 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 506418/2014. Bruno Codispoti, Esq., Referee RRJC004 AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

GROEZ LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/09/19. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 17 Spring Hollow Road, Old Tappan, NJ 07675. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CSAB MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, Against H. RICHARD ADELMAN, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered on 2/6/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 3/14/2019

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at 2:30 pm, premises known as 1146 39th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218, and described as follows: 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, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 5585 and Lot 26. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$890,086.65 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 500644/2015. Gregory Cerchione, Esq., Referee. SHELDON MAY & ASSOCIATES Attorneys at Law, 255 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Dated: 1/7/2019 File Number: 27393 MNB AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff, Against CARMEN MENDEZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered on 5/7/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, on 3/14/2019 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 2297 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234, and described as follows: 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, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 8490 and Lot 27. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$392,717.23 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 500833/2014. Jack Segal, Esq., Referee. SHELDON MAY & ASSOCIATES Attorneys at Law, 255 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Dated: 1/7/2019 File Number: 28768 MNB AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON MORTGAGE SECURITIES CORP, CSMC MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-6, Plaintiff AGAINST MOSES OTOTE, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 11, 2018 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 14, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 193 SUMPTER STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 1519, LOT 54. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,183,755.14 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 22250-12. ARNOLD JOEL LUDWIG, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 AJ; 2/8/15/22; 3/1

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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name:AESTHETIC BK LLC . Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 01/09/2019. 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: Legalinc corporate services inc 1967 wehrle drive suite 1 #086 Buffalo, NY 14221. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 2/15/22; 3/1/8/15/22

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS TRUSTEE FOR CIT MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2007-1, Plaintiff against RUBY STRACHAN; VERONICA STRACHAN; SAPPHIRE STRACHAN, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on October 29, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 21st day of March, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: 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, City New York, County of Kings and State of New York. Said premises known as 462 East 40th Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11203. (Block: 4939, Lot: 9). Approximate amount of lien # 622,145.45 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 506263-13. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee. Stern & Eisenberg, PC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff Woodbridge Corporate Plaza 485 B Route 1 South - Suite 330 Iselin, NJ 08830 (732) 582-6344 AJ; 2/15/22; 3/1/8/

CITATION File No. 20182205 SURROGATE'S COURT, QUEENS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: The heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of Sally Ann Silverstein deceased, If living, and if any of them be dead to the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. Public Administrator of Queens County Shelly Anne Quilty-Lake, Guardian at Litem. A petition having been duly filed by BRUCE MOSKOWITZ who is domiciled at 294 SMOKETREE AVENUE, OAKPARK, California 91377 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, QUEENS County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica Rm 62, New York on April 11, 2019 at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of SALLY SILVERSTEIN, aka SALLY ANN SILVERSTEIN lately domiciled at 98-40 64 Avenue, Unit 5G, Rego Park, New York 11374, United States admitting to probate a Will dated July 3, 2017 a copy of which is attached, as the Will of SALLY SILVERSTEIN deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to BRUCE MOSKOWITZ Letters of Trusteeship issue to BRUCE MOSKOWITZ f/b/o All Cats and all other Animals In possession of Sally Silverstein at her death Pursuant to EPTL 7-8.1 Dated, Attested and Sealed, February 7, 2019 HON PETER J. KELLY Surrogate James Lim Becker Chief Clerk David S. Shor, Esq.

Tradition.

A Stiff-Necked People



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

It is a moment of the very highest drama. The Israelites, a mere forty days after the greatest revelation in history, have made an idol: a Golden Calf. God threatens to destroy them. Moses, exemplifying to the fullest degree the character of Israel as one who "wrestles with God and man," confronts both in turn. To God, he prays for mercy for the people. Coming down the mountain and facing Israel, he smashes the tablets, symbol of the covenant. He grinds the calf to dust, mixes it with water, and makes the Israelites drink it. He commands the Levites to punish the wrongdoers. Then he re-ascends the mountain in a prolonged attempt to repair the shattered relationship between God and the people.

God accepts his request and tells Moses to carve two new tablets of stone. At this point, however, Moses makes a strange appeal:

And Moses hurried and knelt to the ground and bowed, and he said, "If I have found favour in Your eyes, my Lord, may my Lord go among us, because [ki] it is a stiff-necked people, and forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance." (Ex. 34:8-9)

The difficulty in the verse is self-evident. Moses cites as a reason for God remaining with the Israelites the very attribute that God had previously given for wishing to abandon them:

"I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave Me alone so that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." (Ex. 32:9)

How can Moses invoke the people's obstinacy as the very reason for God to maintain His presence among them? What is the meaning of Moses' "because" – "may my Lord go among us, because it is a stiff-necked people"?

The commentators offer a variety of interpretations. Rashi reads the word *ki* as "if" – "If they are stiff-necked, then forgive them." Ibn Ezra and Chizkuni read it as "although" or "despite the fact that" (*af al pi*). Alternatively, suggests Ibn Ezra, the verse might be read, "[I admit that] it is a stiff-necked people – therefore forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance." These are straightforward readings, though they assign to the word *ki* a meaning it does not normally have.

There is, however, another and far more striking line of interpretation that can be traced across the centuries. In the twentieth century it was given expression by Rabbi Yitzchak Nissenbaum. The argument he attributed to Moses was this:

Almighty God, look upon this people with favour, because what is

now their greatest vice will one day be their most heroic virtue. They are indeed an obstinate people...But just as now they are stiff-necked in their disobedience, so one day they will be equally stiff-necked in their loyalty. Nations will call on them to assimilate, but they will refuse. Mightier religions will urge them to convert, but they will resist. They will suffer humiliation, persecution, even torture and death because of the name they bear and the faith they profess, but they will stay true to the covenant their ancestors made with You. They will go to their deaths saying *Ani ma'amin*, "I believe." This is a people awesome in its obstinacy – and though now it is their failing, there will be times far into the future when it will be their noblest strength.

The fact that Rabbi Nissenbaum lived and died in the Warsaw ghetto



gives added poignancy to his words.

Many centuries earlier, a Midrash made essentially the same point:

There are three things which are undaunted: the dog among beasts, the rooster among birds, and Israel among the nations. R. Isaac ben Redifa said in the name of R. Ami: You might think that this is a negative attribute, but in fact it is praiseworthy, for it means: "Either be a Jew or prepare to be hanged."

Jews were stiff-necked, says Rabbi Ami, in the sense that they were ready to die for their faith. As Gersonides (Ralbag) explained in the fourteenth century, a stubborn people may be slow to acquire a faith, but once they have done so they never relinquish it.

We catch a glimpse of this extraordinary obstinacy in an episode narrated by Josephus, one of the first recorded incidents of mass non-violent civil disobedience. It took place during the reign of the Roman emperor Caligula (37–41 CE). He had proposed placing a statue of himself in the precincts of the Temple in Jerusalem, and had sent the military leader Petronius to carry out the task, if necessary by force. This is how Josephus describes the encounter between Petronius and the Jewish population at Ptolemais (Acre):

There came ten thousand Jews to Petronius at Ptolemais to offer their petitions to him that he would not compel them to violate the law of their forefathers. "But if," they said, "you are wholly resolved to bring the statue and install it, then you must first kill us, and

Continued on Page A12

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Continued from Page A9

Attorney Salem, Shor & Saperstein, LLP (516)472-7030 3000 Marcus Avenue, Suite 1W6, Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you. AJ; 2/15/22; 3/1/8

File No. 2017-4442 PROBATE CITATION QUEENS COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT QUEENS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Bruce Povman, Guardian at Litem the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Alan Abbey a/k/a Alan N Abbey, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, assignees, administrators and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence, Queens County Public Administrator, Daniel Goldberg, Sandra Goldberg, Daniel Goldberg, Sandra Goldberg Weiner. A petition having been duly filed by Faith Inerfeld Tanner who is domiciled at 6600 Cutting Blvd, El Cerrito CA 94530. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Queens County, at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica Rm 62, New York, on April 18 2019 at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Alan Abbey a/k/a Alan N Abbey lately domiciled at 260-49 A Langston Avenue, Glen Oaks NY 11004 admitting to probate a Will dated October 6, 1999 a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Alan Abbey a/k/a Alan N Abbey deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to Faith Inerfeld Tanner Dated, Attested and Sealed February 8, 2019 HON PETER J. KELLY Surrogate James Lim Becker Chief Clerk Kim L Zinke, Esq. Attorney 917-971-6801 6824 Colonial Road, Suite A1, Brooklyn, NY 11220 NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law, You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you. AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, V. MARCIA A. BECKFORD; ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 04, 2017, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION is the Plaintiff and MARCIA A. BECKFORD; ET AL. are the Defendants. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 360 ADAMS STREET ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on March 28, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1280 E 86TH ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11236: Block 8064, Lot 1: 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 will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 4029/2013 OR 2018-05538. Helene Blank, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin,

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LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Citibank, N.A., as trustee for CMLTI Asset Trust, Plaintiff AGAINST Tyrone Lewis a/k/a Tyrone G. Lewis; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 30, 2019 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 28, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 102-02 Farragut Road, 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 8171 Lot 33. Approximate amount of judgment \$853,969.62 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 514002/2015. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: February 8, 2019 61462 AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for J.P. Morgan Mortgage Trust 2004-S2, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Plaintiff AGAINST Audrey Savin; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 2, 2019 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 28, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 8901 Avenue M, 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: 8068 Lot: 1. Approximate amount of judgment \$393,894.70 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 507884/2015. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 15, 2019 60706 AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: TERRENCE TCG LLC .Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on: 02/13/2019. 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 Process to : Tara Enahoro 415 Greene Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11216-1111 purpose : all lawful activity AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15/22/29

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff -against- MOSHE LEIB LAX A/K/A MOISHE LEIB LAX; AS CO-EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF CHAIM LAX, DECEASED, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated March 7, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on March 28, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying

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and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, The Condominium Unit known as Unit No. 3 in the building known as "The 1151 42nd Street Condominium" together with an undivided 39% interest in the Common Elements. Block: 5592 Lot: 2203 Said premises known as 1151 42ND STREET, UNIT #3, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$482,357.51 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 504537/2013. JOEL E. ABRAMSON, ESQ., Referee David A. Gallo & Associates LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 99 Powerhouse Road, First Floor, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 File# 9024.87 AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT- COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR BNC MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-2, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-2, Plaintiff, AGAINST MINERVA A. ALAR AKA MINERVA A. ALAR AKA MINERVA ALAR, et al. Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered on January 14, 2019. I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 28, 2019 at 2:30 PM premises known as 137 Glen St, Brooklyn, NY 11208. 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. Section 1, Block 4167 and Lot 49. Approximate amount of judgment \$661,922.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #500792/2014. Steven Z. Naiman, Esq., Referee, Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: ITM PLAYERS MEDIA LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/18/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom Process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of Process to: Peter Thomas Fornatale 55 7th AVE Apt. 1, New York, NY 11217. Purpose: all lawful activities AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15/22/29

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY PNC BANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO NATIONAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff against FIVEL SOFER, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Fein, Such & Crane, LLP, 28 East Main Street Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered June 8, 2018, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn NY 11201 on March 28, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 715 East 5th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Block 5399 Lot 72. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improve-

Social.



Nadav Lapid shows Golden Bear for Best Film after the awards ceremony at the 69th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, February 16, 2019. Photo: REUTERS/Hannibal Hanschke.

Israeli Director Nadav Lapid's 'Synonyms' Wins Berlinale

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

Nadav Lapid's "Synonyms," an anarchic story about an Israeli who tries to suppress his origins after moving to Paris, won the Berlin Film Festival's coveted Golden Bear award on Saturday.

The film, a faintly comedic, semi-autobiographical study of identity and the ambivalence of national belonging, tells the story of Yoav, played by newcomer Tom Mercier, and his struggle to reinvent himself as French.

Yoav is shown muttering French synonyms in an attempt to displace his native Hebrew with French as he bonds with a young, wealthy Parisian couple, played by Quentin Dolmaire and Louise Chevillotte.

Lapid dedicated the film to his mother Era Lapid, who edited his films until her death.

"We edited this movie between editing room and hospitals," he told Reuters. "It was a kind of competition between death and completing the movie. And death won."

Like his protagonist, Lapid left Israel for Paris at a young age, and he compared his journey to Yoav's.

"In his head he leaves the worst country ever to arrive in the best country ever," he told a news conference. "And at a certain moment he is facing a more complex reality. But I am always a little bit like Yoav ...

I'm trying to open this closed door. I'm always charmed by something that exists in France."

Mercier's kinetic performance of a character determined to excise what he sees as an Israeli culture of machismo from his soul has been widely praised. But his attempts at reinventing himself also reveal much about French mores.

"I hope that people will feel a deep truth watching the movie," he said, saying that it was in France that he had discovered cinema "as an essential thing ... one of the most magnificent things the world can suggest us."

French director Francois Ozon's "By the Grace of God," a drama about victims of child abuse in the Catholic Church and their fight for justice, won the runner-up Silver Bear Grand Jury prize.

Chinese actors Wang Jingchun and Yong Mei, who played husband and wife in Wang Xiaoshuai's generational saga "So Long My Son," won Silver Bears for best actor and actress respectively.

Another Chinese film, Zhang Yimou's "One Second," was pulled from the competition earlier this week, with the festival citing "technical reasons," although it was widely speculated that the film had fallen foul of China's state censors.

"We hope to see it on screens around the world very soon, and deeply missed this film here at the Berlinale," said French actress Juliette Binoche, the prize jury's president, at the awards ceremony.

New Facility for Food Manufacturer Osem Means Double the Bamba

BY NURIT KADOSH/CTech

Israeli food manufacturer Osem Group has opened a new manufacturing facility for its peanut butter-flavored puffed corn snack Bamba. With the new facility, Osem intends to double the manufacturing capacity of the beloved snack. "Our dream is to see Bamba in every supermarket in the US and in Europe," Avi Ben Assayag, CEO of Osem, said Tuesday at the inauguration of the new plant.

Generations of Israeli kids grew up eating Bamba, first introduced in the 1960s. The popular snack is



Close-up of Bamba snack, to illustrate texture, colour and shape. Bamba is an Israeli snack composed of puffed cornmeal and flavored like peanut butter. It is a Kosher food product. Photo: Nsaum75 via Wikimedia.

considered highly nutritious and is often credited with lowering peanut allergy rates in the country because Israeli children are exposed to it early on.

Located in Kiryat Gat, a small town in Israel's south, the new NIS 200 million, 16,000-square-meter facility is set to employ 150 people.

Osem is one of Israel's largest food manufacturers. Founded in 1942, the company built its reputation manufacturing snacks and dry pantry staples before expanding into pickles, ice creams, frozen foods, and prepared Middle Eastern salads. Osem already exports a variety of foods to Europe and the US through subsidiaries Osem UK Ltd. and Osem USA Inc. Osem is a subsidiary of Swiss multinational Nestlé SA.

Opinion.

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Stiff-Necked

then do what you have resolved on. For while we are alive we cannot permit such things as are forbidden by our law..."

Then Petronius came to them (at Tiberius): "Will you then make war with Caesar, regardless of his great preparations for war and your own weakness?" They replied, "We will not by any means make war with Caesar, but we will die before we see our laws transgressed." Then they threw themselves down on their faces and stretched out their throats and said that they were ready to be slain... Thus they continued firm in their resolution and proposed themselves to die willingly rather than see the statue dedicated."

Faced with such heroic defiance on so large a scale, Petronius gave way and wrote to Caligula urging him, in Josephus' words, "not to drive so many ten thousand of these men to distraction; that if he were to slay these men, he would be publicly cursed for all future ages."

Nor was this a unique episode. The rabbinic literature, together with the chronicles of the Middle Ages, are full of stories of martyrdom, of Jews willing to die rather than convert. Indeed the very concept of *Kiddush Hashem*, sanctification of God's name, came to be associated in the halachic literature with the willingness "to die rather than transgress." The rabbinic conclave at Lod (Lydda) in the second century CE, which laid down the laws of martyrdom

(including the three sins about which it was said that "one must die rather than transgress") may have been an attempt to limit, rather than encourage, the phenomenon. Of these many episodes, one stands out for its theological audacity. It was recorded by the Jewish historian Shlomo ibn Verga (fifteenth to sixteenth centuries) and concerns the Spanish expulsion:

One of the boats was infested with the plague, and the captain of the boat put the passengers ashore at some uninhabited place... There was one Jew among them who struggled on afoot together with his wife and two children. The wife grew faint and died... The husband carried his children along until both he and they fainted from hunger. When he regained consciousness, he found that his two children had died.

In great grief he rose to his feet and said: "O Lord of all the universe, You are doing a great deal that I might even desert my faith. But know You of a certainty that - even against the will of heaven - a Jew I am and a Jew I shall remain. And neither that which You have brought upon me nor that which You may yet bring upon me will be of any avail."

One is awestruck by such faith - such obstinate faith. Almost certainly it was this idea that lies behind a famous Talmudic passage about the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai:

And they stood under the mountain: R. Avdimi b. Chama b. Chasa said: This teaches that the Holy One blessed be He,

overturned the mountain above them like a barrel and said, "If you accept the Torah, it will be well. If not, this will be your burial place." Said Rava, Even so, they re-accepted the Torah in the days of Ahasuerus, for it is written, "the Jews confirmed and took upon them," meaning, "they confirmed what they had accepted before."

The meaning of this strange text seems to be this: at Sinai the Jewish people had no choice but to accept the covenant. They had just been rescued from Egypt. God had divided the sea for them; He had sent them manna from heaven and water from the rock. Acceptance of a covenant under such conditions cannot be called free. The real test of faith came when God was hidden. Rava's quotation from the Book of Esther is pointed and precise. Megillat Esther does not contain the name of God. The rabbis suggested that the name Esther is an allusion to the phrase *haster astir et panai*, "I will surely hide My face." The book relates the first warrant for genocide against the Jewish people. That Jews remained Jews under such conditions was proof positive that they did indeed reaffirm the covenant. Obstinate in their disbelief during much of the biblical era, they became obstinate in their belief ever afterwards. Faced with God's presence, they disobeyed Him. Confronted with His absence, they stayed faithful to Him. That is the paradox of the stiff-necked people.

Not by accident does the main narrative of the Book of Esther begin with the words "And Mordechai would not bow down" (Esther

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

cannot with due diligence be ascertained. Billie Hall and Jane Hall, if living and if dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. Being the persons interested, a copy of this citation shall be served on John M. McFaul, Esq., Edward J. Kelly, Esq., and Lisa Barbieri, Esq., as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Thomas Hall, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 35-31 85th Street, unit 5C, Jackson Heights, NY 11372, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Thomas Hall, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 4th day of April, 2019 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$10,256.05 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why each of you claiming to be a distributee of the decedent should not establish proof of your kinship; and why the balance of said funds and the funds currently on deposit with the Commissioner of Finance should not be paid to said alleged distributees upon proof of kinship, or deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York should said alleged distributees default herein, or fail to establish proof of kinship, Dated, Attested and Sealed 15th day of February, 2019 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County James Lim Becker Clerk of the Surrogate's Court GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested unless you file formal legal, verified objections. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you. Accounting Citation AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A10
ments thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$428,191.23 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 6496/13. Joel Eliot Abramson, Esq., Referee PNNC039
AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Upper Level F & R Cleaning Service LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 10/18/2018. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to: Fatima 2080 Wallace Ave. Suite 429 Bronx, NY 10462. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 2/15/22; 3/1/8/15/22/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P., Plaintiff against ANNETTE HURLEY A/K/A ANNETTE CONLIFFE, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered January 28, 2019, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 28, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 159 E. 40th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Block 4877 Lot 46. 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. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$536,235.03 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 510311/2017. Cash will not be accepted at the sale. Joel Abramson, Esq., Referee 2267-001342
AJ; 2/22; 3/1/8/15

File No.: 2017-2798/A SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of Thomas Hall, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and

Ilhan Omar Is Not Fit for the US House Foreign Affairs Committee



EZRA BERNSTEIN
JERUSALEM

In just a few short months since being elected to Congress, Ilhan Omar has managed to find herself in the express lane to antisemitism, with some strong views that are often completely uninformed. Before long, she may dig herself a political hole that she cannot get out of.

Her recent apology — although pressured — was certainly necessary and important, but it doesn't change the fact that she continues to express very troubling views. Beyond the use of the age-old antisemitic trope of Jewish money and Jewish power controlling the US government, her comments show a lack of understanding that there could be other reasons to support Israel besides bribery from AIPAC. It appears that she has a very simplistic view of two very complicated countries, and of the situation in general.

In a recent interview, she said, "When I see Israel institute laws that recognize it as a Jewish state

and does not recognize the other religions that are living in it, and we still uphold it as a democracy in the Middle East, I almost chuckle because I know that if we see that [in] any other society we would criticize it, call it out."

I have no problem with strong views, and I have no problem with controversial views. But I do have a problem with strong, controversial views that are also completely baseless. Israel allows for some Sharia law; there is an Islamic judicial system and court for its Muslim citizens. How is that not recognizing other religions?

Omar was also recently in the news for a tweet from 2012, where she said that "Israel hypnotized the world" in reference to the war in Gaza.

I would hope that someone on the US House Foreign Affairs Committee would have the ability to analyze conflict from multiple perspectives. I can't say that I understand the difficulties of life in Gaza, since I live comfortably in Tel Aviv — but I can certainly imagine the difficulties.

Apparently, Omar cannot imagine the difficulties of life in Israel due to the terror and rocket attacks launched constantly by Palestinians in Gaza. It is not as though Israel

suddenly decided that it wanted to make the lives of Gazans even more miserable. But when rockets are fired into their territory, countries have not only the right, but the need, to defend their borders and citizens. If there were no rockets, there would have been no war.

If there is one thing I've learned from living in Israel and studying here, it is that most of the time, the situation is complicated. I'm not asking for Ilhan Omar to forget about the Gazans or to suddenly start retweeting StandWithUs and other pro-Israel tweets, but I would love to see a little nuance.

What concerns me most, however, is that her tweets represent a profound lack of not only nuance, but accuracy in her understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — something that is disappointing for someone with such strong convictions, and unacceptable for someone on the US House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ezra Bernstein is a graduate of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a former Fulbright scholar in Israel. He is co-host of the podcast "Israel-Palestine: Beyond the Headlines with Alec and Ezra."