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## Egypt, Jordan, Morocco to Attend US-Led Palestinian Investment Conference in Bahrain



White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, May 2, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Yuri Gripas.

**BY REUTERS  
& ALGEMEINER STAFF**

Egypt, Jordan and Morocco have informed the Trump administration they will attend a US-led conference in Bahrain this month on proposals for boosting the Palestinian economy as part of a coming US peace plan, American officials said on Tuesday.

Egypt and Jordan's participation is considered especially important

since historically they have been key players in Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts and are also the only Arab states to have reached peace agreements with Israel.

However, Palestinian leaders' decision to boycott the June 25-26 conference has raised doubts about its chances for success. They have shunned a broader diplomatic effort that US President Donald Trump has called the "deal of century," which they see as likely to be heavily

tilted in favor of Israel and denying them a state of their own.

Despite that, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and a chief architect of the long-delayed peace plan, is pressing ahead with arrangements for the Bahrain meeting, where the economic components are expected to be unveiled as the first step in the plan's rollout.

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## Iran Has Accelerated Enrichment of Uranium, IAEA Says

**BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF**

Iran has followed through on a threat to accelerate its production of enriched uranium, the head of the UN atomic watchdog said on Monday, departing from his usual guarded language to say he was worried about increasing tension.

The assessment comes at a time of sharply increased US-Iranian confrontation in recent weeks, a year after Washington abandoned an agreement between Iran and world powers to curb Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of international financial sanctions.



An IAEA inspector at an Iranian nuclear facility. Photo: IAEA.

Washington tightened sanctions from the start of May, ordering all countries and companies to halt all imports of Iranian oil or be banished from the global financial system. It has also dispatched extra troops to the region to counter what it describes as Iranian threats.

Iran has responded with a threat to increase its enrichment of uranium, saying it is up to Europeans who still support the nuclear deal to save it by finding ways to ensure Tehran gets the economic benefits it was promised.

IAEA chief Yukiya Amano, whose agency is responsible

*Continued on Page A3*

## Gaza's Past, Gaza's Present

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat NASSO  
פרשת נשא

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 8:10pm | Shabbat Ends: 9:19pm



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## Opinion.

## An Ill-Deserved Assault on Ambassador David Friedman



RUTHIE BLUM  
TEL AVIV

Palestinian and leftist Jewish leaders called for America's Israel ambassador to be fired for telling *The New York Times* in a recent interview that the Jewish state has, "under certain circumstances, the right to retain some, but unlikely all, of the West Bank."

Yes, for daring to suggest that Israel has the right even to "some" of its land, David Friedman was called a "settler" by Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, who had previously dubbed him a "son of a dog."

And the P.A. Foreign Ministry announced that it would weigh filing a complaint against Friedman at the International Criminal Court for "trying to impose his racist visions and threatening peace and security in the region, as well as exposing the Palestinian people to several dangers and conspiracies."

J Street president Jeremy Ben-Ami was equally incensed, accusing Friedman of "once again [making] clear that he is acting not as the U.S. ambassador to Israel but as the settlement movement's ambassador to the United States. By essentially giving the Netanyahu government a green light to begin unilaterally annexing Palestinian territory in the West Bank, the Trump administration is endorsing a flagrant violation of international law."

Peace Now chimed in, referring to Friedman as a "Trojan horse sent by the settler right, which sabotages Israel's interests and the chance for peace," and urging U.S. President Donald Trump to "send him packing."

The outcry over Friedman's perfectly reasonable remark is worthy of note, particularly in view of what the U.S. envoy said next.

When asked how Washington would react if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu followed through on his campaign vow ahead of the April 9 Knesset elections to annex part of Judea and Samaria, Friedman replied: "We really don't have a view until we know how much, on what terms, why does it make sense, why is it good for Israel, why is it good for the region, why does it not create more problems than it solves. These are all things that we'd want to understand, and I don't want to prejudice."

In other words, he said nothing controversial whatsoever. Except in the eyes of those who consider any Israeli territorial or other claims illegitimate, that is. You know, the same people who view both Netanyahu and Trump as figures who must be toppled at all costs—if not at the ballot box, then through their respective criminal-justice systems.

It is peculiar, then, for such people to demand that Friedman—a representative of the Trump administration—be relieved of his post. After all, his predecessor, Dan Shapiro—a true blue Barack Obama loyalist—was not sacked for faithfully conveying his boss's Mideast messages. And those, unlike Fried-

man's, were frequently reprehensible.

And while on the subject of the former U.S. president, whose treatment of Israel was as unconscionable as his attitude towards American exceptionalism: Friedman attacked the Obama administration for its last anti-Israel hurrah in December 2016, when it abstained from voting on, and thus enabling the passage of, U.N. Security Council Resolution 2334, granting the Palestinians a "day of victory."

Friedman also pulled no punches when criticizing the P.A. for its "very, very poor track record on human rights" and "massive pressure" on Palestinian businesspeople not to attend the U.S.-led economic conference in Bahrain at the end of June. Though Abbas and his henchmen have denied exerting such pressure, they said on Sunday that they are planning to hold a "popular uprising" around the world during the two days of the Bahrain conference "to confront American-Israeli schemes aimed at eliminating the rights of the Palestinian people."

Of course, the Bahrain conference—the first phase of Trump's yet-to-be-unveiled "deal of the century"—is nothing of the sort. As Friedman told the *Times*, "It's unfair the way the Palestinians have described this as a bribe or as an attempt to buy off their national aspirations. It's not at all. It's an attempt to give life to their aspirations by creating a viable economy."

Further proof, if any were needed, that the Palestinian war against Israel is not about



US ambassador to Israel David Friedman speaks to members of the Christian press during an event in Jerusalem on October 14, 2018.

Photo: Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90

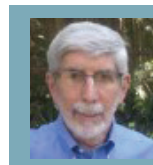
"aspirations."

Nor is it about real estate, as even Trump himself is coming to realize. Friedman undoubtedly has known this since well before he was appointed ambassador. Only someone who willfully ignores the content of Palestinian speeches, sermons, schoolbooks and media outlets could harbor fantasies to the contrary.

Friedman should not be fired for the way in which he serves his administration. He should be given a medal for constantly taking ill-deserved flak without flinching.

Ruthie Blum is an Israel-based journalist and author of *To Hell in a Handbasket: Carter, Obama, and the Arab Spring*.

## Returning to Jerusalem and Hebron



JEROLD AUERBACH  
BOSTON

Reflecting on ten days in Israel — all but one in Jerusalem and the other in Hebron — several experiences, shared with my son, will remain embedded in my memory. On the first day, following our tradition, Jeff and I went to the Kotel, the towering Western Wall that once enclosed the Temples on the mount above. The ancient Temples are long gone, replaced by the Muslim Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. But the sanctity of this place, and its enduring meaning through millennia of Jewish history, remains undiminished.

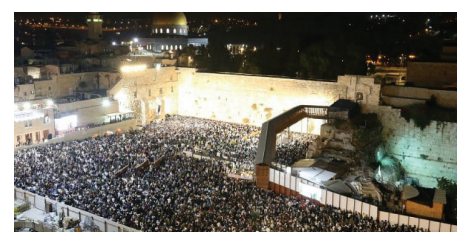
Worshippers (reciting morning prayers) and tourists (taking selfies with their backs to the Wall) came and went. As the sun — and heat — rose we went inside the corner arch that once provided a bridge to the Temple Mount. With its high ceiling and acoustic echoes, it has long been my place of refuge from heat, cold, or rain. There I have watched, listened, and reflected on the millennia of Jewish history that the Kotel has absorbed.

That morning the massive enclosure was unusually crowded. Jeff and I walked to the far end and sat behind a circle of two dozen young boys (perhaps seven years old), identically dressed in white shirts and dark pants, wearing black kippot, with their long pais dangled to their shoulders. Led by their bearded Hasidic rabbi — wearing the traditional black hat and long black coat — they davened enthusiastically and loudly, their

voices piercing and echoing through the high-ceiling chamber. Once their prayers ended they stood up, their chairs were removed, and they danced in a circle — singing, holding hands, pais flying. It was exciting and wonderful to experience.

Several days later, joined by my grandson Cole who studies at the Gush Etzion yeshiva, our guide drove us to Hebron. Looming before us was the towering stone Machpelah built by King Herod, burial site of the biblical patriarchs and matriarchs of the Jewish people. I have been there before, and was inspired to write a history of the Jewish presence in Hebron, long before Moslems claimed Machpelah for Islam. Following the Baruch Goldstein massacre (1994), Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, yielding to Muslim demands, restricted the magnificent Isaac Hall to Jews except for Shabbat Chaye Sarah (when I was twice there, once with my son) and half a dozen other holy days.

Looking at Jacob's tomb, behind steel bars, I was deeply moved. Tears came to my eyes as I thought of my grandfather Jacob, who I never saw (and left behind only one photo). Born thirteen years after his death, I was named after him. The circle of time was closed.



Jews praying at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. Photo: Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90.

Back in Jerusalem, on a very hot day, we took our farewell walk through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Jeff spotted a shop with a window display of beautiful mezuzahs and went inside to look. I waited outside, thirsty and without water in my bottle. Jeff asked the owner — a tall, husky bearded man wearing a kippa — if we could buy a bottle. He had no small bottles but took a large one from his refrigerator, came outside, opened it, and filled mine. After I expressed my gratitude he reminded us of the Biblical narrative of Abraham welcoming strangers into his tent. At that moment he became my Abraham.

On our last day in Jerusalem we returned to the Kotel for our farewell visit. Once again we were entranced by a group of young Haredi boys, enthusiastic in their prayers, their high voices echoing through the chamber. Watching and listening, I wondered if I might ever return. I noticed a Hasidic man across the cavern who had wedged himself as closely as possible to the Kotel while leaning against a beautifully ornate Aron. I wanted to take his place but he never moved during our half-hour stay — until, fortuitously, just before we were ready to leave. I quickly went to his vacated spot. There I felt enclosed by the Wall and the Aron as if I was part of them and they were part of me. I recited the Sh'ma and we departed.

I left Jerusalem with the joy of having once again shared it with my son — and the sorrowful realization that we might not return again together.

Jerold S. Auerbach is the author of *Print to Fit: The New York Times, Zionism and Israel, 1896-2016*.



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## World News.

# 'I Am Not Afraid': French Muslim Activist Latifa Ibn Ziaten Defiant After Antisemitic Slogans Scrawled on Her Home

BY BEN COHEN

A prominent French Muslim human rights activist has defiantly confronted the anonymous vandals who sprayed her house with violently antisemitic graffiti on Monday, telling them: "I am not afraid."

Latifa Ibn Ziaten was speaking to French media outlets on Tuesday, one day after she awoke to discover that her house in the city of Rouen had been daubed with slogans including, "Dirty Jew," and, "Jew Soon Dead."

The Moroccan-born Ibn Ziaten leapt to public attention in France in March 2012, when her son Imad — a sergeant in the French army — was murdered outside the city of Toulouse by the Islamist gunman Mohamed Merah. Sgt. Ibn Ziaten was the first of Merah's victims during an eight-day killing spree in which he murdered two other off-duty French soldiers and seriously wounded one more.

Merah's terrorist campaign infamously culminated at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish day school in Toulouse on March 9, where he executed at close range Rabbi Jonathan Sandler and his two sons Aryeh, 6, and Gabriel, 3, along with 8-year-old Miriam Monsonego. Following a three-day manhunt, Merah was killed by French police in a standoff at his apartment building in Toulouse.

Shortly after her son's death at Merah's hands, Ibn Ziaten — herself a devout Muslim — launched the "Imad Ibn Ziaten Youth Association for Peace," which works with young, disadvantaged French Muslims who are vulnerable to recruitment by radical Islamist groups. Among the many organizations to have recognized Ibn Ziaten's efforts was the Jewish



'Jews Will Soon Be Dead,' was among the antisemitic and hateful slogans scrawled on Latifa Ibn Ziaten's home. Photo: Twitter.

communal organization CRIF, which officially honored her in 2014.

After discovering the hateful slogans scrawled on her house on Monday — including one that taunted her with the words "Vive Merah" — Ibn Ziaten tweeted a photograph along with a message that declared, "Once again I am targeted."

Later on, Ibn Ziaten pledged to "continue the fight in memory of my son Imad."

"I will stand up to convey all the values he carried, respect and tolerance," his mother said.

Samia Maktouf, Ibn Ziaten's lawyer, said on Monday that she had requested the French Interior Ministry provide extra security for her client.

Among those declaring their solidarity with Ibn Ziaten was French President Emmanuel Macron.

"The perpetrators of these heinous acts will be punished, but they have already lost," Macron tweeted. "Because they cannot face the loving fight of a mother who has survived the worst. We are millions at your side."

economic war on Iran imposed by America."

"This war ... will never be beneficial for any country and the Iranian people will resist these pressures and bullying behaviors," Iran's state TV quoted Rouhani as saying.

Zarif said Iran would cooperate with the European Union to save the deal. "Reducing tension is only possible through stopping the economic war by America," he said. "Those who wage such wars cannot expect to remain safe."

Maas called on Iran to avoid an escalation and stick to its commitments from the nuclear deal. Otherwise, Tehran would risk further isolation on the international stage and more instability in the region, Maas warned in an interview with ZDF television, broadcast shortly after his return to Berlin on Monday evening.

#### Reduce tensions through dialogue

Amano said he was worried about increasing tensions over the nuclear issue. He added he hoped "that ways can be found to reduce the current tensions through dialogue. It is essential that Iran fully implements its nuclear-related commitments" under the deal.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortogus said the IAEA findings showed "that Iran is going in the wrong direction and it underscores the continuing challenge Iran poses to international peace and security."

Washington's European allies opposed its decision last year to abandon the nuclear deal, reached in 2015 between Iran and the United

# Labor Leader Avi Gabbay Says He Will Not Vie for Party Leadership Again



Labour Party leader Avi Gabay speaks during a press conference at the Labour Party offices in Tel Aviv in on Oct. 1, 2017. Photo: Tomer Neuberg/Flash90.

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/  
JNS.org

Labor leader Avi Gabbay will not seek to retain leadership of the party in next month's primary race, he announced on Tuesday.

"To my supporters, to my friends, to my partners and to my dear loved ones, I want to inform you that I will not be running for leadership of the party in the elections which will be held next month," Gabbay said on Facebook.

The decision, he said, was the next logical step in light of Labor's poor showing in the April 9 general election, which saw the party dwindle to just six mandates.

Labor's primary election is scheduled to take place on July 2.

Gabbay was reportedly offered a deal within the party whereby the No. 2 slot on its list would be reserved for him if he declined a primary run. The Labor central committee was

expected to vote on the proposal on Wednesday.

His announcement came a day after Knesset member Tal Russo, number two on Labor's Knesset slate and a key Gabbay ally, told supporters he was retiring from politics.

In a post on his Facebook page, Russo wrote: "I entered politics about four months ago with big plans to make changes in the Labor party and, no less, the State of Israel. In the reality in which we find ourselves, party primaries and the selection of a new party leader so close together do not allow me to do the things I so hoped to do. I do not want to be part of the battle for succession, so I'm revoking my candidacy for the position of Labor leader and from the list for the 22nd Knesset."

Russo expressed his thanks to the party members and to the "public at large" for their support.

"I will continue to work for the public good in other ways. Good luck to us all," he ended his message.

#### Continued from Page A1 Bahrain

Acceptance of the invitation to the conference by Jordan and Egypt will bring to the table two countries that border both Israel and Palestinian areas.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have previously confirmed their attendance, a White House official said.

The official declined to say what level of representation the countries would send. US officials have said they were inviting economic and finance ministers, as well as business leaders from the region and around the world.

Global financial bodies including the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank also plan to be present.

US officials have been vague about the timing for the second phase of their initiative, which would be the release of proposals for resolving the thorny political issues at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

With Israel heading for new elections in September after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to meet a deadline to form a government, uncertainty is expected to further delay the full release of the plan.

Most experts are skeptical the Trump administration can succeed where decades of US-backed efforts have failed.

States, Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China. They have promised to help Iran find other ways to trade, although with no success so far. All major European companies that had announced plans to invest in Iran have since called them off for fear of US punishment.

Iran says the Europeans have not done enough to provide it with alternative ways to trade.

"We have not seen any serious measures taken by the Europeans in the past year despite their fairly good political stance," Rouhani said.

Maas said there were limits to how much help the European countries could provide.

"We want to fulfill our obligations," Maas said during his news conference with Zarif. "We cannot work miracles, but we will try to avert a failure" of the nuclear deal.

France, Britain and Germany have set up a special-purpose vehicle called Instex, designed to allow payments to Iran that would legally bypass sanctions. It has yet to be launched.

It is a new instrument and not straightforward to put into effect, Maas told reporters,

adding: "But all the formal requirements are in place now, and so I'm assuming we'll be ready to use it in the foreseeable future."

Washington has denounced the European plans. Diplomats say the system is unlikely to have much impact on commercial business with Iran but could be used for humanitarian transactions that are permitted under US sanctions.

The State Department's Ortogus said the United States would not support any payment mechanism that allowed countries or businesses to conduct transactions with sanctioned Iranian entities.

Washington says the nuclear deal should be expanded to cover other issues including Iran's missile program and its role in wars in the region. European countries argue that while they share those concerns, it would be harder to address them without the nuclear deal in place.

Iran has ruled out any negotiation over its ballistic missile program and its activities in the Middle East, where Tehran has been involved in proxy wars with Saudi Arabia for decades.

#### Continued from Page A1 Enrichment

for monitoring Iranian compliance with the nuclear deal, said Iran was now producing more enriched uranium than before, but it was not clear when it might reach stockpile limits set in the pact.

"Yes, (the) production rate is increasing," he told a news conference when asked if enriched uranium production had accelerated since the agency's last quarterly report, which found Iran compliant with the nuclear deal as of May 20. He declined to quantify the increase.

Iran said last month it was still abiding by the deal but would quadruple its production of enriched uranium — a move that could take it out of compliance if stockpiles rise too far. It demanded European countries do more to shield it from sanctions.

On Monday, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas became the most senior Western official to visit Iran since the new war of words erupted last month between Washington and Tehran.

"The situation in the region here is highly explosive and extremely serious," Maas told a news conference alongside Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif. "A dangerous escalation of existing tensions can also lead to a military escalation."

In his meeting with Maas, President Hassan Rouhani blamed the United States for the soaring tension and called on the European signatories of the deal to "resist the



## World News.



A demo car with a solar roof by Israeli start-up Apollo Power, is seen during the inauguration of Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi's joint innovation lab in Tel Aviv, June 10, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Amir Cohen.

## Renault and Nissan Launch Innovation Lab in Tel Aviv

BY REUTERS  
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

Carmakers Renault and Nissan on Monday inaugurated a joint innovation laboratory in Tel Aviv, enabling their alliance to collaborate with Israeli start-ups.

The new operation, which has a partnership with the Israeli government's innovation authority, is focusing on sensors for autonomous driving, cyber security and big data.

It is testing and working on more than 10 projects with Israeli start-ups, including cybersecurity provider Argus, solar energy company Apollo Power and electrical propulsion system maker IRP Systems.

Renault-Nissan alliance officials in Israel downplayed reports of strained relations between the two carmakers since the arrest of former Chairman Carlos Ghosn in November.

"Today is a very good example of what we are doing together," Gaspar Gascon Abellan, the alliance's deputy executive vice president of engineering, told reporters.

"Speculation will run of course in the

future, but at the team levels what we see is that we are collaborating very tightly and closely to develop all the new technologies."

The lab will enable the start-ups to test their technologies in vehicles. Financial details were not disclosed.

The Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance has similar labs in Silicon Valley and in Shanghai.

"Through collaborations with promising local start-ups with cutting-edge technologies, we aim to develop a variety of key technologies that will be essential for the future of mobility," said Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, alliance executive vice president of engineering.

The new facility will also cooperate with the alliance's venture capital fund, which plans global investment up to \$1 billion over five years. It has invested in the Maniv Mobility fund in Israel though not in any local companies.

Christian Noske, direct investments director of Alliance Ventures, said the fund typically invests \$10 million per start-up and plans to invest in at least one Israeli business this year.

## Local Security Officials in Southern Israel Protest Lack of State Aid Amid Ongoing Incendiary Balloon Attacks From Gaza

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

Two hundred local security coordinators expressed anger and frustration over the ongoing arson terrorism against Israel's south and its effect on their communities at an emergency conference held on Tuesday.

Thousands of incendiary balloons have been launched at Israel from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip since the "March of Return" riots began last year. They have caused millions of dollars in damage to agricultural lands and nature reserves in southern Israel.

The security coordinators pledged to block roads leading to Gaza border crossings to protest against what they see as government inaction in response to the arson attacks and a general disregard for the security situation in the area, the Israeli news site Mako reported.

Sa'ar Margolis, the security coordinator of Kissufim, slammed the lack of aid southern

communities were receiving from the state, saying, "They expect us to go out into the inferno with no equipment, training, or insurance. We do everything in order to ensure security for our residents and receive what we deserve."

The security coordinator of Dekel, Nir Shurman, said the southern communities were "dealing with a variety of problems" including budget cuts and lack of resources to deal with the fires.

The Defense Ministry and the IDF Home Front Command recently undertook organizational changes and budget cuts to 430 security coordinators, sparking a massive backlash.

Of the planned protest, Shurman said, "We came to a decision that we will commence a struggle" that will include a campaign for "budgets, authority, and insurance."

"It cannot be that the army is sending us out to fight the fires without training," he added.

## Furor as Polish Soccer Association Celebrates 4-0 'Pogrom' Victory Over Israel in Euro Qualifier

BY BEN COHEN

Poland's national soccer association has defended its use of the word "pogrom" in a social media post during Monday's UEFA Championship qualifying game against Israel in Warsaw.

Israel was resoundingly defeated 4-0 in a disappointing performance at the National Stadium in the Polish capital. After midfielder Damian Kadzior scored the home team's fourth goal of the night six minutes before the final whistle, the Polish Football Association's social media team declared on Facebook: "Goooooal! This is already a pogrom! We are beating Israel 4-0!"

The word "pogrom" — derived from the Russian word "to destroy" — emerged in the late nineteenth century to describe the systematic explosions of mass violence targeting Jewish communities throughout Russia and Eastern Europe. Several pogroms took place on Polish territory from the 1880s onward, including what many historians say is the last such event to have occurred on European soil: the massacre of more than 40 Jews, many of whom had recently been liberated from Nazi concentration camps, in Kielce in July 1946.

Over the last two years, tensions have escalated between Poland's nationalist government, Israel and world Jewish organizations over legislation that any discussion of Polish collusion with the Nazi German authorities during the Holocaust.

But a spokesperson for the Polish Football Association (PZPN) insisted that the word "pogrom" was frequently used to



An Israeli soccer fan at Poland's National Stadium in Warsaw. Photo: Reuters / Kacper Pempel.

describe emphatic sports victories like the one over Israel on Monday.

"Maybe in this match, [the word 'pogrom'] was awkwardly used, because as you can see it raises unnecessary emotions, but that is in no way what we wanted," the PZPN's spokesperson, Jakub Kwiatkowski, told journalists on Tuesday.

One of Poland's leading anti-racism campaigners pointed out that the social media post was in sharp contrast to the tolerant atmosphere in the stadium.

"In contrast to the supporters good conduct, the use of the word 'pogrom' in a post about the game shows a complete lack of sensitivity in the Polish Football Association's communications department," Dr. Rafal Pankowski — head of the Polish "Never Again" Association — told *The Algemeiner* on Tuesday.

Pankowski said the post had "opened the floodgates to many more offensive comments about the game on social media using Holocaust imagery, jokes about 'gas,' and the like."

## At Tel Aviv Conference, Ford Chief Denies Company Is in Self-Driving Slow Lane

BY REUTERS  
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

Ford Motor Co may be taking a cautious approach to its autonomous driving program, but its chairman rejected claims that the US automaker was falling behind its peers.

"I don't agree," Bill Ford said at an auto tech conference in Tel Aviv on Tuesday when asked about losing market share.

"Our self-driving system, Argo, is incredibly competitive. On the technology side, we are right up there with the very best in terms of time of development but we want to take great care before we let people in these vehicles."

In Israel for the first time to launch an innovation center, Ford said the timing for marketing self-driving cars was unclear given that safety issues need to be resolved.

"We are dealing with people's lives. We have to be absolutely sure these are ready for prime time in all conditions," he told the EcoMotion conference.

The carmaker is working with several Israeli self-driving technology firms like Intel unit Mobileye.

Ford told Reuters that, ultimately, self-driving cars will come down to trust by

customers.

"It's unknown when the perception gets good enough that it is going to be ready for mass consumer adoption and that's the part I want to make sure we are incredibly comfortable with before we launch it," Ford said.

After Ford bought Argo AI, a Pittsburgh-based self-driving startup in 2017, the company has taken aim at providing autonomous vehicle services to multiple partners, who in turn would offer them to their customers under their own brand names.

But with spiraling development costs for autonomous cars in recent years, the company and other carmakers have sought alliances and outside investors.



A Ford Fusion hybrid, Level 4 autonomous vehicle, used by Ford Motor and Domino's Pizza to test a self-driving pizza delivery car in Michigan, Jan. 16, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Rebecca Cook / File.



U.S. News.

# Rep. Zeldin Expected to Reintroduce Anti-Semitism Awareness Act in Congress

BY JACKSON RICHMAN/JNS.org

U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) is expected to reintroduce the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act in the near future, a source with direct knowledge of the situation told JNS.

The congressman has been an outspoken critic of anti-Semitism, including from members of Congress such as Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.).

He is scheduled to announce his intention to reintroduce legislation that has been discussed in Congress, but not made it to the president's desk, at the annual "Ray of Light in the Darkness Dinner" sponsored by the Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET) on Wednesday.

The Senate version was reintroduced in March by Sens. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) and Bob Casey (D-Penn.).

If enacted, it would require the U.S. Department of Education to adopt the U.S. State Department's definition of anti-Semitism in evaluating incidents on college campuses and at other educational institutions.

"Anti-Semitism, and harassment on the basis of actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics with a religious group, remains a persistent, disturbing problem in elementary and secondary schools and on college campuses," the Senate bill states. "Students from a range of diverse backgrounds, including Jewish, Arab Muslim, and

# 'The New York Times' to Scrap Daily Political Cartoons Over Antisemitism Controversy

BY JNS.org

The international edition of The New York Times will no longer feature daily political cartoons, according to the paper's editorial-page editor James Bennet.

While Bennet says the policy change has been in the works for a year, one of the paper's leading cartoonists, Patrick Chappatte, said the decision was directly related to a public outcry against an April caricature of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a dog wearing a Star of David collar and seemingly guiding a blind US President Donald Trump, who was wearing a yarmulke.

"In April 2019, a Netanyahu caricature from syndication reprinted in the international editions triggered widespread outrage, a Times apology and the termination of syndicated cartoons," Chappatte said on his website. "Weeks later, my employers tell me they're ending political cartoons altogether by July. I'm putting down my pen, with a sigh: that's a lot of years of work undone by a single cartoon—not even mine—that should never have run in the best newspaper of the world."

The paper apologized for the offensive cartoon, but then days later published another cartoon featuring Netanyahu, this time with blacked-out eyes, holding a stone tablet emblazoned with a Star of David while appearing to take a selfie with a smartphone.

The decision to scrap the cartoons will come into effect on July 1, according to a statement by Bennet on Monday.



The offensive cartoon featured in the April 25th International Edition of The New York Times.

Sikh students, are being threatened, harassed, or intimidated in their schools (including on their campuses) on the basis of their shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics including through harassing conduct that creates a hostile environment so severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit some students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by schools."

In the past, while pro-Israel groups, including EMET, have supported the measure, organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union have opposed it.

Towards the end of last year, Scott sought to insert the measure as a rider into must-pass spending legislation. A 35-day government shutdown ensued, due to U.S. President Donald Trump not getting \$5 billion for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.



Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.). Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

The bill passed the Senate in 2016, but the House of Representatives did not take a vote due to time constraints.

Zeldin's office did not respond to a request for comment.

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## Opinion.

# With Amir Ohana, Israel Has Justice at Last



SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

The events of the past few weeks have commented cynically on the Israeli political system. After a bitter and turbulent election season, Prime Minister Netanyahu seemed to have defeated rivals on both sides of the spectrum, the State of Israel ready to depart electoral processes for real government action. During the coalition talks, however, former Minister of Defense Avigdor Liberman decided to cast himself as the wrench to ruin Bibi's political plans. Out of options, the prime minister called for yet another round of elections, less than two months after the last.

Israel's return to elections just weeks after the previous ones promotes the idea of a broken political system populated by politicians who are selfish, cynical, and uninspiring.

Which brings me to my friend Amir Ohana, who Netanyahu has just appointed Israel's justice minister.

Americans will never forget the cementing of American ideals in the addresses of Abraham Lincoln, nor the bold and fearless grin of Ronald Reagan in his confrontations with the Soviets, nor the vision-driven eyes of Bobby Kennedy, who took a bullet for Israel and whose assassination we marked last week. No revisionist historian, moreover, will ever erase the love and care that beamed forth from the eyes of Menachem Begin, nor the steel-set convictions showing through the war-wrinkled eyes of Rafael Eitan or Chaim Herzog. These were men for whom the power of political life was a side effect. What drove them was a burning love for their people, an inextinguishable connection to their land, and an intrinsic attachment to the values of the

states they served. These were the politicians who impart hope and not cynicism; leaders who earn the fixed gaze of their followers and not the rolling eyes of their constituents.

I first met Amir nearly four years ago. I had heard that Israel had just sworn in its first openly gay member of the Knesset to be elected in an open primary. I also heard that several MKs, critical of his being openly gay, had skipped his swearing-in ceremony. I blasted these MKs for offending a man who had given his life to the Jewish state. Amir spent 12 years in the IDF and the Shin Bet working tirelessly to protect lives from those who'd see Israeli streets run with Jewish blood. He also ran proudly with Likud, a party known for its warmth to religious communities and defined by potent Jewish pride. That Israel's first openly gay public representative would run with Likud, I argued, depicted not only Israel's political openness but also Ohana's decision to use conviction and belief — and not power or popularity — as his own political engines.

Most impressive about the episode was Ohana's calm response to it. He made no disparaging remarks and reacted not with anger but with a suggestion: "With regard to the issue of LGBT rights," he said, "it would be wonderful if their absence would continue."

Moved by his story, I invited Amir to accept the Defender of Israel Award at our organization's annual gala in New York City. He delivered a beautiful address, one that touched upon the American ideals of freedom and individuality and the Jewish ideals of defending our communities, our country, and our strong links with our past. All throughout, his voice reflected inner tones of love and authenticity.

In the years since my respect for Amir — both as a man and a politician — has grown.

As a politician, Amir has shown himself to be built from the most inflexible moral fiber. When it was announced that the Israeli Ministry for Diaspora Affairs would be distrib-

uting more than \$20 million to American Jewish campus groups which do nearly nothing to defend Israel on campus, I struggled to find a partner in the Knesset would who co-write an op-ed with me demanding anti-BDS action from groups receiving Israeli financial support. Few saw any political opportunity in taking on the American Jewish giants of Chabad and Hillel, especially over an issue few of their constituents were even aware of. Ohana saw things differently. Israel and the Jewish people were inseparable, and to promote one while ignoring the other will ensure the failure of both. It was here that I saw a man moved to act by a personal search for truth and justice, and not by sticking his sails into the nearest and quickest political winds.

Another example came to the fore when Israel finally took the critical step of passing a law naming it as the nation-state of the Jewish people. It was Amir who led the team that drafted the bill, which finally provided a firm legal bond between the Jewish people, their government, and their land. When, last month, a team of legal experts (among them a former Supreme Court justice) tried to disable the law with a clause on equality, Ohana struck back. Equality, Ohana insisted, would forever exist in Israel as it always has. But on the question of nationality, he simply would not budge. "To include equality in the law means that all nationalities are equal; but, that is not the case. Israel is the national homeland of the Jewish people."

I know Amir to be a man of humility and integrity, a warm and devoted friend. A few years ago, my children and I went to pray at the grave of Joshua, near Kifl Haris in Samaria. The tomb of Joshua, set in a place that is a death sentence for Jews to pray at without an escort of hundreds of IDF soldiers to protect them, attracts die-hard pilgrims. Joining me and my family that night was Amir Ohana. On the way back to Jerusalem, Amir turned to me and asked if we could stop by a beautiful



Portrait of Israeli Knesset member Amir Ohana. July 25, 2018. Photo: Miriam Alster/FLASH90.

spring not far from the highway. We were surrounded by Palestinian villages, but Amir assured me that everything was safe.

Once we arrived, my children (I have nine, Thank G-d) poured out of the van wondering why we'd stopped. Amir guided us toward some tables, before sitting atop one with an acoustic guitar that someone had brought along. What ensued was one of the most meaningful moments that my children and I have experienced in Israel: a member of the Knesset singing classic Jewish hymns at the opening of an ancient spring in the heart of our homeland under a moonlit sky.

As Amir sang these songs, I realized his real influence. It is not, as it is with most politicians, held within his mind, his strength, or in his skillfulness at political maneuvering. On the contrary, Amir's highest credit is far simpler. It is his love — his love for his land, his love for his faith, his love for his people.

When Moses was told by G-d to choose his own Ministers of Justice, he was given a rubric by which to select them. Absent from the list are law degrees and legislative experience; although, it must be mentioned, Amir has both. Also missing is a demand for academic brilliance, though Amir possesses this as well. What God does tell Moses is that he should appoint "men who fear God, trustworthy men, who hate dishonest gain."

Integrity and purity of heart frames a true pursuer of Justice. As Moses said, "Justice, justice shall you pursue." Amir will no doubt pursue this double dose of justice.

*Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom The Washington Post and Newsweek call "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. Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.*

## Democracies Like Israel Obey the Laws of Armed Conflict; Their Enemies Don't

JEROME MARCUS  
/JNS.Org

Do Jews really make matzah with the blood of Christian children? And does the army of the Jewish state really have a policy of committing, or even tolerating, war crimes?

Only the ignorant — often the willfully ignorant — think the answer to either of these questions is "yes." But while accurate information on the first issue is visible on the side of every box of Manischewitz matzah, most people don't have easy access to accurate data on the second question.

But the information exists. At an important program held by the IDF recently in Herzliya — the IDF's Third International

Conference on the Law of Armed Conflict — lawyers from the IDF were joined by more than 150 attorneys from the armies of 20-plus countries, as well as from the International Committee of the Red Cross and from law schools around the world, to discuss the current state of the Law of Armed Conflict.

The charge that the army of the Jewish state commits war crimes is a crucial tool in the hands of those who seek to delegitimize Israel and impair its ability to defend itself. Otherwise respectable organizations like Amnesty International, for example, call Israel a "chronic human-rights violator."

Israel's enemies partner with groups like Amnesty to breach the basic distinction that underlies the law of armed conflict: the divide between a soldier and a civilian.

At the border fence inside the Gaza Strip, and in every single attack on Israelis, no Arab attacker wears a uniform — the unique tool whose purpose is to enable

armies to identify a fighter, who can legally be shot, from a noncombatant, who is legally immune from the use of force. And the basic "military" strategy of Hamas and Hezbollah is to surround their fighters and weapons with civilians, and civilian buildings and resources, so as to insulate the fighters from attack by Israel's soldiers, who are trained to do what the law of armed conflict requires — distinguish between combatants and non-combatants, and to refrain from attacking the latter.

This, by the way, is why you so often see smoke in videos of the weekly riots at the Gaza fence. The smoke comes from tires that rioters set alight, and is generated precisely to impede the IDF's ability to see who is a civilian and who is a Hamas soldier throwing an IED or cutting the fence to enable Arab fighters to enter Israel.

That strategy of mixing fighters and weapons among women and children is the clearest and most outrageous possible violation of human rights. It breaches the rights of both the civilians used to surround the weapons and the civilians attacked by the weapons so surrounded. But it's a strategy that is somehow of little interest to Amnesty, the United Nations, or most other organizations that pretend to be interested in human rights.

This intentional blending of civilians and combatants is also the foundation stone of Islamist "military" strategy around the world, which is why the recent conference

was attended by so many lawyers from the armies of the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and all of the world's countries fighting ISIS and al-Qaeda, as well as the Iranian proxies and ISIS cells causing problems everywhere from Somalia and Paris to Argentina and Venezuela.

This strategic choice works, of course, and is a settled part of the Islamist playbook, only because the terrorists know that the Western countries they face do indeed obey the law of armed conflict and do indeed try hard to distinguish between fighters and civilians. That's the very reason why Islamists use their own people as human shields; the humans are only shields because the soldiers on the other side won't shoot at a civilian.

The conference focused on the details of this essential problem facing civilized armies — every one of which is from a Western country — who face an enemy that is delighted by the death of people on either side of the conflict between Islamism and its foes. When an Islamist terrorist kills non-Muslim civilians — Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu — the terrorist has achieved the goal of murdering infidels. If those infidels had the temerity to live on land claimed as *dar al Islam* (the holy territory of the Muslim *ummah*, "community"), then so much the better, whether that territory is Jerusalem or Kashmir or Madrid.

*Continued on Page A7*



## Opinion.

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Armed Conflict

And if the Western army responds or defends against terror and a civilian on the Islamist's own side is killed, why then a *shahid* ("martyr") has achieved paradise, and here on earth the terrorist has reaped a public-relations bonanza. For then the unarmed civilian, "murdered" by a well-equipped Western soldier, has created a photo to go with a news article claiming that the US military or the IDF or the British army has committed a war crime.

The accusation can have military effect: If that news article does its work, foolish Westerners, who live in democracies, will protest their government's "evil" tactics. Or they will fuel attacks on the tactics of some other law-abiding nation, such as the United States or Israel, both of which are the objects of attention from the International Criminal Court on these issues. If those protests and legal challenges are effective, the Western army's response tomorrow may be more limited, so the next terrorist can even more safely operate the rocket launcher he's set up in a nursery-school playground.

This is the background against which the IDF held its recent Law of Armed Conflict conference. Unlike the typical newscaster or woolly-minded academic, the army lawyers and scholars who attended this conference understand that the law of war does not prevent effective defense against the illegal blending of combatants and non-combatants that lies at the heart of terrorist strategy. They understand that if a school playground is used as a fire-base, then it has been militarized and has become a legitimate military target. The law of war was indeed violated in this scenario — not by the targeting, but by the decision to transform a civilian site into a military location. These lawyers know that destruction of the playground rocket-launcher is a legitimate military objective, and that collateral



The scene where an apartment building was hit by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip in Ashkelon, southern Israel, on May 5, 2019. Photo: Noam Rivkin Fenton/Flash90.

damage to the school, so long as it's no greater than necessary to achieve that military objective, is entirely legal under the law of armed conflict. It's the planting of the rocket launcher between the swing set and the jungle gym that constitutes the war crime.

One important set of facts emphasized by the Law of Armed Conflict is the nature of the training the IDF provides on the subject to its soldiers. Every Israeli soldier learns about the distinction between combatants and non-combatants, and about the duty to protect the latter while attacking the former. IDF instructors train every combat soldier, and IDF lawyers teach every commander, starting at the platoon level and going all the way up to the general staff, how the law of war governs what they do. Teaching its soldiers what is required by the Law of Armed Conflict is an essential tool that civilized armies use to ensure that those armies comply with the law.

One wonders whether Amnesty International knows — or even wants to know — about the vigorous programs run by the IDF to ensure its soldiers follow the law. One might also wonder where Hamas locates its schools for teaching about the Law of Armed Conflict. They're probably somewhere between the swing set and the jungle gym.

*Jerome M. Marcus is a lawyer and a fellow at the Kohelet Policy Forum in Jerusalem.*

## Why Is the PA So Opposed to the Bahrain Conference?

PINHAS INBARI/  
JNS.org

The Palestinian Authority's Labor Ministry is currently busy slandering Israel to the United Nations International Labor Organization, accusing it of robbing Palestinians working in Israel proper of their rights.

Besides being outrageous — they should be thanking Israel for taking security risks to employ PA citizens, something the failing PA is either unable or unwilling to do — this incident also reveals the true reason the PA is so opposed to the upcoming US-sponsored economic conference in Bahrain.

The UN framework includes most of the international organizations that have an automatic majority against Israel. By relying on this framework, the PLO has hoped to force Israel to make concessions it otherwise would not, for example with regard to the 1967 borders or the refugee question.

US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman's recent remarks on Israeli claims in Judea and Samaria only intensified Palestinian concerns regarding the loss of a primary lever for putting pressure on Israel, specifically, the United Nations and the international organizations connected with it.

The Bahrain conference is a regional framework outside the parameters of the UN. Therefore, Palestinian participation in it would be tantamount to an admission that the PLO's UN strategy has failed.

Furthermore, the Bahrain conference will focus on the Arab and Palestinian private sector. The private sector is perceived as having interests contrary to the "national interest" of the "Palestinian struggle." The private sector wants stability. The "struggle" seeks instability.

The PLO has launched a series of "emergency meetings" on the issue. Palestinian diplomats are trying to rally the support of the countries in the United Nations, in the "third world," China, and Russia, and are also seriously considering issuing a denunciation of the Arab countries supporting US President Donald Trump. However, they are very wary of displaying open discord with these Arab countries.

Another option to be discussed by the Palestinian Authority is a return to the Arab "masses" exerting pressure on their leadership.

The Bahrain assembly needs to inform the "Palestinian leadership" that the "Arab masses" have other troubles, and are no longer interested in the Palestinians.

*Pinhas Inbari is a veteran Arab affairs correspondent who formerly reported for Israel Radio and Al Hamishmar newspaper. He currently serves as an analyst for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.*

## Kushner Confronts Palestinians With the Truth

YONI BEN MENACHEM/  
JNS.org

Asked in an interview whether he believes the Palestinians are capable of governing themselves, US senior presidential adviser Jared Kushner said, "That's a very good question. That's one that we'll have to see. The hope is that over time they can become capable of governing." Kushner's words are raising a storm among Palestinian Authority (PA) leaders.

When asked whether he understands why the Palestinians do not trust him, Kushner replied: "I am not here to be trusted." He added that he believed the Palestinians would judge the Trump administration's Mideast peace plan based on if they think it "will allow them to have a pathway to a better life or not."

Kushner refused to say whether the US peace plan would include the two-state solution.

"I do think they [the Palestinians] should have self-determination. I'm going to leave the details until we come out with the actual plan," Kushner said.

In response, senior PLO official Saeb Erekat called on the Arab countries to boycott Kushner.

"He pays no attention to the Palestinians and has isolated himself from having any role in the peace process. Once again, I call on the Arab brothers not to talk to the group of settlers [Kushner, US Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt, and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman] who are planning on helping the settlers flourish on our backs," Erekat said.

Jared Kushner did not hesitate to put the truth right the Palestinians' face. This despite the Palestinians' unyielding demands for a Palestinian state inside the 1967 lines, with eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

Kushner's words scored a direct hit on the heart of Palestinian national aspirations. Ever since the "declaration of independence" of the Palestine National Council in Algiers in 1988, the PLO has been confident that it already is a state for all intents and purposes. The frustration and despair of senior PA officials grow as the US-sponsored June 25-26 economic workshop in Bahrain draws closer.

Erekat's call for the Arab states to boycott the three US government officials will fall on deaf ears. The three are supposed to play starring roles alongside the representatives of the Arab countries at the Bahrain workshop.

Kushner simply stated what many Arab leaders believe but do not dare say. They too are familiar with Abbas' decadent, corrupt government, which operates like the Sicilian mafia. The corruption was also widespread when Yasser Arafat was in power.

Similarly, the Hamas regime in the Gaza Strip is incorrigibly corrupt. It is run by a gang of terrorists that founded a terrorist state in Gaza after violently expelling the Palestinian Authority in 2007.

Kushner's remarks more than suggest that the US peace plan is based on the principles of "economic peace" that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been preaching since 2008.

What Kushner did not mention was

the security aspect. Hamas established an extremist Islamic emirate in the Gaza Strip. This Islamic emirate calls for the destruction of Israel and is loyal to Iran. Kushner did not elaborate on the fear that the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank may lead to a Hamas takeover, and that for this reason, Israel is only willing to give the Palestinians their own government, or a "state-minus." Israel is not willing to risk losing control of security in the West Bank.

Abbas said he was encouraged by the decisions of the Islamic Conference and the Arab summit that he took part in early June. He received official backing for his views on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the re-adoption of the Arab Peace Initiative. But how much of the support he received was genuine and how much was lip service?



White House senior adviser Jared Kushner speaks at a Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP) event in Washington, DC, May 2, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Yuri Gripas.

The Trump government is determined to hold the economic workshop in Bahrain. It is supposed to be the first stage of the US administration's "deal of the century." The economic workshop is supposed to be a demonstration of normalization between the Arab states and Israel. To Abbas' dismay, this quiet, behind-the-scenes normalization has already begun to manifest, and he can do nothing to prevent it.

There is another truth the Palestinians need to hear: They need to become more grounded in reality. Palestinian society is divided and unable to reach national reconciliation. The separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continues. The PA is experiencing a severe financial crisis. The Gaza Strip continues to oscillate between calm and conflict.

Seventy-one years have passed since the establishment of the state of Israel. The Palestinians call this event the "*Nakba*." The Palestinian generation of 1948 is disappearing. The United States may plan to eliminate UNRWA and announce the resettlement of the refugees in the Arab countries where they live. If the Palestinians entirely reject the US Mideast peace plan, Israel is expected to receive a green light from the administration to apply Israeli law over the "green line."

Abbas is not a charismatic leader. He is not capable of political maneuvering and redeeming the Palestinians from their crises. He is the prisoner of his preconceptions and desires to step down from his post a national hero. There is no charismatic Palestinian leader on the horizon.

*Yoni Ben Menachem, a veteran Arab affairs and diplomatic commentator for Israel Radio and Television, is a senior Middle East analyst for the Jerusalem Center. He served as director general and chief editor of the Israel Broadcasting Authority.*



## Impressions.

# How Gaza's Past Reflects Gaza's Present

BY DANY SHOHAM

The first Philistines (not to be confused with present-day Palestinians) were invaders originating from Kaphtor (Cyprus or Crete), who arrived on the Gaza coast — close to Gar Stream. They were aggressive and determined. After establishing a foothold in the territory, they gradually moved northward to Sorek Stream and beyond. Biblical Philistia contained the “Five Lords of the Philistines” (from south to north): Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath (between Kiryat Gat and Beit Shemesh of today), Ashdod, and Ekron (near today's Kiryat Ekron).

During the most recent round of fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza (May 2019), Hamas frequently targeted Ashkelon, Kiryat Gat, Beit Shemesh, Ashdod, and Kityat Ekron. Their aim, as ever, was to kill Jewish civilians, though this time their further purpose was to condense their barrages in an effort to overwhelm the Iron Dome defense system. This was not the first time that Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, has targeted Gush Dan over the past decade.

There is a powerful historical echo to these clashes. The Biblical tribe of Dan, who were of course Israelites, dwelt for years directly in front of Northern Philistia, domain to domain, head to head. The Philistines of the time monopolized the iron industry and managed to prohibit the production of common weapons by the Israelites, compelling the Judges who fought them — Shamgar ben Anath and Samson — to employ unusual means. Shamgar ben Anath temporarily saved the Israelites by killing 600 Philistines with an ox goad, for example.

While the tribal origin of Shamgar ben Anath is unknown, Samson — who embodied supreme physical might and spiritual boldness — was from the tribe of Dan. The treatise of Samson's confrontations with the Philistines is among the most impressive in the Bible, and underscores his creative tactical and strategic thinking.

Samson “smote [the Philistines] hip on thigh”; he “caught 300 foxes, attached flaming torches to their tails, let them loose within the Philistines' fields, and thus burned all their harvest”; and he “found a donkey jawbone, with which he hit 1,000 Philistines.” The Gazans eventually succeeded, with the help of Delilah, in exhausting Samson and forcing his surrender, but he collapsed the temple of Dagon in Gaza on top of them all, killing himself and thousands of Philistines along with him.

This was by no means the end of the Israelites' trouble with the Philistines. They expanded outward from Philistia, arriving at Shiloh in the domain of the tribe of Ephraim, and placed garrison forces at Mikhmash and Geva in the domain of the tribe of Benjamin. The first king of the Israelites, Saul, who was affiliated with the tribe of Benjamin, rebelled against the Philistines. In the process, he became the first to establish an orderly army for the Israeli people, headed by Avner ben Ner. Saul struck the Philistines in Mikhmash, and his son Jonathan hit them in Geva. Saul hit Ammon, Moav, Tsova, and Amalek as well, but was eventually defeated by the Philistines.

Prior to his becoming king, David volunteered to face Goliath the Philistine, a formidable giant who was terrorizing the Israelites. By means of an incredibly simple weapon, his shepherd's slingshot, David delivered a stone directly at the forehead of Goliath — his only exposed part — and killed him. The horrified Philistines fled, and the Israeli army plundered their camps.

When David was a king in Hebron, the Philistines dominated appreciable territories outside of Philistia. When he came to rule his kingdom in Jerusalem, however, he made a point of pushing the Philis-

tines back into Philistia. But while David's kingdom extended up to Sidon and included a considerable portion of what was eventually to be called Transjordan, it did not encompass any of Philistia itself. The five Lords of the Philistines remained intact.

That state of affairs continued until 770 BC, when King Uzziah of Judea captured Gath and Ashdod, came to Yavne, and built settlements and strongholds along the sea coast. He did not capture Ashkelon or Gaza (and apparently did not try to). This conquest endowed Uzziah with the ability to monitor transactions not only at the seaports, but also along part of the Philistia pathway between Egypt and Israel. Thanks to this advantage, plus the dominance he attained in Kadesh and Eilat, Uzziah gained control over the route on which goods moved between the Eilat Bay head and Philistia. He was also able to monitor routes connecting Philistia with the Arab Peninsula countries and to control land trade routes from Egypt northward, to Philistia and beyond.

Jonathan the Hasmonean conquered Gaza in 145 BC, but did so as a governor nominated by the Seleucid Empire, not as an independent entity. In 101 BC, Alexander Jannaeus conquered Gaza — following a year of blockade — after taking Anthedon (between Gaza and Ashkelon), Rafah, and Rhinokoroura (now el-Arish).

Four years later, Alexander Jannaeus was ordered to destroy Gaza — a port city and an important international trading crossroads — rather than use it. The object was to choke off Gazan trading by isolating it from the sea and thereby strengthen the trading power of Judea. In doing this, he avoided harming nearby Ashkelon in deference to the alliance between that city and the Ptolemaic dynasty, which helped Judea maintain good relations with Egypt and Cleopatra the Third.

After the suppression of the Bar Kokhba Revolt in 135 CE — and despite the fact that the territories of Philistia were not included within the rebellion areas — the Romans changed the name of the province of Judea to Syria-Palestina, from which the modern-day name “Palestine” originated.

Toward the end of the Hasmonean era, a Jewish community was initiated in Gaza that experienced ups and downs until its final destruction, during the 1929 pogroms. During the Talmudic era, there was a Hebrew village in the heart of the Gaza Strip, between Gaza and Khan-Younes. In this village dwelt the Tanna Rabbi Eliezer Ben Yitzhak of Kfar Darom. Many years later, a renewed Kfar Darom, together with Gush Katif, housed a considerable Jewish population in the Gaza Strip, where they were met with increasing Arab terrorism.

The foreign rulers who occupied the land of Israel, from the Assyrians to the British, were also exposed to the challenges of Gaza. During the Christianizing of the Empire of Byzantium, for example, Gaza adamantly resisted pressure to give up its culture and pagan religion. Only by force did the central government in Byzantium succeed in imposing Christianity as the predominant religion in Gaza. The troops of the British Empire too had a long and difficult fight with the locals on their hands before they managed to take Gaza from the Ottomans in 1917.

During the Israeli War of Independence (1948), the Egyptian army succeeded in advancing along the coastal plain up to Ashdod, but was halted at the Ad-Halom Bridge. Operation Yoav, which included a combination of offensive ground, aerial, and marine activity, pushed the Egyptian army into a southward retreat, bringing Israeli dominance to Ashdod and Ashkelon in October 1948. The Gaza Strip remained in Egyptian hands. After the war, Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip but did not regard it as Egyptian territory, choosing instead to establish a military administration there.

In 1967 (and, indeed, in 1956 as well), the IDF conquered the Gaza Strip from Egypt — but at the southern entrances of Gaza a severe battle took place between the city's defenders, affiliated with the “Palestinian” 20th division of the Egyptian army, and the IDF. On the morning of June 6, after the Israeli Air Force bombed targets in Gaza, Israeli troops attacked from the east. In parallel, after facing fierce resistance in the Khan-Younes area, another Israeli force maneuvered northward. By noon, the conquest of Gaza was completed.

Gaza City was used as the chief command station of the IDF troops occupying the Strip from 1967 through 1994. With the exception of 1970-71, when the PLO managed to stir up a terrorist wave that was swiftly suppressed by the Israeli security forces, the Strip was relatively calm until December 1987, when the intifada broke out with the city as one of its foci. During the intifada, which lasted until the signing of the Oslo Accords in the autumn of 1993, Gaza's



Rockets are fired from Gaza toward Israel, May 5, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Suhaib Salem.

economic situation deteriorated due to limitations imposed on Gazans' movement into Israel.

In 1994, as part of the Oslo Accords, Israel ended its control of the Palestinian population of Gaza, which came under the rule of the newly established PLO-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA). PLO Chairman and PA President Yasser Arafat set up headquarters in Gaza, and the first session of the Palestinian National Council (the PLO's semi-parliament) in PA-held territory took place there in March 1996.

In the summer of 2005, Israel completed its disengagement from Gaza by unilaterally removing the 8,000 residents of the dozen Israeli villages that had existed in the southern tip of the Strip for decades, prompting a painful dispute inside Israel. In 2007, Hamas, which had won the first-ever parliamentary Palestinian elections the previous year, forcibly seized control of the Strip from the PLO/PA. In response, Israel declared the Strip a “hostile entity.”

In the 12 years that have passed since 2007, many changes have taken place in the Gaza Strip of varying degrees of significance — but the ancient core embodying Gaza, the last of the Five Lords of the Philistines, remains in place. While the Strip's current inhabitants are not descended from ancient non-Arab Philistines, they bring Gaza's ancient past — and its intractable resistance to peaceable co-existence with the Jewish state — into the present.

*Lt. Col. (res.) Dr. Dany Shoham, a microbiologist and an expert on chemical and biological warfare in the Middle East, is a senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. He is a former senior intelligence analyst in the IDF and the Israeli Defense Ministry.*

*A version of this article was originally published by The BESA Center.*



# Legal Notice.

## LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: THAT GUY'S GARAGE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 02/13/2019 . 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: Mark Russell 52 Dean Street, 4F Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 5/10/17/24/31; 6/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: KMC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 04/10/2019. 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: KMC property management LLC 1005 Broadway Brooklyn, NY 11221. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 5/10/17/24/31; 6/7/14

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: LNVN PROPERTIES, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 05/09/2019. 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: Michael D. Sweet, Esq. Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy, P.C. One Monarch Place, Suite 1900, Springfield, MA 01144. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 5/17/24/31; 6/7/14/21

File No. 2018-3288(B) PROBATE CITATION ESTATE OF JOSEF GRILICHES SURROGATE'S COURT - NEW YORK COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO SOLOMON ABRAMOWITZ nee ABRAMAVICIUS; BENNO ABRAMOWITZ nee ABRAMAVICIUS; LOUISE ABRAMS nee ABRAMOWITZ 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 he/she/they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to his/her/their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Josef Griliches, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are. unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained and THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF NEW YORK COUNTY A petition having been duly filed by JAY GARREL, who is domiciled at 575 Grant Place, Cedarhurst, New York 11516 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court New York County, at 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007 on July 17th, Room 509, 2019 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of JOSEF GRILICHES lately domiciled at 211 E. 79th Street, New York, NY 10075 admitting to probate a Will

## LEGAL NOTICE

dated September 1, 1973, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of JOSEF GRILICHES, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters of Administration c.t.a. issue to JAY GARREL Dated, Attested and Sealed May 10, 2019 HON. Nora S. Anderson, Surrogate Diana Sanabria Chief Clerk MARTIN S. DORFMAN 100 CROSSWAYS PARK W., SUTIE 201, WOODBURY, NY 11797 (516) 802-0878 [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by Jaw. 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; 5//24/31; 6/7/14

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff against ROSA ELISA PEREZ A/K/A ROSA E. PEREZ A/K/A ROSA PEREZ, 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 July 25, 2016, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201 on June 27, 2019 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 239 Cooper Street, Brooklyn, NY. Block 3436 Lot 40. 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. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$205,480.95 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 512109/14. Julie Ann Clark, Esq., Referee CHJNC328  
AJ; 5//24/31; 6/7/14

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank NA, successor trustee to Bank of America, NA, successor in interest to LaSalle Bank NA, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, WMALT Series 2006-8, Plaintiff AGAINST Eric D. Ganes, individually and as surviving joint tenant of Delia Curtis, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 10/10/2018 and entered on 10/18/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on June 27, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 245 E 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 County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4851, LOT: 40. Approximate amount of judgment is \$780,358.49 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 505910/2015. Steven Z. Naiman, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706  
AJ; 5//24/31; 6/7/14

ALTERARC ARCHITECTURE, PLLC, a Prof. LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/02/2019. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 239 Dekalb Ave., Apt 1, Brooklyn, NY 11205. Purpose: To Practice The Profession Of Architecture.  
AJ; 5//24/31; 6/7/14

## 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 June 27, 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: April 10, 2019  
AJ; 5//24/31; 6/7/14

ACCOUNTING CITATION File No. 2016-2304/A SURROGATE'S COURT - BRONX COUNTY - CITATION - THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent, TO: Richard J. Leibowitz; Kara L. Huff; Phyllis Michelle Kalevik; David M. Leibowitz; Attorney General of the State of New York; and The unknown distributees, next of kin and heirs at law of ROBERT GRANT a/k/a ROBERT RAYMOND LEIBOWITZ, deceased, if living, or if dead, to their respective distributees, next of kin, heirs at law, legatees, devisees, beneficiaries, fiduciaries, assignees, creditors or other successors in interest, whose names and post office addresses are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence; A Petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of the County of Bronx, having offices at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 336, Bronx, New York 10451; YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court of the State of New York, Bronx County, at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 406, Bronx, New York 10451 on July 16, 2019 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why the Court should not grant the following relief: (1) that the account of the Public Administrator of the County of Bronx, a summary of which will be served therewith, as Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT GRANT a/k/a ROBERT RAYMOND LEIBOWITZ, deceased, who at the time of his death was a domiciliary of 3010 Grand Concourse, 3N, Bronx, NY, be judicially settled; (2) that legal fees of \$6,286.67 as listed in Schedule C-1 of the account, of which \$3,143.33 will be paid upon the completion of jurisdiction herein and the remaining \$3,143.34 will be paid upon the entry of a Decree herein, to Rodman & Campbell, P.C. as attorneys for the Public Administrator be allowed; (3) that the Administrator be allowed its statutory charges calculated pursuant to SCPA 1106(3); (4) that the commissions calculated pursuant to SCPA 2307 and 1106 (1) & (2), in the approximate amount of \$5,191.12, be allowed; (5) that, in the absence of anyone appearing and filing objections hereto, the entire net estate be paid to NYC Commissioner of Finance f/b/o unknown distributees; (6) that, in the event objections are filed herein, the Court hold a hearing to establish the identity of the decedent's distributees and grant pursuant to SCPA 2225 if appropriate; (7) that such other and

## LEGAL NOTICE

further relief as the Court may deem just and proper be granted. Dated, Attested and Sealed, May 14, 2019. HON. NELIDA MALAVE-GONZALEZ - Surrogate. Michael P. Hausler, Chief Clerk. Attorney for Petitioner(s): RODMAN AND CAMPBELL, P.C. Address of Attorney: 1428 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, New York 10469 Tel. No. (718) 882-2681 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-at-law appear for you.  
AJ; 6/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS US Bank National Association, as Trustee for Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust, Inc. 2006-HE2, Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-HE2, Plaintiff AGAINST Ruby Murray; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 30, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 11, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 268 East 39th 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 4892 Lot 16. Approximate amount of judgment \$795,294.89 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 4945/2013. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: May 24, 2019 63565  
AJ; 6/7/14/21/28

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 2006-9, Plaintiff AGAINST Todd Milner; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 31, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 11, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 619 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238-4129. 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 1155 Lot 6. Approximate amount of judgment \$822,695.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 500138/2015. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: May 6, 2019 63116  
AJ; 6/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Bank of America, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Henry Bell; Valencia E. Bell; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 17, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 11, 2019

## LEGAL NOTICE

at 2:30PM, premises known as 1604 East 94th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8296 Lot 52. Approximate amount of judgment \$443,152.18 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 1691/2013. Philip Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: April 30, 2019 63071  
AJ; 6/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. MOSES FRIEDRICH, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Vacate Disposal and Upon Vacature of Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on November 9, 2018, and an Order Extending Time to Set Sale duly filed on April 1, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 18, 2019 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 112 Middleton Street, Unit 3, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Kings, County of Kings and State of New York, Block 2241 and Lot 1303 together with an undivided 25 percent interest in the Common Elements. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 11033/13. Zvi Storch, Esq., Referee Berkman, Henoeh, Peterson, Peddy & Fenchel, P.C., 100 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530, Attorneys for Plaintiff  
AJ; 6/14/21/28; 7/5

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, AS TRUSTEE FOR NORMANDY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2017-1, Plaintiff, vs. DASHA J. ARKLIS, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to an Order Amending the Caption, Confirming Referee's Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on May 20, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 18, 2019 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 2964 Brighton 6th Street, Unit 6B, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 8665 and Lots 1113 & 1118 together with an undivided 5.03 (Unit) percent and 0.72 (Parking Space) percent interest in the Common Elements. Approximate amount of judgment is \$835,821.29 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 511621/2014. Aaron D. Maslow, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted.  
AJ; 6/14/21/28; 7/5

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings US Bank National Association as Trustee for CMALT REMIC Series 2007-A5-REMIC Pass-Through Certificates Series 2007-A5,  
*Continued on Page A10*



## Tradition.

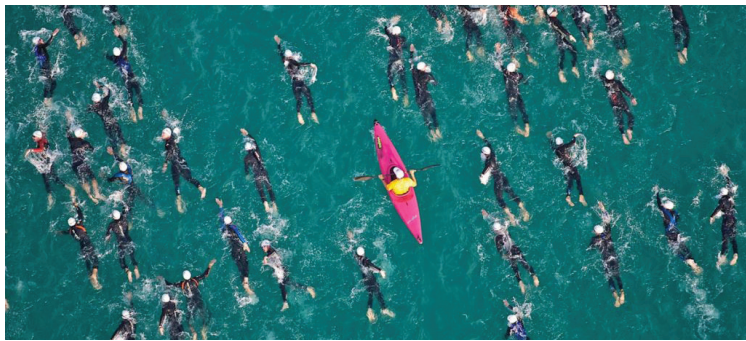
## Legal Notice.

## Sages and Saints



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

Parshat Naso contains the law of the Nazirite – the individual who undertook to observe special rules of holiness and abstinence: not to drink wine or other intoxicants (including anything made from grapes), not to have his hair cut, and not to defile himself by contact with the dead (Num. 6:1–21). Such a state was usually undertaken for a limited period; the standard length was thirty days. There were exceptions, most famously Samson and Samuel who, because of the miraculous nature of their birth,



were consecrated before their birth as Nazirites for life.

What the Torah does not make clear, though, is firstly why a person might wish to undertake this form of abstinence, and secondly whether it considers this choice to be commendable, or merely permissible. On the one hand the Torah calls the Nazirite “holy to God” (Num. 6:8). On the other, it requires him, at the end of the period of his vow, to bring a sin offering (Num. 6:13–14).

This led to an ongoing disagreement between the Rabbis in Mishnaic, Talmudic, and medieval times. According to R. Elazar, and later to Nahmanides, the Nazirite is praiseworthy. He has voluntarily undertaken a higher level of holiness. The prophet Amos (2:11) said, “I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and your young men for Nazirites,” suggesting that the Nazirite, like the prophet, is a person especially close to God. The reason he had to bring a sin offering was that he was now returning to ordinary life. His sin lay in ceasing to be a Nazirite.

Eliezer HaKappar and Shmuel held the opposite opinion. For them the sin lay in becoming a Nazirite in the first place and thereby denying himself some of the pleasures of the world God created and declared good. R. Eliezer added: “From this we may infer that if one who denies himself the enjoyment of wine is called a sinner, all the more so one who denies himself the enjoyment of other pleasures of life.”

Clearly the argument is not merely textual. It is substantive. It is about asceticism, the life of self-

denial. Almost every religion knows the phenomenon of people who, in pursuit of spiritual purity, withdraw from the pleasures and temptations of the world. They live in caves, retreats, hermitages, monasteries. The Qumran sect known to us through the Dead Sea Scrolls may have been such a movement.

In the Middle Ages there were Jews who adopted similar kinds of self-denial – among them the Chasidei Ashkenaz, the Pietists of Northern Europe, as well as many Jews in Islamic lands. In retrospect it is hard not to see in these patterns of behaviour at least some influence from the non-Jewish environment. The Chasidei Ashkenaz who flourished during the time of the Crusades lived among self-mortifying Christians. Their southern

counterparts may have been familiar with Sufism, the mystical movement in Islam.

The ambivalence of Jews towards the life of self-denial may therefore lie in the suspicion that it entered Judaism from the outside. There were ascetic movements in the first centuries of the Common Era in both the West (Greece) and the East (Iran) that saw the physical world as a place of corruption and strife. They were, in fact, dualists, holding that the true God was not the creator of the universe. The physical world was the work of a lesser, and evil, deity. Therefore God – the true God – is not to be found in the physical world and its enjoyments but rather in disengagement from them.

The two best-known movements to hold this view were Gnosticism in the West and Manichaeism in the East. So at least some of the negative evaluation of the Nazirite may have been driven by a desire to discourage Jews from imitating non-Jewish practices. Judaism strongly believes that God is to be found in the midst of the physical world that He created that is, in the first chapter of Genesis, seven times pronounced “good.” It believes not in renouncing pleasure but in sanctifying it.

What is much more puzzling is the position of Maimonides, who holds both views, positive and negative, in the same book, his law code the Mishneh Torah. In Hilchot Deot, he adopts the negative position of R. Eliezer HaKappar:

A person may say: “Desire, honour, and the like are bad paths to follow and remove a person

from the world; therefore I will completely separate myself from them and go to the other extreme.” As a result, he does not eat meat or drink wine or take a wife or live in a decent house or wear decent clothing.... This too is bad, and it is forbidden to choose this way.

Yet in Hilchot Nezirut he rules in accordance with the positive evaluation of R. Elazar: “Whoever vows to God [to become a Nazirite] by way of holiness, does well and is praiseworthy.... Indeed Scripture considers him the equal of a prophet.” How does any writer come to adopt contradictory positions in a single book, let alone one as resolutely logical as Maimonides?

The answer lies in a remarkable insight of Maimonides into the nature of the moral life as understood by Judaism. What Maimonides saw is that there is not a single model of the virtuous life. He identifies two, calling them respectively the way of the saint (chassid) and the way of the sage (chacham).

The saint is a person of extremes. Maimonides defines chessed as extreme behaviour – good behaviour, to be sure, but conduct in excess of what strict justice requires. So, for example, “If one avoids haughtiness to the utmost extent and becomes exceedingly humble, he is termed a saint [chassid].”

The sage is a different kind of person altogether. He or she follows the “golden mean,” the “middle way,” the way of moderation and balance. He or she avoids the extremes of cowardice on the one hand, recklessness on the other, and thus acquires the virtue of courage. He or she avoids miserliness in one direction, prodigality in the other, and instead chooses the middle way of generosity. The sage knows the twin dangers of too much and too little, excess and deficiency. He or she weighs the conflicting pressures and avoids the extremes.

These are not just two types of person but two ways of understanding the moral life itself. Is the aim of the moral life to achieve personal perfection? Or is it to create gracious relationships and a decent, just, compassionate society? The intuitive answer of most people would be to say: both. What makes Maimonides so acute a thinker is that he realises that you cannot have both – that they are in fact different enterprises.

A saint may give all his money away to the poor. But what about the members of the saint’s own family? They may suffer because of his extreme self-denial. A saint may refuse to fight in battle. But what about the saint’s country and its defence? A saint may forgive all crimes committed against him. But what then about the rule of law, and justice? Saints are supremely virtuous people, considered as individuals. Yet you cannot build a society out of saints alone. Indeed, saints are not really interested in society. They have chosen a different, lonely, self-segregating path. I know no moral philosopher who makes this point as clearly as

## LEGAL NOTICE

*Continued from Page A9*

Plaintiff AGAINST Junior Newton, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/17/2019 and entered on 5/28/2019, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 18, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 864 Euclid Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 4505, LOT: 119. Approximate amount of judgment is \$585,352.63 plus interests and

Maimonides – not Plato or Aristotle, not Descartes or Kant.

It was this deep insight that led Maimonides to his seemingly contradictory evaluations of the Nazirite. The Nazirite has chosen, at least for a period, to adopt a life of extreme self-denial. He is a saint, a chassid. He has adopted the path of personal perfection. That is noble, commendable, and exemplary. That is why Maimonides calls him “praiseworthy” and “the equal of a prophet.”

But it is not the way of the sage – and you need sages if you seek to perfect society. The sage is not an extremist – because he or she realises that there are other people at stake. There are the members of one’s own family as well as the others within one’s community. There are colleagues at work. There is a country to defend and a society to help build. The sage knows he or she cannot leave all these commitments behind to pursue a life of solitary virtue. In a strange way, saintliness is a form of self-indulgence. We are called on by God to live in the world, not escape from it; in society not seclusion; to strive to create a balance among the conflicting pressures on us, not to focus on some while neglecting the others.

Hence, while from a personal perspective the Nazirite is a saint, from a societal perspective he is, at least figuratively, a “sinner” who has to bring an atonement offering.

Maimonides lived the life he preached. We know from his writings that he longed for seclusion. There were years when he worked day and night to write his Commentary to the Mishnah, and later the Mishneh Torah. Yet he also recognised his responsibilities to his family and to the community. In his famous letter to his would-be translator Ibn Tibbon, he gives an account of his typical day and week – in which he had to carry a double burden as a world-renowned physician and an internationally sought halachist and sage. He worked to exhaustion.

Maimonides was a sage who longed to be a saint, but knew he could not be, if he was to honour his responsibilities to his people. That is a profound and moving judgement, and one that still has the power to inspire today.

Shabbat Shalom

## LEGAL NOTICE

costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 522995/2016. Joel E. Abramson, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 6/14/21/28; 7/5

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 Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201 on July 18, 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 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 \$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; 6/14/21/28; 7/5

Notice of Formation of 228 Autumn Realty LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/22/2019. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 228 Autumn Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11208. Purpose: Any lawful. AJ; 6/14/21/28; 7/5/12/19

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: CITTA YOGA LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 05/28/2019. 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: CITTA YOGA LLC 61 Herbert st. #2A Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/14/21/28; 7/5/12/19

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 JOSEPH MODICA, THERESA MODICA, et al. Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered on August 25, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Room 224, Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 18, 2019 at 2:30 PM premises known as 1739 Ryder Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234-4308. 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 23, Block 7886 and Lot 23. Approximate amount of judgment \$836,750.21 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #501344/2013. Moshe Z. Mirsky, Esq., Referee, Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747



## Social.



Participants at the DLD Tel Aviv Digital Conference, Israel's largest international high-tech gathering, held at the Old Train Station complex in Tel Aviv on Sept. 6, 2017. Photo: Miriam Alster/Flash90.

## General Motors Competes With Google, Facebook Over Israeli Tech Workers, GM Exec Says

BY UDI ETZION/CTech

When General Motors (GM) set up its research and development center in Israel in 2008, no one seemed to notice the connection between tech and the automotive industry, Gil Golan, the director of GM's Israeli operation, said in a recent interview with *Calcalist*. "Now, as we compete against Facebook, Google, and Apple over computer science and electrical engineering graduates, they are beginning to take it to heart," he said.

In a little over a decade, GM's R&D center grew from a 30-people team to 400 employees, taking up two office buildings in Herzliya, a town in the Tel Aviv area. GM intends to hire about 100 additional people in the country in upcoming years, according to Golan.

In recent years, Israel has been plagued by an ongoing talent crunch and criticism of employee poaching by large companies has been voiced more than once.

"We develop algorithms for autonomous vehicles that emulate the activity of the human brain," Golan said. "Someone looking to leave a mark on the world and do something meaningful can see it is way more interesting than developing an algorithm that could tell whether a user should get white or red sneakers," he added.

While GM is the automaker with the largest center in Israel, other automotive giants have established a presence in the country in recent years. On Tuesday,

Bill Ford, executive chairman of American carmaker Ford Motor Company, spoke at the Ecomotion 2019 smart mobility show in Tel Aviv and is scheduled to speak at a Ford event in the city on Wednesday. In May, *Calcalist* reported, citing one person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity, that Ford intends to launch a Tel Aviv innovation center. On Monday, automakers Renault and Nissan opened a joint innovation lab in Tel Aviv. Both Stuttgart-based automaker Daimler AG and Volkswagen Group have Tel Aviv centers, employing 15 and 10 people, respectively.

Traveling through Herzliya, GM's electric vehicle, the Chevrolet Bolt, is not a rare sight. "We operate dozens of experimental vehicles in Israel," Golan said. According to Golan, GM is in direct contact with the local autotech industry and is constantly scouting for relevant technologies. The company has made quite a few investments and acquisitions in Israel that were not made public, he added.

When it comes to a completely autonomous vehicle, Golan says the company is playing it safe. As a first step GM intends to launch fully autonomous robotaxis, but only once the technology conforms with the company's safety standards, he said. "When it comes to safety, GM has a huge advantage over younger companies," he said. "We do not rush new technologies into the market before they have been tested repeatedly."

## Film to Be Made About Nuremberg Trials 99-Year-Old Prosecutor Ben Ferencz

BY JNS.org

A film about the head prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trials following World War II will be made.

Producers Barry Avrich and Patrice Theroux have acquired the film and television rights to the life story of Ben Ferencz, now 99 years old.

"I am honored to take this journey," said Ferencz. "I never dreamed as a 27-year-old standing in a Nuremberg courtroom prosecuting Nazis that my life would be the subject of a film. I am now in my hundredth year; let's get this done!!"



Ben Ferencz, the lead prosecutor in the Nuremberg Trials that followed World War II. Photo: Screenshot.

Ferencz, a Harvard University Law School graduate and a lifelong advocate of "law not war," became lead prosecutor, at 27 years old, in the Einsatzgruppen case at Nuremberg, which has been called the biggest murder trial in history, after witnessing Nazi concentration camps shortly after liberation.

The trials lasted from Nov. 20, 1945 to Oct. 1, 1946.

In his first trial, all 22 Nazi officials who were tried for murdering more than 1 million people were convicted.

Ferencz went on to advocate for restitution for Jewish victims of the Holocaust and later assisted in the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

He was an adjunct international law professor at Pace University from 1985 to 1996.

This is the second collaboration between Avrich and Theroux with Ferencz. The documentary "Prosecuting Evil: The Extraordinary World of Ben Ferencz," which was directed by Avrich and produced by Avrich and Theroux, premiered at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival and launched last week on Netflix.

"This is an extraordinary honor to tell the story; one of the most iconic and historic figures of our time," said Avrich. "I feel a real responsibility to continue to bring this important story to as many people as we can, this time through a scripted project."

"I am thrilled to help bring this prestigious, inspiring and historic story to the big screen," said Theroux. "Ben has led an incredible life, and it is a privilege that Barry and I have been allowed to share it with the world in a new capacity."

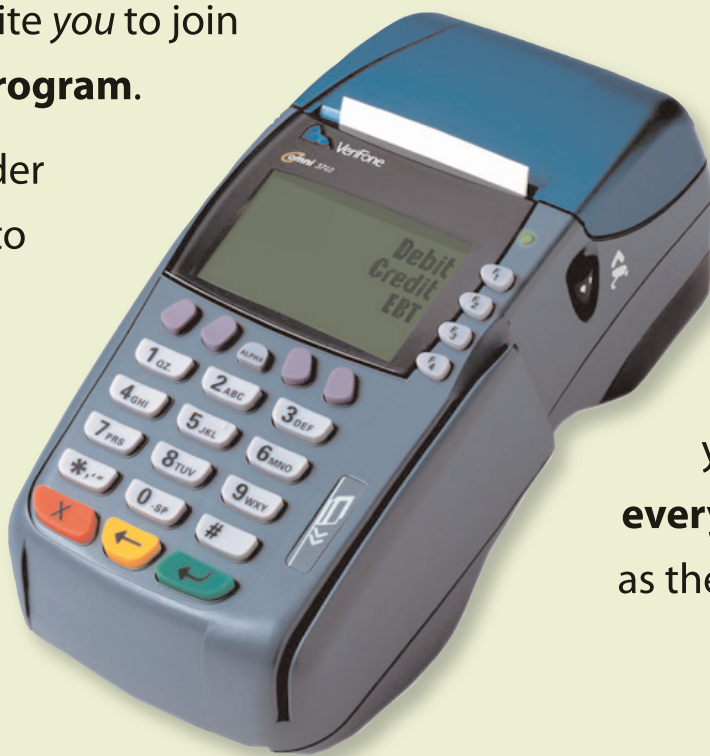


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