

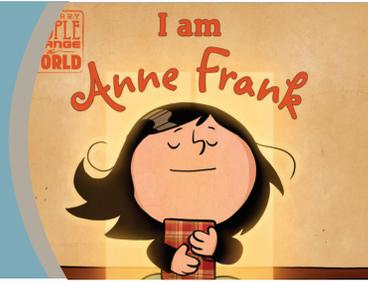
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Netanyahu: 'We Are Making History In a Way That Will Stand for Generations'



Israeli model May Tager, poses with Dubai-resident model Anastasia, in Dubai, UAE, Sept. 8, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Christopher Pike.

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

In an historic first visit by a Gulf Arab nation, a United Arab Emirates delegation arrived in Israel on Tuesday to cement the normalization deal signed last month.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other American officials accompanied the delegation on Etihad Airways plane from

Abu Dhabi to Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv.

They were given a red carpet welcome by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and Finance Minister Israel Katz.

"We are making history in a way that will stand for generations," Netanyahu said.

"I think that the visit of such a high-level delegation from the UAE... will show our peoples, the

region and the entire world the benefit of having friendly, peaceful and normal exchanges."

The UAE and fellow Gulf state Bahrain in September became the first Arab states in a quarter of a century to sign deals to establish formal ties with Israel.

The deals, brokered by US President Donald Trump, were forged largely over shared fears of Iran and Washington and its allies

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Israel: In Continued Downward Trend, 903 Virus Cases Detected in 1 Day

BY i24 NEWS

Israel continued on its declining path of morbidity figures after 903 coronavirus cases were registered in 24 hours, new data released by the Health Ministry Monday night showed.

The number of COVID-19 patients in serious condition decreased as well, from 673 on Sunday to 632 on Monday.

The country's death toll rose to 2,260 after 14 people died since midnight, according to the ministry.

Of 29,597 active cases, 246 individuals are currently on



Hospital staff at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov), Tel Aviv, Israel, Sept. 21, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Ronen Zvulun.

artificial respirators, 180 patients are in moderate condition, and 26,134 either have mild symptoms or no symptoms.

The test positive ratio remained unchanged from the day prior, with 3.5% of 27,300 screening tests testing positive.

In light of these encouraging figures, Israel's pandemic czar Prof. Ronni Gamzu recommended lifting three cities, designated "red" for having high morbidity rates, from lockdown mode: Rekhasim, Modi'in Illit, and Beitar Illit.

Iran's Forgotten Jews

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat NOACH
פרשת נח

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 5:45pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:43pm



the **algemeiner**

P.O.B. 208 East 51st St, Suite 185
New York, NY 10022
Tel: (718) 771.0400 | Fax: (718) 771.0308
Email: editor@algemeiner.com
www.algemeiner.com



Opinion.

New York Times Op-Ed Glorifies Farrakhan March, as Bari Weiss Says Jew Hate Is Times Blind Spot



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

A former editor and writer for the *New York Times* editorial page, Bari Weiss, is faulting the *Times* for publishing an op-ed piece glorifying Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March and failing to provide context about Farrakhan's antisemitism.

"Today the *New York Times* ran an op-ed about the Million Man March and Louis Farrakhan. If you read the op-ed and knew nothing about Farrakhan, you would think he was a gentleman," Weiss tweeted. "When *The Times* ran the infamous anti-Semitic cartoon, the issue was not that editors were hardened anti-Semites. It's that they didn't even *notice* it. This shouldn't surprise. It's part of a worldview in which Jew hate does not count." Her reference was to an April 2019 cartoon that the *Times* eventually said it was "deeply sorry" for and acknowledged was antisemitic.

The op-ed piece appears in the *New York Times* under the headline "Behind the Million Woman March." It is subheadlined, "Behind every great feat in the public record lies an untold story of the unsung foot soldiers." It is written by Natalie Hopkinson, an associate professor in Howard University's Department

of Communication, Culture and Media Studies.

The op-ed, timed to the 25th anniversary of the event, tells the story of the behind-the-scenes role played in the march by Cora Masters Barry, the wife of Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry. "The Million Man March is a case study in how even in the most patriarchal spaces, women have powered history," Hopkinson writes.

The October 16, 1995 march drew what authorities said were approximately 400,000 people. It featured a two-and-a-half-hour address by Farrakhan, a notorious antisemite. I covered the event for the *Forward* and reported, "In the rows of concession stands leased by march organizers, one vendor is selling 'Chosen People From the Caucasus: Jewish Origins, Delusional Deceptions and Historical Role in the Slave Trade, Genocide and Cultural Colonization,' by Michael Bradley. Nearby, between tables hawking 'O.J.'s Free' T-shirts, salesmen display copies of 'The Jews and Their Lies,' by Martin Luther. Young men in red bow ties sell 'The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews.'"

Weiss is correct to point out that Jew-hatred is a *Times* blind spot. The previous *Times* editorial page editor, James Bennet, was ousted after publishing an op-ed from Senator Tom Cotton calling on President Trump to "Send in the Troops" to quell rioting and looting. In that case, a *Times* editors' note confessed, "we failed to offer appropriate

additional context — either in the text or the presentation — that could have helped readers place Senator Cotton's views within a larger framework of debate." Where is the "additional context" about the Million Man March or its leader? It's absent, other than in the tweets of former *Times* editorial page employee Weiss.

In addition, the editor who replaced Bennet, at least on an interim basis, Kathleen Kingsbury, told staffers when she took over: "Anyone who sees any piece of opinion journalism, headlines, social posts, photos — you name it — that gives you the slightest pause, please call or text me immediately." That policy, as it's been implemented, gives even the most junior staffers the power to halt the publication of an opinion piece by marking it with a "red flag" in the paper's editorial system. Did the article headlining Farrakhan's "great feat" and ignoring his antisemitism not trigger even "the slightest pause" at the *Times* editorial page? As Weiss puts it, "they didn't even *notice* it."

CNN anchor Jake Tapper retweeted Weiss and noted, "The late great John Lewis didn't participate in the Million Man March because Farrakhan had made comments that were 'divisive and bigoted.'"

Elsewhere in the *Times* opinion section over this past weekend was an editorial denouncing President Trump for "toxic rhetoric" and "vile language" and "crude insults."



Louis Farrakhan during his Fourth of July address "The Criterion" on Revolt TV.
Photo: Screenshot.

Said the editorial, "Mr. Trump doesn't just mock his enemies. He demonizes and dehumanizes them." The same could be said of Farrakhan, but when *he* does it, the *Times* headline writers cheer him on for his "great feat."

If the *Times* wants to add context to the latest article, there's no shortage of material from the newspaper's own archives.

There is "Black Demagogues and Pseudo-Scholars," by Henry Louis Gates Jr. (1992).

There is "White Supremacists Voice Support of Farrakhan," from the paper's news columns (1985).

There is A.M. Rosenthal's post-march column from 1995, which said, "The demagogues and dictators always reveal themselves. They must, to attract the core of the vicious, around whom they build their power. The Nation of Islam's program states its goal: the creation of a separate black nation

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Should the BBC Be Sympathizing With the Sbarro Monster?



FRIMET ROTH
JERUSALEM

Despite my American heritage, I've always equated the *BBC*, more than any of its competitors, with authoritative, reliable reporting.

So I was blindsided to learn that *BBC Arabic* championed the cause of my daughter's murderer.

It has posted a video titled "BBC Trending – A radio station cut off a phone call with Ahlam Tamimi because of her appeal to King of Jordan during a live broadcast."

So the *BBC* rushed to the rescue of the woman who was cut off by a talk show. On the video clip, *BBC* staff "reached out to Ahlam" (their words), providing her a platform for an aborted "appeal to the King."

Here it is:

I, Jordanian citizen, Ahlam Tamimi, turn once again to his Majesty King Abdullah II in order to be united with my husband Nizar Tamimi on the blessed land of Jordan. It is my right to be beside my husband.

In its background profile, the *BBC* describes Tamimi this way:

The Jordanian prisoner (who) has returned to the headlines following the expulsion of her husband, Nizar Tamimi... She was born in Zarqa in Jordan to Palestinian parents in 1980 and was the first woman who joined the Al-Qassam Brigades,

Hamas' military wing. The Israeli forces arrested her in 2001. She was accused of participating in the bombing operation. She was sentenced to 16 life sentences that add up to 1,584 years. She and her husband were released in a deal that included 1,047 [in reality, 1,027] Palestinian prisoners... In 2013 [in reality, in 2017] she was put on the wanted terrorists list of the US Department of Justice [in reality the FBI] due to her involvement in the deaths of Americans... The Jordanian authorities have rejected America's extradition requests.

This proud terrorist, Ahlam Tamimi, confessed to murdering not only my precious 15-year-old daughter Malki but seven other children and babies and eight innocent adults as well. She also left a sixteenth victim, a young mother, in a permanent vegetative state.

And unlike many other vicious mass murderers, this one has not only refused to express remorse; she has boasted of her "accomplishment" and has urged others

to emulate her. She has been video-taped smiling contentedly upon learning that she had murdered more children than she had presumed.

It is this monster that the *BBC* has singled out for empathy.

The *BBC* has embraced Tamimi without once reminding its listeners why she is newsworthy. Her "accomplishment" is ignored. My Malki, her friend, Michal who stood beside her on line for a pizza, and all the other innocent victims of Tamimi's hatred and bloodthirst, did not even warrant a mention.

Often, in such cases, wronged parties demand an apology. But I don't want one. I understand that the *BBC* did not inadvertently commit this outrage. It didn't "misspeak" or "overlook" anything. Avoiding any mention of the oceans of grief and separation Tamimi has inflicted on us was deliberate. An apology would be insincere and worthless.

I only hope that the *BBC*'s condoning of the murder of innocent Jews will be widely publicized and condemned.

Frimet Roth is a freelance writer in Jerusalem. Her daughter Malki was murdered at the age of 15 in the 2001 Sbarro restaurant bombing. With her husband Arnold she founded the Malki Foundation (www.malkifoundation.org) in their daughter's name. It provides concrete support for Israeli families of all faiths who care at home for a special-needs child.



US-wanted Hamas terrorist Ahlam Tamimi.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

World News.

Group Rallies Against Cuomo, De Blasio Over New COVID Restrictions Directed at Jews

BY JNS.org

Over the weekend, he announced that he ordered the ban of a Jewish wedding that was set to take place in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Williamsburg that was reportedly expected to draw up to 10,000 people. The wedding, which had been scheduled for Monday, was for the grandchild of Satmar Grand Rabbi Zalman Leib Teitlebaum.

"You can get married; you just can't have 1,000 people at your wedding. You get the same result at the end of the day," said the governor.

Several New York Orthodox Jewish leaders have filed a federal lawsuit against Cuomo, claiming that his restrictions are violating their religious and civil liberties.

Supporters of a grassroots group seeking to end antisemitism held a rally outside of the New York Public Library last Thursday to express their dismay with recent comments and actions by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio that have been perceived as targeting the Jewish community.

"Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio's continued attacks against the Jewish community are outrageous. Never in my life did I think I would see this type of blatant Jew-hatred from our public officials," said Brooke Goldstein, executive director of The



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, in New York City, New York, March 24, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Mike Segar / File.

Lawfare Project and supporter of End Jew Hatred, a grassroots antisemitism movement. "Singling out New York Jews for blame in the coronavirus spread is unconscionable and discriminatory. Statements like these are exactly why we are marching today."

Several dozen protestors appeared to turn out for the rally on Thursday, which started at the Public Library and ended at Cuomo's office, where they attempted to deliver a letter to the governor to enforce COVID-19 regulations more equally and apologize to the Jewish community.

Jewish leaders and groups, specifically the ultra-Orthodox community, have sharply criticized the two leaders for their enforcement of coronavirus restrictions amid a spike in cases. In recent weeks, Cuomo has ordered limits on worship within so-called "red zones" or areas with a cluster of new infections.

objectives — self-help, respect, training, jobs, bringing a "community" together and making it powerful. That was part of Hitler's message.

Sorry, Adolf, it happens I won't be in Munich for your march, but I support the purpose?... To march with Louis Farrakhan in Washington is to strengthen a man who leads a crusade against whites and for resegregation, to march with his goon squads, to march with anti-Semites.

What has happened to the *Times* over the intervening 25 years? Rosenthal would be rolling in his grave.

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

concerns, Israeli organizers said.

"This is an historical moment for the UAE country and Israel and we are looking forward to salaam (peace) ... in the region," one of the Etihad pilots could be heard saying in a video posted on Twitter by US Middle East envoy Ari Berkowitz.

Berkowitz and Mnuchin accompanied the Emirati delegation, which was led by Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq al-Mari and Minister of State for Financial Affairs Obaid Humaid al-Tayer, according to a UAE Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.

The US officials had on Sunday joined an Israeli delegation to Bahrain for a signing ceremony to formalize ties.

Israel and the UAE have already signed several commercial deals since mid-August, when they first announced they would establish full relations.

Israeli officials said the two sides were expected to sign a mutual visa-exemption agreement — Israel's first with an Arab country.

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Glorifies

within America. Somehow the apologists and rationalizers of the demonstration never mentioned that. The danger is not simply what the Nation of Islam is able to achieve about separation. It is the damage it does meanwhile to the American dream of racial unity and to American life, day by day. All its propaganda and racial spewings are devised to divide, separate, resegregate."

Or, my personal favorite, A.M. Rosenthal's pre-march column from 1995, headlined, "The Swamp of Hatred":

Like every demagogue, Mr. Farrakhan presents a list of shiny "purposes" as among his

Continued from Page A1
Making History

have said they would foster regional peace and stability. But they have prompted anger from the Palestinians.

Wasel Abu Youssef, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, described Tuesday's UAE visit as "shameful."

"The bilateral agreements that were announced today and the delegations that come and go, all of that offers the occupation a strength to escalate its aggression and its crimes against the Palestinian people and increases its intransigence and arrogance," he said from the West Bank city of Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for the Islamist group Hamas, said: "Such a visit will only encourage the occupation to pursue the gradual annexation of West Bank lands."

The five-hour visit would be restricted to the airport near Tel Aviv, due to coronavirus

French Police Arrest Pro-Hamas Activist in Connection With Paris Beheading



Protestors in the Place de la Republique in Paris following the brutal murder of school teacher Samuel Paty. Photo: Panoramic / Reuters.

BY BEN COHEN

One of France's most vocal Islamists was taken into police custody on Sunday in connection with the horrific murder of a high school teacher in broad daylight at the end of last week.

Abdelhakim Sefrioui, 61, had played a prominent role in organizing protests against Samuel Paty — a 47-year-old teacher of history and geography at a suburban Paris school who showed his students a set of controversial cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad during a classroom discussion on freedom of speech.

On Friday afternoon, Paty was attacked as he walked home from school by a knife-wielding assailant who stabbed him in the head and then decapitated him with a dagger-shaped blade.

Eyewitnesses reported that the killer — an 18-year-old refugee from Chechnya named Abdoullakh Anzonov — shouted the words "Allahu akbar" ("God is great") as he slaughtered Paty. Anzonov was later shot dead by police after he fired on approaching officers with a handgun. Investigators discovered that Anzonov had sent a photo of Paty's decapitated head to French President Emmanuel Macron on Twitter, with a message declaring that he had "taken revenge on the one who insulted the Prophet Muhammad."

In the days leading up to his murder, Paty had been the target of protests from some Muslim parents at the school in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, a northwestern suburb of Paris, after he showed students cartoons of Muhammad believed by many Muslims to be blasphemous.

One of the parents sought the backing of Abdelhakim Sefrioui — a Moroccan-born Islamist described by one prominent French Muslim leader as "dangerous" — at a meeting with school officials.

On Thursday — the day before Paty's killing — Sefrioui arrived at the school, where he filmed an interview with a female Muslim student, who claimed that Paty had told her she might want to "leave the class," before showing students an image of a "naked man" who supposedly represented Muhammad. After meeting with members of the school management, Sefrioui issued a statement asserting that Muslim children "had been attacked and

humiliated in front of their classmates." He then demanded the immediate suspension of Paty, whom he referred to as "this thug."

Sefrioui is well-known to French intelligence, whose agents have monitored his statements and activities for nearly 20 years, according to Bernard Godard, an expert on Islam and former adviser to France's Interior Ministry, in an interview with the news outlet.

In 2011, the imam of the Parisian suburb of Drancy, Hassen Chalghoumi, was placed under police protection after Sefrioui denounced him as a "pawn of the Zionists."

Chalghoumi told that Sefrioui was "dangerous because he seduces the youth."

"He is more dangerous than [Islamist academic] Tariq Ramadan because he seduces the base, the parents," Chalghoumi stated.

Much of Sefrioui's activism has revolved around solidarity with the Palestinians, expressed through virulent anti-Zionism and antisemitism. In 2006, he campaigned on behalf of the presidential campaign of the comedian Dieudonné — who was recently banned across a host of social media platforms for his denial of the Holocaust denial and his crude antisemitism.

In 2014, as head of a collective of pro-Palestinian organizations named in honor of the late Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Sefrioui was a key organizer of demonstrations in Paris against Israel's incursion into the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, furiously asserting at one rally that the coastal enclave was "the worst concentration camp mankind has ever known."

Sefrioui is a member of the Council of French Imams and speaks in its name, although the secretary-general of that organization openly disputed his right to do so in interviews with the French media over the weekend.

"Sefrioui does not have the right to speak on our behalf," Daw Meskine of the Council of French Imams stated, when asked about the harassment of Paty. "It is a personal initiative, which in no way commits the council."

Further raids on the homes of suspected Islamists by French police were reported on Monday, while the government announced an investigation into 51 different Muslim organizations and associations.

World News.



Silhouettes of laptop users are seen next to a screen projection of the Facebook logo.
Photo: Reuters / Dado Ruvic / Illustration / File.

Facebook Unveils Tel Aviv-Developed Instagram Lite

BY ALLON SINAI/CTech

Facebook unveiled on Tuesday its latest lightweight application, announcing it was testing a new version of Instagram Lite, an app for Android that was developed in Tel Aviv. Facebook Lite was launched in 2015, targeting developing markets and designed to work in areas with limited internet connections. It is currently available in over 100 countries and Facebook plans to use a similar rollout for Instagram Lite. The app, which is less than 2MB compared to the 32MB required for the full version, was designed to offer the core features of the app for Android and was already made available for testing in Southeast Asia last month, with countries in Africa and then India next in line.

The development of the app was co-led by Facebook's R&D hub in Tel Aviv, one of the largest strategic engineering hubs for Facebook globally.

"Instagram Lite builds on the work we did for Facebook Lite in Tel Aviv. We took many of the lessons learned and technologies developed while we were creating Facebook Lite and applied them to Instagram Lite, together with our basic premise to leave no one behind," said Tzach Hadar, Director of Product Management for Lite interfaces and Tel Aviv tech site lead. "With Instagram Lite people around the world will enjoy a high-quality Instagram experience, no matter what device or network they are using."

With a significant proportion of people in emerging markets not having access to high-speed Wi-Fi internet, they are left to rely on their mobile connection which typically doesn't go above 2G/3G. Instagram Lite was built to bring a reliable Instagram experi-

ence to users on all network types and when bandwidth is at a minimum.

"We have started testing the new version of Instagram Lite for Android with a small group of users and so far, the feedback has been very positive," said Michelle Lourie, Product Manager, Instagram Lite.

Covid-19 lockdowns around the world presented another challenge for Facebook's development teams, but Gal Zellermyer, Software Engineering Manager, Instagram Lite, said they managed to improvise around the difficulties.

"Covid-19 forced us to work from home and presented additional challenges and this was significant as things that we were used to doing previously, like opening a physical war room ahead of the launch of a new application, could no longer be done," Zellermyer said in a conference call on Tuesday. "We created a virtual war room and did all the brainstorming remotely. Secondly, until the pandemic, we relied on in-person meetings to do our user research; this is where we meet with groups of people who test our apps and ask them questions about their experience. We had to move these meetings virtually too and it was difficult not being able to sit next to a person and ask them to show you what issues they have or what they like about the app."

"We used proven technological principles in the development after seeing that this technology works with Facebook Lite," added Zellermyer. "We took the same principles and adapted them to Instagram Lite. Modern applications are usually tens of MB large, but Instagram Lite is less than 2MB. We basically took most of our code and moved it from the phone to our server farms. This saves a lot of memory and processing resources that were previously required from the phone."

San Diego Cops Arrest 14-Year-Old Boy for Antisemitic Assault on Rabbi

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A San Diego teenage boy was arrested by police last Friday in connection with a violent assault on a rabbi in the University City neighborhood the previous weekend.

The 14-year-old was booked into Juvenile Hall on battery and hate crime charges, San Diego Police Lt. Shawn Takeuchi said. On the previous Saturday, Oct. 10, the teen was alleged to have punched Rabbi Yonatan Halevy of the Shiviti Congregation to the

ground as he walked to synagogue with his father for Shabbat services.

Halevy explained that the teen had ridden past him on a bike, and then abruptly turned and punched him in the face. After regaling the rabbi with insults and a reference to "white power," he rode off laughing, Halevy told *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

"I was shocked, stunned, and hurt, but was grateful that my father was unharmed," the rabbi recalled.

Halevy said that the synagogue had

Sudanese Strains Surface as US Pressure Triggers Debate on Israel

BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

US pressure on Sudan to normalize ties with former adversary Israel has stirred public debate on a topic that was long taboo, exposing splits that could complicate any swift settlement of a deal.

An agreement between Sudan and Israel may have edged closer on Monday when US President Donald Trump signaled that Washington would remove Khartoum from its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Military figures leading Sudan's political transition have appeared open to normalizing ties, but civilian groups including left-wing and Islamist politicians are more reluctant.

A technocratic government has so far rebuffed US advances aimed at pushing Sudan to follow the lead of the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, both of which signed agreements to establish formal ties with Israel at the White House last month.

Khartoum's caution reflects concerns that such a major foreign policy move at a time of deep economic crisis could upset the delicate balance between military and civilian factions, and even put the government at risk, two senior Sudanese government sources said.

"Taking a historic decision over relations with Israel requires a situation of economic and political stability in the country," said one of the sources.

"After the lifting of US sanctions, Sudan could discuss dialogue about normalization with Israel and its benefits to Sudan, according to Sudan's interests."

Sudan, which historically has been staunchly opposed to Israel, is 18 months into a political transition after autocrat Omar al-Bashir was forced from power following popular protests.

The government faces spiraling inflation of more than 200% and has struggled to provide basic commodities and services. The coronavirus pandemic and severe flooding have added to its woes.

Removal from the terrorism list — once Khartoum sets aside \$335 million it agreed to pay to US victims of militant attacks and their families — could help ease economic pain, partly by unlocking international financing and debt relief.

Washington has offered Sudan development and humanitarian help, US and Gulf-based sources said in September, after US officials and military head General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan discussed the issue of Israel in September.

But while the United States has been lobbying hard for Sudan to normalize with Israel just as it finalizes Khartoum's removal from the list, Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has argued the two issues should not be linked.

been targeted by a group of teens, including the alleged assailant, for a few weeks before the attack. They had been heckled and a car window was broken, he said.

Even before the attack on Halevy, the Anti-Defamation League's regional director had highlighted the problems faced by the synagogue.

"We don't want to be dismissive and say it was just kids," the ADL's Tammy Gillies said. "We have to take hate and any hate incident very seriously."

Following the assault on the rabbi, Gillies labeled it a "message crime."



A Sudanese protester holds a national flag, in Khartoum, Sudan June 5, 2019.
Photo: Reuters / Stringer.

Need for time

"It is not possible for an entire people to be forced to normalize in a week or two," acting Finance Minister Hiba Mohamed Ali told Sudanese TV on Monday.

"If it is our wish to normalize relations with Israel, we must give a suitable chance for the issue to be studied in detail."

Despite apparent support from Burhan, who met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Uganda in February, and his military deputy Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who recently praised Israel's economic development, a rapid move to normalize ties could fracture the civilian coalition they share power with.

"Our view of the Zionist entity remained fixed — that it is a racist entity hostile to all national liberation movements," said Sadiq Farouk, a Communist Party leader from the coalition that backs the government.

Hamdok has said he is not authorized to decide on ties with Israel. "With this position, Hamdok wants to avoid any decision that might lead to a split in the ruling coalition that supports the government," said Fath Alrahman Ahmed of Khartoum's Al-Neelain University.

Recognizing Israel could also trigger a backlash from Islamist factions loyal to Bashir that have sought to discredit the transition.

Still, people have been able to signal support for establishing ties publicly for the first time.

A former member of parliament, Abulgasem Bartum, says he is planning a private trip with 40 Sudanese businesspeople, sportspeople, and cultural figures to Israel as a confidence-building measure next month.

In Jerusalem, Zvi Hauser, chairman of the Israeli parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, told public broadcaster Kan Israel could help the region with science and technology and he hoped Sudan joined the "wave" of recognition.

Some younger Sudanese, less wedded to the Palestinian cause than their parents or grandparents, say they could also back the move.

"I have no objection to Sudan having normal relations with Israel if this is in the interest of the country," said Ahmed Ibrahim, a 30-year-old telecommunications company employee.

"We want jobs, health, education and a better life ... Sudan should take care of itself."

"It doesn't just impact the target, but it's a message to the whole community that says, 'We don't want you here,'" Gillies noted. "That is the double impact of the hate crime."



Rabbi Yonatan Halevy of Congregation Shiviti in San Diego. Photo: Handout.

U.S. News.

US Envoy Carr: 1.7 Million Antisemitic Posts on Facebook, Twitter So Far in 2020

Elan Carr has served as US special envoy for monitoring and combating antisemitism since February 2019.

Previously, he was a deputy district attorney in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office. He was also a judge advocate in the American military's judicial system, prosecuting enemy combatants before Iraqi judges at the Central Criminal Court. He also served as the international president of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi).

Carr, 51, a Republican, unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 2014 against Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu of California.

He and his wife, Dahlia, have three children.

JNS talked with Carr by phone on Oct. 15. The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q: Does the federal government have an obligation to go after Big Tech for aiding and abetting antisemitism and anti-Zionism?

A: Obviously, a portion of online antisemitism rises to the level of crime, and, of course, that should be addressed and addressed aggressively. But the vast majority of online hate is protected by the First Amendment, so the government can't go after protected speech nor should it.

Q: Would a free-market approach be best to combat antisemitism and anti-Zionism on social media sites?

A: Competition is always a good thing, and certainly, the government has expressed that view specifically in the context of the social media platforms. At the end of the day, you've got some bad actors who are spouting hate on the Internet. One can decide to regulate this or that platform, but at the end of the day, we've got to go to the source of the problem. The source of the problem is people hold despicable views. The First Amendment protects despicable views, but it doesn't mean we can't condemn them or call them out. I think that is absolutely critical.

One of the things I think is fundamentally important is that the social media platforms adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. They haven't done that yet. We've encouraged it publicly and privately. We will continue to push them to do that publicly or privately because I think it's incredibly important.

You can't confront a threat unless you define the threat. We have a widely accepted vehicle that defines that threat. The State Department uses the IHRA definition. US President [Donald] Trump issued an executive order that employs the definition for the federal government at large. I think the social media platforms ought to adopt it and use it as a tool. This is a tool not of censorship, but a tool of education. We want to deal with the haters by meeting their speech with, first of all, condemnation, and second of all, education.

Q: Which platforms specifically aren't willing to combat antisemitism?

A: I don't want to name names. Obviously, there's a deep web. We focus a lot on social media and rightfully so. On Twitter and Facebook alone, 1.7 million antisemitic posts were made in the first eight months of this year. I was shocked by the kind of things that are said openly and notoriously on these fringe deep-web platforms, so I absolutely think there's a very, very big problem. This is just raw hate that is being spewed, and it's dangerous. There are real effects to this.

Q: What do the Abraham Accords mean for the fight against antisemitism? Could it help diminish antisemitism in the Arab world?

A: The Abraham Accords are a game-changer for the Middle East and mark a sea change not only in Arab-Israel relations, but yes, in terms of the global fight against antisemitism. A lot of antisemitism in the world today is expressed in terms of Israel hatred—the delegitimization and demonization of the Jewish state, and the denial of participation in economic intercourse and ordinary relations with other countries. For the UAE and Bahrain to not only normalize relations with Israel, but to do it in the manner in which they've done it—a full embrace, and enthusiastic and affectionate embrace of the Jewish state—is historic, profoundly important and world-changing. I think while this doesn't spell the end of the BDS movement or the end of antisemitism, it is an enormous loss for the antisemites of the world who want to continue to exclude Jews and demonize them.

I had the privilege of attending the signing. It was incredibly emotional. A senior member of an Arab delegation came up to me and say, "We're going to do great things together. This is not going to be a cold peace. This is going to be a warm peace. This is going to be a real friendship."

You're going to see more Arab states normalizing relations with Israel. This is an incredible time we're living in.

Q: For countries like Saudi Arabia that sponsor antisemitic content directed at American universities, should eliminating that problem be a contingency for normalization with Israel?

A: From the first days of my appointment to the role of special envoy and in fact my first public speech, I've talked about antisemitic curricula in the Arab world and how important of a policy priority this is for me. When children are indoctrinated in hate, first of all, it's an appalling injustice. It amounts to child abuse. But also it does intergenerational damage that's so difficult to undo, so this is something I have stressed, that I have worked on, and that I will continue to work on as long as I'm in this role. This is a critically important issue. Given the changes in the Middle East, I think Arab states are now more willing than ever before to give a fresh look at their curricula, and how Jews and Israel are treated, and how Jewish history in the Arab world is treated, which is an issue of deep, personal significance to me.



US Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism Elan Carr, New Jersey on July 23, 2019. Photo: Zack DiGregorio/Office of US Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.).

... and how Jews and Israel are treated, and how Jewish history in the Arab world is treated, which is an issue of deep, personal significance to me.

Q: What was your reaction to the Council on Foreign Relations recently hosting a Zoom event with Iranian Foreign

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Opinion.

Celebrating the Coronavirus Heroes

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

For too many, 2020 has been a horrible year filled with pain, disease, and heartbreak. The coronavirus has killed more than a million people the world over — 20% in the US alone. It has shut down schools and shuls, restaurants and parks, movie theaters and museums, and made a ghost town of places like mid-town Manhattan. And it's made us all more paranoid, weary of strangers, afraid to hug our own grandchildren.

But often the darkest times produce the greatest heroes. Since this week celebrates a big birthday for global philanthropist Miriam Adelson, it behooves me to publicly recognize her efforts during the coronavirus.

For years, I have born witness to Miriam's tireless charitable efforts, both as a champion of the Jewish people and as a physician. Anyone who has visited Miri's clinics in Las Vegas and Tel Aviv knows how deeply she cares about people. I've also seen her cut whole hours from an overflowing schedule to sit with Jewish students fighting for Israel on campus.

During the pandemic, I've seen a whole new side to Miri's dedication to humanity. I've

seen her work day and night to ensure the best possible treatment and medicines make their way to the many strangers who reached out to her in crisis.

With an illness that's treated on a minute-to-minute basis, it makes a difference that key medications are delivered on time. In a situation where a wrong medical turn can spell disaster for a patient, it's equally essential for expert advice to be available to those with no idea what to do. I've witnessed people without access to either of these saved in their hour of need by Miri, working tirelessly to ensure they get both, then inquiring regularly about their condition.

Then it became more personal.

My own brother Chaim, older than me by just a year and the sibling with whom I shared a room as a child, got sick with COVID-19 and was hospitalized. Miri sprang into action, calling his doctors daily to ensure he had all the medications necessary. She did not do this because he was the brother of a friend. She had done the same for countless, unnamed others. Thank God my brother recovered.

A fundamental Jewish belief maintains that when God is hidden, it's up to us to stand in for Him. I have no idea why God is allowing the spread of this awful virus. What could God be thinking?

In the Torah, God commands the Jewish people to wipe out Amalek. And what is this

entity that should be eradicated without trace? An enemy that preys specifically on the elderly and most vulnerable. That is the coronavirus. So why hasn't God wiped it out?

I wish I could ask Him. I would protest to my Creator that the pandemic is an abomination to his own glory, and that people who love life are being alienated from faith and belief as they see this disgusting disease spread without respite.

But God has not consulted me on the coronavirus. So, all we can do for now is adhere to His commandments to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and comfort the bereaved. In observing Miri's incessant efforts to save even the lives of complete strangers, one sees the world's foremost Jewish philanthropist, along with her husband Sheldon, carrying out the highest ideals of ancient Jewish values and tradition.

Nearly a millennia ago, Maimonides was his generation's most accomplished practitioner of medicine. He served as the personal physician to Sultan Saladin, one of history's greatest Muslim conquerors, and published medical guides consulted throughout the world.

Explaining to his friend and translator, Rabbi Shmuel Ibn Tibbon, why he wouldn't have time for a visit, he describes spending hours every day attending to the medical needs of the Sultan, his officers, and the royal family. His real work, however, began when he got home.

"Then I come to my house," he related, "my foyer is always full of people — Jews and non-Jews, important people and not, judges and policemen, people who love me and people who hate me, a mixture of people, all of whom have been waiting for me to come home." He takes a few minutes to eat "the only meal I take in 24 hours. Then I go out to heal them, write them prescriptions and instructions for treating their problems. Patients go in and out until nightfall, and sometimes — I swear to you by the Torah — it is two hours into the night before they are all gone." He describes having to treat patients "while lying down on my back from exhaustion." By the time it's all over, Maimonides explains, "I am so weak, I cannot even talk anymore."

Miri walks this noble path pioneered by Maimonides for Jewish activist-physicians.

It's been a tough year for me personally, beginning with the loss of my father in Los Angeles and continuing through the agony of my brother's illness — but ending, thank God, in the triumph of his recovery, the birth of a grandchild named after my father, and the wedding of our daughter Rochel Leah, God willing this week. I owe a giant thank you to the heroes like Miri — and the other physicians and first responders — who are getting us through a time of crisis like no other.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the author of *The Israel Warrior, Judaism for Everyone, and Renewal: The Seven Central Values of the Jewish Faith*. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

Palestinians Choose Guns Over Butter

STEPHEN M. FLATOW/
JNS.ORG

Sure, it's ironic that a Palestinian leader who accused Israel of spreading the coronavirus has checked himself into an Israeli hospital now that he is afflicted with it. But the implications of this episode are much more significant than another chuckle over Palestinian hypocrisy.

This week's two-face is Saeb Erekat, the secretary-general of the PLO executive committee. He has served as the PLO's representative in various negotiations, and as Yasser Arafat's spokesman to the foreign news media. Among the blood libels that Erekat has spread against Israel was his loudly publicized claim in 2002 that Israel "massacred" more than 500 Palestinian Arabs in Jenin. The actual number was 53, and they were terrorists who were killed in battle.

A more recent anti-Israel slander from Erekat was his announcement, in the official Palestinian Authority (PA) newspaper *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* on March 20, that Israelis were "spitting on Palestinian cars and property in order to transfer the corona disease to them" (translation by Palestinian Media Watch).

When Erekat himself came down with the disease last week, he had many Palestinian Arab hospitals from which to choose. He could have opted to be treated at the hospital closest to his home, which is the Jericho Government Hospital. Or he could have gone to one of the 15 hospitals in other PA-occupied areas, such as the "Martyr Yasser Arafat Government Hospital" in Salfit. Or one

of the five hospitals in predominantly Arab neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem.

But no, Erekat insisted on being taken to Hadassah Hospital in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ein Kerem. And the kind folks at Hadassah took him in, despite all the Jewish blood on his hands from all those years of terrorist attacks perpetrated by the organization of which he was, and is, a senior representative.

I'm sure that was a wise decision by Erekat, from a medical point of view. No doubt any Israeli hospital is better equipped than any of the PA's hospitals. If you have COVID-19, Jerusalem (or Tel Aviv or Haifa) is the place to go, not Ramallah. But the question is: Why?

It's not because Israel prohibits the PA from training doctors. It doesn't. And it's not because some Israeli blockade prevents the PA from importing medical equipment. There's no such blockade.

Rather, it's because the PA prefers to spend its money on guns, not butter. Or in this case — guns and terrorists' salaries, not ventilators.

The PA has one of the largest per-capita security forces in the world. The Palestinian *Shehab News Agency* reported last year that the PA has "65,000 troops" — that is, policemen and various "security" units that function as a de facto army. The PA spent more than \$1 billion on those forces in 2018, according to Shehab.

What in the world does the PA need 65,000 troops for? It's not like the PA has ever fought any wars, or is threatened by any country in the region. According to the Oslo Accords, the PA's security forces are supposed to apprehend terrorists, but they have never taken that obligation seriously, which is why the Israeli army has to keep going into PA areas to capture the terrorists whom the PA security forces leave untouched.

Exact percentages are difficult to come by, but according to a February 2015 PA Ministry of Finance report, "budget allocations to the security services in Palestine's 2014 general budget amounted to 28%" of the total budget. And that figure might actually have been even higher. Hassan Khreisheh, vice president of the PA's Legislative Council, told the Arab media outlet Al-Monitor last year that "the security expenditures are much higher, reaching 35% of the public budget."

Another big chunk of the PA's annual budget is used to pay imprisoned terrorists and the families of dead terrorists. Even *The Washington Post*, which is strongly sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, has acknowledged that in 2017, the PA paid \$160 million to terrorists in Israeli prisons, and another \$183 million to terrorists' families. That's a total investment of \$343 million in the PA's "pay to slay" terror program.

Imagine how many Palestinian Arab lives might have been saved if the PA had spent even part of that money on medicine and equipment to combat the coronavirus. Why, even Saeb Erekat might agree to be treated in a PA hospital.

The issue is important because there

are some elements in the Democratic Party who argue that if they win the White House, full US funding to the PA should be resumed. The reality of how the PA chooses to spend its money, however, offers a sober reminder of what a terrible mistake it would be to resume the old, failed policy of throwing American taxpayer dollars down that black hole known as the PA bank account.

Stephen M. Flatow is a vice president of the Religious Zionists of America, an attorney in New Jersey, and the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995. His book *A Father's Story: My Fight for Justice Against Iranian Terror* is now available on Kindle.



Palestinians burn pictures during a protest against Bahrain's move to normalize relations with Israel, September 12, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa.

American Muslims for Palestine Pushes Debunked Israeli Police Exchange Narrative

STEVEN EMERSON
WASHINGTON

The video is just over two minutes long,

but it sure is disturbing. Blindfolded Palestinian detainees appear next to an image of American police in riot gear.

In the video posted to its Facebook page on Wednesday, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) claimed that programs that take American police leaders to Israel "only

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Opinion.

Saeb Erekat: Why Israel Chose to Aid an Ailing Enemy



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.org



Palestinian Authority (PA) chief negotiator Saeb Erekat, Jan. 30, 2019.
Photo: Reuters / Mohamad Torokman.

It's the kind of story that drives a lot of friends of Israel nuts. One of its chief opponents, Palestinian Liberation Organization senior leader Saeb Erekat, recently fell ill with COVID-19. Faced with the decision as to where to be treated, it was only natural that instead of going to a Palestinian hospital or even one in neighboring Jordan, he chose to go to Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem.

This is, after all, the same person who spent his career lying about Israel, and smearing it as a nation of oppressors and war criminals. He's part of a government that spends far more on paying salaries and pensions to terrorists and their families than on hospitals. Indeed, in March of this year, he actually went so far as to falsely allege that Israelis were spitting on Palestinian cars so as to spread the coronavirus to them. And though he has served as the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s chief peace negotiator, he's spent his tenure in that position working to make peace negotiations impossible, swearing that he will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state and end the ongoing conflict.

However, when faced with the question of the best place in the region to seek help, Israel was the obvious answer.

One of the region's pre-eminent health-care facilities, Hadassah and its doctors took him in. The odds may be against the seriously ill Erekat, who has already had a lung transplant and a heart attack, surviving the illness. But if he were to have a chance anywhere, it would be at Hadassah.

The better question is: Why would Israel, which has been on the receiving end of his vitriol, slanders, and worse, open its doors to Erekat and do what it could to save him?

Some Israelis and friends of the Jewish state can't understand it. They see this willingness to help even enemies as a particular form of weakness. They cite the passage from the Midrash of the sages that says, "He who becomes compassionate to the cruel will ultimately become cruel to the compassionate" as a good reason to turn Erekat down.

Others think that it was wrong of the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to exact concessions from the Palestinians in exchange for what may well be the best chance of saving Erekat's life. And it wasn't just right-wingers saying that. Michal Cotler-Wunsh, a moderate member of the Knesset from the Blue and White Party, asserted that prior to admitting him, Israel should have gotten the PA to agree to reciprocal humanitarian gestures, such as returning the bodies of slain Israeli soldiers being held by Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip or freeing an Ethiopian-Israeli and an Israeli Arab who wandered over the border to that terrorist enclave.

That sounds only fair; still, the supposedly hardline government led by Netanyahu didn't try to extract such concessions or at least didn't try very hard to do so quietly. Why not?

One pragmatic answer is that for all of the antagonism between Israel and the PA, in addition to the latter's refusal to make peace, the day-to-day working relationship between them continues. Contrary to the incessant talk about the occupation, almost all Palestinians live under the dictatorial rule

of PA leader Mahmoud Abbas and his corrupt Fatah Party. There is a fair amount of security coordination going on that is partly aimed at reducing Palestinian attacks on Israelis, yet also focused on keeping Abbas alive against threats from his Hamas rivals.

Doing favors for Palestinian leaders is part of this uneasy relationship, so it's hardly surprising that Israel would reserve a bed at Hadassah for the use of a person who has done so much to hurt the Jewish state.

But the real reason goes far deeper than that.

As much as Israel is depicted as a modern-day Sparta — a militarized state that is dominated and governed by its security establishment — Jewish values still play a crucial part in its decision-making. Being a Jewish state necessarily involves considerations that a purely utilitarian approach to life would reject.

Much like Netanyahu's highly controversial decision to trade more than 1,000 convicted Palestinian terrorists, including many with blood on their hands, for the freedom of a kidnapped young soldier, Israeli leaders often wind up doing things that objectively make little sense. The Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange let murderers of children walk free; however, the obligation to redeem a captive took precedence and rather than suffer politically for the decision, Netanyahu was applauded by voters even as security experts deplored the precedent he had set.

By the same token, the generally tough-minded premier likely felt that it was impossible for him to refuse a humanitarian request, even from a bitter foe.

It's doubtful that any other country would be so generous to an enemy, yet somehow, the notion that Israel would turn away a person in need is inconceivable. Unlike the English common-law tradition, there is a specific Jewish obligation to help others rather than to stand by watching their plight.

Israel isn't perfect, but it is often unfairly judged by a double standard about its conduct towards enemies that is not applied to any other democracy at war. Though it is far more scrupulous about trying to avoid hurting civilians when it fights its foes, it is continually blamed for any casualties in ways that others are not.

Like the peace offers that Erekat and his comrades have repeatedly rejected, no one will give Israel credit for its unilateral humanitarianism. But it's entirely natural, if also frustrating, that Netanyahu would help a Palestinian leader in need even when we know that if the shoe were on the other foot, Israel's foes would not do the same.

The instinctual application of traditional Jewish values by the Jewish state's secular government should not surprise anyone. Even when it will not advance Israel's cause, behaving decently to those who would not reciprocate such a gesture is still the default position of any government of the Jewish state.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

Continued from Page A6
Debunked

exacerbate US law enforcement officials' disproportionate use of force, especially against people of color."

"Participants' pre-existing notions of militarized security were reinforced by the Israeli officials who teach the methods of mass surveillance, racial profiling, violent repression of protests, infiltration of communities, and the militarization of border security," a narrator says.

It's an extension of an ongoing campaign to connect the training programs to American police violence, in hopes of persuading local governments to prohibit their law enforcement agencies from participating. The AMP video ends by directing viewers to a website called "Deadly Exchange," run by the anti-Israel group Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP).

JVP did not start the campaign to end police exchanges in Israel, but it became one of the effort's leaders in 2017 when it launched a concerted campaign under the banner "Deadly Exchange."

The campaign, and its reliance on unsubstantiated allegations and antisemitic roots, were the subject of a two-part investigation published last week by the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT).

The investigation led to two major findings:

1. Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) spent nearly three years promoting "Deadly Exchange," saying the police trainings in Israel led to "extrajudicial executions, shoot-to-kill policies, police murders..." The organization quietly scrubbed that language from the Deadly Exchange website in June, issuing an "update" which cautioned that "Suggesting that Israel is the start or source of American police violence or racism shifts the blame from the United States to Israel. ... It also furthers an antisemitic ideology."
2. Critics like JVP, AMP, and others offer no evidence to support their allegations. Rather, they make emotional appeals, juxtaposing images of Israeli police in tactical gear with similarly outfitted American cops. The IPT interviewed four police chiefs — two active and two retired — who said they saw none of the horrors described by JVP or AMP.

JVP's update is an indirect acknowledgement that the campaign was rooted in a hyperbolic, antisemitic smear. And our investigation showed how rhetoric falsely linking Israeli police training to American police killing black people has been repeated by Israel-bashers like Linda Sarsour, Marc Lamont Hill, and Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Despite its new disclaimer, JVP has not acknowledged its own role pushing the kind of antisemitic rhetoric it now warns against. Despite engaging in rhetoric it now says "provides fodder for those racist and antisemitic tropes," it wants people to believe the rest of the campaign is grounded in truth. That's simply not the case.

The IPT spoke with police exchange organizers and participants. Each said the programs contained no hands-on training of any kind. And rather than pushing a message of oppression, the chiefs said the programs emphasized the importance of good community relations, of making sure disparate community voices are heard.

"So I knew my experience was nothing even close to what [critics] were trying to portray or what they've said was the purpose of the training, the executive level leadership training," Fayetteville, North Carolina police chief Gina V. Hawkins said. "Definitely, none of the information in regards to any type of policing that's against any type of demographics, because that, one, would go totally against my beliefs, and totally against the beliefs of law enforcement, the professional law enforcement that we know."

LaGrange, Georgia chief Louis Dekmar, a past president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, has traveled to Israel

repeatedly to meet with counterparts there and knows many other police exchange alumni. None has returned saying, "Man, you're not going to believe what we learned about crowd control or you're not going to believe what we learned about new interrogation techniques."

Rather, Dekmar said, "It's how the Israeli police, under extremely difficult circumstances, [have] a respect for human rights and civil rights, the accountability system that includes the courts and how they do a very good job under difficult circumstances."

When the AMP video claims that the programs "exacerbate US law enforcement officials' disproportionate use of force, especially against people of color," the video shows a New York Police Department car rolling into a crowd of protesters.

But real-life experiences from two retired police chiefs who participated in Israeli police exchanges debunk the AMP claim.

George Turner's tenure as Atlanta police chief included protests tied to the Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter movements. A CNN report from 2011 showed that Turner's officers did not use tear gas or any excessive force in finding a middle ground between people's rights to protest and maintaining order.

In Olympia, Washington, police chief Ronnie Roberts advocated on behalf of environmental protesters opposed to fracking sand being shipped through Olympia's port.

In all the years of casting interaction with Israelis as a cause for American police excesses, neither JVP nor AMP nor anyone else has produced a whistleblower to contradict the chiefs' accounts. And while JVP still calls the program "Deadly Exchange," there is not one example of anyone being harmed as a result of the police programs.

Hawkins pointed to a general tendency to "repeat what others say without any evidence, or their own experience from what they've seen or what they've heard. Without any personal experience, they empathize with someone else's story. Which is good. It's okay to empathize. But when you repeat it without understanding, or without true facts, we see a lot on social media right now in which people are just retweeting false information, or sharing information without the full story."

It is important to consider the overall objective held by the police exchange program critics.

JVP members "unequivocally oppose Zionism." The organization includes Omar Barghouti, the father of the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, on a "Deadly Exchange" advisory board. Barghouti openly admits that he opposes "a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian — rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian — will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine."

AMP "unequivocally supports the right of return" for Palestinians, something which would end Israel's existence as a Jewish homeland by flooding it with Palestinian "refugees" who are generations removed from any relative who actually lived in Israel or the Palestinian territories.

We get it. They hate Israel and can't tolerate anything that acknowledges its existence or contributions to the world. Just come out and say it. It would at least be honest and not a perpetuation of this fact-free narrative.

To see part 1 of the IPT investigation, which focuses on JVP's false narrative, click here. To see part 2, and hear directly from the police chiefs and organizers, click here.

Steven Emerson is Executive Director of The Investigative Project on Terrorism (www.investigativeproject.org). He is the author or co-author of eight books on the Middle East, terrorism, and national security, as well as the producer of two award-winning documentaries and the author of thousands of investigative exposes on Islamist groups in the US, terrorist plots, and the corruption of government agencies.

Research Analyst Teri Blumenfeld contributed to this report.

Impressions.

A New Blow to Iran's Forgotten Jews

BY RAFAEL MEDOFF

Isn't there something incongruous about a human rights organization providing a platform to a journalist who has whitewashed human rights abuses?

Next week, an online event organized by the human rights group "3 Generations" will feature *New York Times* op-ed columnist Roger Cohen, who sparked an international furor in 2009 when he visited Iran and announced that the oppressed Jews there were not really so oppressed after all.

Cohen's assertion that Iranian Jews were "living, working, and worshiping in relative tranquility" was met with scorn across the political spectrum. Jeffrey Goldberg, in *The Atlantic*, called him "credulous." The Anti-Defamation League charged Cohen with viewing Iran through "dangerous rose-colored lenses." J.J. Goldberg, in *The Forward*, characterized Cohen as "simply naive, and dangerously so."

In subsequent writings and remarks, Cohen not only doubled down on his denial of Iran's antisemitic persecution, but also heaped praise on the ruling authorities for treating him "with such consistent warmth." That prompted caustic comments recalling notorious instances in history which other dictators wined and dined gullible foreign journalists.

That year's annual State Department report on international religious freedom presented a very different picture from the one Cohen had painted. Iran's 25,000 Jews were the victims of "officially sanctioned discrimination, particularly in the areas of employment, education, and housing," according to the 2009 report. The ruling regime "limited the distribution of Hebrew texts, particularly non-religious texts, making it difficult to teach the language." In addition, "There was a rise in officially sanctioned antisemitic propaganda involving official statements, media outlets, publications, and books."

Cohen tried — not very persuasively — to politicize the controversy. He claimed that allegations of Iranian Jewish suffering were conjured up by his political foes. "The hawks' case against Iran depends on a vision of an apocalyptic regime" that is "frenziedly antisemitic," Cohen asserted. Yet it was Barack Obama's State Department that was portraying Iran as frenziedly antisemitic. It seemed Cohen was using Iran's Jews to advance his own agenda, which was to soften Iran's international image in order to encourage Western rapprochement with the ayatollahs.

The troubling phenomenon of political interests trumping human rights is something with which the leaders of "3 Generations" are all too familiar.

The group's founder, Jane Wells, is the

daughter of Sidney Bernstein, who was assigned by the British Ministry of Information in the spring of 1945 to make a film documenting the atrocities in Nazi death camps — until politics interfered.

Bernstein hired Alfred Hitchcock as his supervising director. They and their crew went into the liberated camps that spring and summer, filming the piles of unburied corpses, the emaciated survivors, and all the other horrific evidence of the Holocaust. Some of the footage was used in postwar trials of Nazi war criminals.

But just before the film was completed, the British authorities shelved it. His Majes-

number of worthy projects that the group has in the works, although there is no mention of any plan to document the plight of Iran's Jews. That's a pity, because according to the most recent State Department report on the subject, the persecution of Iranian Jewry continues unabated.

The 9,000-15,000 Jews remaining in Iran "face societal discrimination and harassment," the report says. They cannot serve in the judiciary, the security services, or various other professions. They "may not engage in public religious expression." Jewish schools must have Muslim principals, must remain open on the Jewish Sabbath, and must have their curricula



PBS NewsHour anchor Judy Woodruff introducing a segment on Nov. 27, 2018, about Jews inside Iran, which garnered criticism of whitewashing the Islamic Republic's hatred of Israel. Photo: Screenshot.

ty's Government had decided upon a policy of "encouraging" and "stimulating" friendly relations with postwar Germany, Bernstein and Hitchcock were abruptly informed in September 1945. An "atrocities film" might make for bad feelings. According to some reports, the British were also concerned that the film might increase sympathy for creating a Jewish state in Palestine, something London was resisting.

It all came full circle 60 years later, when Ms. Wells, Bernstein's daughter, met photojournalist Brian Steidle, who had just returned from Darfur. Steidle described how State Department officials had pressed him to stop circulating his photos of the genocide there; they feared Steidle was undermining US-Sudanese relations. Moved by what she saw as the "overt parallels" between Steidle's experience and her father's, Wells produced an award-winning documentary about the Darfur slaughter, and established the "3 Generations" group to create and promote other human rights films.

The "3 Generations" website describes a

and textbooks approved by the authorities. Iranian government officials "employ antisemitic rhetoric in official statements and sanction it in media outlets, publications, and books," "government-sponsored rallies continued to include chants of 'Death to Israel,'" and "local newspapers carried editorial cartoons that were antisemitic."

All of which makes the upcoming appearance by Roger Cohen at the "3 Generations" event more than a little ironic: An unrepentant denier of anti-Jewish persecution will be featured by an organization whose creation was inspired by the suppression of a film about anti-Jewish persecution. One wonders what Sidney Bernstein would have thought about this turn of events.

Dr. Rafael Medoff is director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies in Washington DC, and author of more than 20 books about the Holocaust and Jewish history.

Legals.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: OTTIMO LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on : 09/08/2020. 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: Leonardo Bellusci 940 54 ST APT IF Brooklyn, NY 11219 purpose:all lawful activity
AJ; 9/18/25;10/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MOSS & FERN LLC .Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on : 07/14/2020. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom processed against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: James T. Castle ESQ 123 Melrose St., Apt. 251 Brooklyn NY 11206 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 9/18/25;10/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: VERONIKA OSSI LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 09/11/2020 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: Veronika Ossipchouk 70 Commercial St. Suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11222 -6126 purpose: All lawful activity
AJ; 9/18/25;10/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 63 SIMMONS LOOP LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 09/11/2020 Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC c/o Nacim Kassa 63 Simmons Loop, Staten Island NY 10314. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 9/18/25;10/2/9/16/23

PLEASE ME LLC. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on 09/11/20. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Maine on 03/07/2017. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o La Reddola, Lester & Associates, LLP, 600 Old Country Road, Suite 230, Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
AJ; 9/18/25;10/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: REGINA'S GROUP DAYCARE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 02/01/2011 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: S Guney 164 President St. Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 9/25;10/2/9/16/23/30

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 89 B&D LLC . Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 02/28/2020. 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: 89 B&D LLC 89 Bergen St., Brooklyn NY 11201 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 9/25;10/2/9/16/23/30

RT Trucking & Transportation LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 9/16/2020. Off. Loc.: Richmond Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 7 post lane Staten Island, NY 10303. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity
AJ; 9/25;10/2/9/16/23/30

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MARY LOU'S PLACE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 09/28/2020. 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: Herbert C Williams PO Box 24476, Brooklyn, NY 11236. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 10/2/9/16/23/30; 11/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ARDOISE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 07/29/2020 .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: Registered agents inc. 90 State St. STE 700 Office Albany New York 12207 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 10/2/9/16/23/30; 11/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ALL AMERICAN SOLUTIONS,LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 08/19/2019 Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: All American Solutions,LLC 82 Nassau Street #985 New York, NY 10038. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 16/23/30; 11/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: BOOLEVARD BOOKS LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 06/22/2020. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Avi Gvili 220 Hylan Blvd. staten Island, NY 10305 .purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 16/23/30; 11/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ELEV8 3D ORGANICS LLC .Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 07/20/2020. 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: ELEV8 3D ORGANICS 1221 E. 98th St., Brooklyn NY 11236. purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 10/9/16/23/30; 11/6/13

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of PALADINO SERVICES LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/14/20. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 67 Manhattan Ave, Apt. 18A, Bklyn, NY 11206. Purpose: any lawful act.
AJ; 10/23/30; 11/6/13/20/27

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: LUXURY EUROPEAN CARS LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 10/07/2020 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: The Limited Liability Company 5815 Church Ave., Brooklyn NY 11203. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 10/23/30; 11/6/13/20/27

**Continued from Page A5
Antisemitic Posts**

Minister Javad Zarif?

A: Javad Zarif is the chief propagandist for the world's leading state sponsor of both terrorism and antisemitism. Any place that welcomes representatives of a country that brutalizes their own people and have committed mass murder through their proxies in Syria, that funds and influences and at times even controls one of the most dangerous terrorist organizations on earth, Hezbollah, that regularly threatens to commit genocide on the Jewish people, that calls Israel "a cancerous tumor." That recently called the president's Jewish son-in-law a "filthy Zionist agent"—the list of offenses of this regime is long. It is beyond imagination why any reputable entity would want to give them a platform.

Q: What was your reaction to the settlement earlier this month between New York University and the US Department of Education?

A: The Title VI case. I don't want to comment on internal matters to the Department of Education, but the allegations that I heard coming out of New York University were very, very troubling. NYU isn't the only place. We saw several Jewish students run out of elected office at the University of Southern California. We've seen harassment all across the country and everywhere in between. It's been very rough for Jewish students on far too many campuses.

Q: Despite Trump recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the US embassy to there, US citizens born in Jerusalem still cannot list "Jerusalem, Israel" as their place of birth on their US passports. Is the administration considering making a move to allow US citizens to do so otherwise?

A: I am aware of that issue, and I know that issue has been actively discussed and looked into it by the appropriate people and I will say at a very senior level.

Q: Is it still under active consideration?

A: I don't know.

Opinion.

No Longer United
Against Israel: The
New Arab World

MORDECHAI KEDAR
JERUSALEM



At the signing ceremony of the Abraham Accords, in Washington, DC, Sept. 15, 2020
Photo: Reuters / Tom Brenner.

For many years, it has been commonly accepted that there is an "Arab world." That world had a unifying institution in the Arab League, a leadership body in the Arab Summit, and a more or less unitary agenda centered around the desire to see Israel disappear and a Palestinian state take its place.

That last element now belongs to the past. For several years now, the so-called "Arab world" has ceased to be what it once was. What exists today are two hostile coalitions that are fighting one another with great tenacity and no sensitivity to the casualties being suffered on either side.

One of these coalitions contains Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Qatar, and Gaza, and it is supported from the outside by Turkey, Russia, and China. Against it stands an opposing coalition made up of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, and Israel, supported from the outside by the US. The remaining Arab states lie somewhere between the coalitions.

Israel has been added to Saudi Arabia's coalition because — and only because — it has proven in recent years that it is the only country in the world capable of inflicting, time after time and at an average frequency of once a week, severe blows on an Iranian force or a pro-Iranian militia in Syria. The Saudi coalition has noted with interest that with the exception of a single instance, Tehran appears to be afraid of hitting back at Israel. Israel is thus effectively deterring Iran. For the sake of comparison, recall that in September 2019, Iran attacked Saudi oil-producing facilities and paralyzed a consid-

erable part of the kingdom's oil industry. Did we hear about a Saudi response? For that matter, have we heard about a response by any country to Iran's attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf or the Red Sea? Is Riyadh capable of deterring Tehran now that the Saudi army has failed in its attempt to destroy the Houthis in Yemen?

In the current situation, with Iran collecting Arab countries like old clothes, Israel — which in the past was considered "the problem" — has become part of the solution. It turns out that there are things more important to some countries than a resolution of the "Palestinian problem." This means the biggest losers from the deep division in the Arab world are the Palestinians, and with them all who believed that Israel would be perceived as the Arabs' ultimate enemy until the problem was solved to the Palestinians' satisfaction. Now that the "Arab world" as it was once constructed has ceased to exist, the "Israel problem" has become a thing of the past.

There are several reasons for the marginalization of the Palestinian issue. The first is the escalation of the Iranian problem to the level of an existential threat, while the Israeli-Palestinian problem is not an existential threat to anyone. The second is Palestinian behavior over the years, and particularly in recent years. The residents of Saudi Arabia and the UAE well remember that Yasser Arafat backed Saddam Hussein

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Q: As we head into the election, how has your current role compared to your previous jobs? Has your current position been your greatest challenge?

A: It's been my greatest joy. I loved being a criminal prosecutor. I loved and still am a US Army officer. As a criminal prosecutor, I fought to keep our communities safe. As an officer, I fought to keep my country safe. And now in this role, on behalf of the United States of America, fighting to keep Jewish people safe across the world. It's an incredible privilege. And it's also a privilege to serve my country in a substantial capacity. It's a privilege to serve in this administration. It's been an absolute joy to do this. Is it a challenge? Of course. But what isn't a challenge. Any substantial office in the US government is very

challenging. Fighting what's often called the world's oldest hatred is certainly challenging.

But I'm optimistic. There is a lot of good news out there. Yes, we have every right to highlight the bad news because that's a good thing to do. You want to know what's bad so that you know what to fix. But we should never ever forget that there is a lot of good news. The changes that are being made. The partners that we have, non-Jewish leaders at all levels of government from the most senior on down who are champions of this cause. Who are deeply offended by Jew hatred and fight it with every fiber of their being. It's one of my greatest privileges in this job to be able to work with leaders around the world who are so committed to fighting for the Jewish people because it's the right thing to do.

Tradition.

Righteousness is not Leadership



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

The praise accorded to Noah is unparalleled in Tanach. He was, says the Torah, “a righteous man, perfect in his generations; Noah walked with God.” No such praise is given to Abraham or Moses or any of the Prophets. The only person in the Bible who comes close is Job, described as “blameless and upright



(*tam ve-yashar*); he feared God and shunned evil” (Job 1:1). Noah is in fact the only individual that the Tanach describes as righteous (*tzaddik*).

Yet the Noah we see at the end of his life is not the person we saw at the beginning. After the Flood:

Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked. (Gen. 9:20-23)

The man of God has become a man of the soil. The upright man has become a drunkard. The man clothed in virtue now lies naked. The man who saved his family from the Flood is now so undignified that two of his sons are ashamed to look at him. This is a tale of decline. Why?

Noah is the classic case of someone who is righteous, but who is not a leader. In a disastrous age, when all has been corrupted, when the world is filled with violence, when even God Himself – in the most poignant line in the whole Torah – “regretted that He had made man on earth, and was pained to His very core,” Noah alone justifies God’s faith in humanity, the faith that led Him to create humankind in the first place. That is an immense achievement, and nothing should detract from it. Noah is, after all, the man through whom God makes a covenant with all humanity. Noah is to humanity what Abraham is to the

Jewish people.

Noah was a good man in a bad age. But his influence on the life of his contemporaries was, apparently, non-existent. That is implicit in God’s statement, “*You alone have I found righteous in this whole generation*” (Gen. 7:1). It is implicit also in the fact that only Noah and his family, together with the animals, were saved. It is reasonable to assume that these two facts – Noah’s righteousness and his lack of influence on his contemporaries – are intimately related. Noah preserved his virtue by separating

himself from his environment. That is how, in a world gone mad, he stayed sane.

The famous debate among the Sages as to whether the phrase “perfect in his generations” (Gen. 6:9) is praise or criticism may well be related to this. Some said that “perfect in his generations” means that he was perfect only relative to the low standard then prevailing. Had he lived in the generation of Abraham, they said, he would have been insignificant. Others said the opposite: if in a wicked generation Noah was righteous, how much greater he would have been in a generation with role models like Abraham.

The argument, it seems to me, turns on whether Noah’s isolation was part of his character, or whether it was merely the necessary tactic in that time and place. If he were naturally a loner, he would not have gained by the presence of heroes like Abraham. He would have been impervious to influence, whether for good or bad. If he was not a loner by nature but merely by circumstance, then in another age he would have sought out kindred spirits and become greater still.

Yet what exactly was Noah supposed to do? How could he have been an influence for good in a society bent on evil? Was he really meant to speak in an age when no one would listen? Sometimes people do not listen even to the voice of God Himself. We had an example of this just two chapters earlier, when God warned Cain of the danger of his violent feelings toward Abel – “Why are you so furious? Why are you depressed?... sin is crouching at the door. It lusts after you, but you can dominate it” (Gen. 4:6-7). Yet Cain did not listen,

and instead went on to murder his brother. If God speaks and people do not listen, how can we criticise Noah for not speaking when all the evidence suggests that they would not have listened to him anyway?

The Talmud raises this very question in a different context, in another lawless age: the years leading to the Babylonian conquest and the destruction of the First Temple, another lawless age:

Aha b. R. Hanina said: Never did a favourable word go forth from the mouth of the Holy One, blessed be He, of which He retracted for evil, except the following, where it is written, “And the Lord said unto him: Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are being done in the midst thereof” (Ezek. 9:4).

The Holy One, blessed be He, said to Gabriel, “Go and set a mark of ink on the foreheads of the righteous, that the destroying angels may have no power over them; and a mark of blood upon the foreheads of the wicked, that the destroying angels may have power over them.” Said the Attribute of Justice before the Holy One, blessed be He, “Sovereign of the Universe! How are these different from those?”

“Those are completely righteous men, while these are completely wicked,” He replied. “Sovereign of the Universe!” said Justice, “They had the power to protest but did not.”

Said God, “Had they protested, they would not have heeded them.”

“Sovereign of the Universe!” said Justice, “This was revealed to You, but was it revealed to them?” (Shabbat 55a)

According to this passage, even the righteous in Jerusalem were punished at the time of the destruction of the Temple because they did not protest the actions of their contemporaries. God objects to the claim of Justice: Why punish them for their failure to protest when it was clear that had they done so, no one would have listened? Justice replies: This may be clear to you or to the angels – meaning, this may be clear in hindsight – but at the time, no human could have been sure that their words would have no impact. Justice asks: How can you be sure you will fail if you never try?

The Talmud notes that God reluctantly agreed with Justice. Hence the strong principle: when bad things are happening in society, when corruption, violence and injustice prevail, it is our duty to register a protest, even if it seems likely that it will have no effect. Why? Because that is what moral integrity demands. Silence may be taken as acceptance. And besides, we can never be sure that no one will listen. Morality demands that we ignore probability and focus on possibility. Perhaps someone will take notice and change their ways – and that “perhaps” is enough.

This idea did not suddenly appear for the first time in the

Talmud. It is stated explicitly in the book of Ezekiel. This is what God says to the Prophet:

“Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against Me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a Prophet has been among them.” (Ezek. 2:3-5)

God is telling the Prophet to speak, regardless of whether people will listen.

So, one way of reading the story of Noah is as an example of lack of leadership. Noah was righteous but not a leader. He was a good man who had no influence on his environment. There are, to be sure, other ways of reading the story, but this seems to me the most straightforward. If so, then Noah is the third case in a series of failures of responsibility. As we saw last week, Adam and Eve failed to take personal responsibility for their actions (“It wasn’t me”). Cain refused to take moral responsibility (“Am I my brother’s keeper?”). Noah failed the test of collective responsibility.

This way of interpreting the story, if correct, entails a strong conclusion. We know that Judaism involves collective responsibility, for it teaches *Kol Yisrael arevim ze baze* (“All Israel are responsible for one another” Shavuot 39a). But it may be that simply being human also involves collective responsibility. Not only are Jews responsible for one another. So are we all, regardless of our faith or religious affiliations. So, at any rate, Maimonides argued, though Nahmanides disagreed.

The Hassidim had a simple way of making this point. They called Noah a *tzaddik in peltz*, “a righteous man in a fur coat.” There are essentially two ways of keeping warm on a cold night. You can wear a thick coat, or you can light a fire. Wear a coat and you warm only yourself. Light a fire and you can warm others too. We are supposed to light a fire.

Noah was a good man who was not a leader. Was he, after the Flood, haunted by guilt? Did he think of the lives he might have saved if only he had spoken out, whether to his contemporaries or to God? We cannot be sure. The text is suggestive but not conclusive.

It seems, though, that the Torah sets a high standard for the moral life. It is not enough to be righteous if that means turning our backs on a society that is guilty of wrongdoing. We must take a stand. We must protest. We must register dissent even if the probability of changing minds is small. That is because the moral life is a life we share with others. We are, in some sense, responsible for the society of which we are a part. It is not enough to be good. We must encourage others to be good. There are times when each of us must lead.

Shabbat Shalom

*Continued from Page A9
No Longer*

when the latter took over Kuwait in 1990. The Saudis are also angry because the Palestinians violated the Mecca Agreement of February 2007, which was supposed to put an end to the rift between Fatah and Hamas. (Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Saudis’ nemesis.) They are also incensed that the Palestinians are willing to accept aid from Iran.

Meanwhile, deep processes are at work. The younger generation of Arabs did not experience the “Palestinian *nakba*” and it is not part of their historical memory. The “Arab Spring,” which precipitated the collapse of regimes and economies and the rise of the Islamic State, threw millions of Arabs into great distress and mass emigration for a life of refugee status, poverty, and suffering far from home. The Palestinians’ belief that those Arabs should fight for the “liberation of Palestine” is not uppermost among their concerns.

As for Palestinian conduct, here is an interesting case. One of Israel’s harshest critics is Jamal Rian, the brain behind *Al Jazeera* and its main newscaster. He was born in Tulkarem, moved to Jordan, and became a prominent activist in the Muslim Brotherhood. It was recently revealed that Rian’s father was a land dealer who, before Israel’s establishment, sold sizable tracts of land to the Jews. What Arab wants to be a “sucker” and fight Israel to liberate for Jamal Rian the lands his father sold to Jews, a transaction that did not exactly harm his son financially?

Another factor that works against the Palestinian ethos is the huge increase in the use of social media. Today, any Arab can see the truth about Israel without needing to rely exclusively on his government’s propaganda outlets for information. Automatic translation allows him or her to “read” Hebrew websites even if he does not understand a word of Hebrew. This makes it much harder for the Palestinians to keep selling “the problem” the way it used to. Indeed, many Arabs now intentionally misspell “the problem” in a way that expresses contempt for it.

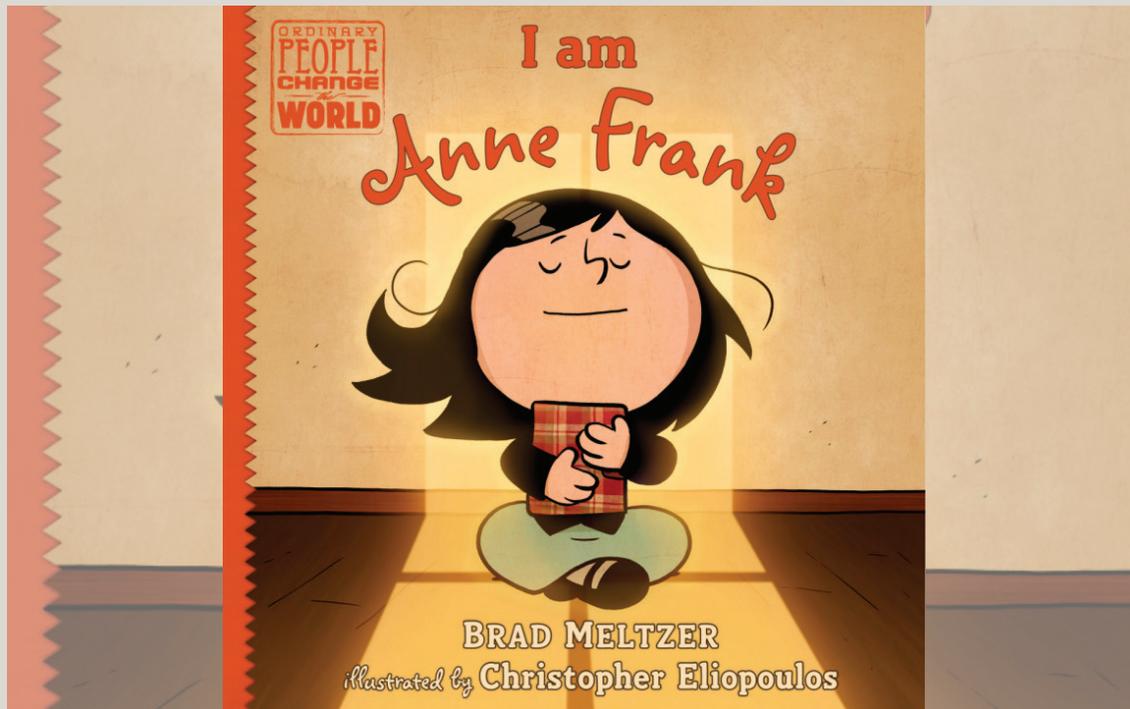
The Arab world of 2020 differs from that of 2000 in many ways. It is not the delusional “new Middle East” envisaged by Shimon Peres but its complete opposite: a region that is violent, fractured, rife with failed states, and afflicted with mass killing. But these unfortunate developments work in Israel’s favor. True, there is still hatred among Arabs for Jews and the Jewish state that must be acknowledged and contended with, and there are still hundreds of thousands of rockets surrounding and threatening Israel. Nevertheless, the trend is clear.

The peace and normalization between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain signifies the collapse of the old theories, enabling the Jewish state to be accepted as a member, not an enemy, in the “right” coalition.

Lt. Col. (res.) Dr. Mordechai Kedar is a senior research associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

A version of this article was originally published by Makor Rishon and the BESA Center.

Social.



The cover of the illustrated book 'I am Anne Frank.'

New Children's Book Highlights Heroism of Anne Frank

BY GARY SHAPIRO

We can all aspire to be heroes.

That is the lesson of an illustrated book series that recounts contributions that a wide range of individuals have made in the world.

Sonia Sotomayor, Billie Jean King, Albert Einstein, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, Helen Keller, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin are among the 22 short illustrated biographies so far in the series for children from kindergarten through about fourth grade.

"The series has grown because we're in an age where people are starved for heroes," Brad Meltzer, the writer and creator of the series, told *The Algemeiner*.

Few books in the series are more poignant than one about the young Jewish girl Anne Frank. She went into hiding with her family from 1942 to 1944 during the German occupation of the Netherlands in World War II.

The family tried unsuccessfully to leave the Netherlands for the United States. As Jewish persecution increased, the family hid in rooms in a secret annex behind a bookcase in the building where Anne's father worked.

This new illustrated book, titled "I am Anne Frank" draws upon words from Frank's own "The Diary of a Young Girl" in which she recounts her thoughts and feelings during this clandestine episode of her life. Her diary, translated into 70 languages, became one of the most well-known books in the world.

"The book 'I am Anne Frank' has been without question the most important book I've ever worked on," said Meltzer.

Christopher Eliopoulos is the illustrator of the series.

Regarding the secret annex, Frank noted, "It may be damp and lopsided, but there's probably not a more comfortable hiding place in all of Amsterdam. No, in all of Holland."

In late 1944, Anne Frank and her sister were deported to Auschwitz and then to Bergen-Belsen, where they perished.

The diary, which Frank received as a birthday

present and had a lock to protect it from being opened, recounts her experience living in hiding. A film lover, she decorated her walls with pictures of movie stars from a collection of her magazines that her father surprised her by taking along.

Part of the book opens with showing how Frank likes to play hide-and-seek, as well as ice skate. Meltzer said young readers see how "this little girl is just like them."

Over one million people annually visit the annex in Holland where she and her family went into hiding. One brief character in the book "I am Anne Frank" said, "By remembering and telling Anne's story we make sure nothing like this ever happens again."

Meltzer said Anne Frank believed that people are truly good at heart. He said, "Our kids need that message especially today."

What was the origin of the book? Meltzer recalled, "I walked into my editor's office and said I'd like to do a children's book about the Holocaust, I thought she was going to kick me out of there. To her credit, she said, 'I think it's the exact right time.'"

Meltzer contacted the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, who put him in touch with a historian. The author likewise contacted the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect located in Atlanta to get advice with dealing with a subject of such sensitivity.

"There's a fine line between educating and scaring," Meltzer noted.

He added, "The book teaches children about kindness, compassion and character. Our kids need hope right now. There's no better hero to teach than Anne Frank."

Meltzer emphasized, "I want my own kids to know that even in the darkest places you can still find light. It's a vital lesson for all of us."

"The book 'I am Anne Frank' enables you to have conversations with your kids that become really rewarding," he said. "For our kids, the world is a scary place right now. There's so much to worry about now. It's nice to put a little hope back into the universe," Meltzer said.

The conclusion of the book goes, "Throughout your life, you'll find people who need help. Be a helper."

More Than 6-in-10 Arab News Poll Respondents Think Gal Gadot a Good Choice to Play Cleopatra

BY i24 NEWS

Gal Gadot's casting as ancient Egyptian queen Cleopatra created a Twitter storm last week, but the announcement left a surprising population largely unmoved.

More than 70 percent of respondents to an *Arab News* Twitter poll said they had "no problem" with the idea of Gadot – an Israeli star, who was the third-highest paid actress in Hollywood in 2020 – playing the role.



Gal Gadot. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Many of the Twitterati complained bitterly that it was an affront to select an Israeli actress to play the Egyptian queen, who famously had a torrid marriage with Roman general and politician Mark Antony.

However, the idea that Cleopatra was an Arab was quickly debunked, she was in fact of Greek descent – and a clear majority – 61 percent of respondents – said "Yes" to the question: "Do you think Israeli actress Gal Gadot is suitable for the role of Cleopatra." A further 12 percent said to wait and see before deciding, while 27 percent firmly answered, "No."

The news site's editors seemed caught out by the results of the poll, headlining the article, "Shockingly, most *Arab News* readers in favor of Israeli actress Gal Gadot as Cleopatra," according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

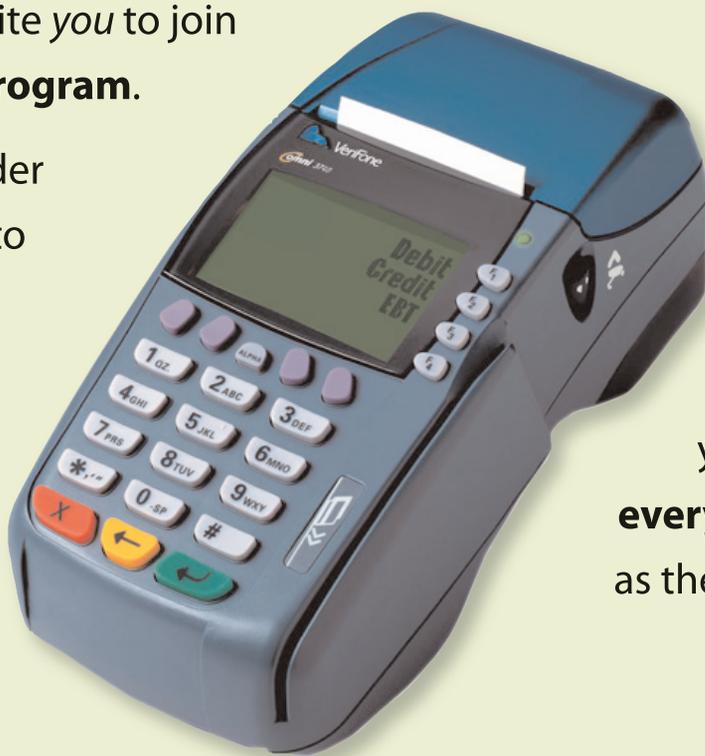
While some on Twitter debated ancient geopolitics, others turned to more present-day commentary, arguing that the casting and timing of the movie were announced in the wake of the Abraham Accords between Israel and the two Gulf neighbors United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

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