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THE algemeiner JOURNAL

\$1.00 - PRINTED IN NEW YORK

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2017 | 29 SIVAN 5777

VOL. XLV NO. 2310

Hamas Said to Be Facing 'Perilous Time'



Palestinians in Gaza.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

BY BEN COHEN

As it simultaneously confronts a domestic crisis in Gaza and an international one over Qatar, Hamas is living in "a perilous time," a leading expert on the Palestinian Islamist terrorist organization told The Algemeiner on Tuesday.

With the Gaza Strip now facing critical electricity shortages of as little as 45 minutes a day, Hamas upped its militant rhetoric

on Tuesday, following Israel's decision to accede to a request from Mahmoud Abbas — the president of the Palestinian Authority (PA) — to slash the amount of electricity which the Jewish state supplies to the coastal enclave. The PA informed Israel in April that it was no longer prepared to foot the electricity bill for Gaza, which has been ruled by Hamas since 2007 when it violently ousted Fatah from power there.

"The decision of the occupation to reduce the electricity to Gaza at the request of PA President Mahmoud Abbas is catastrophic and dangerous," Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif al-Qanua said. "It will accelerate the deterioration and explode the situation in the Strip. Those who will bear the consequences of this decision are the Israeli enemy, who is besieging the Gaza Strip, and PA President

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Israeli Official: Palestinian Boycott of 'Wonder Woman' Exudes 'Weakness and Fear'

BY BARNEY BREEN-PORTNOY

The decision by a Ramallah movie theater to not screen the blockbuster film "Wonder Woman" due to the starring role of Israel actress Gal Gadot exudes "weakness and fear," a top IDF official said on Sunday.

"Apparently, at the Berg Palestine Theater in Ramallah they are afraid the audience will enjoy the excellent movie



Israeli actress and 'Wonder Woman' star Gal Gadot.
Photo: Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons.

'Wonder Woman,' and cannot separate politics from an American film," Maj. Gen. Yoav Mordechai — the head of the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit — wrote in Arabic on his Facebook page, according to Israeli media reports.

"Those who are sure of themselves are not afraid of movies, even if they star Wonder Woman!," Mordechai concluded.

"Wonder Woman" — which hit screens around the world last week and has already earned nearly \$300 million — has also faced boycotts in Lebanon and Jordan.

Judaism and Homosexuality

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat SHELACH
פרשת שלח

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 8:11pm | Shabbat Ends: 9:20pm



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Opinion.

Why Won't Abbas Accept 'Two States for Two Peoples'?

ALAN DERSHOWITZ
BOSTON

This article was originally published by the Gatestone Institute.

There is a widespread but false belief that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is finally prepared to accept the two-state solution proposed by the United Nations (UN) in November 1947, when it divided Mandatory Palestine into two areas: one for the Jewish people, the other for the Arab people. At the time, the Jews of Palestine accepted the compromise division and declared a nation-state for the Jewish people, to be called by its historic name: Israel. The Arabs of Palestine, on the other hand, rejected the division and declared that they would never accept a state for the Jewish people and one for the Palestinian people. They wanted for there not to be a state for the Jewish people more than for there to be a state for their own people.

Accordingly, they joined the surrounding Arab armies in trying to destroy Israel and drive its Jewish residents into the sea. They failed back then, but over the years and to the current day, they have continued to want no state for the Jewish people more than they want a state for Palestinian Arabs. That is why Abbas refuses to say that he would ever accept the UN principle of "two states for two peoples."

I know, because I have personally asked him on several occasions.

In a few months Israel will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the historic UN compromise, but the leaders of the Palestinian Authority still refuse to accept the principle of that resolution: two states for two peoples.

US President Donald Trump, for his part, has expressed an eagerness to make "the ultimate deal" between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This has propelled discussions about the dormant peace process back into the spotlight. Shortly before travelling to the Middle East — where he met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel and President Abbas in Bethlehem — Trump invited the Palestinian leader to the White House. Abbas was last at the White House in March 2014, shortly before the Obama administration's shuttle diplomacy efforts — led by former Secretary of State John Kerry — fell apart.

Leading up to his meeting with President Trump in Washington, Abbas said to a German publication: "[W]e're ready to collaborate with him and meet the Israeli prime minister under his [Trump's] auspices to build peace." He then went on to voice his support for a two-state solution saying, "It's high time to work on the requirements for it." This was interpreted as a willingness on Abbas' part to accept the idea of a state for the Jewish people.

Generally speaking, the international community supports the idea of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a state for the Jewish people alongside a state for the Palestinians. Yet, to present Abbas as a supporter of

the two-states for two people formulation is to deny truth. The general idea of a two-state solution — which Abbas has nominally supported — does not specify that one state would be for the Jewish people and the other one for the Arabs. Over the years President Abbas has expressed a commitment to a two-state solution — stating that he supports an Arab state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital — but has so far refused to accept the legitimacy of a nation-state for the Jews existing alongside it.

Consider President Abbas' own words. In a 2003 interview he said: "I've said it before, and I'll say it again: I will never recognize the Jewishness of the state, or a 'Jewish state.'" When asked about Israel being the nation-state of the Jewish people (in the context of former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's generous peace proposal in 2008) the PA leader said: "From a historical perspective, there are two states: Israel and Palestine. In Israel, there are Jews and others living there. This we are willing to recognize, nothing else."

And in a later interview with the *Al-Quds* newspaper Abbas reiterated this refusal to recognize that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people: "We're not talking about a Jewish state and we won't talk about one. For us, there is the State of Israel and we won't recognize Israel as a Jewish state. I told them that this is their business and that they are free to call themselves whatever they want. But [I told them] you can't expect us to accept this."



US President Donald Trump and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas 2017.
Photo: The White House.

The list of such pronouncements from the man at the head of the Palestinian Authority goes on and on. Not only has Abbas refused to accept the formulation "Jewish state," he adamantly refuses to accept the more descriptive formulation "nation-state of the Jewish people."

Abbas is, of course, committed to Palestine being a Muslim state under Sharia Law, despite the reality that Christian Palestinians constitute a significant (if forcibly shrinking) percentage of Palestinian Arabs. Article 4 of the Palestinian Basic Law states that "1. Islam is the official religion in Palestine. Respect and sanctity of all other heavenly religions shall be maintained. 2. The principles of Islamic Shari'a shall be the main source of legislation."

Writing for the *New York Times* on the advent of the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, Israel's former ambassador to the US, Michael Oren, noted: "The conflict is not about

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the
Algemeiner Journal

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

Subscription rate \$40 per year

Algemeiner Journal
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Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225-3023

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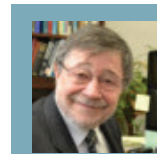
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Debating the Morality of the BDS Cult

JUDEA PEARL
LOS ANGELES

I have not spoken to this debate club before, and I am glad to do so on this occasion, because I see it as a historic moment.

For more than 10 years now, we have been witnessing BDS supporters roaming the campus with their megaphones and slander machines, accusing Israel of every imaginable crime, from apartheid to child molesting — accusing, accusing and accusing.

Today, for the first time in the history of UCLA, we see BDS itself on the accused bench, with its deceitful tactics, immoral ideology and anti-peace stance brought to trial.

It is a historic moment.

BDS is not a new phenomenon; it is a brainchild of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al Husseini, who in April 1936 started the Arab Rejectionist movement (under the auspices of the Arab Higher Committee), and the first thing he did was to launch a boycott of Jewish agricultural products and a general strike against Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine from war-bound Europe.

The 1936 manifesto of the rejectionist movement was very similar to what BDS co-founder Omar Barghouti presented here at UCLA on January 15, 2014. It was brutal in its simplicity: Jews are not entitled to any form of self-determination in any part of Palestine, not even the size of a postage stamp — end of discussion!

Here is where BDS earns its distinct immoral character: denying one people rights to a homeland, rights that are granted

to all others. This amounts to discrimination based on national identity, which in standard English vocabulary would be labeled "bigotry," if not "racism."

This rejectionist ideology has dominated the Arab mindset from 1936 to this very day — BDS is only its latest symptom. It explains why Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas spends so much time at UNESCO trying to erase Jewish history, why Palestinian children sing "There is no such thing as Israel," and why their hosts and educators on official Palestinian TV applaud them with "Bravo! Bravo!" It also explains why the Israeli peace camp has such a hard time convincing the majority of Israelis that despite what they see without end in Palestinian schools, there still are some partners for peace among the Palestinians.

The mufti's boycott of 1936 scored one major "victory" for the Palestinians. The British government succumbed to mass Arab unrest and prevented European Jewish refugees from entering Palestine. My grandparents were among those seeking refuge; they perished in Auschwitz in 1942.

This, ironically, was the last victory of Arab rejectionism. For eight decades, rejectionism has led the Palestinian people from one disaster to another. It led them to reject a Palestinian state in 1937 and 1947; it drove



BDS activists (Illustrative). Photo: Facebook.

them to attack Israel in 1948, with the Nakba ("catastrophe" in Arabic) as a consequence; it led them to reject land-for-peace proposals in Khartoum in 1967, which gave rise to the settlement movement; and it prevented them from accepting any of the peace offers made since. Rejectionism negates the very notion of "end of conflict."

Today, rejectionism is the Number One obstacle to Palestinian statehood. The total absence of peace education in Palestinian schools and media give Israelis fairly good reasons to question the ability of the Palestinian leadership to honor any peace agreement, however favorable. No country can come to life that openly seeks the elimination of its neighbor.

Back to the moral side of rejectionism. In 2014, BDS' Barghouti stood here at UCLA and proclaimed, "Jews are not a people, and the UN principle to self-determination does not apply to them." Barghouti made no effort to hide the racist foundations of BDS ideology, but we should keep these foundations in mind as we consider the question before us tonight: Is BDS moral?

I would like to move now from the history of Zionophobic rejectionism to its current aims and tactics. The leaders of the BDS movement do not hide their real purpose. In every conversation with them, they admit their ultimate goal is not to end the occupation, and surely not to promote peace or coexistence, but to delegitimize Israel in the international arena, isolate her, and eventually bring about her collapse.

What most people fail to realize is that BDS is not interested in boycotting, either, because it knows that a boycott cannot achieve any meaningful level of success. Show me one

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World News.

UN Agency Discovers Hamas Terror Tunnel Underneath Gaza Schools

BY JNS.ORG

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Friday it had discovered the existence of a Hamas terror tunnel located underneath two of the UN body's schools in the Gaza Strip.

According to UNRWA spokesman Christopher Guinness, the tunnels were found below the Maghazi Elementary Boys A&B School and the Maghazi Preparatory Boys School, which are located on the same premises, during the construction of a school building. Guinness said UNRWA "condemns the existence of such tunnels in the strongest possible terms."

"It is unacceptable that students and staff are placed at risk in such a way," he said. "The construction and presence of tunnels under UN premises are incompatible with the respect of privileges and immunities owed to the United Nations under applicable international



A Hamas terror tunnel that extends from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Photo: IDF Spokesperson's Unit.

law, which provides that UN premises shall be inviolable. The sanctity and neutrality of UN premises must be preserved at all times."

During the 2014 war between Israel and Hamas, Israel repeatedly condemned the Palestinian terror group for using tunnels under schools to launch rockets from Gaza. In the same conflict, Hamas weapons were reportedly discovered inside UNRWA schools.

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Two People

the territory Israel captured in 1967. It is about whether a Jewish state has a right to exist in the Middle East in the first place. As Mr. Abbas has publicly stated, 'I will never accept a Jewish state.'

Oren argued that until Abbas and other Palestinian leaders can say the words "two states for two peoples," no reasonable resolution will be reached.

The Palestinian leader's conditional support for a peaceful resolution is also undermined by his own actions. For years, the Palestinian Authority — first under the leadership of the late Yasser Arafat and now under the 82-year-old Abbas — has perpetuated a vile policy of making payments to terrorists and their families. According to the official PA budget, in 2016 the Palestinian Authority directed approximately \$300 million to the families of so called "martyrs" and to terrorists in Israeli prisons. Abbas claims to be a man of peace, yet in reality he incentivizes, rewards and incites terrorism.

It must also be remembered that Israel had offered to end the occupation and settlements in 2000-2001. These generous peace initiatives would have established a demilitarized Palestinian state. In 2008, then-Prime Minister Olmert made an even more generous proposal by offering the Palestinians 97% of the West Bank, but Abbas did not respond. For the past several years, the current Israeli government has offered to sit down and negotiate a two-state solution with no pre-conditions — not even advanced recognition of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Yet no substantive negotiations have taken place.

Some of the blame rests on the shoulders of former US President Barack Obama. By applying pressure only to the Israeli side, not to the Palestinians, Obama consistently disincentivized Abbas from embracing the two states for two peoples paradigm. This came to a head in December 2016 when Obama allowed the US not to veto the inane UN resolution, under which the Western Wall and other historically Jewish sites are not recognized as part of Israel. (Recall that UN resolution 181 mandated a "special interna-

tional regime for the city of Jerusalem," and Jordan captured it illegally. Israel liberated Jerusalem in 1967, and allowed everybody to go to the Western Wall.)

It is a tragedy that the international community — headed by the UN — has encouraged the Palestinian Authority's rejectionism, rather than pushing it to make the painful compromises that will be needed from both sides in reaching a negotiated two-state outcome. Indeed, just a few days ago the UN, once again demonstrated that it is a barrier to the peace process. In his address at the UN General Assembly marking the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War and Israel's "occupation" of the West Bank, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said:

In 1947, on the basis of United Nations General Assembly resolution 181, the world recognized the two-state solution and called for the emergence of 'independent Arab and Jewish states.' On 14 May 1948, the State of Israel was born. Almost seven decades later, the world still awaits the birth of an independent Palestinian state.

Guterres failed to acknowledge that "the reason the world still awaits the birth of an independent Palestinian state" is because the Arabs rejected the UN partition plan, which would have given them their own state, committing instead to seven decades of undermining Israel's legitimacy.

When the Palestinian leadership and people want their own state more than they want there not to be a state for the Jewish people, the goal of the 1947 UN resolution — two states for two peoples — will be achieved. A good beginning would be for Abbas finally to agree with the UN resolution and say the following words: "I accept the 1947 UN resolution that calls for two states for two peoples."

It's not too much to ask from a leader seeking to establish a Palestinian Muslim state.

Alan M. Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Emeritus, at Harvard Law School and author of "Taking the Stand: My Life in the Law" and "Electile Dysfunction: A Guide for the Unaroused Voter." Follow Alan Dershowitz on Twitter: @AlanDersh and Facebook: @AlanMDershowitz.

Israel's Arrow 3 Missile Defense System to Be Tested in Alaska in 2018



The launch of an Arrow 3 interceptor. Photo: US Missile Defense Agency via Wikimedia Commons.

BY JNS.ORG

Israel and the US will carry out a joint test of the Arrow 3 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) defense system in Alaska in 2018.

The test launch will take place on Kodiak Island on Alaska's southern coast, and is being conducted as part of a five-to-six year, \$80.4 million contract between the Alaska Aerospace Corporation and the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

"[Arrow 3] has significant range constraints within the Mediterranean," US Navy Vice Admiral James Syring, the MDA's director, told

a congressional meeting last week. "One of the better places to test is in Alaska, from Kodiak, and we intend to do that next year."

Arrow 3, which is capable of intercepting ICBMs outside of the Earth's atmosphere, will be tested on targets similar to advanced Iranian ballistic missiles. The system will serve as the upper tier of Israel's multilayered missile defense program, which also includes the Iron Dome and David's Sling. Arrow 3 was designed by Israel's Missile Defense Organization in cooperation with the MDA, and was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries along with the American defense firm Boeing.

Israel Complies With PA Demand to Cut Gaza Electricity Supply by 40%

BY JNS.ORG

Following a decision by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to pay only 60 percent of the Gaza Strip's monthly electricity bill, the Israeli government Sunday agreed with the PA's request to cut electricity that the Jewish state provides to the Hamas-ruled territory by 35 percent.

The PA's move aims to pressure the Palestinian terror group to relinquish some of its control of Gaza to the PA. The cut in electricity leaves 2 million residents of Gaza with two to three hours of electrical power per day, down from the four hours per day available to them

since April.

PA President Mahmoud Abbas had warned that "unprecedented measures" would be implemented if Hamas does not forfeit some of its control over Gaza to the PA. Hamas has refused to comply with Abbas's demands.

The West Bank-based PA has paid the monthly bill of NIS 40 million (\$11.3 million) for electricity provided by Israel to Gaza since Hamas seized control of the coastal territory in 2007. Following Hamas's coup in Gaza, repeated attempts by Abbas's Fatah party and Hamas to create a Palestinian unity government have failed.

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Perilous

Mahmoud Abbas."

Earlier on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressed that Israel had "no interest in escalation, and any analysis to the contrary is mistaken."

"Hamas is demanding that the PA pay for the electricity and the PA is refusing to do so," Netanyahu said. "This is an internal Palestinian argument."

Hamas may not be in a position to initiate a conflict with Israel in the first place. "In the short term, Hamas is not on solid ground

to launch yet another war," said Jonathan Schanzer — a Middle East expert at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies (FDD) think tank in Washington, DC and the author of several books and articles on Hamas.

Schanzer pointed out that Hamas lacked a necessary support base for entering a new armed clash with Israel. Qatar, currently facing a blockade led by Saudi Arabia, is not in a position to back Hamas as it did during the previous Gaza war in the summer of 2014, while Iran and Hamas are only at the stage of "rekindling their ties," Schanzer told *The Algemeiner*.

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World News.



The Hague. Photo: Rene Mensen via Wikimedia Commons.

Dutch Muslim City Councilman Calls Visiting Israeli Students 'Future Zionists Terrorists, Murderers of Children'

BY RACHEL FROMMER

A Muslim city councilman in The Hague recently called Israeli high school students visiting the Netherlands "future Zionist terrorists" and "murders of children," the Center for Information and Documentation of Israel (CIDI) reported late last week.

Abdoe Khoufani, a member of the Islamist Party of Unity, made his comments on Facebook about a 30-member delegation of 16-year-olds from the Hen School for Young Ambassadors, who had come to the country on an Israeli Center for Young Leaders (ICYL)-organized mission to build ties with their Dutch peers.

According to Ynet News, one of the students on the trip said, "It is disappointing to discover that when we, Israel's youth, come as a delegation without political interests to promote friendly relations with Dutch youth, we encounter a sad barrier of antisemitism and hatred of Israel."

In response to Khoufani's comments, Israel's Ambassador to the Netherlands Aviv

Shir-On has reportedly sent a letter to the mayor of The Hague, Pauline Krikke, in which he called the incident "not just a scandal" but "absolutely unacceptable."

"These words [Khoufani's] are nothing but anti-Israel incitement that can lead to violence that we have unfortunately seen in Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Manchester and London," Shir-On wrote.

Though a number of Dutch lawmakers have criticized Khoufani for his comments, Krikke has reportedly yet to respond.

On Thursday, the youth arm of CIDI organized a demonstration, attended by the Israeli student delegation, in front of The Hague City Hall. The students held an Israeli flag, and ICYL representatives later wrote on Facebook that the students' message was "hate will not prevail, love will lead the way."

CIDI has expressed hope that an investigation would be launched into Khoufani, who has a history of making incendiary comments, including a 2014 statement in support of ISIS and misogynistic threats earlier this month against a woman who criticized his anti-Israel rhetoric.

goal of putting an end to Israel. They even coined fancy names for that end: "one-state solution" or "a state for all its citizens"—a delusional setting of wolves protecting sheep to the sound of progressive slogans, totally oblivious to Middle East realities. Noam Chomsky, a staunch critic of Israel, called this BDS strategy "hypocrisy crying to heaven." And Norman Finkelstein, not a warmer friend of Israel, called it "a hypocritical dishonest cult led by dishonest gurus."

Maintaining this dishonesty, however, is crucial for BDS' survival; any attempt to distance itself from the goal of eliminating Israel would cost BDS its vital support base among Palestinians.

I believe that everyone would like to find out from BDS supporters how peace can emerge between two partners, one insisting on seeing the other dead, and the other insisting on staying alive — no matter how glamorous the coffin.

Leaving behind this logical impossibility, I believe that we should strive for a more realistic vision of peace: two states for two peoples, equally legitimate and equally indigenous.

And we must start with the latter.

Judea Pearl is Chancellor's professor at UCLA and president of the Daniel Pearl Foundation (www.danielpearl.org), which

ADL Chief Regrets Co-Signing Letter With Anti-Israel Groups

BY BEN COHEN

Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), said on Monday he was "deeply upset" and "troubled" after discovering that a public statement opposing anti-Muslim bigotry which his organization recently endorsed was also signed by a number of radical anti-Israel groups.

"We would not sign onto any letter alongside these organizations intentionally," Greenblatt told *The Algemeiner*.

The statement — an initiative of Muslim Advocates, a Washington, DC-based legal organization — was addressed to a number of mayors around the country and urged them to speak out against "March Against Sharia" events held on Saturday by ACT for America, a national security advocacy organization described in the statement as "the nation's largest anti-Muslim hate group."

ACT for America strongly disputes that label. On its website, it pointed out it had canceled a planned event in Arkansas after finding out that one of the local organizers was associated with white supremacist groups. The organization — which was founded by Lebanese-born conservative journalist and activist Brigitte Gabriel — said its "nationwide marches are in support of basic human rights for all — and against the horrific treatment of women, children, and members of the LGBTQ community that is sanctioned by Sharia law."

A number of centrist religious and human rights groups signed onto the Muslim Advocates statement, including The National Council of La Raza and The Sikh Coalition. As well as the ADL, Jewish signatories included the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Union for Reform Judaism and the National Council of Jewish Women.

But the final list of signatories included a number of marginal groups known for their support of the BDS campaign and similar efforts to promote the view that the State of Israel has no right to exist. Among them was "Jewish Voice for Peace" (JVP) — a stridently anti-Zionist fringe group that encourages its members to mourn the creation of the

State of Israel on Tisha B'Av, a Jewish fast day that commemorates the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Five members of JVP were arrested at the Salute to Israel parade in New York City last Sunday after they violently intimidated a pro-Israel contingent from the LGBT community.

Also among the signatories was the National Iranian-American Council (NIAC), a Washington, DC-based group that frequently lobbies on behalf of the Tehran regime, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker organization that supports BDS, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which has expressed sympathy for the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas as well as for the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Algemeiner has learned that ADL was approached early on in the solicitation process and that the majority of other groups appended their signatures later. The ADL was not shown a final copy of the statement with all the signatories before it was published on Friday.

Greenblatt acknowledged the ADL would have to "exercise greater caution" in future before lending its name to other statements with multiple signatories. He expressed support for the substance of the Muslim Advocates statement, saying that the anti-Sharia marches "were hostile and exhibited a high degree of intolerance for Muslims in general, and that's why we spoke up."

The ADL chief argued that the main goal of groups like JVP in signing such statements was to "move from the margins to the mainstream by inserting themselves into the center of the public conversation as a way to legitimize themselves."

"We cannot allow the radical left to hijack well-intended efforts like this one," Greenblatt stated. It was imperative, he continued, to avoid a situation where individuals and groups from the political center "feel forced to leave rather than abandon their principles."

"We're going to be a lot more careful, but we are not going to surrender the center to the extremists," Greenblatt said. "We cannot allow fringe groups to capitalize on our halo."

Continued from Page A3
Perilous

The gravity of the showdown between Qatar and an Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain — sparked by Qatar's funding for terrorist groups and its alignment with Iran — will only further tie the hands of Hamas, the Qatari-funded broadcaster Al Jazeera noted in an analysis of the situation.

Pulling no punches about the potentially enormous impact of both the crisis with Abbas and the increasingly untenable position of Hamas' Qatar-based leadership, the article asserted that Hamas may no longer be able to sustain itself.

It was likely that Hamas would "lean towards political accommodation and reach a compromise deal with Abbas and Fatah that will allow the return of PA power in Gaza again," the Al Jazeera piece said.

Schanzer said the present "is a perilous time for Hamas."

"The PA smells an opportunity here, Israel

also sees an opportunity here," Schanzer said. "Hamas is getting squeezed in Qatar and this means that it is looking for another headquarters abroad."

Schanzer added that, according to his sources, part of the reason for the present electricity shortage in Gaza is that Hamas has been diverting the power supply to the underground tunnels it is once again constructing. Since seizing power in Gaza in 2007, Hamas has used these tunnels into both Egypt and Israel as smuggling routes, weapons storage sites and launch pads for attacks inside Israeli territory.

The tunnels were also a prominent theme in the remarks of House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) at a congressional subcommittee meeting on Tuesday. "Earlier this month, more Hamas tunnels were found under two UN Relief Works Agency schools in Gaza," Royce said.

"Hamas is still using civilians and children to hide its activities," he added.

promotes press freedom and East-West understanding. He is a co-editor of "I am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl (Jewish Light, 2004), winner of the National Jewish Book Award. Professor Pearl specializes in artificial intelligence, human reasoning and

philosophy of science. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and winner of the Benjamin Franklin medal for 2008, and the Alan Turing Award for 2011.

This essay originally appeared at JewishJournal.com, and is reprinted with permission of the publisher.

U.S. News.

Bomb Threats Shutter 3 Los Angeles Synagogues on Shabbat

BY JNS.ORG

Three Los Angeles synagogues were temporarily closed due to several bomb threats this past weekend, disrupting Shabbat services.

Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Officer Mike Lopez said Wilshire Boulevard Temple and University Synagogue shut down early Saturday morning. The locations reopened in the afternoon after police deemed the venues secure.

University Synagogue was closed after a staff member “found an email that was beyond nasty — horrific language, and threatening” in one of the congregation’s email accounts, said the synagogue’s Rabbi Morley T. Feinstein, the Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles reported.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple encountered a similar incident when a threat was sent through its website. “While a communication like that can come in through something as innocuous as an online submission form, we take them all seriously,” said Don Levy, the synagogue’s director of marketing and communications.

The incidents follow a wave of more than 150 bomb threats issued against Jewish institutions in early 2017, stoking fears of rising antisemitism. In April, the US Justice Department filed criminal charges against an Israeli-American teenager who stands accused of initiating the threats.



Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Report: Trump Leaked Intel Obtained in Israeli Hack of ISIS

BY JNS.ORG

The source of classified intelligence shared by President Donald Trump with Russian government officials in May was acquired by Israel in a hacking operation against Islamic State computers, the New York Times reported on Monday.

The report, which cites a unnamed US official, says Israeli “cyberoperators” infiltrated an Islamic State terror cell of bomb-makers in Syria several months ago. The information

obtained by the Israeli hackers enabled the US to determine the Islamic State terrorists were developing explosives that could bypass airport security in a laptop battery, according to the report.

In May, a previous report said an Israeli intelligence asset embedded within an Islamic State terror cell may have been put at risk following Trump’s alleged disclosure of highly sensitive intelligence during an Oval Office meeting with Russian officials.

Israeli PM Netanyahu Says Earthquake ‘Can Hit at Any Moment,’ Announces Emergency Drill

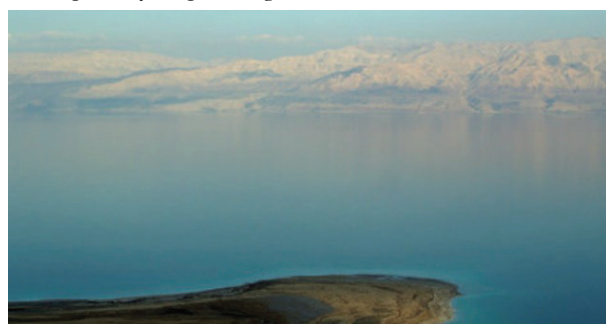
BY JNS.ORG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the launch of a drill this week to improve Israel’s preparedness for major earthquakes.

“I hope there will not be an earthquake in 2017,” Netanyahu said at Sunday’s cabinet meeting. “There are enough earthquakes around us in all senses of the word, but we live adjacent to the Syrian-African rift, and an earthquake can hit at any moment.”

Experts have concluded that in an extreme scenario, a massive earthquake in Israel could kill as many as 3,000 people and injure 3,800, while leaving 4,200 trapped and 80,000 displaced. In the same scenario, 7,300 buildings would sustain massive damage and 27,000 would be moderately damaged.

Israel has experienced several small earthquakes in recent years. In July 2015, a 4.3-magnitude earthquake struck around the Dead Sea area, but no injuries or damage were reported. A 5.2-magnitude earthquake centered in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula in June 2015 led to tremors being felt throughout Israel, forcing Ben-Gurion International Airport to temporarily suspend flights.



In July 2015, a 4.3-magnitude earthquake struck around the Dead Sea (pictured) in Israel. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

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Opinion.

Jason Greenblatt, Israel's Fearless Friend in the White House



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

Less than six months into his job as President Donald Trump's adviser on international negotiations and chief Middle East envoy, Jason Greenblatt is already feeling heat.

Following his trips to the Middle East in March and May, some in the pro-Israel community have already begun accusing Greenblatt of coming under the influence of left-leaning, wing-tipped bureaucrats at the State Department.

They point to Jason's meetings with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who they believe (as do I) is not a true partner in peace. They take issue with Trump's failure to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. They question Jason's relationship with Tzipi Livni and Ronald Lauder. And they intimate he is slowly falling for a decades-old European campaign for a two-state solution.

The criticisms don't stop at policy. In the Israeli press, some even criticized Jason for not wearing a yarmulke. Even Reuters mentioned it in March.

But I know Jason. And it bothers me to see a good man defamed.

So here are the facts.

On the yarmulke issue, there has already been way too much frum-shaming aimed at members of the Trump administration. It is downright disgusting. I am a proud Jew and believe in external manifestations of Jewishness. But the constant attempts to humiliate Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump about travel on Shabbat, and now Jason about a yarmulke, subvert basic norms of Jewish decency and punish those in the administration who are observant. Rather than being proud of their Orthodoxy, we seek to prove their hypocrisy. The Mishna in Ethics of our Fathers is clear: judge everyone favorably. Shame on us that we don't.

Jason Greenblatt is a devout and observant Jew. Whether he wears a kippah is not the public's business. Plenty of other generally kippah-clad Orthodox Jews opted not to wear yarmulkes while serving in their official

capacities — among them former US Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer, ex-President Barack Obama's Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew, or even the famously Orthodox retired Senator Joe Lieberman. While I absolutely believe in wearing a yarmulke, sitting with a magnifying glass to examine who does and doesn't wear one is the condescension of the self-commissioned purity police for whom faith is nothing but a game of never-ending condemnation. We don't live in Iran. So let's stop this disgusting display of judgment.

I consider Jason a friend and saw him recently in the White House again to talk about Israel. He is a good and God-fearing person, a man of genuine humility with a deep moral center. And he is dedicated in heart, body, and soul to America, his Jewishness and Israel.

His critics have told only one side of the story. Here is a figure at the center of Middle East policy in an administration that has preached to the Arab states that they must finally stop all funding of terror, that has forcefully challenged UN bias against Israel, that is working to contain and isolate genocidal Iran, that put Israel on the itinerary of the president's first trip abroad, that had the president make the first-ever visit by the leader of the free world to the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, that has reversed the non-stop hostility displayed by the Obama administration toward Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and that celebrated Israel Independence Day with the vice president of the United States attending the first-ever White House celebration of the occasion. And let us not forget that the Trump administration demonstrated morality and humanity in attacking the air force of Syrian mass murderer Bashar Assad after he gassed innocent Arab children, something President Obama categorically refused to do. And for all that, Jason, who is helping to shape all these policies, is being attacked for not doing more.

Mind you, I believe he could do more, and that he should do more. I believe the administration should be telling Mahmoud Abbas that there will be no negotiations until the Palestinian Authority immediately ceases all payments to terrorists and their families. I believe that a Palestinian state would quickly be overtaken by Hamas and pose an existen-



US diplomatic envoy Jason Greenblatt and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Photo: Kobi Gideon / GPO via Netanyahu's Twitter account.

tial threat to Israel. And I believe that the Trump administration has a moral obligation to bomb the recently-revealed Syrian crematoria, where tens of thousands of bodies have already been burned.

Those are incredibly serious issues, ones which I hope Jason will carefully consider before moving forward.

But for all of that, the Trump administration has thus far shown incredible friendship to Israel and Greenblatt, Kushner and David Friedman, along, of course, with the president, deserve enormous credit.

Jason has played a pivotal role in reversing the previous administration's hostility toward Israel. He is a hero for doing so and we owe him our thanks.

When it comes to Middle East policy, particularly in how it pertains to Israel, the Trump administration has not been perfect. Neither was the administration of George W. Bush, who was the best friend Israel ever had in the Oval Office prior to Trump. The Trump administration could have moved the embassy, and still should. Many in the administration, including Trump himself, still seem to believe that the two-state solution can bring peace.

But what they haven't done is peddle the deeply-flawed policies of the Obama State Department. On the contrary, Jason and all those in the Trump administration's foreign policy wing have taken huge steps to perfect American policy in the Middle East, make it clear to American allies that there will be no tolerance for terrorist sympathy or funding and that the demonizing of Israel will make you an anathema to America.

The best proof came last week.

For years under the Obama administration, Qatar was allowed to freely fund some of the most brutal terrorists in the Middle East, including and especially Israel's arch-enemy Hamas, whose leader the Gulf emirate hosted for over a decade and to whom it promised a billion dollars in 2014. Housing the largest US air base in the Middle East, Qatar seemed to always get a pass from its American tenants. Until now.

Libya's Jews: A Forgotten Consequence of 1967



DAVID HARRIS
NEW YORK

Fifty years ago this month, the world was transfixed by the war raging between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The war was triggered by blood-curdling threats from Cairo and Damascus to annihilate the Jewish state, troop mobilization toward Israeli borders, and Arab calls on the UN to remove peacekeeping troops in the

Sinai, who were acting as a buffer against conflict. But beyond the gaze of the international news media, another campaign was ruthlessly being waged in 1967: to drive an already diminished Jewish community from its historic home in Libya.

For Libya's 4,000 Jews — the remnants of a community that had numbered nearly 40,000 — it was the third and final pogrom since 1945, and the end of a rich, complicated and little-heralded history.

Jews had lived continuously in Libya for more than two millennia. Settled in Cyrene — eastern Libya today — by the Egyptian ruler Ptolemy I in the third century BC, they predated the Muslim conquest



A classroom in a Benghazi synagogue before World War II. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

and occupation of Libya in 642 AD by more than 900 years. Over time, the Libyan Jewish community was augmented by Berbers who converted to Judaism; Jews fleeing the 15th- and 16th-century Spanish and Portuguese inquisitions; and Jews resettling from Italy. By

Following Trump's meeting with the Saudi King Salman in Riyadh last month, Qatar's neighbors finally had the American support they needed to take action and reign in the evil kingdom.

And indeed, just last week, the sheikhs of Qatar were finally made to pay for the incalculable cash flows they have been providing to terrorists across the Middle East and to the thugs in Iran. Following its payment of a billion dollar ransom to Iran, Qatar found itself cut off both diplomatically and physically from almost of all of its most crucial allies, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt. Saudi Arabia even locked its borders with Qatar, preventing the import of 40% of the nation's food, making prices soar. Qatar's state-sponsored news outlet, known for its bitter hostility to Israel, suffered crippling cyber attacks and was forced to shut down its website.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir made it pretty simple. For Qatar to win over its friends again, all it needed to do was cut ties with Islamist terror groups Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Finally, someone said it. This would, in all likelihood, not have occurred without the Trump administration.

President Trump took credit for the actions taken against Qatar, tweeting that his trip to the Middle East was "already paying off." And the truth is, while these moves were taken by Arab states, they could not have happened without a presidential go-ahead, which explains why they happened only now.

This wasn't the first time Trump took Middle Eastern nations to task for their support of terror. He did the same with Iran, against whom he has taken a long-awaited hard line, a u-turn from Obama's generous nuclear deal which gave the terror state \$150 billion, the legitimization of its nuclear program and the right to build nuclear bombs legitimately in just over a decade.

At the UN, too, US Ambassador Nikki Haley has completely reversed the decline of American support for Israel. Last week, she called out the UN Human Rights Council, which she claimed "whitewashes brutality" and reserves its criticism exclusively for the State of Israel. She even threatened to pull American funding for the Geneva-based body. On Wednesday, while on a trip to Israel, Haley told President Reuven Rivlin: "I have never taken kindly to bullies and the UN has bullied Israel for a very long time and we are not going to let that happen anymore." It's clearly a new day for Israel at the UN.

I have been honest to Jason about my disagreements with administration policy. But for the enormous progress he and his team have already made, they deserve credit, our thanks and our patience.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's Rabbi," whom the *Washington Post* calls "the most famous rabbi in America," is the international bestselling author of 30 books, including his most recent "The Israel Warrior." Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

1911, the year that Ottoman rule over Libya ended and Italian control began, the Jewish population there numbered 20,000. It nearly doubled to 40,000 by 1945.

The end of World War II saw Libya come under British rule. The vast majority of Libya's Jews had survived the conflict, despite the conscription of several thousand into forced labor camps under Italian fascist control, and the deportation of a much smaller number to Nazi concentration camps. Until this point, it should be noted that Muslim-Jewish relations in Libya were, generally, quite cordial.

Beginning in 1945, however, the Arab League's pan-Islamic and anti-Zionist propaganda fanned the flames of hatred in Libya,

Opinion.

Amid Gulf Spat, Will Terror-funding Qatar Have to 'Choose a Side' in Saudi-Iranian Rivalry?

ARIEL BEN SOLOMON/
JNS.ORG

While the spat between Qatar and other Arab states may end up benefiting the US and Israel, experts say that Qatar finds itself at a crossroads in its relationships with the region's leading Sunni and Shia powers.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Arab countries have cut diplomatic relations with Qatar, citing the Gulf state's terror ties, and its cooperation with Iran. The Saudis are leading the charge, calling on Qatar to end support for Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood.

According to reports, prominent Hamas leader Saleh al-Arouri and other terrorists from the Gaza-ruling Palestinian group have reportedly been expelled from Doha. Khaled Mashaal, Hamas' ex-political leader, once formerly lived in Qatar.

According to a report in the *Financial Times*, one of the main triggers of the Gulf spat was Qatar's alleged payment of \$1 billion to Iran and affiliated jihadists for the release of members of the Qatari royal family who were kidnapped in Iraq. Unnamed officials told the newspaper that the hostage deal, carried out in April, led to the release of 26 Qatari royals and about 50 fighters captured by jihadists in Syria.

"Around \$700 million was paid both to Iranian figures and the regional Shi'a militias

they support, according to regional government officials," the report stated. "They added that \$200 million to \$300 million went to Islamist groups in Syria, most of that to Tahrir al-Sham, a group with links to al-Qaeda."

Brandon Friedman, a research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, told *JNS.org* that the current Gulf spat appears to center on Iran and the reported hostage deal; a previous Gulf crisis in 2014 was ignited by Qatar's support for the Muslim Brotherhood. The earlier spat came in the aftermath of current Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's overthrowing of President Mohammed Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood leader.

Friedman, an expert on Arab-Iranian relations, said that Qatar often uses payments to Iran and Islamist groups "to insulate itself from them, and to accumulate political capital."

"In the case of Iran, Qatar's largest offshore gas field adjoins Iran's offshore gas field. Therefore, Qatar has a reasonably legitimate security interest in avoiding an adversarial relationship with Iran," said Friedman, noting that Qatar "has tried to be all things to all sides."

But according to Friedman, Qatar is discovering the pitfalls of its approach.

"It seems as if they are being forced to choose a side in the Saudi-Iran rivalry, and it isn't an easy choice for a small, vulnerable state like Qatar," said Friedman.

Eran Segal, a researcher at the Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at the University of Haifa, told *JNS.org* that it seems

ambassador to Libya, who ordered all Italian diplomatic missions in the country to extend their protection to the Jews.

A very few Muslims helped as well, including one — who at great risk — hid the teenager who was to become my wife, along with her parents and seven siblings, for two weeks until they were able to leave the country. Tellingly, however, this righteous Libyan has refused any public recognition, lest his life be put in danger for saving Jews.

Within a matter of weeks, all the remaining Jews of Libya fled abroad, urged to do so "temporarily" by the government. Each was permitted one suitcase and the equivalent of \$50. Half headed for Israel; 2,000 went to Italy. In many respects, the tragic fate of Libya's Jews was no different from that of hundreds of thousands of Jews in other Arab countries.

To no one's surprise, this temporary exodus became permanent. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi seized power in 1969; the following year, he announced a series of laws to confiscate the assets of Libya's Jews, issuing bonds providing for "fair compensation" within 15 years. But 1985 came and went with no compensation paid.

And so, with only a few scattered international protests, scant press attention and silence from the United Nations, another once-thriving Jewish community in the Arab world, like so many others, came to an end — and the rich tapestry of the region's diversity took yet another irretrievable hit.

David Harris is the CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

the Saudis are motivated to curb Qatar's independent foreign policy.

"Qatar cannot afford cutting relations with Iran," said Segal, mainly due to the North Field, a natural gas field that Qatar shares with Iran. At the same time, Qatar "cannot withstand a long feud with the three Gulf states encircling the country," he said, referring to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE.

America's role

President Donald Trump affirmed the Arab states' response to Qatar's support for



President Donald Trump meets with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last month.
Photo: White House / Shealah Craighead.

terrorism, when he tweeted on June 6 that, "So good to see the Saudi Arabia visit with the King and 50 countries already paying off. They said they would take a hard line on funding."

Segal sees the US as the key player in the

unfolding Gulf drama, noting that more than 11,000 American soldiers are stationed at Qatar's Al Udeid Air Base.

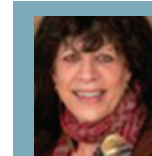
"Will Saudi pressure on the Americans create space for further escalation against Qatar, or will the Trump administration try to de-escalate?" he asked.

Should Qatar's critics look in the mirror?

Another source of Western concern about Qatar is Al Jazeera, the Doha-based satellite TV station, which is popular in the Arab world and has been accused of anti-Israel and anti-Western incitement. Doha's ambassador to the US, Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani, claimed in an interview on Al Jazeera last week that Qatar's cooperation with Hamas "is an engagement in the context of the peace process."

Yet Saudi Arabia and other "moderate" Arab states calling out Qatar's terror funding have radical tendencies of their own. According to the emails of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released by WikiLeaks, Saudi Arabia and Qatar provide "clandestine financial and logistic support to ISIL (Islamic State) and other radical Sunni groups in the region." Meanwhile, in the latest antisemitic broadcast on Arab television, a video posted by the Middle East Media Research Institute on Thursday showed a Jordanian TV host denying the Holocaust.

Cutting Abbas Down to Size



RUTHIE BLUM
TEL AVIV

On Thursday, Bloomberg quoted a Palestinian Authority (PA) official saying that PA President Mahmoud Abbas is willing to forego his usual preconditions for negotiations with Israel — such as a freeze on all settlement construction — in order to give the administration in Washington "a chance to deliver."

In addition, according to the report, Mohammad Mustafa, Abbas's senior economic adviser and former deputy prime minister said that the Palestinian leader will "tone down his campaign to prosecute Israel for alleged war crimes and to rally condemnation of the Jewish state at the United Nations."

This claim came mere days after Fatah Central Committee member Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Football Association and Olympic committee, declared in an interview on Israel's Channel 2 that the Western Wall in Jerusalem "must be under Israeli sovereignty, but the Temple Mount is ours."

Rajoub proceeded to praise US President Donald Trump for his "clear intentions for an ultimate deal to end the suffering of both peoples."

Neither Mustafa nor Rajoub was telling the truth, of course. Rajoub even issued a firm denial in Arabic the day after the interview. But the relatively mild rhetoric used by each was highly significant, as it was the direct result of a tongue-lashing that Trump gave Abbas less than three weeks ago in Bethlehem, for being deceitful about his role in incitement to violence.

Buoyed by the warmth with which he had been greeted at the White House on May 3, and familiar with the previous American administration's continual appeasement, Abbas was stunned by the reprimand.

Although Trump should have been informed by his advisers that Abbas is and always has been a bald-faced liar — professing to seek statehood and peace, while funding and

glorifying terrorists and infusing hatred for Israel and the Jews into the PA education system and media — he was apparently taken aback when shown very recent concrete examples.

Trump's surprise at something so self-evident was disconcerting, particularly in light of his faith in his ability to facilitate a deal between Israel and the PA, and his backtracking on his promise to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. His response to being manipulated by the aging despot, however, was heartening.

In a global context, Trump's dressing down of Abbas constituted a welcome shift in the attitude of the administration in Washington to its place among nations. One shudders to remember, for instance, that former US Secretary of State John Kerry allowed Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to browbeat him shamelessly and with impunity during the negotiations that led to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — the nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers signed in July 2015.

More specifically, Trump's bark caused Abbas and his henchmen to fear that a bite might follow. Whether any pain is actually inflicted remains to be seen, but in the Middle East, perception of a situation often carries more weight than reality.

This is not to say that all an American president has to do to force the Palestinians to make peace with Israel is flex his muscles. On the contrary, even if Abbas does end up agreeing to resume dead peace talks toward a two-state solution, nothing will come of it. The PA is a corrupt, failed entity that has squandered every opportunity — and billions of dollars — on blocking both coexistence and statehood. As Evelyn Gordon wrote in *Commentary Magazine* on Thursday, "[T]here's one very simple reason why Israel still controls the West Bank: The Palestinians have consistently refused repeated offers to give it to them."

Indeed, this week marked the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, the start of the Israeli "occupation" that Abbas constantly decries. Yet he and the rest of the Palestinian leadership

*Continued from Page A6
Consequence*

resulting in extended rioting against Jews there. The results included 130 dead and nine synagogues destroyed.

A second pogrom followed three years later, sparked by Libyan nationalists eager for independence from the British. A quick British response and Jewish self-defense limited the damage. Still, 15 Jews were killed and hundreds were left homeless.

The new atmosphere of fear and insecurity on the one hand, coupled with the powerful attraction of the new State of Israel for this deeply religious community on the other, led to the emigration of all but 6,000 Libyan Jews by December 1951 — the year that Libya gained independence.

Notwithstanding constitutional guarantees provided by the new Libyan nation, restrictions on Jews were gradually imposed. By 1961, Jews could not vote, hold public office, serve in the army, get passports, purchase new property, acquire majority ownership in any new business or supervise their own communal affairs. Yet the Jews remained, umbilically linked to their ancestral land and hoping against hope, despite all the evidence to the contrary, for positive change.

Then, in June 1967, war broke out in the Middle East. Inspired by Nasser's pan-Arab appeals, Libyans took to the streets and attacked the Jewish community.

By the time calm was restored, 18 Jews in Tripoli, the country's capital, were dead. The toll might have risen had it not been for the courage of Cesare Pasquinelli, Italy's

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Impressions.

New York Times Falsely Describes Six-Day War 50th Anniversary Celebrations As 'Muted'

BY IRA STOLL

The news columns of the New York Times marked the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War last week with a "memo from Jerusalem" by Times Jerusalem bureau chief Ian Fisher.

Its tone was pretty much summed up in its conclusion: "[L]ike most of the 1967 anniversary events, this one is expected to be modest, with little of the unconflicted triumphalism of the celebration of the nation's founding, and little clue about what is next."

The paper reported on a "muted feeling": "Most events, too, are small and spread out: The reunification of Jerusalem, as Israelis consider it, seems safe enough to celebrate. The continuing occupation of the West Bank, much less so."

The New York Times did not let readers in on the news of any 1967 anniversary events that were not "modest" or "small."



A past Jerusalem Day celebration. Photo: Hoheit via Wikimedia Commons.

Part of the problem is a false distinction by the New York Times between the reunification of Jerusalem and the 1967 war. It'd be somewhat odd to celebrate a war — Jews love peace, and people die in war. Americans celebrate the Declaration of Independence on July 4, not the "Revolutionary War."

Another part of the problem is the New York Times focusing on the Gregorian calendar rather than the Jewish calendar. The non-modest, non-small events in Israel were mainly keyed to the Jewish calendar, which includes a Jerusalem Day, or Yom Yerushalayim, marking the reunification of Israel's capital city in 1967.

It just so happened that I was in Israel for Jerusalem Day and was able to see with my own eyes the anniversary events. There were fireworks in the night sky. There was a huge outdoor concert. People were literally dancing in the streets. Don't take my word for it — the Times of Israel (not to be confused with the New York Times) reported that "more than 80,000 people took part" in the event, double the crowd in previous years.

It's one thing to write about media bias, as I regularly do. It's another thing to have seen, with my own eyes, fireworks going off overhead and youth dancing in the streets, and to have the New York Times then describe the thing as "muted," "modest" and "small." There are plenty of good reasons to visit Israel, but one of them is to get firsthand confirmation — as if any more were necessary — that what the New York Times tells us about the country just doesn't square with reality.

Rabbi Dweck, Judaism and Homosexuality

BY JEREMY ROSEN

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Rabbi Joseph Dweck in person. But I have been in touch with him online and electronically. I know him to be an exceptional rabbi. After a highly successful career in the United States, he moved to London to head the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, where he has enthused many people and brought them closer to the Torah. His rabbinic qualifications are impeccable. He is connected to the most revered and scholarly Sephardi authorities. He is an articulate and an inspiring leader. In addition, and possibly most importantly, he is a very caring person.

A few weeks ago, he gave a lecture in London on homosexuality. It was a brave attempt to grapple with the challenges that other cultures present to traditional Torah texts. He traced the history, the terminology and the ideas behind homosexuality in the pagan and post-pagan world. He used sources from Torah, Talmud and great post Talmudic masters to illustrate the nuances and variations in attitudes. And while expressing absolute commitment to Jewish law, he said that he was grateful for the challenges that current Western attitudes towards sexual matters have presented to Judaism — because it forces traditional Jews to examine their core values and attitudes towards loving relationships. As with any unscripted lecture, Rabbi Dweck used some infelicitous phrases that I may have avoided, which he has since sought to clarify. Nevertheless, his brave attempt to grapple with a problem rather than avoid it has brought the wrath of his enemies down on his head.

A public rebuttal of Rabbi Dweck (but not his ideas, which were hardly addressed) has come from Aharon Bassous. He is an Indian-born Sephardi rabbi, educated in Ashkenazi yeshivot, who set up his own synagogue in Golders Green, London. In a faltering, simplistic tirade reminiscent of Savonarola, he attacked the integrity, faith and scholarship of Rabbi Dweck as if he were a heretic. The vindictiveness of his speech, in my opinion, was a far greater betrayal of Torah values than anything Rabbi Dweck might have said.

It is typical of such men that they think that by throwing mud you can stop people thinking for themselves, and by shutting mouths you turn off ideas. To me, at any rate, that is a clear breach of Torah values.

Rabbi Dweck has said nothing new in terms of Jewish law. His sensitive approach was pioneered by Rabbi Chaim Rapoport, who is well known in rabbinic circles as an impeccably Orthodox authority (and a Chabad Chasid). His book *Judaism and Homosexuality: An Authentic Orthodox View* was prefaced by the late Berel Berkowitz, Dayan of the Beth Din of the Federation of Synagogues. The book's forward describes Rapoport as "a courageous figure who has written on a difficult subject that many would rather avoid," designed "to mitigate the painful consequences of Orthodoxy's uncompromising rejection of homosexuality." Interestingly his book was waved before the cameras by Rabbi Bassous. Except he merely used some general words from the introduction that stressed the uniqueness of Torah, instead of quoting Rabbi Rapoport's actual views.

Rabbi Dweck said: "Homosexuality in society has forced us to look at how we deal with love between people of the same sex, and it has reduced the taboo of me, my children, and my grandchildren being able to love another human being of the same sex genuinely, to show them affection, to express love without the

worry of being seen as deviant and problematic."

I agree that this is an infelicitous and ambiguous statement. But you'd have to have a devious mind to take this as an endorsement of the act or of rejecting the Torah. Dweck went on to say, "The act remains an issue. But if we can deal with the peripheral issues, it changes how we address these things. That's good for society." Of course it is. Clearly his attackers had not read or heard what he actually said. It is fine for them to go on living in closed societies and insist on adherence to their worldview without question. But for those of us who live outside and have to deal daily with human problems, simply putting up shutters is no solution.

There are two aspects to the challenge that homosexuality presents to traditional Jews. First, no one would argue that the Bible considers homosexuality to go against its primary value system of heterosexual relationships as the normative way to create families and rear children. But this does not mean that biblical law doesn't allow for exceptions — those who choose not to marry altogether, for example — even if this is not ideal. The Bible can also accommodate genetic variations. The Talmud certainly did. Modern knowledge of the way that genes influence us, which was not available previously, has changed the way that we understand the nature of freedom and choice. This does not change our laws. But it does affect the way we relate to individuals.

For example, one could well argue that having caring, loving parents of any sex or sexes is preferable to a normative family where there is abuse, conflict and tension.



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

As for the act of homosexual intercourse itself, we have never posted policemen in bedrooms or sought to make a person's private sexual life a matter of public concern. Not only that, but embarrassing people in public is regarded as one of the most serious moral deficiencies by our great rabbis. As a result, many Orthodox rabbis apply tolerant standards to the private lives of their congregants. And they welcome everyone into their communities, without prying into private lives.

It is true that halacha, despite its preference for leniency and its escape routes, is not completely relativist. We are expected to respect the law of the land, to take measures that mitigate hatred, and to strive for peace and good relations. Yet this does not mean sacrificing one's own values. Regardless of our halachic imperatives, we try to be sensitive and try to find ways of being constructive where possible, as Rabbi Dweck does.

The Sephardi world has a long tradition of tolerance and open arms. Ashkenazi Orthodoxy has always tended toward rigidity and exclusion — it could always shunt people it did not like off to Reform communities. Sephardi communities have no Reform branch. As a result, their rabbis have often had to encounter views that they did not agree with. It would be a tragic betrayal of Sephardi inclusiveness if Rabbi Dweck were to be hounded from his pulpit.

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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: R&G NY Realty LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 03/29/2017. Office location kings county.SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to:Gavriel Badalov 620 Beverly Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11218 purpose: any lawful activity
AJ 5/19/26; 6/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Midweek productions LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 03/06/2017. Office location kings county. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of process to: Corporate filings of New York 90 State St. Ste 700, Office 40 Albany, NY 12207 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ 5/19/26; 6/2/9/16/23

SUPREME COURT – COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF8 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, Plaintiff against PERCIVAL BLACKWOOD A/K/A PERCIVAL A. BLACKWOOD; SHIRLEY BLACKWOOD A/K/A SHIRLEY C. BLACKWOOD A/K/A SHIRLEY C. RUSSELL; JEFFREY BLACKWOOD A/K/A JEFFREY N. BLACKWOOD; OSCAR P. BLACKWOOD, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 10, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on the 29th day of June, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 2049 Strauss Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11212. (Block: 3555, Lot: 10) Approximate amount of lien \$ 850,679.31 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 504504/2014. Steven Z. Naiman, Esq., Referee. Fein, Such & Crane, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 28

LEGAL NOTICE

East Main Street, Suite 1800 Rochester, NY. 14614 (585) 232-7400
AJ 5/26; 6/2/9/16

SUPREME COURT – COUNTY OF KINGS PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff against LORREN WHITFIELD A/K/A LORREN V. WHITFIELD, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 6, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on the 29th day of June, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises Lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn and State of New York. In the condominium known as “SUMPTER COURT CONDOMINIUM.” Together with an undivided 9.25% interest in the Common Elements. Said premises known as 246-250 Sumpter Street, # 3C A/K/A 250 Sumpter Street, Brooklyn, NY. 11233. (Block: 1526, Lot: 1011). Approximate amount of lien \$ 236,221.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 502623-14. Steven Z. Naiman, Esq., Referee. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 145 Huguenot Street – Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900
AJ 5/26; 6/2/9/16

861 Group LLC. Art. Of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 04/20/16. 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, 14 Bond St. #404 Great neck New York 11021. Purpose: Any lawful purpose
AJ 5/26; 6/2/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for Wells Fargo Asset Securities Corporation, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-AR14, Plaintiff AGAINST Janice Smith a/k/a Janice T. Smith a/k/a Janis T. Smith; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 29, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 6, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2 Paerdegat 3rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8031 Lot 6. Approximate amount of judgment \$640,204.53 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 503256/2015. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: May 10, 2017 46078
AJ: 6/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC). Name: Arnauddelatorre LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York on: 05/18/2015. Office location kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Arnauddelatorre LLC PO Box 10873, Albany, NY 12201 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 6/2/9/16/23/30; 7/7

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Winston Rose; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated April 26, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 6, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 664 New Jersey Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough & City of Brooklyn, County of Kings, State of New York, Block: 3840 Lot: 37. Approximate amount of judgment \$545,094.48 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 6131/2013. Stuart Adler, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: May 25, 2017 46353
AJ; 6/2/9/16/23

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR ARGENT SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-W4, Plaintiff, Against Index No.: 503003/2015 ANTONIS LIONAS, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Kings County Clerk's Office on 2/28/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 7/13/2017 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 1510 East 33rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, in the State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 7694 and Lot 42. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$561,384.62 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 503003/2015. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Gregory LaSpina, Esq., Referee. Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504 Dated: 5/17/2017 GNS
AJ; 6/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2004-10; Plaintiff(s) vs. GEORGE MARSHALL; CHERRY SUTHERLAND; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein

LEGAL NOTICE

on or about February 15, 2017, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. On July 13, 2017 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 1015 E 84TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11236 Block: 8036 Lot: 34 ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY OF KINGS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$669,565.83 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 6326-13 David Hernandez, Esq., Referee
AJ; 6/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT- COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR WELLS FARGO ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2008-1, Plaintiff, AGAINST JOSEPH MODICA, et al. Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly granted August 29, 2016 the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224, Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 13, 2017 at 2:30 PM premises known as 1739 RYDER STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11234-4308 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings and State of New York. Section 23, Block 7886 and Lot 23 Approximate amount of judgment \$836,750.21 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #501344/2013 MOSHE Z. MIRSKY, ESQ. Referee, Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747
AJ; 6/9/16/23/30

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS MORGAN STANLEY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2007-3XS, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO LASALLE BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, Plaintiff AGAINST CAVIS PILGRIM, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 03, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on July 13, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 305 EAST 38TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11203. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 4892, LOT 41. Approximate amount of judgment \$719,521.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 21745/2013. Jeffrey R. Miller, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 46256
AJ; 6/9/16/23/30

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Delgar Transportation L.L.C. Articles of organization filed on 05 /19 /2017 With the secretary of State of New York(SSNY) Office location kings county SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY Shall Mail copy of the process to the LLC C/O United states corporation agents Inc. 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/14/21/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC)Name: Garcia facade I LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 05/25/2017. Office location Bronx county SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to:Garcia Facade I LLC 271 E. Kingsbridge road #7E bronx, NY 10458 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/14/21/

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association as Trustee as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank, National Association as Trustee for WaMu Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2007-OA6 Trust., Plaintiff AGAINST Harjinder Singh Bhullar A/K/A Harjinder S. Bhullar A/K/A Harjinder Bhullar, his respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, any right, title or interest in the real property described herein, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 4/24/2017 and entered on 5/26/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 20, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 2133 East 71 Street Brooklyn, NY 11234. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 8431, LOT: 26. Approximate amount of judgment is \$1,736,622.83 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 503963/2013. Aaron Tyk, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706
AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/

Notice of Qualification of GRAZER EQUIPMENT GROUP LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/01/17. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/30/17. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 630 Flushing Ave., Ste. 200, Brooklyn, NY 11206. DE addr. of LLC: c/o Corporation Service Co., 2711 Centerville Rd., Ste. 400, Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State of DE, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19904. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/14/21/

Tradition.

Legal Notice.

Freedom Needs Patience



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Whose idea was it to send the spies?

According to this week's sedra, it was God.

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." So at the Lord's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. (Numbers 13:1-3)

According to Moses in Deuteronomy, it was the people:

Then all of you came to me and said, "Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to." The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe. (Deut. 1:22-23)

Rashi reconciles the apparent contradiction. The people came to Moses with their request. Moses asked God what he should do. God gave him permission to send the spies. He did not command it; He



merely did not oppose it. "Where a person wants to go, that is where he is led" (Makkot 10b) – so said the sages. Meaning: God does not stop people from a course of action on which they are intent, even though He knows that it may end in tragedy. Such is the nature of the freedom God has given us. It includes the freedom to make mistakes.

However, Maimonides (Guide for the Perplexed III:32) offers an interpretation that gives a different perspective to the whole episode. He begins by noting the verse (Ex. 13:17) with which the exodus begins:

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Reed Sea.

Maimonides comments: "Here God led the people about, away from the direct route he had originally intended, because He feared that they might encounter hardships too great for their present

strength. So He took them by a different route in order to achieve His original object." He then adds the following:

It is a well-known fact that traveling in the wilderness without physical comforts such as bathing produces courage, while the opposite produces faint-heartedness. Besides this, another generation rose during the wanderings that had not been accustomed to degradation and slavery.

According to Maimonides, then, it was irrelevant who sent the spies. Nor was the verdict after the episode – that the people would be condemned to spend 40 years in the wilderness, and that it would only be their children who would enter the land – a punishment as such. It was an inevitable consequence of human nature.

It takes more than a few days or weeks to turn a population of slaves into a nation capable of handling the responsibilities of freedom. In the case of the Israelites it needed a generation born in liberty, hardened by the experience of the desert, untrammelled by habits of servitude. Freedom takes time, and there are no shortcuts. Often it takes a very long time indeed.

That dimension of time is fundamental to the Jewish view of politics and human progress. That is why, in the Torah, Moses repeatedly tells the adults to educate their children, to tell them the story of the past, to "remember". It is why the covenant itself is extended through time – handed on from one generation to the next. It is why the story of the Israelites is told at such length in Tanakh: the time-span covered by the Hebrew Bible is a thousand years from the days of Moses to the last of the prophets. It is why God acts in and through history.

Unlike Christianity or Islam there is, in Judaism, no sudden transformation of the human condition, no one moment or single generation in which everything significant is fully disclosed. Why, asks Maimonides (Guide, III:32), did God not simply give the Israelites in the desert the strength or self-confidence they needed to cross the Jordan and enter the land? His answer: because it would have meant saying goodbye to human freedom, choice and responsibility. Even God Himself, implies Maimonides, has to work with the grain of human nature and its all-too-slow pace of change. Not because God cannot change people: of course He can. He created them; He could re-create them. The reason is that God chooses not to. He practices what the Safed Kabbalists called tzimtzum, self-limitation. He wants human beings to construct a society of freedom – and how could He do that if, in order to bring it about, He had to deprive them of the very freedom

He wanted them to create.

There are some things a parent may not do for a child if he or she wants the child to become an adult. There are some things even God must choose not to do for His people if He wants them to grow to moral and political maturity. In one of my books I called this the chronological imagination, as opposed to the Greek logical imagination. Logic lacks the dimension of time. That is why philosophers tend to be either rigidly conservative (Plato did not want poets in his Republic; they threatened to disturb the social order) or profoundly revolutionary (Rousseau, Marx). The current social order is either right or wrong. If it is right, we should not change it. If it is wrong, we should overthrow it. The fact that change takes time, even many generations, is not an idea easy to square with philosophy (even those philosophers, like Hegel and Marx, who factored in time, did so mechanically, speaking about "historical inevitability" rather than the unpredictable exercise of freedom).

One of the odd facts about Western civilisation in recent centuries is that the people who have been most eloquent about tradition – Edmund Burke, Michael Oakeshott, T.S. Eliot – have been deeply conservative, defenders of the status quo. Yet there is no reason why a tradition should be conservative. We can hand on to our children not only our past but also our unrealised ideals. We can want them to go beyond

us; to travel further on the road to freedom than we were able to do. That, for example, is how the Seder service on Pesach begins: "This year, slaves, next year free; this year here, next year in Israel". A tradition can be evolutionary without being revolutionary.

That is the lesson of the spies. Despite the Divine anger, the people were not condemned to permanent exile. They simply had to face the fact that their children would achieve what they themselves were not ready for.

People still forget this. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were undertaken, at least in part, in the name of democracy and freedom. Yet that is the work not of a war, but of education, society-building, and the slow acceptance of responsibility. It takes generations. Sometimes it never happens at all. The people – like the Israelites, demoralised by the spies' report – lose heart and want to go back to the predictable past ("Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt"), not the unseen, hazardous, demanding future. That is why, historically, there have been more tyrannies than democracies.

The politics of liberty demands patience. It needs years of struggle without giving up hope. The late Emmanuel Levinas spoke about "difficult freedom" – and freedom always is difficult. The story of the spies tells us that the generation who left Egypt were not yet ready for it. That was their tragedy.

But their children would be. That was their consolation.

Haaretz Destroys Its Own Narrative of 'Ultra Right-Wing Intransigent Netanyahu'



ELDER OF ZIYON
NEW YORK

For the second time in recent days, *Haaretz* has a reluctant exclusive on how Israel's hated, right-wing, war-mongering, intransigent, anti-peace prime minister – Benjamin Netanyahu – has actually been working behind the scenes to try and find a permanent peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Last week, the paper reported that Netanyahu's negotiators accepted an American framework for peace – and that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas rejected it. Abbas then ignored a later American framework that tilted more his way.

This week, *Haaretz* reports that Netanyahu held a secret meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, along with Israeli

Labor party leader Isaac Herzog to see if they could form a coalition government that could make peace.

This doesn't exactly jive with what *Haaretz* normally says about Netanyahu and Likud.

But don't worry – *Haaretz* won't change its reporting just because it has proven its own biased case to be wrong.

For example, in the very article about the meeting with Sisi, *Haaretz* throws in this aside:

In mid-May, shortly after that meeting, Sissi [sic] gave a memorable speech at the dedication of an Egyptian power plant, calling on Palestinians and Israelis to take advantage of "a realistic and great opportunity" and reach an agreement that would end the conflict. He even called on Israeli political parties to agree to the process.

These talks, like the regional initiative, failed due to Netanyahu's refusal to give the Palestinians what was required.

Not what the Palestinians

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings Bank of America, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Michael C. O'Neill, Cheryl O'Neill a/k/a Sheryl O'Neill, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/4/2017 and entered on 5/23/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 20, 2017 at 02:30 PM premises known as 1325 East 89th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 8080, LOT: 30. Approximate amount of judgment is \$295,115.31 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 508088/2013. Elena Makau, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: Homes for life, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/13/2017 Office location: Richmond County SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY shall Mail copy of process to: Business filings Incorporated 187 Wolf Rd, Suite 101 Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/14/21/

Notice of Formation of AMURA PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org, filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 6/6/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 187 Wolf Rd, Ste 101, Albany, NY 12205. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is Business Filings Incorporated, 187 Wolf Rd, Ste 101, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: any lawful activity. AJ; 6/16/23/30; 7/7/14/21/

Continued from Page A7 Size

openly bemoan the "catastrophe" of the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, and promote the "liberation of Palestine, from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea." What they want just as badly, however, is to maintain a stranglehold on their people and keep their hands in the till.

Trump may not be versed in the complexity of the conflict, but his gut reaction to Abbas' two-faced machinations served a happy purpose: to cut the terrorist-in-a-tie down to size.

Ruthie Blum is an editor at the Gatestone Institute.

"demanded" – but what *Haaretz* states as fact that is required for peace.

Abbas' intransigence is swept under a rug, while Netanyahu's flexibility is dismissed as just more intransigence. Palestinian demands are "requirements for peace," while Netanyahu's demands for security are just posturing to avoid peace.

Haaretz did some great reporting, but it is so blinded by hate that it cannot even understand what it is reporting.

Social.



The Tel Aviv shoreline. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Vogue: Israel's 'Stunning Beaches' Have 'Something for Every Type of Sand Lover'

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Vogue magazine published on Tuesday a list of "must-visit" beach spots in Israel for tourists hoping to soak up some sun.

The magazine said Tel Aviv's 13 beaches — such as Nordau Beach, Hilton Beach, and Alma Beach — were part of the city's culture and cited a local restaurant owner as saying, "Life happens outside in Tel Aviv, in the cafes and on the streets. The connection to the sea is part

of our daily life."

Other areas recommended by the magazine included Coral Beach and Mosh Beach in Eilat; the seaside of Old City Acre; Aqueduct Beach (also called Arches Beach) in Caesarea; and Ein Bokek, a resort town on the Israeli shore of the Dead Sea.

Vogue noted that the Jewish state's "standing as a stellar beach destination often goes unsung" and the beaches of Israel have "something for every type of sand lover."

Jewish Broadway Star Ben Platt Wins Best Actor in a Musical at Tony Awards

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Jewish Broadway star Ben Platt, who plays the title character in "Dear Evan Hansen," won the award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical at the Tony Awards ceremony in New York City on Sunday.

In his emotional acceptance speech, the 23-year-old Platt thanked the Broadway musical community for the impact it has had on his life, and his parents, whom he described as "my heroes, the greatest people I've ever met."

Platt added, "Everybody always says that about they're parents but it's true. I will fight you. They are the best people in the entire world. Dad, you're my hero. You taught me that you have to be a decent human being to be a decent artist, and I love you for it."

The Los Angeles native also offered some advice to young viewers. He said, "Don't waste any time trying to be like anybody but yourself because the things that make you strange are the things that make you powerful."

The honor was Platt's first Tony award and, earlier in the night, Platt performed the "Dear Evan Hansen" tune "Waving Through a Window." The Broadway musical, which is about teenage depression, earned a

total of nine Tony nominations. Jewish composer Benj Pasek and his songwriting partner Justin Paul won the Best Original Score award for their work on the show.

Other Jewish Tony winners on Sunday included Bette Midler — who took home the award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her role in "Hello, Dolly!" — and Rebecca Taichman — the winner of the Best Director prize for her work on "Indecent." Michael Aronov won the Best Featured Actor in a Play award for his role in "Oslo," which focuses on the negotiations between the Israeli



Ben Platt giving his acceptance speech the Tony Awards on Sunday. Photo: Screenshot.

Trump's Jewish Granddaughter Wants to Be 'Star of David'

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Ivanka Trump posted on Twitter on Friday her five-year-old daughter's answers to a list of questions from her kindergarten classmates and teachers, and a number of them highlighted her Jewish identity.



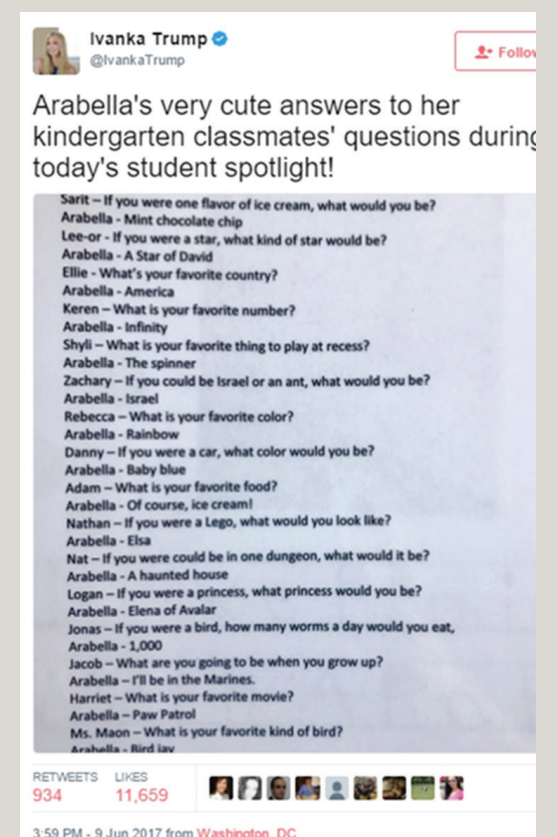
Ivanka Trump and her daughter Arabella Kushner. Photo: Twitter.

Asked what kind of star she would want to be, Arabella Kushner — the granddaughter of President Donald Trump — replied, "Star of David."

Later, in response to the inscrutable question, "If you could be Israel or an ant, what would you be?," Arabella answered, "Israel."

Also, Arabella revealed that her favorite holiday was Hanukkah, "because I get presents!"

Arabella — whose mother Ivanka and father Jared Kushner are Orthodox Jews — attends the Jewish Primary Day School in Washington, DC.



government and the Palestine Liberation Organization that took place in the Norwegian capital ahead of the 1993 signing of an interim peace accord.

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