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Mother of Hadar Goldin Urges Jews to Join Effort to Bring Her Son Home



Fallen IDF soldier Hadar Goldin.

BY BARNEY BREEN
-PORTNOY

Tuesday marked the third anniversary of the death of Lt. Hadar Goldin — an IDF soldier who fell in battle in the Gaza Strip during Operation Protective Edge and whose body was kidnapped by Hamas and is still being held by the terrorist group.

This year, the Gregorian

calendar anniversary of the incident in Rafah in which Goldin was killed — which took place after Hamas violated a UN-brokered cease-fire — fell on Tisha B'Av, an annual fast day on which Jews remember past disasters.

Goldin is one of two fallen IDF soldiers — the other being Staff Sgt. Oron Shaul — who died in the summer 2014 Gaza war and whose remains have yet to be returned to Israel for burial.

“On this day of mourning and hope for stronger Jewish unity, we ask our Jewish brothers and sisters around the world to join us in helping bring Hadar home,” Leah Goldin — Hadar Goldin’s mother — told The Algemeiner on Tuesday. “We are deeply appreciative that the American leadership and other leaders around the world have expressed their empathy for our plight.”

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Former IDF General Raises Alarm Over Trump’s Syria Policy

BY BEN COHEN

One of Israel’s foremost military intelligence experts is expressing concern that the recent deal on Syria reached between the US and Russian presidents leaves the Jewish state dangerously exposed to the increasing presence of Iran and its proxies on the ground there.

In a forthright criticism of the Trump administration’s stance on the question of Iran’s presence in Syria, Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser — a former director general



The other quartet: a poster showing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad and Russian strongman Vladimir Putin. Photo: File.

of the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs and head of the Research Division of IDF Military Intelligence — argued that the American president’s oft-expressed desire to upend the Iran policy of his predecessor, Barack Obama, conveyed the “impression...that in return for allowing the Russians to keep Assad temporarily in power, [Trump] would demand from them a commitment to oust the Iranians from Syria.”

“But the latest deal reached [in Hamburg on July 7] between Trump and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin

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Can Trump Pardon Himself?

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat VAESCHANAN
פרשת ואתחנן

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:49pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:51pm



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Opinion.

Best Friends: Linda Sarsour and Muslim Brotherhood Supporter Omar Suleiman



PETRA MARQUARDT
BIGMAN
HAIFA

In late August 2014, Linda Sarsour declared that Imam Omar Suleiman made her “more proud to be a Muslim and a Palestinian.” One year later, she praised him as one of several Muslim “scholars ... who speak truth w/ courage & w/o apology.” Suleiman responded: “jazakiallah khayr [may Allah reward you with goodness] and thank you for being a leader in the trenches!”

In July 2016, Sarsour promoted a glowing tribute to Suleiman and told [archived] her Twitter followers: “Check out this profile of one of America’s most prominent imams @omarsuleiman504. Proud to call him a friend.” Suleiman warmly returned her compliments, responding: “Just following in your footsteps :) It’s an honor to have you as a sister, friend, and leader.” And just a few weeks ago, Sarsour shared yet another article praising Suleiman; she told her followers: “Imam @omarsuleiman504 has inspired me to love my religion even more. A man of spirituality, conviction & justice.”

We all know the saying, “Tell me who your friends are, and I’ll tell you who you are.” So perhaps finding out who Omar Suleiman is will tell us a bit more about the controversial

activist Linda Sarsour.

Suleiman describes himself on Twitter as “Scholar & Community Servant. Founder & President of @YaqeenInstitute, Professor @SMU, Resident Scholar @ValleyRanchIC.” According to the first article that Sarsour shared, Suleiman is also “a new kind of American imam” with “a wildly popular social-media presence, with more than a million likes on his Facebook page and tens of millions of views for his YouTube sermons.”

The more recent article promoted by Sarsour emphasizes that due to “his charismatic sermons and message of inclusiveness,” Suleiman “has gained a national following” and has become a leader “of Dallas’ social justice movement” as well as a target of “death threats from ISIS.”

But while the always-smiling Suleiman is indeed a captivating speaker with a very large following on social media, he has also publicly expressed some views and sentiments that don’t quite square with his carefully cultivated image as an all-benevolent preacher of “faith and hope.”

In late 2013, Suleiman provided perhaps the most alarming hint about his ideological sympathies when he took to Facebook and, without further comment, posted an image used to signal support for the Muslim Brotherhood.

While efforts to list the Islamist group as a terrorist organization in the US have only led to heated debates, it is undeniable that the Muslim Brotherhood’s ideology

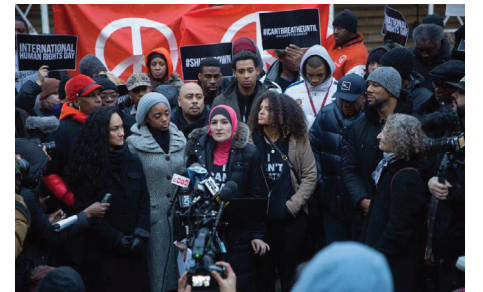
has inspired the creation of several militant offshoots, including the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas. Since Suleiman comes from a Palestinian family, his ostensible support for the Muslim Brotherhood might also indicate sympathies for Hamas.

The fact that Suleiman has repeatedly called for a Palestinian “intifada” only strengthens concerns about his ideological allegiances.

On July, 25, 2014, Suleiman declared on Twitter and Facebook: “How befitting that the 3rd Intifada starts on the 27th night of Ramadan as worshippers are denied prayer in Masjid Al Aqsa.” He ended his post with a prayer of sorts: “God willing on this blessed night as the 3rd Intifada begins, the beginning of the end of Zionism is here. May Allah help us overcome this monster, protect the innocent of the world, and accept the murdered as martyrs. ameen.”

The Facebook post garnered 1.9K comments, more than 4,200 shares, 17K “Likes,” and was even published on a Malaysian website. Suleiman’s call for a “3rd Intifada” and his explicit effort to cast it in religious terms came in the middle of the war between Gaza’s Hamas regime and Israel. That conflict, of course, followed the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers by Hamas members in June, and the firing of rockets by Hamas into Israel.

Just three months after declaring the imminent outbreak of a “3rd Intifada,”



Anti-Israel activist Linda Sarsour (center).
Photo: Facebook.

Suleiman posted on Twitter on October 30, 2014: “For the first time since 1967, Masjid Al Aqsa is closed. A third intifada is near inshaAllah. #FreePalestine.” Adding the inflammatory hashtag #AlAqsaUnderAttack, he posted the same text with an image of a closed entrance on Facebook, where the post garnered 377 comments, 11K “Likes” and more than 3,200 shares (which are visible only on the original post).

Suleiman’s eager anticipation of a “third intifada” is all the more chilling considering that during the infamous Second Intifada — also known as the Al-Aqsa Intifada — Palestinian terrorists slaughtered more than 1,000 Israelis and wounded many thousands more. And revealingly, Suleiman rushed to post his second call for a repeat of this kind of carnage even though the closure of the Al Aqsa Mosque — and indeed the entire Temple

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Sarah Halimi, Sisyphus and the Denial of Antisemitic Violence

SIMONE RODAN-BENZAQUEN/
JNS.ORG

It took too long for the French people to recognize the Jewish victim of a brutal April 4 murder by name. After weeks of indifference by media outlets and politicians, French President Emmanuel Macron finally demanded that the judiciary shed light on the nature of the crime.

“Despite the denials of the murderer, our judiciary must bring total clarity around the death of Sarah Halimi,” Macron said. “We were silent, because we did not want to see.”

Significantly, Macron spoke of Sarah Halimi during the ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the Vel d’Hiv — the roundup of more than 13,000 French Jews during the Holocaust in 1942.

Halimi’s face and body were fractured in a brutal murder on April 4. She had been afraid of her attacker and his sister’s antisemitic insults for some time. Her assassin called her a “dirty whore” and “Sheitane” (Arabic for Satan), and recited verses from the Quran as he beat her severely, shouting “Allahu Akbar” (God is greater) before defenestrating her.

All of France should have been shocked by this horror, and should have risen in unison asking for truth and justice in support of this woman, who was assassinated in her home simply because she was Jewish. Instead,

everyone buried their heads in the sand. The prosecutor still has not designated Halimi’s murder as a premeditated antisemitic act.

All of us trying to draw attention to antisemitic violence in France find ourselves in the same position as the mythological hero Sisyphus — condemned for all eternity to perform the impossible task of pushing an immense boulder up a steep hill each day, only for it to roll back down as the sun sets.

How many years have we implored French authorities and society to react to the rising number of antisemitic incidents? How many times have we heard attempts by the authorities to “relativize” the situation, to explain that there is no new antisemitism — that the rise in antisemitic acts is only hooliganism?

In 2006, very few protested the kidnapping, 24-day torture and the subsequent murder of Ilan Halimi. But notably, Nicolas Sarkozy, then France’s interior minister, declared that the murder was an antisemitic crime. This affirmation set the stage for yet another battle over acknowledging the source



French President Emmanuel Macron greets Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Elysee Palace in Paris earlier this month.
Photo: Screenshot.

of the new antisemitism.

It also meant understanding that antisemitism does not only concern Jews, but rather all of French society — and that it is a virulent cancer. Historically, in our liberal democracies, the safety of Jewish communities is an indicator of the level of health of the society as a whole.

Other courageous voices joined our efforts. The Foundation for Political Innovation carried out a study together with the American Jewish Committee, pointing out that vehement antisemitism comes from three sectors of the population: a substantial portion of French Muslims, the extreme left and the extreme right. Former Prime Minister Manuel Valls famously stated that “France without Jews would no longer be France,” and emphasized this inconvenient truth: “Yes, anti-Zionism has become in many parts of French society a screen that hides a visceral antisemitism.” And DILCRAH — a ministerial delegation opposing racism, antisemitism and anti-LGBT hate — proposed a plan to fight this scourge, which was adopted by France’s government.

So how is it possible that after the murder of Ilan Halimi in 2006, the murder of three Jewish schoolchildren and a rabbi in Toulouse in 2012 and the terrorist attack on the Hypercacher kosher supermarket in 2015, France has relapsed into denial by refusing to acknowledge the reality of antisemitic violence when it comes to the murder of Sarah Halimi?

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World News.

New Report Exposes Scottish Anti-Israel Activists as Purveyors of Holocaust Denial

BY BEN COHEN

One of Europe's most notorious pro-Palestinian solidarity groups has been unmasked as a home for Holocaust deniers and other hardcore antisemites, a new report revealed on Sunday.

The report — by British researcher David Collier, in association with advocacy group Jewish Human Rights Watch — is the culmination of two years of research into the activities of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC), particularly on social media.

"Everywhere the SPSC stands, there is widespread evidence of anti-Semitism," the report, entitled "Jew Hate and Holocaust Denial in Scotland," states. "Not an anti-Semitism that is explained away as an exaggerated description of Israel's activity. Nor an anti-Semitism that has anything to do with opposition to Israeli government policy. It is a hard-core hatred of Jews, anti-Semitic global conspiracy theory and Holocaust denial."

The report continues: "At every event checked, on every high street, at every demonstration, those pushing hard-core anti-Semitic ideology were at the very front of SPSC activity. Two separate case studies suggested that between 40% and 50% of SPSC front line activists (at a minimum) engage in sharing Jew-hating material."

The report systematically traces the echo chamber that SPSC operates across social media platforms like Facebook, which frequently includes comparisons of Israel with Nazi Germany, outright denials of the Holocaust, portraits of Israeli power and influence using the imagery of an all-powerful global Jewish cabal, and the recycling of ugly antisemitic falsehoods

about Jewish control of the banking industry, or of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

One SPSC activist, Steve Davies, was shown in the report in a photo wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh as he stood alongside Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. Davies has used terms like "Holohoax" to describe the Holocaust, as well as pushing wild conspiracy theories about the Rothschild banking family.

Other posts parrot the constant stream of propaganda from the Iranian regime and its Syrian ally Bashar al Assad about Israel controlling Sunni terrorist groups like Al Qaeda and ISIS.

One key section of the report concentrates specifically on the antics of Mick Napier, a university lecturer who serves as Secretary of SPSC. On July 18, both Napier and his SPSC colleague Jim Watson were found guilty in court of aggressive behavior at a protest outside an Israeli-owned cosmetics store in Glasgow during the 2014 Gaza war. After his conviction, Napier accused those who brought the case forward of trying to "criminalize criticism of Israeli apartheid and Israeli genocide."

Among the antisemitic individuals hosted by Napier under the SPSC banner are Azzam Tamimi, a Hamas supporter and enthusiastic cheerleader of suicide bombing, and Gilad Atzmon, a former Israeli who now devotes the bulk of his time to penning antisemitic articles and books. Napier is also a devoted supporter of Jackie Walker, a British Labour Party activist suspended for antisemitism who is currently promoting a lecture tour entitled "Lynched" — in which she compares having to defend herself from the charge of antisemitism to the thousands of African Americans beaten and hung by white supremacists in the Jim Crow South.

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Alarm

seems to ignore this commitment," Kuperwasser wrote in a policy paper for the influential Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs think tank. "That worries Israel...because it casts doubt over the depth of American commitment, the ability of the Americans to deliver, or the relevance of the 'Art of the Deal' to the Middle East and international politics."

Under the terms of the Trump-Putin arrangement, four "de-escalation" zones have been created in Syria — two of them in the Daraa and Quneitra provinces in the south of the country, close to the borders with Israel and Jordan. According to Kuperwasser, the deal has given "legitimacy to the prolonged presence of Iranian and Iranian-backed forces throughout the regions of Syria nominally controlled by the Assad regime."

Kuperwasser identified five distinct threats to Israel posed by Iran in the Syrian theater. Israel, he said, had been successful in dealing with only two of those — preventing the Iranians from gaining a foothold in the northern Golan Heights and carrying out dozens of lethal air strikes upon arms shipments sent by the Iranians to their allies in Syria, the Lebanese Shia terrorist group Hezbollah and the Damascus regime of Bashar al-Assad.

However, the three other threats remain largely unaddressed, Kuperwasser said. Firstly, he noted, "Iran almost assuredly wants to turn Syria into an Iranian military base... so that instead of threatening Israel from

1,300 kilometers away, the Iranian forces could sit on Israel's doorstep." Secondly, Iran emerging as the hegemonic force in Syria would severely weaken the Sunni Arab states, especially neighboring Jordan.

Finally, and perhaps most worryingly, Kuperwasser suggested that Iran could continue its nuclear weapons research on Syrian soil.

"Under the JCPOA [the Iran nuclear deal of July 2015], the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) can monitor nuclear activities in Iran, but has no authority to monitor Iranian activity abroad or to follow Iranian scientists," said Kuperwasser. "Iran may use these loopholes to conduct research and development of nuclear-related material in Syria."

Kuperwasser was pessimistic over the prospects of Putin's regime pressuring the Iranians to reduce their presence in Syria. "Russia considers Iran as an irreplaceable protector of Assad," he wrote. "Continuous Iranian presence in Syria is a strategic interest for Moscow."

Iran's expansion in Syria is part of a larger regional strategy to weaken Sunni Gulf state monarchies like Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and extend its political influence and military presence in Iraq and Yemen. One former US official quoted in a BuzzFeed report on Monday on Iran's imperial ambitions was candid about Tehran's mastery of its proxy militias. "In Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen — anywhere we've trained — they suck; they can't shoot straight," the official said. "The Iranians train these guys and they become good fighters."

Hezbollah Terror Mastermind Revealed as Founder of Iran-Backed Shia Militias in Iraq



Late Hezbollah terrorist leader Imad Mughniyeh. Photo: File.

BY BEN COHEN

One of the most historically-feared architects of Iran's terror network in Lebanon has been named as a key contributor to the growth of the Tehran-backed Shia militias that now wield decisive power in Iraq.

In an interview with Iraqi newspaper Al-Akhbar that was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis — the deputy commander of the Iranian-backed PMU militia — paid fulsome tribute to the late Hezbollah terrorist leader Imad Mughniyeh's role with Iraqi Shia organizations stretching back to the 1980s.

Together with his Hezbollah comrade Mustafa Badr Al-Din, Mughniyeh "trained the first armed jihad groups of the Iraqi opposition in 1982, as well as the first resistance units that opposed the [American] occupation in 2003," Al-Muhandis said.

Before his assassination in Damascus in February 2008 in a car bombing widely assumed to have been the work of a joint CIA-Mossad team of agents, Mughniyeh was renowned as one of Hezbollah's most ruthless and effective operatives — spending nearly thirty years at the helm of a regional and global terror network that thrives more now than at any time in the past.

Mughniyeh, 45 at the time of his death, was personally responsible for the murder of hundreds of people in various terrorist outrages. As Hezbollah's chief of international operations, Mughniyeh masterminded several deadly terror attacks — among them the 1983 bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut,

which killed 63, and the subsequent bombing in the same year of military barracks in the Lebanese capital in which 241 American and 58 French service members lost their lives.

Mughniyeh's footprint also extended to Latin America, where he directed the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in the Argentine capital — the worst single act of antisemitic terror since the Second World War.

As well as bombings, Mughniyeh was involved with hijacking, kidnapping — including the abduction of CIA Beirut station chief William Buckley, who was eventually murdered — and arms trafficking. Mughniyeh was a central player in the infamous "Karine A" affair of 2002, when the IDF intercepted a shipload of weapons bound for the Palestinian Authority (PA). Mughniyeh's deputy, Hajj Bassem, facilitated the delivery of the weapons to the carrier, the "Karine A" ship, from an Iranian vessel under his command.

While Mughniyeh's death was a blow to Hezbollah's global subterfuge, the arsenal at the terror organization's disposal in Lebanon is much greater than during its last war with Israel, in 2006, despite UN Security Council resolutions demanding its disarmament. Meanwhile, Mughniyeh's tactical vision of maximum harm against American as well as Israeli interests survives in the threat issued by Al-Muhandis, the Shia commander in Iraq.

"The possibility of friction or a confrontation between the PMU forces and the American forces is very real," the Al-Akhbar report said. "Al-Muhandis does not rule this out 'if Iraq's sovereignty comes under attack.'"

Continued from Page A1
Effort

"As we approach Shabbat Nachamu, we ask Jewish communities around the world to join us in remembering Hadar on the anniversary of his death and take action to uphold international humanitarian law and pressure Hamas to return Hadar and Oron," she continued.

In an interview with The Algemeiner in

April, Leah Goldin said, "Bringing a soldier back to Israel to burial is, first and foremost, a humanitarian issue. This is an important value in all religions. It's about human dignity."

During a February trip to the US, Goldin and her husband Simha met in New York City with America's UN envoy, Nikki Haley.

"We hope that the [Trump] administration will take this on as an issue and help us to solve it," Goldin said in April.

World News.

Kevin Myers Sorry, ladies — equal pay has to be earned



The row over presenters' salaries sums up the dysfunctional BBC

The row over the gender pay gap within the BBC is the final proof — though none was needed — that the organisation is both utterly unreal and irredeemably corrupt. Equally unreal has been the tiresome presenters in the BBC — Claudia Winkleman and Vanessa Feltz, with whose, no doubt, sterling work I am tragically unacquainted — are Jewish. Good for them, Jews are not generally noted for their insistence on selling their talent for the lowest possible price. Meanwhile, other broadcasting managers, almost in cultural compensation, have reduced the once majestic BBC Radio 3 to a debate on national identity, immigration and race, thereby doing irreversible damage to British society.

The controversial article which earned Kevin Myers the sack from the Sunday Times. Photo: File

Irish Jews Come to Defense of Journalist Fired Over Antisemitic Article

BY BEN COHEN

Ireland's Jewish Representative Council came out on Monday in defense of journalist Kevin Myers, the author of an antisemitic article in last weekend's *Sunday Times* newspaper that led to a fulsome apology from the paper's Irish editor and a promise from the paper's owners that Myers will never write for them again.

In a column on gender pay gaps, Myers acidly suggested that Vanessa Feltz and Claudia Winkleman, two well-known presenters on the UK's BBC networks, are well paid because they are Jewish. "Jews are not generally noted for their insistence on selling their talent for the lowest possible price, which is the most useful measure there is of inveterate, lost-with-all-hands stupidity," Myers opined.

But the Irish Jewish leaders said in a statement that Myers had "inadvertently stumbled into an anti-Semitic trope," Irish broadcaster RTE reported.

"Yes, Kevin ought to have known that his

bringing the religion of the two BBC presenters into his writings on Sunday would cause concern and upset and that it was both unnecessary and bound to be misunderstood," the statement continued. However, the statement adamantly rejected the charge that Myers is an antisemite and a Holocaust denier as "an absolute distortion of the facts." Myers, the statement said, had written "more than any other Irish journalist" about the Holocaust.

The statement did not, however, refer to an article that appeared in the *Irish Independent* in 2009 — and was abruptly removed from its website in the midst of Sunday's furor — in which Myers declared, "There was no holocaust (or Holocaust, as my computer software insists) and six million Jews were not murdered by the Third Reich. These two statements of mine are irrefutable truths."

Vanessa Feltz, one of the Jewish presenters named by Myers, said on Monday, "The apologies are all very well but how did it end up in the paper in the first place?"

Continued from Page A2
Best Friends

Mount — lasted only a few hours.

That hours-long closure had been prompted by unrest in the wake of an assassination attempt by an Islamic Jihad terrorist on Rabbi Yehudah Glick, a right-wing Israeli activist campaigning for the right of Jews to pray on the Temple Mount. As reported by Israeli media, "Palestinians in the Old City of Jerusalem set off fireworks in celebration" of the assassination attempt.

Suleiman's Facebook post certainly qualifies as a virtual firework, and his repeated calls for a "third intifada" can only be read as an endorsement of the murderous violence perpetrated by Palestinian terrorists during the Second Intifada.

It is also clear that Suleiman feels a burning hatred for Israel.

On August 2, 2014, he posted a photo of two Arabic books on a littered floor with the comment: "How symbolic: 2 books buried in the rubble of a destroyed home in Gaza: One about Moses and the other about Muhammad (peace be upon them both). The Zionists are the enemies of God, His Messengers, sincere followers of all religions, and humanity as a whole."

Once again, Suleiman explicitly tried to ignite religious hatred against Israelis; and once again, thousands of his followers shared and "liked" the post.

A year later, on August 10, 2015, Suleiman shared a video from another Facebook

user, ostensibly showing Palestinians held up at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank; Suleiman added the comment: "Want to know what its [sic] like to live under Nazis? Look no further than how the Palestinians are treated daily by apartheid Israel. Sickening."

It was not the first time that Suleiman made the antisemitic comparison between Israel and Nazi Germany. On August 4, 2014, he shared the claims of a Turkish website that an Israeli official had called for "concentration camps" in Gaza. Suleiman added: "Still don't think this is a holocaust?"

Moreover, while I was unable to find any condemnation of Palestinian terrorism from Suleiman, he has denounced Israel as a "terrorist regime." Suleiman provided the perhaps most shocking illustration of his intense hatred for Israel when he commented on a massacre perpetrated by Taliban-affiliated terrorists (including three Arabs) in December 2014 at a school in Pakistan: "#Peshawarattack Senseless, cold, cruel murder. Reminds me of the IDF's targeting schools in Gaza a few months [ago]."

The Nazi slogan was, "The Jews are our misfortune;" Omar Suleiman seems to believe that the world's only Jewish state is a great misfortune.

To be sure, Suleiman has become somewhat more restrained in his public comments about Israel. However, he noted in a recent Facebook post: "Because of my views on Palestine, I have been excluded

Abbas in Talks With Hamas to End Electricity Crisis, Restore PA Control of Gaza

BY JNS.ORG

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas has initiated talks with the Gaza-ruling terror group Hamas to lift sanctions on the organization, end its electricity crisis and restore PA control of Gaza, Arab media reported.

According to reports, Abbas conditioned the restoration of electricity service and the lifting of various banking restrictions upon Hamas's public cancellation of an electricity deal recently negotiated with former Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan, a rival of Abbas.

Abbas also conditioned the deal upon Hamas dismantling its government in Gaza and ceding control to the PA.

The PA recently reduced its payments to Israel for Gaza's electricity, leading the Jewish state to cut the power supply to Gaza by almost a third, precipitating the coastal territory's current energy crisis.

Recently, Dahlan claimed Gaza could expect to see the easing of its electricity crisis due to the opening of its border with Egypt in August. Dahlan also said a \$100 million Gulf-funded power plant will eventually be constructed in Gaza to ease electricity shortages.

Continued from Page A2
Sisyphus

Maybe it is our fault — as we Jews did not want to be seen as constantly complaining. Maybe the Jewish community was unwilling to believe that in 2017, it is still possible that an elderly lady would be beaten and defenestrated just because she is Jewish.

By recalling her name at the ceremony commemorating the Holocaust-era roundup of French Jews, and by demanding justice for Sarah Halimi, President Macron has broken

down the wall of indifference that surrounded this drama, and has stood up for all of us — and for all of France.

With these words, he has — in his own way — advanced the boulder of Sisyphus.

Let us keep the boulder from rolling back down, by refusing to accept the continued impunity of those who spew the poison of antisemitism in our country.

Simone Rodan-Benzaquen is director of the American Jewish Committee's Paris-based Europe branch.

from certain alliances and tables. In complete honesty, I have no interest in cooperating with anyone who wishes to suffocate non-violent resistance to occupation. If you cannot respect our right to organize on this issue, I have no desire to organize alongside you on any issue."

As I've documented in a screenshot I took when I saw the post, Sarsour was among the thousands of people who "liked" the post. But of course, an imam who has rooted for a "third intifada" and the "end of Zionism" while scrupulously avoiding any condemnation of Palestinian terrorism is rather disingenuous when he pretends that he is just a supporter of "non-violent resistance to occupation."

Moreover, there is also some deeply unsettling material about Suleiman's theological views regarding Jews. In December 2012, the Islamic Learning Foundation in Houston, Texas, hosted a series of lectures by Suleiman on "The Chronicles Of Bani Israel." I watched the first half hour of the introductory lecture with increasing horror.

Right at the beginning, Suleiman says that "we," i.e. Muslims, talk about the Bani Israel usually "very negatively," "we hear about how bad they were." He then proceeds to explain that the Bani Israel actually serve an important purpose: they are the ultimate, horrifying "Other" — put on earth to serve as a terrifying example to Muslims by demonstrating the evil that ensues if one doesn't follow Allah's commands. As Suleiman put it in the first few minutes of his lecture:

When we're talking about Bani Israel, we're talking about a massive nation, a massive ummah [...] We're talking about a nation that had many blessings bestowed upon them and still managed to miss out on Allah's [unclear]. ... And so the entire theme of Bani Israel is that they were given a blessing, in fact they were given multiple blessings, and they did not respond in the way they were supposed to.

Suleiman then goes on to explain what he calls a "very powerful hadith" that says:

If it was not for Bani Israel, meat would not decay. Meat would not decay. [...] Food would not become stale. Now think about that for a moment. And some people might say, you know, again, this is just an empty

attack on Bani Israel. No, it's not. The prophet of Allah [unclear] was saying that because of the way Bani Israel rejected the blessings of Allah's [unclear] ... that its [food] decays and becomes stale and becomes rotten [...] Had it not been for Bani Israel, that even wouldn't happen. So we're still seeing the effects of that today

This is no less vicious than the medieval blood libel — particularly if we imagine what a claim like this meant in a time when food was scarce and people knew real hunger and starvation.

I have recorded the relevant portion of Suleiman's lecture, just in case he decides to delete it. Betraying his Jew-hatred, he gave this hadith the most malevolent interpretation possible. As Suleiman surely knows, there are somewhat milder interpretations of this vicious hadith, which don't blame the Jews for the fact that meat and food decay — but simply for starting the greedy practice of "hoarding" food:

the meaning [of the hadith] actually is that these were the people of Israel who started the general practice of hoarding surplus food with them which used to rot and get wasted. Before them generally the people used to collect food only for their own selves. And when they had surplus they would share it with other people (either through charity or trade). So they were actually the people who started the general practice that lead to wasting of food.

But it seems that for Suleiman, it wasn't quite enough to blame the Jews just for starting "the general practice that lead to wasting of food." Instead, he prefers to blame the Jews for the fact that food "decays and becomes stale and becomes rotten. [...] Had it not been for Bani Israel, that even wouldn't happen. So we're still seeing the effects of that today."

Let me just end with a reminder of how Sarsour feels about Suleiman: he makes her "more proud to be a Muslim and a Palestinian," she admires him for speaking "truth w/ courage & w/o apology," she is "[p]roud to call him a friend," and Suleiman "inspired" her "to love" her "religion even more."

U.S. News.

American and Israeli Companies Announce Cyber Defense Partnership

BY JNS.ORG

The American cybersecurity company CyberReadyUSA this week announced a new partnership with the Israel Electric Company (IEC) to implement Israeli cyber defense technology for thwarting cyberattacks in America.

The deal, signed between CyberReadyUSA and IEC partner CyberGym, will see the construction and development of a cyber training facility in the U.S. that will educate public sector employees on methods for defending against cyberattacks. The facility is due to be constructed by the end of this year.

"ICE in general and CyberGym in particular are proud that an American company of the caliber of CyberReadyUSA, which offers services to a variety of customers in the field of cyber protection, have chosen to work with an Israeli company," said IEC Chairman Maj. Gen. (res.) Yiftach Ron-Tal, Israel National News reported.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) and Knesset Cyber Defense Subcommittee Chairperson MK Anat Berko (center). Photo: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

Israel's standing as a global cybersecurity powerhouse was advanced earlier this year when the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to improve American-Israeli cooperation in that sector. The United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2017, which passed in the House Jan. 31, creates a cybersecurity grant program for joint research and development projects.

Mexican Politician Slams BDS During West Bank Visit, Lauds Ties With Israel

BY JNS.ORG

During a visit to the West Bank on Sunday, Mexican politician Hugo Eric Flores Cervantes asserted there should be no boycotts of products made in the disputed territories.

"Those who consider that the factories here are not producing products made on Israeli territory are mistaken. There is no territory that is more Israeli than here," said Cervantes, a member of the Mexican Congress, the Jerusalem Post reported.

"Products should be exported from here to any place in the globe in the most open way possible," he said. "Trade between nations must and should be free...I am in favor of accelerating the trade agreement between Mexico and Israel as well as accelerating the marketing of products produced in Judea and Samaria to Mexico."

Cervantes is an evangelical Christian and the founder of the Social Encounter Party. During his visit, he discussed methods for improving ties between Mexico and Israeli communities in the West Bank.



A pro-BDS demonstration. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Israel, US, France Conclude Two-Week 'Noble Melinda' Naval Exercise

BY JNS.ORG

The Israeli Navy's Salvage and Underwater Missions Unit this week concluded a wide-ranging two-week drill in Haifa dubbed 'Noble Melinda' with its counterparts from the US and France.

The drill was the first of its kind to include the French Navy, and involved exercises with naval mines, underwater demolitions and sea-based terror attacks. The exercises also

involved the use of anti-tank weaponry.

Throughout the drills, each navy used their own special gear and high-tech sonar equipment.

"The French are especially adept at neutralizing underwater mines due to previous French experiences in war. As such, we learned a lot from them in this respect and they learned a lot from us in underwater demolitions," said a senior Israeli naval officer, Yedioth Ahronoth reported.

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Opinion.

We Must Believe In and Build a European Jewish Future



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

I recently took a trip to Europe. After passing through the painful experiences of Polish Jewish history — endless ghettos, death camps and mass graves — we arrived in the more hospitable environment of Italy. The very scope of the slaughter that took place on Polish soil — so vast that it cannot possibly be compressed within the human mind — weighed upon us like a dark, menacing overcast.

As we headed towards Venice, however, the gloomy recent history of Lodz, Krakow and Warsaw was replaced by the beauty of the serene city, with its watercolor structures and coral blue canals. In Florence, the museums of Nazi death scattered throughout Poland were replaced by the artistic wonders that line the walls of the Uffizi, the Galleria Borghese and Galleria dell'Accademia.

But the pain of Jewish history can't be escaped anywhere in Europe. Italy has its fair share of tragedy, too. It was one of the first nations to ally with Hitler in the run-up to the Second World War, and many of the country's Jews shared a similar fate with their brothers in Poland.

In Venice, Florence and Rome, the Jews were rounded up before being sent to their deaths. There is also the terrible history of the Jews in the time of ancient Rome, where legions were dispatched from Italy to wreak death and destruction upon the Jews of ancient Judea — a tragedy famously enshrined in the Arch of Titus.

Still, in light of the sheer devastation of Jewry in Poland and Eastern Europe, the Jews of Italy fared far better. Until the occupation of northern Italy by German troops in late 1943, there were no mass-killings or deportations

carried out by the Italians. Between 1941 and 1943, thousands of Jews would escape from Nazi occupied Greece and France into the Italian mainland, where many would survive the war. At one point, Italian authorities even helped save 4,000 incoming Jewish refugees.

There are more than 30,000 Jews living in Italy, today, and the country often receives hundreds of thousands of Israeli tourists. Venice alone, according to the incredible and highly successful Chabad emissaries living there, hosts about 300,000 Jewish tourists a year.

Oddly, though, one can struggle to find Jewish tourists on the streets of Europe.

France and Germany, which have Jewish populations of 310,000 and 230,000 respectively, fare the same. The Jews are there — you just can't see them. Due to the rise in antisemitism, even the Orthodox have stopped wearing their kippahs. Secular Jews, too, generally choose to abscond any outward tokens of their Judaism, such as a necklace with a Star of David.

I can't judge them. But Jewish visibility must return to Europe — and Jews have to stop fearing being noticed.

Here's why.

In the 21st century, two great and opposing visions were laid out for the future of the Jewish people.

The first was that of Theodor Herzl, who said that Jews would never be accepted amongst the world's nations. In a journal entry from 1897, he summed up the pivotal lesson of his life: "Above all, I recognized the emptiness and futility of trying to 'combat' antisemitism." Jews would be hated wherever they lived, and therefore, it was incumbent upon them to build a home of their own — a Jewish state.

The Holocaust tragically proved so much of what he said.

Yet there was another vision launched some 50 years afterwards by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Schneerson. Far



The Hyper Cacher kosher supermarket in Paris that was attacked by an Islamic terrorist in January 2015. Photo: Twitter.

from calling on Jews to leave their smaller, local communities for the more established communities in the United States and Israel, the Rebbe did the precise opposite. He sent emissaries — primarily from the United States and Israel — into these smaller communities throughout the world, in an attempt to strengthen Jewish communities wherever they're found.

This was a theory based not on the centralization of Judaism, but on its proliferation. For the Rebbe, the Jews were not only a persecuted minority in need of a home, but a "light unto the nations" with an obligation to expose all of mankind — even non-Jews — to the majesty of Jewish values and spirituality.

On my trip through European Jewish centers, I was blown away by the success of Chabad in so many of these communities. In Budapest, I watched 300 Jews enjoy Shabbat meals. In Venice, I witnessed the same with Rabbi Rami Benin. And in Florence, I was the guest of Rabbi Eli Borenstein.

Herzl's towering vision founded the modern Jewish state. And the Rebbe's universal vision has ensured global Jewish religious continuity. So whose vision has won out? Both. And they must be complimentary — not contradictory.

I count the State of Israel as the great love of my life, and I have taken immense pride in

seeing my children serve in its military. Israel is the eternal homeland of the Jewish people.

But Jews also have a universal mission. It warms my heart to see the continued success of Polish Chief Rabbi Michael Shudrich, who is rebuilding Jewish life where six million Jews were murdered. I was also moved to my core to see the enormous new synagogue in Munich, where 80 years ago Hitler came to power. No reader of this column should wish to see Europe become a continent empty of Jews.

I have heard many Jewish and Israeli leaders write off Europe. But tell that to the tens of thousands of Israeli tourists who visit there every year. Should they remove their Magen Davids when visiting? Should they have no place to pray on Shabbat? Should they remove or cover their yarmulkes, as so many are already doing? Why should we suddenly cower down and obscure ourselves from the world?

This past Friday night, I was walking with my wife and two young Chabad rabbinical students through the streets of Florence. Two young Dutch women approached us. They claimed that we were the first Jews that they had ever seen in their entire lives. And yet, Anne Frank is the most famous Dutch personality of modern times.

It was then that I realized the tragedy befalling European Jewry — namely, that we're becoming invisible. This, from a people that, for thousands of years, has had a larger impact on the world than any nation before it. Jewish tourists don't help when they conceal their Jewishness. Everywhere you go today in Europe, you see Muslim men, women and children of great visibility — proudly sporting the dress of their faith. Yet we Jews hide our own.

As I stood in front of the most famous sculpture on earth — Michelangelo's David — it hit me how much our community has given to our world. We ought to make sure that it stays that way — that people all over the globe remain exposed to the whole Jewish people, not just the ones made of stone.

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.

Netanyahu Has No Good Options



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.ORG

The last two weeks were not a good time to be the prime minister of Israel.

A series of unfortunate events led Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make decisions that wound up being attacked from both the left and the right. Those decisions were, at best, debatable. But the resulting tsunami of disparagement that accused Netanyahu of simultaneously being intransigent and a weakling may tell us more about the nature of the conflict between Israel and its enemies, than it does about Netanyahu's shortcomings.

Though the prime minister deserves criticism, the most important conclusion to be drawn from the Temple Mount crisis is that — much as Netanyahu has told us for years — his nation's security dilemma may be managed, but it cannot be solved. In such a

situation, the options available to any Israeli leader will always range from bad to worse.

The latest proof of this dismal fact was a series of events set in motion by a July 14 terrorist attack near Jerusalem's Temple Mount that killed two Israeli policemen. When Israel installed metal detectors to try and prevent another such atrocity, Palestinians and Muslims responded with outrage at what they considered an affront to their faith. Though it requires a staggering amount of cognitive dissonance to construe a security measure such as installing metal detectors as an attack, that is exactly what Palestinians and Islamists did. What followed was more violence — including a Palestinian terrorist's slaughter of a Jewish family in Halamish, and then an attack on the Israeli embassy in Amman, Jordan.

Until the attack in Jordan, Netanyahu resisted calls to end the trouble by removing the new security measures. But when an Israeli embassy guard — who had been wounded before shooting his assailant and a bystander — was told that he would not be able to leave Jordan without being first put on trial, Netanyahu was put in an impossible

position. Jordan's King Abdullah was willing to sacrifice the guard in order to appease his Palestinian Arab subjects. Netanyahu couldn't let that happen. But the price for the guard's freedom was the removal of the Temple Mount metal detectors.

It's arguable that installing the detectors in the first place was a bad idea. Officials knew that Palestinians would seize on any pretext to claim the status quo on the Temple Mount was being changed. But it's also arguable that doing nothing would have been equally irresponsible.

Once the detectors were in place, removing them would not only reward the terrorists — but would demonstrate that Palestinian mobs were in charge. That would be a blow to Israeli sovereignty, and an undeserved triumph for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who — like his predecessors — has done so much to cynically stoke the fires of religious warfare with lies about the Jews attacking the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Anyone who has followed Netanyahu's career knew what the prime minister would do.

Just as he has done in the past when Israelis were held hostage by their foes — such as the kidnapping of Gilad Shalit by Hamas — Netanyahu paid the ransom. In this case, his surrender didn't lead to the freeing of terrorists with blood on their hands. But by agreeing to a deal in which the guard would be allowed to leave Jordan in return for taking down the detectors, Netanyahu ensured future attacks and outrages.

The prime minister is a student of history, and knows that appeasement will only make it more certain that further demands and violence aimed at chasing the Jews out of their holy places will follow. But had he let the Jordanians put the guard on trial, Netanyahu would have been attacked — with equal vigor — for leaving an Israeli behind in the hands of hostile foes.

The Israeli public thinks that Netanyahu's decision is a defeat, with the prime minister's right-wing supporters calling him a weakling and his left-wing opponents damning him for provoking the controversy.

Yet it's not clear that any of the alternatives that Netanyahu could have chosen would have avoided more trouble or ended the problem without damaging Israel's interests. In other words, Netanyahu had no good options available to him.

A conflict rooted in religious rhetoric cannot be solved by a territorial compromise or more goodwill. For the foreseeable future, as Netanyahu has asserted, the conflict can be managed but not solved. That means that Israel's leader — no matter what his or her name might be — will be fated to make more such unpopular and unsatisfactory decisions. Netanyahu may have been wrong this time. But it's not likely that anyone else would have done better.

Jonathan S. Tobin is opinion editor of JNS.org and a contributing writer for *National Review*. Follow him on Twitter at: @jonathans_tobin.

Opinion.

US Islamists Promote Nationwide Protests Despite Israeli Concessions



STEVEN EMERSON
WASHINGTON

In solidarity with Palestinian factions and terrorist groups, pro-Palestinian Islamist organizations in the United States geared up for more anti-Israel protests on Friday, even though the original cause for their anger has been rescinded.

Last week, Israel removed metal detectors on the Temple Mount, which had been installed near an entrance to Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque in response to a deadly July 14th terrorist attack there; terrorists managed to smuggle their guns into the mosque on the morning of that attack. Yet Israel's acquiescence of removing the metal detectors has not silenced its main detractors.

Rallies planned throughout the United States are still being pushed by groups such as American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and Jewish Voice for Peace.

In a published set of talking points, AMP claimed that the removal of metal detectors "doesn't mean that the sanctity of the Noble Sanctuary is guaranteed, nor that Israel will not try other methods in the future to alter the status quo in the Aqsa mosque."

This message builds on years of false Palestinian claims that Israel is keeping Muslims from praying at the mosque.

The metal detectors were installed only after Palestinian terrorists attacked and killed two police officers.

US-based Islamist figures and groups are even challenging Israel's right to install additional surveillance cameras on the Temple Mount — the compound that houses the mosque and site of the last Jewish temple. While enhanced surveillance measures often follow Western terrorist attacks, any action to improve Israel's national security — no matter how minor — is met with disproportionate anger from groups opposed to Israel's existence in any form.

AMP held an "All Out for Al Aqsa" rally last weekend in Times Square, featuring speakers who called for Israel's destruction and radical chants from the crowd.

"You [Israel] are a hypocrisy state that will eventually be, will eventually go away. Israel will not last long," said AMP-New Jersey president and national board member Sayel Kayed.

The rally featured similarly threatening chants made in Arabic.

"With life, with blood, we sacrifice for you Al Aqsa." "The gate of Al Aqsa is of iron [Hadid], no one can open it but a martyr [Shahid]." These chants, translated by the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT), show how US Islamist groups cultivate an atmosphere where terrorism and violence against Israel is openly encouraged.

Anti-Israel student groups are also joining the fray. Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (UIUC) posted a statement on Facebook last week inciting violence, the *Algemeiner* reported.

"Long live the Intifada!" the group exclaimed, adding in Arabic "Long live resistance." These words are commonly invoked by anti-Israel activists who wish to inspire violent uprisings and terrorism against Israel.

The growing anti-Israel hysteria permeated the Islamic Center of Davis in California on July 21, where American imam Ammar Shahin delivered an antisemitic sermon.

"Oh Allah, liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews. Oh Allah, destroy those who closed the Al-Aqsa Mosque. ... Oh Allah, count them one by one and annihilate them down to the very last one. Do not spare any of them," preached Shahin, according to a report by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

Council on American-Islamic Relations Executive Director Nihad Awad did not comment on the Shahin sermon. But he did urge all imams to talk about the issue, saying "Israeli occupiers are suppressing religious freedom in #Jerusalem."

CAIR's St. Louis chapter organized a march last Sunday that cast metal detectors and security cameras as a Jewish "siege" of the mosque, and featured chants of "free Al-Aqsa."

CAIR's Georgia chapter also co-hosted an anti-Israel event, with the far-left group Jewish Voice for Peace outside the Israeli Consulate in Atlanta.

AMP alerted its network to additional nationwide protests, including this past Friday outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC. There was also a planned demonstration on Friday in downtown Chicago and in New York City. On Sunday, a "March for Al Aqsa" is scheduled to take place at the Wilshire Federal Building in Los Angeles.

US-based Islamists are joining Palestinian factions from across the political spectrum, who continue to call on Palestinians to protest against Israel.

For the second straight week, Hamas has called for a "day of rage" while Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party incites violence by encouraging its supporters to "intensify" confrontations with Israeli authorities throughout the West Bank and Jerusalem. Abbas went a step further on Wednesday and gave the green light for Fatah's Tanzim terrorist group to organize mass demonstrations.

On July 14, the Muslim Brotherhood led the way with calls for an "Islamic Intifada" — a violent uprising — against Israel following that day's deadly Palestinian terrorist attack.

"The Muslim Brotherhood calls upon the sons of the Islamic Umma (nation), its Ulema (Muslim religious scholars), figures and blocs for an Intifada in order to stop the (alleged Israeli) violations of holy sites," the Brotherhood wrote on its official Arabic-language website — as translated by the Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT).

The Brotherhood admitted its main motivation for "our intended uprising" was to "pressure all Western governments, Arab regimes and international organizations to intervene to stop violations by gangs of the Zionist entity."

Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated groups in the US are heeding this call, organizing nationwide protests, inciting violence and seeking to pressure the US government into forcing more Israeli concessions.

Are Some Democrats Moving Away From Israel?



RAFAEL MEDOFF/
JNS.ORG

Some Jewish Democrats and community activists are concerned at what they see as fresh signs that the party is distancing itself from Israel.

The latest controversy began when US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) said at a July 22 Town Hall meeting in the Bronx that "Prime Minister [Benjamin] Netanyahu does not have a plan for peace."

When asked by JNS.org to elaborate, however, Senator Gillibrand's office declined to reiterate her criticism of Netanyahu. Her senior adviser, Glen Caplin, said only that Gillibrand is "one of the strongest supporters of Israel in the Senate," and pointed to her backing for military aid to the Jewish state. Caplin also chided Palestinian leaders for promoting "boycotts and unilateral actions at the UN" instead of negotiating with Israel.

Meanwhile, some supporters of Israel were surprised when a spokesperson for Congressman Joseph Kennedy III (D-Mass.) announced on July 19 that he was "reviewing" his sponsorship of the Anti-Boycott Act of 2017 (H.R. 1697), which is being considered in the House. The bill seeks to punish companies that support the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement. A similar bill (S.720) is under review in the Senate.

Kennedy's statement followed a complaint by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) that the legislation might impinge on free speech. However, Boston news media reported two days later that Kennedy was still supporting the bill. Currently, Kennedy's name is still listed alongside 244 other House sponsors of the measure.

Conflict in Massachusetts

Jewish Democrats in Massachusetts were also riled by a recent attempt by some party activists to promote a position more critical of Israel. Carol Coakley, a member of the Democratic State Committee and an official of the group "Massachusetts Peace Action," introduced a party resolution singling out Israel as the obstacle to peace. At the June 3 Massachusetts Democratic convention, the resolution was ruled out of order because the party ordinarily does not take positions on foreign policy issues.

Coakley told JNS.org that she has found "a significant number" of rank and file Massachusetts Democrats who support her position. However, Rob Leikind, New England regional director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), who was involved in the effort against the resolution, told JNS.org that "opposition [to the measure] seemed strong." He believes that the resolution would be defeated if it had been put to a full vote, and characterized critics of Israel within the state party as "a vocal fringe."

Steve Grossman, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Massachusetts Democratic Party, told JNS.org that while support for Israel within the party remains strong overall, "there has been some increase and growth in voices and segments of the Democratic Party activist base" who are less friendly to Israel.

Grossman, who served as national president of AIPAC in the 1990s, said that those fringe



Senator Kirstin Gillibrand speaking to a Jewish group. Photo: Maxine Dove.

elements in the party were galvanized by statements made by former President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State John Kerry that "placed an excessive burden" on Israel alone to resolve the Mideast conflict. Grossman said that Coakley and her faction have shown little or no interest in "Palestinian incitement to violence and terrorism, such as naming buildings and football fields after terrorists."

Controversy in California

Critics of Israel within the Democratic Party were more successful at the California Democrats' state convention in April. Party activists Estee Chandler and David Mandel — who are members of the anti-Zionist group Jewish Voice for Peace — succeeded in bringing about the adoption of a resolution there accusing Israel of obstructing peace and "adopting anti-democratic measures." The resolution also warned the Trump administration against pursuing a "one-sided policy" in support of Israel.

Matthew Kahn, director of the AJC's San Francisco region — who helped rally opposition to that measure, said that he is "pleased with the overall support for Israel among elected Democratic officials in California." He added, however, that "contentiousness within the party as it relates to Israeli policies is a concern."

According to Kahn, "What began in the party as a difference of opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has morphed into a BDS debate that has the potential to go from anti-Zionist into antisemitic territory. We must be vigilant not to let the Democratic Party be influenced by the BDS movement."

Recent polls seem to substantiate Kahn's concerns. An April 2017 survey by Shibley Telhami and Stella Rouse at the University of Maryland, found that 66 percent of Republicans nationwide believe that the Trump administration's policy should "lean toward Israel," while only 15 percent of Democrats feel that way. A January 2017 poll by the Pew Research Center found that 74 percent of Republicans sympathize more with Israel than with the Palestinians, but just 33 percent of Democrats share that sentiment.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said that "these developments collectively are a challenge to Jewish Democrats and Jewish organizations not to rely on past achievements, alliances or party platforms."

Cooper, who has attended both Democratic and Republican national conventions and worked with elected officials from both parties, told JNS.org that: "The Jewish community will have to retool and redouble its efforts to maintain the historic bipartisan support for Israel. If we don't, ... those who oppose Israel have already shown how effective they are becoming in impacting on our democratic system."

Impressions.

The Guardian and John Lyons Accuse Australian Jews of 'Targeting' Journalists

BY ADAM LEVIK

Australian journalist John Lyons was among those in the media who, in 2014, leveled entirely false accusations that Israel sadistically tortured Palestinian children. This abuse was purported to include whippings, beatings while tied to a cross and the practice of "caging Palestinian children outdoors."

As CAMERA noted at the time, Lyons' report for Australia Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC) "Four Corners" was based entirely on uncorroborated Palestinian claims, and — in contravention of basic journalistic ethics — Israeli officials were never given the opportunity to respond to the charges.

Senior IDF officials later said that Lyons' claims were "completely fictitious."



The Guardian office in London. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Greg Sheridan, a colleague of Lyons at the *Australian*, referred to the "Four Corners" hit job on Israel as "a crude piece of anti-Israel propaganda that revived some of the oldest anti-Semitic tropes."

These false charges resulted in a row between Lyons and Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) — a group that advocates for the interests of Australia's Jewish community. Echoing narratives that those who follow our work would recognize, Lyons claimed in his 2014 op-ed that AIJAC stifles criticism of Israel by bullying journalists, a narrative that he developed further in a book published this year. That book was the focus of a July 28th *Guardian* article by Amanda Mead.

The first sign that Lyons is going to receive sympathetic coverage from the *Guardian* is the article's headline:

Pro-Israel advocates in Australia targeted three journalists, new book claims

It becomes clear in the article that the highly evocative term "targeting" refers to the evidently insidious practice of attempting to hold Australian journalists accountable for accurate reporting about Israel. Here are some of the 'shocking revelations':

Pro-Israel advocacy groups in Australia targeted the Middle East correspondent of the Australian newspaper and two ABC reporters, a new book claims. John Lyons says he was subjected to consistent pressure

Can the President Pardon Himself?

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

President Trump's tweets about his broad power to pardon have raised the ultimate question: Can the president pardon himself? The answer is crystal clear! And anyone who gives you a different answer is misleading you, because there is only one correct answer. Here it is: nobody knows!

No president has ever tried it. No court has ever ruled on it. The framers of our Constitution never opined on it. History provides no guidance. There is a clean slate.

Yet pundits and academic know-it-alls will express certainty on both sides of this issue. That's what pundits and academics do. Rarely do they acknowledge they don't know, because as experts they are supposed to know. But this is one question whose answer they cannot know.

They will have opinions, as we all do. But many will deliberately confuse the is with the ought. If they would like the answer to be no, they will pretend the answer is no. If they would like the answer to be yes, they will pretend it is yes. That's the way some pundits and academics advocate: by claiming to be describing what they are not so subtly prescribing.

This has been the case especially with regard to Donald Trump. Too many academics have said that non-criminal conduct by Trump and his administration is a crime, when they wish it were a crime, so that Trump can be removed from office. But wishful thinking is not a substitute for rigorous analysis, which has been sorely lacking among some of my fellow liberal academics.

So let's rigorously analyze the question of whether a president can pardon himself.

The preliminary question is whether a sitting president can be indicted, tried and/or convicted for an alleged crime committed before he assumed office or while serving in office. The answer to that question probably is no, as most authorities suggest. That has been the Justice Department's view for some time now. It is also the view of most experts that once a president leaves office — by his term ending or by impeachment or resignation — he could be prosecuted. If that were the case, there would be no reason for the president to even consider pardoning himself now. He could wait until his last day in office.

Why the last day? Because if he can be prosecuted as soon as he leaves office, pardoning himself would protect him from that possibility, if the self-pardon were valid.

Why would he not do it any earlier? Because he might well be impeached if he pardoned himself, and the pardon power does not extend to impeachment.



President Donald Trump. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

But he couldn't be impeached on his last day or after he leaves office. If he had doubts about the validity of a self-pardon, he could also make a deal — explicit or implicit—with the vice president to resign a day before his term was up in exchange for a pardon from the one-day president.

So timing would be everything.

Will we ever know for sure whether a self-pardon is constitutionally permissible? Unlikely.

First, a president would have to pardon himself. The political cost of such an action would be very high. Second a prosecutor would then have to try to prosecute the former president. Third, the former president would have to raise the pardon as a defense. Finally, the courts would have to decide whether, under our system of separation of powers, the courts have jurisdiction to review a presidential self-pardon. This last contingency is interesting, because as Justice Holmes reminded us, the power to pardon is not a mere "private act of grace," but rather an important part of our "Constitutional scheme," of checks and balances and separation of powers.

But the pardon power is not without limit. A president could almost certainly be prosecuted after leaving office for accepting a bribe to grant a pardon. Although he would be prosecuted for accepting the bribe, the granting of the pardon would be the quid pro quo, and thus an essential of the crime. James Madison wrote in the *Federalist Papers* that no person "is allowed to be a judge in his own case." Would violation of this principle bestow jurisdiction on a court to invalidate a self-pardon? The answer to that question remains unclear.

I'm relatively certain these contingencies will never come to pass. So we will have to learn to live with the uncertainty of never knowing whether a president has the constitutional authority to pardon himself.

Follow Alan Dershowitz on Twitter: @AlanDersh. Facebook: @AlanMDershowitz.

This article was previously published by The Hill

from the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) while based in Jerusalem for the Australian for six years, as were the ABC's Sophie McNeill and the veteran ABC correspondent Peter Cave.

*In his Middle East memoir *Balcony Over Jerusalem*, Lyons says Cave told him another group prepared dossiers on Cave and other ABC reporters "and sent them to like-minded journalists and members of parliament".*

Of course, "dossiers" in this context all but certainly refers simply to publicly available information, such as past examples of reports that were biased or inaccurate.

It gets better:

*Lyons says pressure also came from inside his own paper. He says the former editor of the *Weekend Australian* Nick Cater refused to publish his work and the pro-Israel lobby bombarded editors with criticism of his reports.*

Whilst we don't know why Cater refused to publish Lyons' work, note how Lyons attempts to frame mere criticism of his reports by pro-Israel groups as something sinister.

Another putative example of intimidation cited in Lyons' book was a 2015 file sent by AIJAC to Jewish members of the ABC board with information on ABC Middle East reporter Sophie McNeill — a file

Continued on Page A10

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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: DIG IT SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE DESIGN,LLC. articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 05/16/2017. 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 the LLC C/O United states corporation agents,Inc 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 6/30; 7/7/14/21/28; 8/4

NOTICE OF FORMATION 2715 CLAFLIN AVENUE REALTY, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/18/17. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 2715 CLAFLIN AVENUE REALTY, LLC, 2715 Clafin Ave.,1-A, Bronx, NY 10468. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.
AJ; 6/30; 7/7/14/21/28/4

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 916 56 Street BK , LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 06/19/2017 . 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: The LLC 916 56th St. 2R Brooklyn, NY 11219. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/7/14/21/28; 8/4/11

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: DEBBRAM Consulting,LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/20/2017 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: DEBBRAM Consulting LLC, 3865 Amundson Avenue #2, Bronx, NY 10466 Purpose: Consulting
AJ; 7/7/14/21/28; 8/4/11

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) . Name: SPARK ARTS STUDIO LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 03/20/2017 . 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: Legalinc corporate services inc. 1967 wehrle drive suite 1 #086 Buffalo, NY 14221. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/14/21/28; 8/4/11/18

PROBATE CITATION File No. 2017-1/A SURROGATE'S COURT - QUEENS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO All heirs at law, next of kin, and distributees of Nancy Gluck a/k/a Nancy E. Gluck, deceased, if living, and if any of them be dead to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees, and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained

LEGAL NOTICE

after due diligence and Public Administrator of Queens County A petition having been duly filed by LEONARD KAMSLER, who is domiciled at 140 Seventh Avenue, Apt 5F, New York, NY 10011 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, QUEENS County, at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, on August 31 2017, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of NANCY E. GLUCK lately domiciled at 69-10 108th Street, Apt 5-M, Forest Hills, NY 11375 admitting to probate a Will dated November 16, 1986 a copy of which is attached, as the Will of NANCY E. GLUCK deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: LEONARD KAMSLER Dated, Attested and Sealed JUN 26 2017 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Lee J. Coulman Acting Chief Clerk HARVEY J. LIPPMAN, ESQ. Attorney for Petitioner, 590 Madison Avenue, Suite 2100, New York, NY 10022, (212)593-2022. [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.]
AJ; 7/14/21/28; 8/4

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass- Through Certificates, Series 2005-4, Plaintiff AGAINST Renee Belmar; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 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 August 17, 2017 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 1355 Saint Marks, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 1357 Lot 70. Approximate amount of judgment \$884,029.91 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 511225/2014. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: July 5, 2017 47214
AJ; 7/14/21/28; 8/4/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: WUFFY,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/22/2017. Office location: Kings county . SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: United States corporation agents,inc. 7014 13th Avenue suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/14/21/28; 8/4/11/18

ACCOUNTING PROCEEDING FILE NO. 2016-1619/A CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO: Unknown Distributees, Attorney General of the State of New York, New York City Human Resources Administration, Fay-Lynn Schwartz Chud, a/k/a Fay Slater, Estate of Inge Engel, Toni Gonchoroff, Thomas Engel, Wendy Murphey, Michael Engel, Sarah Abbott. And to the heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Gisele Mund, a/k/a

LEGAL NOTICE

Gisela Mund, if living and if any of them be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained by the petitioner, herein; being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, devisees, beneficiaries, distributees, or otherwise in the estate of Gisele Mund, a/k/a Gisele Mund, deceased, who at the time of her death was a resident of 1060 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, New York 10025, New York, New York. A petition having been duly filed by the Public Administrator of the County of New York, who maintains an office at 31 Chambers Street, Room 311, New York, New York 10007. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the New York County Surrogate's Court at 31 Chambers Street, New York, New York, on August 23, 2017 at 9:30 A.M. in Room 509, why the following relief stated in the account proceedings, a copy of the summary statement thereof being attached hereto, of the Public Administrator of the County of New York as administrator of the goods, chattels and credits of said deceased, should not be granted: (i) that her account be judicially settled; (ii) that a photocopy of a paper writing purporting to be the last will and testament of decedent dated May 14, 1980 (a copy of which is attached) not be admitted to probate; (iii) that a hearing be held to determine the identity of the distributees at which time proof pursuant to SCPA Section 2225 may be presented, or in the alternative, that the balance of the funds be deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York for the benefit of the decedent's unknown distributees; (iv) that the claim of the New York City Human Resources Administration in the amount of \$1,031,742.54 be allowed, but that payment not be made until such time as ever the estate includes assets which are not comprised of government reparation payments excluded from Medicaid recovery pursuant to the CMS State Medicaid Manual Section 3810(A) (8); (v) that the Surrogate approve the reasonable amount of compensation as reported in Schedules C and C-1 of the account of proceedings to the attorney for the petitioner for legal services rendered to the petitioner herein; (vi) that the persons above mentioned and all necessary and proper persons be cited to show cause why such relief should not be granted; (vii) that an order be granted pursuant to SCPA Section 307 where required or directed; and (viii) for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper. Dated, Attested and Sealed. July 6, 2017 (Seal) Hon. Rita Mella, Surrogate. Diana Sanabria, Chief Clerk. Schram Graber & Opell P.C. Counsel to the Public Administrator, New York County 11 Park Place, Suite 615 New York, New York 10007 (212) 896-3310 Note: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. You have the right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney.
AJ; 7/14/21/28; 8/4/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 4204 NAPIER AVENUE LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 07/06/2017 .

LEGAL NOTICE

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: Amy Hahn 90 Maplewood Dr., Brewster, NY 105 09 Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/21/28; 8/4/11

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: Derek Bradley Studio LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 16, 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 a copy of process to the LLC, 970 Kent Ave, Apt 706, Brooklyn, NY 11205. Derek Elijah Bradley, 970 Kent Ave, Apt 706, Brooklyn, NY 11205, has been designated registered agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.
AJ; 7/21/28; 8/4/11

NOTICE OF SALE STATE OF NEW YORK, SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY- Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., Plaintiff(s) vs. Henry Francis, et al, Defendants. Index No. 12688/14. In pursuance and by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure and sale in the amount of \$698,608.49 plus interest and costs duly granted by this Court and entered in the Kings County Clerk's Office on the 16th day of March, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee, duly appointed in this action for such purpose, will expose for sale and sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder therefor in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on the 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 2017 at 2:30 P.M., the real estate and mortgaged premises directed in and by said judgment described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York; said premises known as 789 Fountain Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208, known and designated as Block: 4565, Lot: 70. Premises sold subject to provisions of the filed judgment and terms of sale. SUBJECT TO restrictions, covenants, etc. of record, prior lien(s), if any, and an easement, if any, contained in Deed recorded January 9, 2007 in CRFN 2007000016340. THOMAS P. ANSELMO, ESQ., Referee Helfand & Helfand, Attorney(s) for Plaintiff, Office address, 350 Fifth Avenue - Suite 5330, New York, NY 10118
AJ; 7/21/28; 8/4/11

Notice of Formation of 424 7TH AVE, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/10/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 125 Court St., Apt. 7EN, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: Any lawful activity.
AJ; 7/21/28; 8/4/11

SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION File No. 2015-4036 SURROGATE'S COURT, KINGS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: The unknown spouse, if any, and any and all unknown distributees, heirs-at-law, and next of kin of Stanley Katz, deceased, if living, and if any of the aforementioned persons be dead, their respective husbands or wives,

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if any, executors, administrators, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, legatees and successors-in-interest generally, all of whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained A petition having been duly filed by Barbara Arnold who is/are domiciled at 6149 Pointe Regal Circle, #304, Delray Beach, Florida 33484 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on August 29, 2017, at 9:30 o'clock in the fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Stanley Katz, lately domiciled at 1490 Ocean Ave. #3E Brooklyn, NY 11230 United States admitting to probate a Will dated September 6, 2007 and Codicil(s), if any, dated a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Stanley Katz deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that: Letters Testamentary issue to Barbara Arnold. Dated, Attested and Sealed, July 17, 2017 HON.: Margarita Lopez Torres, Surrogate, Doreen A Quinn Chief Clerk. Ira M. Kopito 32 Court Street, #1805, Brooklyn, New York 11201 (718) 834-9200 NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.
AJ; 7/21/28; 8/4/11/

Notice of Qualification of CS 1158 McDonald Ave, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 7/10/17. Office location: Kings Co. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 7/6/17. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 111 8th Ave, NY, NY 10011. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: any lawful activity.
AJ; 7/28; 8/4/11/18/25; 9/1

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST DAINTY A. CLARKE and CYNTHIA V. WAGGONER, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 21, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on September 07, 2017 at 2:30PM, premises known as 705 LINWOOD STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 4083, LOT 9. Approximate amount of judgment \$506,908.91 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 4415/13. M. Randolph Jackson, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 47292
AJ; 8/4/11/18/25;

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Corner The Market Real Estate Investors,LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 04/03/2017. Office location Bronx County. SSNY has been designated

Tradition.

Legal Notice.

Philosophy or Prophecy?



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

What was the first commandment? On this there are two fascinating disagreements in Judaism. One was between Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) and the author of the Halakhot Gedolot, written in the period of the Gaonim, probably by R. Shimon Kayyara (eighth century), that for the first time enumerated in a systematic way the 613 commands. The other was between Maimonides and the poet and thinker Judah Halevi (c. 1080-c.1145). These were two different arguments, and they touched, as we will see, on fundamentals of faith.

The first is simply this. Maimonides counts the opening line of the Ten Commandments, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of

believed that the verse, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" is not itself a command, but a statement of why the Israelites should be bound by the will of God. He had rescued them, liberated them, and brought them to safety. The first verse of the Decalogue is not a law but a statement of fact, a reason why the Israelites should accept God's sovereignty.

Thanks to the archeological discoveries about which I wrote in the previous Covenant and Conversation, we now know that the biblical covenant has the same literary structure as ancient near eastern political treaties. These treaties usually follow a six-part pattern, of which the first three elements were [1] the preamble, identifying the initiator of the treaty, [2] a historical review, summarising the past relationship between the parties, and [3] the stipulations, namely the terms and conditions of the covenant.

Seen in this context, the first verse of the Ten Commandments is a highly abridged form of [1] and [2]. "I am the Lord your God" is the preamble. "Who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" is the historical review. The verses that follow are the stipulations, or as we would call them, the commands. If so, then the Halakhot Gedolot as understood by Nahmanides was correct in seeing the verse as an introduction to the commands, not a command in its own right. That is the first disagreement.

The second was between Maimonides and Judah Halevi. For Maimonides, the first command is to believe in God, creator of heaven and earth:

The basic principle of all basic principles and the pillar of all sciences is to realise that there is a First Being who brought every existing thing into being. . . If it could be supposed that He did not exist, it would follow that nothing else could possibly exist. If however it were supposed that all other beings were non-existent, He alone would still exist. . . To acknowledge this truth is a positive command, as it is said: "I am the Lord your God" (Ex. 20:2, Deut 5:7).

Judah Halevi disagreed. Halevi was not only the greatest of medieval Hebrew poets, he also wrote one of Judaism's theological masterpieces, The Kuzari. It is framed as a dialogue between a rabbi and the King of the Khazars.

Historically, the Khazars were a Turkish people who, between the seventh and eleventh centuries, ruled a considerable area between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, including southern Russia, northern Caucasus, eastern Ukraine, Western Kazakhstan, and northwestern Uzbekistan.

Many Jewish traders and refugees lived there, and in 838 the Khazar King Bulan converted to Judaism, after supposedly holding a debate between representatives of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. The Arabic writer Dimashqi writes that the Khazars, having encountered the Jewish faith, "found it better than their own and accepted it". Khazaria thus became, spiritually as well as geographically, an independent third force between the Muslim Caliphate and the Christian Byzantine Empire. After their conversion, the Khazar people used Jewish personal names, spoke and wrote in Hebrew, were circumcised, had synagogues and rabbis, studied the Torah and Talmud, and observed the Jewish festivals.

The Kuzari is Judah Halevi's overarching account of Judaism, cast in the form of an imagined conversation between the King and a rabbi that led to the King's conversion. In it, Halevi draws a portrait diametrically opposed to Maimonides' account. Judaism, for Halevi, is not philosophical but counter-philosophical. It's not about abstract concepts but about concrete experiences: the taste of slavery, the feeling of liberation, the realisation on the part of the people that God had heard their cry and set them free. The God of Abraham is not the God of Aristotle. The prophets were not philosophers. Philosophers found God in physics and metaphysics, but the prophets found God in history. This is how Halevi's rabbi explains his faith to the king of the Khazars:

I believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt with signs and miracles; who fed them in the desert and gave them the land, after having brought them through the sea and the Jordan in a miraculous way. . . (Kuzari I:11)

He goes on to emphasise that God's opening words in the revelation at Mount Sinai were not, "I am the Lord your God, creator of heaven and earth" but "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (Kuzari I:25). The covenant God made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai was not rooted in the ancient past of creation but in the recent past of the exodus.

What is at stake in this difference of opinion between Maimonides and Halevi? At the heart of Judaism is a twofold understanding of the nature of God and His relationship to the universe. On the one hand God is creator of the universe and the maker of the human person "in His image". This aspect of God is universal. It is accessible to anyone, Jew or gentile. Aristotle arrived at it through logic and metaphysics. For him, God

was the "prime mover" who set the universe into motion. Today, many people reach the same conclusion through science: the universe is too finely tuned for the emergence of life to have come into being through chance. Some arrive at it not through logic or science but through a simple sense of awe and wonder ("Not how the world is, but that it is, is the mystical" said Wittgenstein). This aspect of God is called by the Torah, *Elokim*.

But there is a quite different aspect of God which predominates throughout most of Tanakh. This is God as He is involved in the fate of one family, one nation: the children of Israel. He intervened in their history. He made a highly specific covenant with them at Sinai – not at all like the general one He made with Noah and all humanity after the Flood. The Noahide covenant is simple and basic: it involved a mere seven commands. The Sinai covenant, by contrast, is highly articulated, covering almost every aspect of life. This aspect of God is signalled by the use of the four-letter name for which we traditionally substitute the word *Hashem*.

Maimonides, the philosopher, emphasised the universal, metaphysical aspect of Judaism and the eternal, unchanging existence of God. Judah Halevi, the poet, was more attuned to the particularistic and prophetic dimension of Judaism: the role of God in the historical drama of the Jewish people.

Maimonides was the greatest halakhist and philosopher of the Middle Ages, but it is hard to avoid the conclusion that here, at least, the Halakhot Gedolot and Judah Halevi were closer to the plain sense of the text. Even the greatest thinker is not right all the time, which is why Judaism remains a conversation scored for many voices, each with its own insight into the infinite inflections of the Divine word.

Continued from Page A8 The Guardian

that evidently included examples of her egregious anti-Israel bias. Lyons contextualized AIJAC's criticism of McNeill as a line of attack "employed by lobby groups internationally."

The "conspiracy" by AIJAC to influence media coverage of Israel then gets even deeper:

Lyons writes that AIJAC director Colin Rubenstein had unprecedented access to the Australian, speaking regularly to editors and even suggesting articles the paper should run.

However, "speaking regularly to editors" and "suggesting articles" are what lobbying and pressure groups in a democracy — off all ideological persuasions — do, and it's hard to understand why Lyons would contextualize it as something improper or even sinister.

A final quote from Lyon's book is telling:

"For more than 20 years, Australians have read and heard pro-Israel positions from journalists, editors, politicians, trade union leaders, academics and

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

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 agents,inc. 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 8/4/11/18/25; 9/1/8

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2010-2 ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff -against- PAMELA ELLIS-COOMBS, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated January 3, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on September 7, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the westerly side of East 49th Street, distant 90 feet southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the westerly side of East 49th Street with the southerly side of Avenue I; being a plot 100 feet by 18 feet by 100 feet by 18 feet. Block 7774 and Lot 51. Said premises known as 12-72 EAST 49TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$795,765.44 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 12567/2007. ANTHONY M. ABRAHAM, ESQ., Referee Jeffrey A. Kosterich, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 68 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Tuckahoe, NY 10707 AJ; 8/4/11/18/25;

students who have returned from the all-expenses-paid Israel lobby trips. In my opinion, no editors, journalist or others should take those trips: they grotesquely distort the reality and are dangerous in the sense that they allow people with a very small amount of knowledge to pollute Australian public opinion."

It's remarkable that Lyons, who was so easily manipulated by Palestinian propagandists to believe entirely false charges that Israel tortures children, can criticize pro-Israel advocates for "grotesquely distorting the reality." But, that's not the worst part.

Lyons doesn't simply state his passionate, reasoned disagreement with Australian Jews — but instead, he evokes toxic canards of Jewish control by suggesting that such journalists couldn't possibly come to their pro-Israel conclusions independently, and that only through the nefarious workings of the Israel lobby can Australian public opinion become so "polluted" with pro-Israel positions.

The fact that the *Guardian* found Lyon's conspiracy theory for pro-Israel attitudes in Australia credible would not come as a surprise to anyone even vaguely familiar with the media group's record on issues pertaining to Israel and antisemitism.



slavery," as a positive command, to believe in God. The Halakhot Gedolot does not count it as a command at all. Why not?

Nahmanides (1194-1270), in defence of the Halakhot Gedolot, speculates that its author counted among the 613 commands only the specific laws enjoining us to do this or avoid doing that. The commands are rules of behaviour, not items of faith. Faith in the existence of God, or acceptance of the kingship of God, is not itself a command but a prelude to and presupposition of the commands. He quotes a passage from the Mekhilta:

"You shall have no other gods besides me." Why is this said? Because it says, "I am the Lord your God." To explain this by way of a parable: A king of flesh and blood entered a province. His servants said to him, "Issue decrees for the people." He, however, told them, "No. When they accept my sovereignty, I will issue decrees. For if they do not accept my sovereignty, how will they carry out my decrees?"

According to Nahmanides, the Halakhot Gedolot must have

Social.



Actor Jeffrey Tambor in the season 4 trailer for "Transparent" Photo: Screenshot.

Amazon's Award-Winning Series 'Transparent' Heads to Israel

BY JNS.ORG

Amazon Studios' Emmy award-winning comedy-drama series "Transparent," which tells the story of a dysfunctional Jewish family with a transgender parent, will be coming to Israel in its fourth season, Deadline Hollywood magazine reported on Saturday.

The show's season 4 trailer, released on Saturday, shows the Pfefferman family as they arrive in Israel, visit Jerusalem, ride camels in the desert, float in the Dead Sea, and cross through a checkpoint in Judea and Samaria.

"Transparent" was created by Jill Soloway and stars Jeffrey Tambor, Judith Light, Gaby Hoffmann, Jay Duplass, Amy Landecker and Kathryn Hahn.

According to Deadline Hollywood, the upcoming season "sees the Pfeffermans head off on a spiritual and political journey as they dig deep into their family's history," with Maura (Tambor) coming to Israel to speak at a conference and making a startling discovery.

The series, which has been critically acclaimed and praised as groundbreaking, has won eight Emmys and two Golden Globe awards since its debut in 2014. It has received seven Emmy nominations for 2017.

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld Shares the 'Greatest Jew Joke That I've Ever Heard'

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Jewish-American comedian and actor Jerry Seinfeld shared what he said was the best "Jew joke" he had ever heard during a guest appearance this week on the podcast Norm Macdonald Live.

The "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" star explained that host Macdonald and other non-Jews might not find the humor in the somewhat confusing joke, but, Seinfeld said, "That's the joke, is that you won't get it."



Jerry Seinfeld during a guest appearance on "Norm Macdonald Live" Photo: Screenshot.

"The setup of the joke is that it's a Jew joke," Seinfeld noted before telling it over: "Two gentile businessmen meet on the street. One of them says, 'How's business?' The other one says, 'Great!'"

As predicted, Macdonald didn't laugh. His co-host Adam Egert, who is Jewish, laughed along but admitted shortly afterwards that he misheard the joke and in fact didn't understand it either.

Jewish 'Kidney Matchmaker' Unites New York Rabbi Donor With Needy Recipient

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

A Jewish "kidney matchmaker" brought together a New York rabbi and a Jewish woman in Queens who was desperate for a new kidney, Fox 5 reported on Tuesday.

Berta Ilizarova, 62, was on dialysis for more than a year before Brooklyn resident Chaya Lipschutz, who calls herself the "kidney matchmaker," connected her with a donor, Washington Heights Rabbi Avrohom Hoffman, 63. The father-of-nine met Ilizarova for the first time a day before her kidney transplant and Rabbi Hoffman said there was no doubt in his mind that he would donate a kidney.

He told Fox 5, "After a certain age they are hesitate to take people's kidneys [but] I said as the Hebrew expression goes 'Im lo achshav ay matai' — if not now, when?"

Lipschutz said her life's purpose was to connect eligible kidney donors and recipients. She told Fox 5, "Since I donated a kidney, I felt bad for all the others

who were in desperate need of a kidney and I felt like I didn't do enough so I decided to start a project to help other people in need of a kidney."

Ilizarova's son said about his mother, who only speaks Russian, that she was "grateful" to everyone who has helped her and "she wishes that more people will help each other."



Rabbi Avrohom Hoffman and Berta Ilizarova. Photo: Screenshot.

Tiffany Harris Says She Keeps Finding Herself 'Going Back to Israel'

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Among those featured on the 2017 "50 Most Beautiful" list published by The Hill on Wednesday, was a young woman who insisted that she can never stay away from the Jewish state for too long.

"I keep finding myself going back to Israel," said 31-year-old Tiffany Harris, who is Jewish. "It touches on all the things I really like about traveling and life."

The desk officer for Peace Corps headquarters has traveled to 67 countries so far. She loves traveling but admits there is one thing she enjoys about being in her Washington, DC office. "The fun thing about looking for snacks there is that there are snacks from all around the world," she explained.

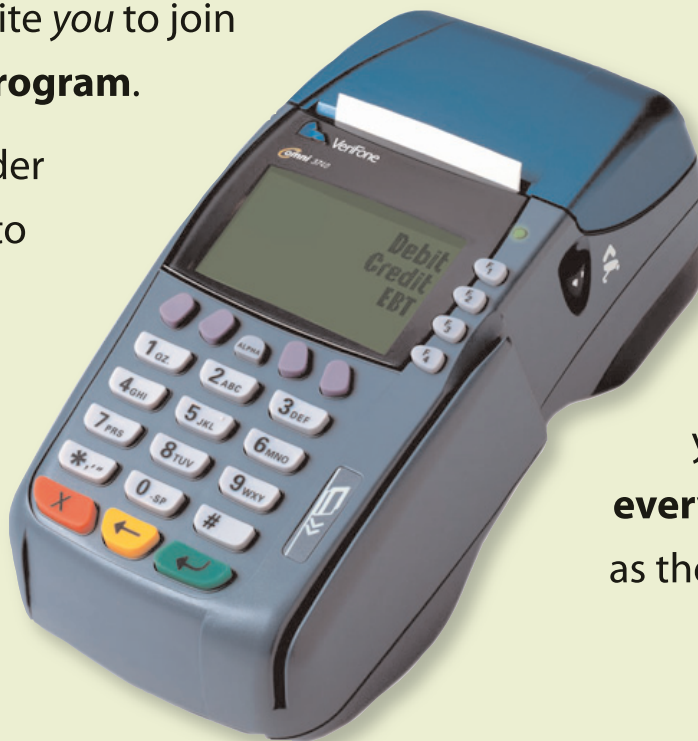
"I have a job that I love," she added, "and I'm full of stories."

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