

Opinion.

AN EYE-OPENING
TRIP THROUGH
SAMARIA

A2.



Tradition.

THE
CONSOLATIONS
OF MORALITY

A12.



SOUTH
AFRICAN
MODEL
BLASTS
HAMAS

A11.

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US Confirms Departure From UN Human Rights Council



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.
Photo: Reuters / Leah Millis / File.

BY BEN COHEN

Nikki Haley, the US Ambassador to the UN, denounced the global organization's Human Rights Council (UNHRC) as a "hypocritical body unworthy of its name" as she confirmed on Tuesday that the United States would no longer serve as one of its members.

"This is not a retreat from human rights commitments,"

Haley told journalists at the State Department in Washington, DC. The US could not, however, "remain in a hypocritical organization that makes a mockery of human rights," she said.

Haley had warned that the US was prepared to leave the UNHRC one year ago, declaring on a visit to Israel in June 2017 that "the UN has bullied Israel for a very long time, and we're not going to let that happen anymore." A few months later, in October 2017,

the US cited anti-Israel bias as a primary reason for its withdrawal from the UN's cultural and education agency, UNESCO – a decision that is scheduled to take effect in November.

At Tuesday's press conference, Haley offered her analysis of why US efforts to end the disproportionate focus on Israel had failed alongside its plans for broader reform of the UNHRC.

Continued on Page A4

South African Diplomats Fear Potential Israel Embassy Downgrade

BY BEN COHEN

Senior diplomats in South Africa are reported to be at "loggerheads" with the ruling African National Congress (ANC) over plans to downgrade the South African Embassy in Israel.

Fear of an angry reaction from US President Donald Trump, along with the belief that "a large part of the global economy" is controlled by Jews, are among the reasons cited for the clash.



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (r) and ANC Deputy President David Mabuza wave to supporters at the ANC's 106th anniversary celebrations.
Photo: Reuters / Siphwe Sibeko.

The ANC voted at a special conference last December to downgrade the embassy in Tel Aviv to the status of a "liaison office" – a decision billed as a "practical expression of support to the oppressed people of Palestine." Representatives of the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas attending the conference were given a VIP welcome in advance of the vote.

But a leading South African news outlet reported on Sunday that diplomats were strongly advising Lindiwe

Continued on Page A3

Israel's Friend in Iraq

page A8



ShabbatCalendar

Parshat CHUKAT
פרשת חקת

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 8:12pm | Shabbat Ends: 9:21pm



the algemeiner

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Opinion.

An Eye-Opening Trip Through Samaria

MITCHELL BARD
NEW YORK

I traveled to Samaria (Shomron in Hebrew) recently. Wikipedia tells us Samaria “is a historical and biblical name used for the central region of ancient Palestine, bordered by Galilee to the north and Judaea to the south.” Most of the world simply refers to this area as the West Bank.

But think about that paragraph for a moment. This was a region in ancient Palestine that was inhabited by the Jewish people since the conquest of the Canaanites, roughly 3,000 years ago. The Palestinians sometimes make the specious claim that they are descendants of the Canaanites, but their arrival was, at the earliest, after the founding of Islam, when Arabs left the Arabian Peninsula and began conquering the surrounding lands.

The people who now refer to themselves as Palestinians are primarily from families that immigrated to Palestine in the early 20th century, many of whom came there to take advantage of the favorable conditions (e.g., a strong economy and better health care) created by the Jewish pioneers.

Anyone who refers to this area as Samaria or uses the name Judea to describe the area to the south is immediately written off as a right-wing zealot who believes that all of the land belongs to the Jewish people. But

these people are only accurately describing the geography. “West Bank” denotes the area relative to the Jordan River.

Driving through Shomron, the first thoughts that usually occur to me are how desolate and vacant it is. I suspect that most people who hear that more than one million (some claim two million) Palestinians live in Judea and Samaria imagine the area as a collection of metropolises adjacent to each other, like cities along the east coast of the United States. Given that image, it is not surprising that many people are horrified when they hear that Israel is building new communities — settlements — in the area, because these communities must surely force out Palestinians already living there.

But this is not the case. With the exception of a few large cities, such as Ramallah and Nablus, most Palestinians live in small, isolated villages and towns. The Jewish communities, also mostly small, are often equally remote. Sometimes Jews and Arabs are close enough to see each other’s homes and fields, but they are not abutting each other.

The view from the road is mostly rolling, rocky hills, with occasional groves of olive or fruit trees. When you enter some of the larger, older settlements, you discover oases filled with trees, green space, playgrounds, synagogues, schools, and social centers. Close-knit communities have developed, and residents enjoy a comfortable lifestyle a short drive from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

My wife and I visited the lovely home of our tour guide in the community of Havot

Yair. It was a mansion compared to where most people live in the big cities. Instead of cramped apartments, many of the settlers live in lovely single-family homes for a fraction of what they would pay for a couple of bedrooms in a high-rise in Tel Aviv.

We also drove through the industrial zone in Barkan just outside Ariel. I was told it employs 4,000 Palestinians. They are protected by the same labor laws as Israeli employees and make significantly more money than they could in Palestinian-run businesses. You can be sure that none of them support the BDS movement and you can be equally sure that BDS advocates do not care if they ruin those Palestinians’ lives by forcing them to give up their jobs.

Visiting Har Gerizim, it was possible to overlook the city of Nablus, Shechem in Hebrew. Again, a few things were striking.

First, the nearby settlements were high on a hill above the city and in no way did they harm the Palestinians living below.

Second, Nablus is growing. While international critics become hysterical when Israel considers constructing a new home in Samaria, the world is silent while Palestinians build as much as they want on disputed territory.

Third, you can see Joseph’s Tomb in the heart of the city. The Palestinians are obligated to allow Jews to visit the shrine and protect it, but Jews do not have unfettered access to this holy place — something that Palestinians demand of their sacred sites. Worse, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has allowed the tomb to be repeatedly attacked and desecrated.



An Israeli community in Samaria. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Fourth, the Balata refugee camp in Nablus is easily visible from the overlook, which raises the question: Why does this camp exist? The Palestinians have been in control of the city for more than 20 years and yet have done nothing to eliminate this slum where 27,000 people live in poverty.

The PA has received billions of dollars, but has not spent a single dollar to build permanent housing so that the “refugees” can escape their squalor. Instead of spending 7% of its budget to pay salaries to terrorists in Israeli prisons and the families of suicide bombers, the PA could be improving the lives of their people in Balata. The PA prefers, however, to keep the camp open to promote festering hatred of Israel and serve as an incubator for terrorists.

Meanwhile, the champions of the Palestinian cause remain silent. Unless Israel can somehow be blamed, the denial of the Palestinians’ human rights does not interest them.

The Palestinians’ demand for the land in Judea and Samaria is based on nothing more than their desire to have it for a state. Wanting

Continued on Page A3

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A New Approach to Fighting Campus Antisemitism

TAMMI ROSSMAN-
BENJAMIN /
JNS.org

College campuses today are being challenged by profoundly intolerant behavior, the goal of which is to prevent some individuals and groups from expressing their opinions, beliefs, or identity — or from fully participating in campus life.

For Jewish and pro-Israel students, such behavior has become especially prevalent and challenging. On many college campuses, not only are positive statements about Israel demonized and delegitimized, but individuals who express these opinions are often intimidated, ostracized, and literally bullied into silence.

In the past few months alone, pro-Israel events have been aggressively disrupted at New York University, Syracuse University, UCLA, and the University of California, Irvine. Numerous flyers and graffiti stating “Zionists Not Welcome on Our Campus” were found all over San Francisco State University after an SFSU professor wrote on her department’s Facebook page that welcoming Zionist students on campus was a “declaration of war.” And a formal complaint was filed by Jewish students at Columbia University against anti-Zionist student groups for systematically harassing and silencing them for more than a year.

In the wake of recent controversies involving the disruption and canceling of campus events, many university leaders have

adopted the University of Chicago’s statement on freedom of speech, which has become the gold standard on free speech for universities across the country. Not only does the statement commit to upholding students’ rights under the First Amendment, but it makes it crystal clear that to do so the university must ensure students are protected from the harassment and intolerant behavior that directly impedes this right.

In theory, the adoption and implementation of a free speech statement like the one at the University of Chicago should benefit Jewish students enormously. It promises to offer protection from the peer-on-peer harassment that has made it difficult and sometimes impossible for Jewish students to freely express pro-Israel views and fully participate in campus life. In practice, however, such a statement runs the risk of making Jewish students even more vulnerable to those same acts of aggression intended to silence them.

Here’s why.

While freedom of speech is constitutionally guaranteed to each and every student regardless of opinion, belief, or identity, this is not the case when it comes to freedom from

harassment. In fact, federal anti-discrimination law administered by the US Department of Education, which defines “harassment” as behavior that is “sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by any recipient [of federal funds],” only deems such behavior “harassment” if it is directed at individuals because of their race, color, national origin, gender, or other federally protected characteristics.

Identical behavior directed against students who do not share those protected characteristics is not considered harassment under federal law and these students are denied the protection afforded their peers.

This inequity trickles down to federally funded colleges and universities. For example, at the University of Chicago, protection from harassment is limited to students who are targeted on the basis of their “race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law.”

Although the list is quite long, many University of Chicago students remain unprotected from the harassment and intolerant behaviors that could impede their free speech and full participation in campus life. If in implementing its free speech statement, the university were to rely on its own harassment policy — using it as a standard for determining when a student’s freedom of expression had

Low Memorial Library at Columbia University.
Photo: Alex Proimos.

Continued on Page A7

World News.

'We Support Palestinian Resistance,' Qatar's Emir Assures Iranian President

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Qatar's emir highlighted the Gulf nation's support for the "Palestinian resistance" during a phone call on Monday with the Iranian President Hasan Rouhani.

In quotations from the call published by official Iranian media outlets, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani reportedly "emphasized that Qatar's policy is to support the Palestinian people, adding, 'We support the resistance of the Palestinian people and continue our policy.'"

"Resistance" is a euphemism often used by pro-Palestinian officials to describe acts of terrorism against Israel.

The comment — during a conversation in which Rouhani referred to Israel pejoratively as "the Zionist regime" — could be seen as further proof that Qatar's campaign over the last year to market a positive image of itself to the US Jewish community was disingenuous.

Earlier this month, two of Qatar's registered foreign agents in the US responsible for outreach to Jewish leaders — restaurateur Joey Allaham and lobbyist Nick Muzin — suddenly announced that they were terminating their relationship with the emirate. In a statement on June 7, Allaham denounced his former employers, declaring that "Qatar enjoys portraying themselves as the purveyor of peace in the region, but this could not be further from the truth."

Continued from Page A2

Eye-Opening

something is not the same as being entitled to it. No Palestinian state has ever existed. The Palestinians never had sovereignty over the land, so it could not have been taken from them. Israel is under no obligation to turn over any more land or authority to them than what was mutually agreed to in the Oslo Accords.

Sadly, the Palestinians show no sign of being satisfied with controlling the West Bank. Their maps and rhetoric indicate that they believe all of Israel should be theirs. The

Continued from Page A1

South Africa

Sisulu, the international relations minister, against the downgrade.

The *Sunday Times* said its reporters had been told by sources inside the ministry that "Sisulu was at loggerheads with senior officials in her department as she was intent on implementing the resolution 'soon.'"

The paper highlighted that while "a formal process to implement the resolution has not yet started...diplomats and top management had advised Sisulu against the implementation of the resolution for fear of the economic implications and an impact on diplomatic relations with powerhouses like the US."

Implementing the ANC resolution "would spell the end of political relations as it would mean South Africa does not recognize Israel as a sovereign state."

According to a "senior official" quoted by the *Sunday Times*, Sisulu was resisting the advice. "The minister believes that resolution must be implemented, and very soon, so you can expect that to happen," the source said.

Lindiwe Sisulu, 64, is the daughter of the legendary ANC leader Walter Sisulu, who was imprisoned on Robben Island by the former apartheid regime with his close friend, the late South African President Nelson Mandela. In

Allaham and Muzin's earlier efforts triggered an angry split in the US Jewish community over whether to engage in dialogue with Qatar — which has provided millions of dollars to Islamist organizations dedicated to Israel's destruction, including Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Sunni paramilitaries in Iraq and Syria.

Several Jewish leaders have traveled to Doha to meet with the emir, among them Malcolm Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, prominent civil rights lawyer and Israel advocate Alan Dershowitz, and Zionist Organization of America President Mort Klein.

In his call with Rouhani, Emir al-Thani added that he would "never forget" Iran's solidarity with Qatar in its year-long dispute with Saudi Arabia and a coalition of allied Arab states. He assured the Iranian president that he was "personally observing" the development of closer relations with Tehran.



US President Donald Trump meets with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Kevin Lamarque.

questions for Israelis remain whether they believe peace can be achieved by sacrificing their claim to part of the land, whether a peace that cannot be assured for the long-term is worth the cost, and whether continued settlement — and possibly annexation — of Judea and Samaria will make them safer without jeopardizing their democratic and Jewish values.

Mitchell Bard, Executive Director of AICE and Jewish Virtual Library, has written 24 books including: *The Arab Lobby*, *Death to the Infidels: Radical Islam's War Against the Jews*, and *After Anatevka: Tevye in Palestine*.

his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, Mandela favorably recounted how Walter Sisulu was able to travel to Israel, Europe and China in 1953 without proper travel documents because he flew "on the only airline that would accept his affidavit: El Al," Israel's national carrier.

South African officials are said to have deployed several different arguments in the hope of persuading to Sisulu to change her mind. At the top of their list was the potential impact of downgrading the embassy on South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's ambitious plans to attract over \$73 billion in foreign investment.

"Trump in particular, you know how he is like," the unnamed official quoted by the *Sunday Times* remarked. "He is very unpredictable, but on the question of Israel he is very consistent. Now you then have to ask: 'What will be the consequences of taking this particular decision and how will the US react to it?'"

As evidence of a potentially harsh response, several diplomats have pointed out to Sisulu that South Africa's hostility to Israel led the US to oppose the country's recent bid for a temporary seat on the UN Security Council.

Moreover, according to the *Sunday Times*, diplomats are even falling back on classical antisemitic stereotypes to make their

Netanyahu Saves Palestinian Homes From Destruction



Aerial view of the illegal Nawaja outpost at Susiya. Photo: Regavim

BY JNS.org

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu postponed the evacuation and demolition of five illegal Palestinian buildings in southern Hebron, following the application of international pressure.

The police action was scheduled for Tuesday morning, with hundreds of police officers and soldiers in position with heavy equipment and demolition explosives, but the illegal buildings, located in Khirbet Susya in the southern Hebron hills, were saved at around 10 p.m. on Monday night by order of the Prime Minister's Office, according to a report by Ynet.

This is the third time the buildings were spared in the last few months.

The Regavim movement, which petitioned the High Court to demolish the Palestinian outpost, expressed outrage that Netanyahu would save the illegal Palestinian buildings, but destroy two Jewish neighborhoods in less than a week.

"In the past week, Netanyahu implemented the demolition of the Netiv Ha'avot neighborhood and Tapuach West, but avoided demolishing the Palestinian Authority's outpost in South Mount Hebron," the organization said in a statement.

"Netanyahu can't just blame the High Court and the left-wing organizations when

he is essentially imposing strict enforcement against the settlements, while demonstrating weakness and zero action against the Palestinian Authority's intensive and illegal activity."

Thousands of Jews arrived at Netiv Ha'avot in Judea and Tapuach West in Samaria last week to protest the destruction of the neighborhoods, which were situated on land not owned by the government and claimed by Palestinians, working in coordination with left-wing political groups.

Representatives of the neighborhoods, along with numerous government officials, implored the prime minister to stop the execution of the orders to destroy the Jewish homes and buildings, arguing that it is not uncommon for Supreme Court orders of this nature not to be carried out to completion. However, Netanyahu did not stop the evictions and subsequent demolitions.

The final destruction of the illegal Palestinian homes in Khirbet Susya has come to symbolize the fight for control between the PA and Israel in Judea. Destruction of the homes was expected to receive news coverage from international outlets.

Analysts speculate that the demolition may have been postponed in anticipation of the arrival this weekend of US President Donald Trump's envoy to the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt, and his special advisor and son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

case against the embassy downgrade.

"Diplomats had argued that a large part of the global economy is in Jewish hands and the implementation of the [ANC] resolution might not bode well for South Africa's bid to attract global investment," the paper reported.

But one ANC official advocating for the immediate implementation of the resolution claimed not to have seen any warning about the possible economic consequences. Enoch Godongwana, chair of the ANC's economic transformation committee, "said the party had not seen any report on possible economic implications, but South Africa had a right to take its own decision as a sovereign nation."

A study by South Africa's *Business Day* last November observed that despite the relatively small volume of trade between the two nations, Israel was an important destination for South African exports from cocoa and chocolate to industrial chemicals.

"It is likely that those exports support a considerable number of jobs and liveli-

hoods, a critical consideration in an economy wracked by socioeconomic problems," the paper cautioned.

"Similarly, coming in at \$300m in 2016, South African exports to Israel provide much-needed foreign currency," it added.

Jewish organizations in South Africa have continually stressed the economic benefits to South Africa — where 55 percent of the population continues to live below the poverty line — of good relations with Israel.

"It's clear that the Israel-South Africa relationship is very good for South Africans," Benji Shulman — a board member of South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) — told *The Algemeiner* on Monday.

"Israel brings the most tourists from the Middle East to our shores and is one of the biggest export markets for South African goods in the region," Shulman said.

"Israeli technology is also important for a number of South African sectors like agriculture and telecoms," he added.

World News.



Israeli-American and Argentinian-American soccer teams at a friendly match in Las Vegas. Photo: Israeli-American Council.

Israeli and Argentinian Americans Sport Unity After Scrapping Jerusalem Game

BY JNS.ORG

The Israeli-American Council's Las Vegas branch held a friendly match with its Argentinian counterpart in a display of unity and friendship, following the cancellation of an Israeli-Argentinian soccer match in Jerusalem earlier this month.

The June 9 friendly match in Jerusalem was canceled by the Argentinians after a campaign of death threats, harassment and other provocations targeting Argentinian soccer superstar Lionel Messi.

The match in Las Vegas – which was organized and sponsored by Meir Cohen, president of the Las Vegas Sportspark and Las Vegas Indoor Soccer, and Fernando Sabbadini, leader of the Argentinian-American soccer club – sought to counter that negative BDS-driven campaign through a friendly soccer game on June 17.

The event featured the singing of the

Israeli, Argentinian and American national anthems; the flying of those nations' flags throughout the venue; games to engage the audience; and the presentation of a "community spirit trophy" to the Israeli team, which won the match 6-3.

"I hope our next game can be in Jerusalem," said Sabbadini. "And I hope the following game can be in Buenos Aires," replied Cohen. He continued, "Soccer is the people's game... it is an international language that we will continue to speak without fear."

"While the IAC is not a sports organizer, we believe that the Israeli-American community can play a leading role in countering those who seek to demonize Israel and exclude it from the family of nations," said Noa Perijensch, the IAC's Las Vegas regional director. "All countries regularly host international sporting events in their capitals. It is sad that Israel remains the exception to the rule."

Top British Diplomat Calls Out UN Human Rights Council

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The UN Human Rights Council's focus on Israel is "disproportionate and damaging to the cause of peace," Britain's top diplomat said in remarks at a gathering of the Geneva-based body on Monday.

UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson went on to announce that, "unless things change," his country would "move next year to vote against all resolutions introduced under Item 7" — the permanent agenda spot dedicated by the 47-member UNHRC to the "human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories."

Johnson's speech came amid new reports the US was on the verge of withdrawing from the UNHRC, which is now holding a three-week session through July 6.

Last year, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said her country might pull out of the UNHRC unless its "chronic anti-Israel bias" was eliminated.

Israel's ambassador and permanent representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Aviva Raz Shechter, thanked Johnson later on Monday via Twitter, saying the "biased attitude" of the UNHRC "hinders its legitimacy to tackle human rights around the world."

In New York, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon told The Algemeiner, "It has long been clear that the Human Rights Council is the antithesis of an organization that cares for human rights. If there is any hope for UN institutions to serve the international community, then the member-states must hold all its organization and agencies accountable and put an end to the ongoing anti-Israel bias that has existed for far too long."

In a statement, the Board of Deputies of British Jews praised Johnson's "bold, clear and important intervention at the UN Human Rights Council."

Johnson's "commitment that the UK will vote against all resolutions in 2019 tabled under the infamous Item 7, which singles out Israel as the only country in the world to have its own agenda item, is an important victory for human rights," Sheila Gewolb — senior vice president of the BoD — said. "Human rights are universal and should be applied universally and not in such a nakedly biased way. The UN Human Rights Council is undermined by politicization and the singling out of Israel in its standing agenda and the UK has shown the way to giving this potentially crucial body much greater weight and standing."

Continued from Page A1
Departure

She highlighted the continuing presence on the UNHRC of authoritarian regimes with abysmal human rights records, along with the reluctance of other democracies to make their private misgivings about the council public.

"Unfree countries don't want the council to be effective – a credible Human Rights Council poses a threat to them and so they oppose it," Haley said. She cited Russia, China, Cuba and Egypt specifically as countries that "all attempted to undermine our reform efforts his past year."

Haley also criticized a separate set of countries who shared American concerns about the UNHRC, she said, but were willing to express them only in private. "We gave them opportunity after opportunity, but they would not take a stand unless it was behind closed doors," she remarked. "No other country has had the courage to join our fight."

Labeling the UNHRC a "cesspool of political bias," Haley lambasted the Council

for ignoring grievous human rights abuses by its own members, among them Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The latter's election to the council was approved "even as mass graves were being discovered" on its territory, she said. Haley then pointed to the contrast between the UNHRC's reluctance to condemn regimes like North Korea, Iran and Syria and the presence of a permanent UNHRC agenda item – Item 7 – that is dedicated to alleged Israeli human rights violations.

Speaking prior to Haley, whom he praised as the "right leader" for US efforts at the UN, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the UNHRC for including some of the world's "worst human rights abusers" among its members.

"Its well-documented bias against Israel is unconscionable," Pompeo continued. "There are more resolutions [at the UNHRC] against Israel than against the rest of the world combined."

US Jewish organizations and the Israeli

government welcomed the US announcement that its tenure on the Council was now at an end. "The United States has proven, yet again, its commitment to truth and justice and their unwillingness to allow the blind hatred of Israel in international institutions to stand unchallenged," Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said in a statement.



US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announcing US withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council. Photo: Reuters/Toya Sarno Jordan.

ב"ס

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1 Adar, 5778
February 16, 2018

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In years past, Beth Shifra maintained a Free Snop Kitchen all year round, open seven days a week, serving free meals three times a day, without charge. During the week of Pesach, Beth Shifra sponsored free Kosher for Pesach Sederim and daily meals around the city. We are personally familiar with their significant work and urge you to help Beth Shifra with any support that you can, including publicizing their inspiring work in your Shul or organization.

This year, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Pesach Seders and meals daily from Friday, March 30th, through Saturday (Shabbat), April 7th, at The White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21st in Brooklyn. Free Kosher for Passover food packages will be offered on Friday, March 30th, at the White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21st in Brooklyn from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

We proudly invite you to join us in making this year a memory of a lifetime for those in need. Take the time now to have the merit and joy of helping a hungry family celebrate Passover. Please help Beth Shifra with any assistance that you can, including publicizing their good work in your Shul or organization.

May all those that participate in this holy effort be blessed from Heaven. On behalf of the Isgud RAA Presidium and of the Beth Din, I extend greetings of Torah.

Sincerely,

Mandy Mircosznik
Rabbi Mandy Mircosznik
Executive Vice-President, Rabbinical Alliance of America

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U.S. News.

Despite Senate Opposition, Turkey Still to Receive F-35s

BY JNS.org

A bipartisan amendment to the \$717 billion National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed on Monday by the Senate in an 85-10 vote, prohibits the transfer of the F-35s to Turkey amid a deterioration in U.S.-Turkish relations.

Despite the U.S. Senate voting overwhelmingly to block the sale of the advance F-35 fighter jet, Turkey is still set to receive the jet this week at a ceremony in Texas.

"Lockheed Martin will hold a rollout ceremony for Turkey this Thursday in Fort Worth, and the two jets will follow-on to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona at a later date," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Andrews, reported CNN.

"Turkish F-35 pilots and maintainers have arrived at Luke Air Force Base and will begin flight academics soon," he added.

A bipartisan amendment to the \$717 billion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which was passed on Monday by the Senate in an 85-10 vote, prohibits the transfer of the F-35s to Turkey amid a deterioration in U.S.-Turkish relations.

The Senate version of the bill expressed concern over

Trump Vows Not to Pressure Israel on Nuclear Issue

BY JNS.org

Israel has managed to secure a written pledge from four successive U.S. presidents to safeguard its presumed nuclear deterrent, The New Yorker magazine reported on Monday.

According to uncorroborated reports in the foreign media, Israel has as many as 200 nuclear warheads as part of a presumed military nuclear program dating back to the 1960s. Israel has never publicly acknowledged these reports.

Israel has also pledged not to be the first nation to introduce nuclear weapons in the region.

According to Monday's report, in the wake of the first Gulf War in the early 1990s, Israel felt that the unwritten understanding struck between U.S. President Richard Nixon and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir in the early 1970s to ensure Israel would never be compelled to denuclearize was insufficient.

Eventually, Israeli policymakers convinced U.S. President Bill Clinton to put the Nixon-Meir understandings into writing.

"The first iteration of the secret letter was drafted during the Clinton administration as part of an agreement for Israel's participation in the 1998 Wye River negotiations with the Palestinians," said the report, by The New Yorker's Adam Entous.

"In the letter, according to former officials, President Bill Clinton assured the Jewish state that no future American arms-control initiative would detract from Israel's deterrent capabilities, an oblique but clear reference to its [alleged] nuclear arsenal."

The letter was later signed by President George W. Bush. But when President Barack Obama won office in 2008, Israel was concerned that he would hold off on renewing the pledge.

"With Obama, we were all crazy," an Israeli official was quoted in the report. A former U.S. official is quoted as saying that Obama's advisers believed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was "paranoid" that the United States would try to take away Israel's presumed nuclear weapons, but that "wasn't our intent."

Ultimately, Obama signed "an updated version of the letter."

According to the report, efforts to renew the pledge when Trump assumed office initially stalled, when Israeli Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer made the request in a surprise move in February 2017. When he came to the White House, the Trump officials said they needed more time, but the Israelis "wanted to limit who could take part in discussions of the letter, citing the need for secrecy."

According to the report, part of the tensions then arose because the White House was not aware of the letters.

"The very existence of the letters had been a closely held secret. Only a select group of senior American officials, in three previous administrations, knew of the letters," the report said.

When Trump became president, his aides "didn't find any copies of the previous letters left behind by their predecessors. The documents had been sent to the archives."

Turkey's planned purchase of the S-400 anti-aircraft system as well as the detention of U.S. Pastor Andrew Brunson. Additionally, many lawmakers had also been concerned about Turkey's growing hostility towards Israel.

Last month, the House of Representatives also included an amendment blocking the sale to Turkey when they passed the NDAA. Both the House and Senate versions still need to be reconciled, voted on again and then signed by President Donald Trump.

Following the Senate vote, Turkey blasted the move to block the sale, calling it an "unfortunate development."

"Turkey is not without alternatives. Such attempts are regrettable and goes against the soul of strategic partnership," Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said, Hurriyet Daily News reported.

From its inception in the 1990s, the F-35



A U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft. Photo: U.S. Air Force Photo/Alex R. Loyd.

was touted as a next-generation fighter plane for the 21st century that would replace the workhorse F-16, F-15 and other older fighter aircraft. A NATO member, Turkey is one of the original partners for the F-35 program, which also includes United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Norway, as well as Israel and Singapore later signing on.

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Opinion.

We Must Never Be Ashamed to Be Jewish

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

A few years ago, my wife and I had Shabbat dinner at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Because I love Iceland, I was especially happy to meet its president at the time, Olafur Grimsson, and his Israeli wife Dorrit Moussaieff — who sat at the head table.

I was back in Iceland last week, and had the great honor of speaking at the country's new Chabad House in Reykjavik — the first permanent Jewish institution in the island-nation's history. Its directors, Rabbi Ari and Rebbetzin Mushka Feldman, have brought their two young daughters to a land with not that many, Jews and a country that recently tried to ban circumcision. Religion is well on its way to a fatal death in Iceland, and religious practices are, in general, frowned upon. That, coupled with an unfavorable opinion of Israel, will make the Feldmans' job that much more challenging.

But they will succeed, God willing. As Chabad always does.

They will succeed because Chabad refuses to fail. Ever. They will succeed because no Chabad emissary has a career, but rather a calling. No Chabad House director has an occupation; rather, they have a mission. Their objective: validate every person's infinite dignity, make them feel irreplaceable, and connect them to their 3,000-year-old faith.

I also predict that the presence of the Chabad House will serve to reverse some of the irrational Icelandic hostility to Israel, and to cast the Jews in a favorable light, just by being there.

Don't ever underestimate the power of simple visibility.

Chabad succeeds because of the power of its immense Jewish pride. There is no possi-

bility of hiding one's Jewishness when one is Chabad. If you're a man, the beard, yarmulke, and black hat give you away. If you're a woman, the sheitel — usually a stylish head covering — and modest dress code gives you away. And unlike other Jewish communal members in Europe who have succumbed to the all-encompassing advice to wear a baseball cap instead of a yarmulke, Chabad emissaries walk the streets of Berlin, Paris, Moscow, and Budapest with their Jewishness proudly on their sleeves.

It is responsible? Should they be concerned about attacks? That's where faith comes in. Yes, we must all be much more security-conscious in an age where antisemitism — especially in Europe — is greatly on the rise. But there is a difference between caution and fear. Caution is a calculated response to a real and present threat. Fear is a hysterical response to an imagined danger. Synagogues and Chabad Houses need security in Europe, where they can be targets. But hiding one's Jewishness — which I believe is impossible anyway — tells those who hate us that we are afraid. And fear invites intimidation.

A little while ago, my wife and I were in Paris and a woman told Debbie to put away her Magen Dovid necklace. "I love Israel," she said, "but I don't want you to get hurt. And wearing that, you could be attacked."

Needless to say, Debbie wore her Magen Dovid proudly the rest of the trip. Not because we are the most fearless Jews in the world. I can assure you that we're not. Rather, my wife wore it proudly because she loves Israel and is honored to be Jewish. And Jewish pride should never be squelched.

Seventy years ago, Jews in Europe were forced to wear a yellow star of shame. Today we are capable of wearing Jewish symbols of pride. And the prouder you are, the more the world will respect you.

Which brings us back to Iceland.

I have visited the island many times for its beauty and natural treasures, and yes, at

times, I have frozen there. But I have never found the people to be anything but friendly, warm, and respectful.

So what's their beef with Israel? And why is Europe in general turning against the Jewish state?

Some say that it's the new European antisemitism. After six million Jews were incinerated in European ovens by the Germans, it's no longer fashionable to be an out-and-out antisemite. So hating Israel is the closest you can get to the real thing.

No doubt there is truth to this assertion. But it cannot explain countries where there is no history of antisemitism, like Iceland, because there is little Jewish history to speak of. Rather, I believe, it comes down to this.

People read about Israel in the media every day as a troublesome little country that is fighting with everybody. And Israeli is being condemned by all the world's mainstream bodies, especially organizations like the UN. So, although people confess to not knowing much about the complexities of the Middle East, they begin to see Israel as the country that is causing all the problems.

And if these people live in countries where they scarcely ever even meet Jews, they have precious little to counter this observation — and to understand that the Jewish people, far from being belligerent, excel in all peace-loving fields like charity, community, education, and family. It's only in Israel, where the Arabs have decided that the Jewish state is a humiliation to Arab and Islamic hegemony in the Middle East — and where the Jews have been given no choice but to fight back lest they be annihilated — that we are more famous for our army than for our scientists, academics, and teachers (although this too is changing).

Which brings us back to Chabad.

There are many things that can be said about the Lubavitcher Rebbe on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of his passing — which was commemorated this past Shabbat. But for now, I will focus on just one thing. The Rebbe



Parliament House in Reykjavik. Photo: Zinneke via Wikimedia Commons.

was quite simply the proudest Jew of the post-war era, and he raised an army of disciples whose pride in being Jewish is public, global, irrepressible, and positively inspiring.

The Rebbe sent his emissaries to live in countries for the rest of their lives in places where most Jews were fleeing, as was the case of with the former Soviet Union prior to its collapse. While Jews were rightly trying to make aliyah to Israel where they could live the Jewish dream rather than be oppressed, the Rebbe sent his emissaries to live there so as never to abandon the Jews who needed religious leaders and to never allow any country to become Judenrein.

The result has been a proud and public Jewish presence in countries where Jews were either absent, as in Vietnam, or slaughtered, like Germany. And every Jew who visits these countries as tourists today know how comfortable the presence of a Chabad family and a warm Shabbas meal can make them feel.

Throughout our history, the Jews have been simultaneously the chosen as well as the frozen people — shut out in the cold by their neighbors who have chosen to shun and persecute them. But now it is up to us to determine if we will — even in Europe — wear our Jewish identities with passionate pride and bold affirmation. The answer should be a resounding yes.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "America's rabbi," whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous rabbi in America," is founder of *The World Values Network* and is the international best-selling author of 31 books, including his most recent, "The Israel Warrior." Follow him on Twitter @RabbiShmuley.

US Interests Require Israel on the Golan Heights

YORAM ETTINGER
TEL AVIV

US interests in the Middle East and beyond are well-served by a strategically contained Syria. Historically, Syria has been a tectonic, volatile platform of violent, intolerant, and unpredictable Arab/Islamic regional aspirations of grandeur, which is totally unconnected to Israel's existence and policies.

During the modern era, Syria has been a major arena of anti-US hate-education and incitement, Islamic and international terrorism (e.g., the bombing of the US Embassy and Marines Headquarters in Beirut and Pan Am Flight 103), narco-terrorism (featuring ties with Latin American drug cartels), the mega-billion dollar counterfeiting of \$100 bills, and the abuse of human rights.

Syria also represents a clear, present, and lethal threat to pro-US Arab regimes. It has been a systematic violator of agreements (with

Lebanon, Turkey, the Arab League, the United States, and Israel); advanced the geostrategic interests of Iran, Russia, and China; benefited from North Korean conventional and non-conventional military technologies and hardware (chemical, biological, and nuclear); and fostered close ties with anti-US Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

A withdrawal of Israel's military from the mountain ridges of the 500 square mile Golan Heights — located 34 miles from Damascus — would severely injure Israel's posture of deterrence, reducing its capabilities to extend the strategic hand of the United States and thus making Syria dramatically more explosive.

While Syria is currently preoccupied with domestic upheaval and civil war, its potential destabilizing regional and global ripple effects should be assessed in view of inherent Middle East volatility. It should also be observed against the background of Syria's multi-century key role in the tumultuous 14-century history of Islam. It should further be examined against the backdrop of its current deep strategic ties with Russia, the megalomaniacal ayatollahs of Iran, the transnational ISIS, the Muslim

Brotherhood, and additional Islamic terror organizations that aim to erase the current borders among Arab states.

Syria's imperialistic aspirations and potentially explosive regional impact under an Alawite or a Sunni regime transcend the narrow context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They are a derivative of the unique role played by Syria — the home of the early Caliphs — in Islamic history. Therefore, the current Syrian powder keg has drawn an unprecedented number of Islamic terror organizations and jihad-driven fighters and terrorists from the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

An Israeli retreat from the Golan Heights would not quench, but rather inflame Damascus' long-term historical aspirations to solidify control of Syria, reclaim Greater Syria (including Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel), and dominate the Arab world, which entails the toppling of all pro-US Arab regimes.

Just like Iran's ayatollahs, future leaders of Syria regardless of sect might view the US presence in the Middle East as the major obstacle to reaching its megalomaniac strategic goal, considering Israel to be the most effective and inhibiting US outpost. Hence Syria's deep strategic alliance with Russia since 1966, which has provided a tailwind to Moscow's influence in the Middle East and the region. For example, Russia's only naval base in the Mediterranean is in Tartus, Syria.

In 1970, the militarily superior, USSR-supported Syria invaded the militarily inferior



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (second from left) pictured during a security and defense tour of the strategic Golan Heights region near Israel's northern border with Syria, April 2016. Photo: Kobi Gideon/GPO.

US-supported Jordan, which was involved in a civil war against Palestinian terrorists. Attempting to avoid a confrontation with the USSR, the United States requested Israel to mobilize the Israel Defense Forces to the joint Israel-Syria-Jordan frontier. Israel's prompt mobilization triggered an immediate Syrian withdrawal from Jordan, bolstering Israel and the US's posture of deterrence, injuring the geostrategic posture of both Syria and the USSR, and sparing America a mega-billion dollar mobilization and bruising public debate.

The Israeli deployment may have ensured the survival of the pro-US Hashemite regime in Jordan and prevented a Syrian occupation of the country, with a potential spillover into the militarily much weaker pro-US Saudi Arabia and Gulf states. This would have given Moscow a dramatic gain while dealing the US a major economic and geostrategic setback.

Continued on Page A7

Opinion.

Continued from Page A2
New Approach

been impeded — it would beg the question of whether the university's commitment to ensuring its students' free speech applies to all students or only to those who share certain characteristics.

The same is true on campuses across the country. Take California, for example. Although the state's two massive university systems — California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) — both tout the importance of freedom of speech for all members of the campus community, they also have harassment policies that effectively limit protection from behavior that suppresses speech to only a portion of the student body.

At CSU, Executive Order 1074 defines harassment as "unwelcome conduct engaged in because of a Protected Status" and a CSU student who wishes to file a university complaint form in order to find relief from harassing behavior must indicate "the protected status(es) that was/were the basis(es) of the alleged ... harassment." UC policy on harassment is similarly limited in its scope to protected classes and so too is UC's online form allowing students to seek redress.

In theory, federal anti-discrimination law and university harassment policies should afford protection to Jewish students, either by virtue of their ethnicity in the case of federal law or their religion in the case of university policy. But, in practice, Jewish students have been denied protected status in both cases when those same harassing and intolerant behaviors are motivated by anti-Zionism. This is a double whammy for pro-Israel Jewish students. They must not only suffer the routine suppression of their speech and assembly, as well as the freedom to fully participate in campus life, but must also accept the reality that their aggressors — often members of a protected class — will go unpunished and receive a free pass to carry on their unfettered harassment.

Continued from Page A6
Golan Heights

A Golan-less Israel would have been unable to provide the United States with such a cost-effective, dramatic benefit.

The inherent unpredictability, volatility, and violence in the Middle East suggests that similar scenarios could plague the region in the future, especially in view of Jordan's growing vulnerability to external and domestic upheaval, requiring the enhancement of US-Israel strategic coordination. However, without the Golan Heights, which dominates northern Israel and the joint Syria-Jordan-Israel border, Israel would be transformed from a unique national security producer and

For many Jewish students, this has created a sense of egregious inequity and increased vulnerability, which has led to further suppression of their willingness to freely express themselves.

It's relevant to note that there are important efforts afoot to ensure that Jewish students are afforded legally protected status at the federal and state levels. But these efforts will take time.

There is, however, an immediate, easy and equitable solution to the problem. University leaders must make a public pledge that all students will be equally protected from behavior that violates their rights to freedom of expression and full participation in campus life. To be effective, the statement should include a description of all university policies in addition to state and Federal laws that prohibit harassment and discrimination, along with a firm commitment to their equitable enforcement for all students, regardless of identity, opinion or legally-protected status.

Harassment is harassment. The effects of this intolerant and exclusionary behavior on students are the same, regardless of the motivation of the perpetrator or the identity of the victim. And the abhorrent behavior that prevents students from an education free from discrimination must be addressed equitably. Students cannot freely express themselves and learn from their professors or each other if they face ongoing and pervasive intolerance, harassment, and discrimination — as Jewish and pro-Israel students do now. Only once all students are secure in the knowledge that they will be equally protected from hateful bigoted behavior can a university guarantee its students freedom of speech and the right to full participation in campus life.

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin is the director of the AMCHA Initiative, a nonprofit that combats antisemitism on college campuses, and was a faculty member at the University of California for 20 years.

a regional enforcer for the United States into merely another national-security consumer.

On June 29, 1967, General Earl Wheeler, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, submitted to President Lyndon Johnson a map of Israel's minimum security requirements. The map was based on the general's own assessment of US interests, Middle East reality, and Israel's security requirements. It included Israeli control of the Golan Heights.

Yoram Ettinger is a consultant on US-Israel relations and the Middle East. He served as Minister for Congressional Affairs at Israel's Embassy in Washington, DC; Israel's Consul General to the Southwestern USA; and director of Israel's Government Press Office.

sun, and greeting it accordingly.

"Good morning, Comrade Honecker!" the sun replies cheerfully.

At mid-day, Honecker does the same thing. "Good afternoon, Comrade Honecker!" the sun trills back.

That evening, Honecker pops out onto the balcony for one last time and wishes the sun goodnight.

"F*** you," the sun answers. "I'm in the West now."

Similarly dark humor was encountered across Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe. Jokes like these served as a coping mechanism for repressed and exhausted citizens, and also a lyrical means of expressing basic truths about Soviet communism's assault on

Antisemitism at the United Nations Cannot Be Ignored



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.ORG

It was just another day at the office for UN officials. As it has done innumerable times in the last 50 years, on June 12 the General Assembly devoted an entire day of debate, procedural wrangling, and voting to an effort to condemn Israel. As was the case with almost every previous effort of this kind, it succeeded.

The resolution in this case was one that condemned Israel for the violence in recent weeks along the border with Gaza. It placed the sole blame on Israel, which, it said, used "excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force" against Palestinians who were attempting to destroy the border fence and cross into Israel. For good measure, among a laundry list of anti-Israel talking points, the Jewish state was blamed for the plight of the people of Gaza. Additionally, the resolution called for the end of the blockade of the Gaza Strip by both Israel and Egypt.

While it claimed to be motivated by sympathy for the Palestinians who died, nowhere in its text was any mention of the fact that the demonstrations have not been peaceful, but were led by armed militants throwing rocks, fire bombs, and grenades, as well as launching incendiary kites aimed at burning Israeli fields and forests. Nor did it mention the role of the Hamas terrorist group in organizing an attempt to breach what is, as far as the international community is concerned, an international border. Also left out was the fact that the purpose of this so-called "March of Return" — which has been happening on a weekly basis for months — is to eradicate the Jewish state.

America's Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley valiantly strove to add a paragraph to the resolution condemning Hamas, but although dozens of countries were ready to support it, a coalition of 100 nations either voted against or abstained on her amendment, causing its defeat. In the end, the unbalanced anti-Israel measure passed with an astonishing 120 votes in favor, 45 abstentions, and only eight opposed. The eight who voted no were the United States, Israel, Australia, and the four Pacific nations of the Marshall Islands — Micronesia, Nauru, Togo, and the Solomon Islands.

But while Haley was applauded for her eloquent denunciation of the resolution, the reaction from most friends of Israel was exasperated indifference.

The General Assembly is just a talking shop with no power to enforce its anti-Israel screeds. The same goes for various UN agencies, such as the Human Rights Council, which are similarly biased and spend a disproportionate amount of their time scheming against Israel rather than dealing with genuine human-rights crises like, for example, the utter catastrophe in Syria, with 500,000 of its citizens killed in the last seven years.

This is deplorable, and it isn't vitiated by

the human soul.

In a 2013 interview, Natan Sharansky, once the figurehead of Jewish resistance to the Soviet ban on aliyah to Israel, explained succinctly what the term "good citizen" meant in the Soviet environment. "It is to say what

the humanitarian work done by the United Nations on other issues. But it's difficult to sustain much anger about it. We're so used to such bias in every new UN resolution — whether this one about Gaza or even more dangerous ones like the condemnation of Israel by the Security Council that President Barack Obama orchestrated — that it's hard to separate them from the general din of anti-Zionist prejudice emanating from Turtle Bay or the UN's headquarters in Geneva.

Every now and then, the United States sends an ambassador to New York to stand up against this tide of prejudice. Figures like Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, John Bolton, and now Haley earned a place of honor in the hearts of friends of Israel with their courage and refusal to treat antisemitism as normal. But they've been the exceptions.

Yet even most of us who care about these issues tend to treat the UN's actions as mere rhetoric. While this is true, we're wrong to



The United Nations General Assembly hall.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

treat days like June 12 as deplorable but not worth getting all that upset about. While what goes on in the United Nations is, in a sense, just talk, it's far more dangerous than that.

What we forget about these exercises in hypocrisy is that they give official imprimatur to antisemitism. As Obama's State Department certified, a "rising tide of anti-Semitism" is sweeping across Europe and Southeast Asia. Arab and Islamic hatred for Israel, as well as some Western elites' belief that the Jews are the one people on the planet who aren't entitled to a homeland, drive this trend.

If other countries are willing to give Hamas a pass for terror and bash Israel for defending its border in a way no different (if not far more humane) than almost all of the nations condemning it, then this is an act of prejudice against the one Jewish state on the planet.

To note this fact is not to assert that Israel is perfect or above criticism. But when a world body attacks Israel alone and vilifies it for doing what any other nation would do, that is called hate.

The Obama administration treated the United Nations like a sacred multilateral cow. But it's time for the Trump administration to put even more pressure on the United Nations that it already has done, cutting the US allocations that keep it going.

By regarding everyday hate as ordinary, we are, even if only because of exhaustion and a sense of futility, enabling it. That has to stop. We must never allow ourselves to get used to UN-certified Jew-hatred. The United Nations must be made to understand that decent persons won't tolerate this practice indefinitely without consequences.

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

you are supposed to say, to read what you are permitted to read, to vote the way you are told to vote, and, at the same time, to know that all this is a lie," he remarked.

In 1989, that monumental lie unraveled

Continued on Page A12

Trump, Kim, and the 'Good Citizen'



BEN COHEN/JNS.ORG
NEW YORK

One of the many memorable scenes in *The Lives of Others* — an exemplary German movie whose plot centers on the Stasi secret police in the late, unlamented German Democratic Republic (GDR) — involves the indiscreet telling of a joke about Erich Honecker, the Soviet puppet who served as the GDR's head of state. The joke begins with Honecker coming out onto his balcony one morning, spotting the

Impressions.

Iraqi Parliamentarian, Friend of US and Israel, Calls for 'Mideast Summit' as Islamists Burn Ballots in Baghdad

BY HEATHER ROBINSON

Last week, as Islamists burned ballot boxes in Baghdad, Iraqi Parliamentarian Mithal al-Alusi — whose unconventional career in Parliament has included championing normalized relations between his country and Israel — called on Donald Trump to convene “a Mideast summit of Arab and Israeli leaders” to meet in Washington, DC. According to Alusi, the summit should come “with a declared goal of joint action to prevent terrorism and extremism in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Egypt.”

At the sunset of a three-term career in Iraq’s Parliament, Alusi, 68 — who has decided against pursuing another term — remains committed to promoting counter-terrorism efforts and normalized relations between his country and Israel.

As Western attention intensifies on Iran’s meddling in Iraq and across the region — a problem that this Iraqi maverick has warned of for decades — Alusi traveled last month to Washington DC, to urge the Trump administration to ensure that America, at long last, identifies and supports its “true allies” in the Mideast.

From Baghdad last week, Alusi said that he believes the burning of election materials in the capital was fomented by agents of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, at the direction of Major General Qassem Suleimani — the commander of its division of extraterritorial military and clandestine operations.

“I did say it in DC, they will try to have chaos here,” he said via a phone interview last Tuesday. “Iranian agent Qassem Suleimani of the Revolutionary Guard is trying to say to President Trump, ‘You can do nothing in Iraq, I am the master [here].’”

A Sunni Muslim, Alusi is no stranger to controversy — or danger. Iraqi-born and bred, he was forced to flee the Middle East for his life in the 1970s, after he protested Saddam Hussein’s human rights abuses. Following the US liberation in 2003, he returned to Iraq with his two grown sons and took a position as culture director of the de-Baathification commission in Iraq’s interim government.

In 2004, he traveled to Israel to participate in a counter-terrorism conference at the International Institute for Counterterrorism in Herzliya. Before leaving the conference, he began receiving death threats. In an assassination attempt against him for daring to visit Israel, terrorists murdered his two grown sons, Ayman, 30, and Jamal, 22 — who both had shared his vision of helping to build a modern, democratic Iraq.

Refusing to be intimidated, Alusi remained in Iraq, got his political party — the Iraqi Nation Party — onto the ballot, and won a seat in Parliament in December 2005.

Alusi says that Iranian agents recently threat-

ened his life and those of other Iraqi “liberals” — or non-Islamist politicians who promote human rights and are friendly to the West. He believes that he and others are no longer secure even in the International Zone of Baghdad, or the “Green Zone” — the heavily fortified governmental center within the capital.

“We are not secure, even in the Green Zone,

across the Middle East.

In addition to allegedly burning ballot boxes, Alusi points out that Iranian-backed Iraqi Islamist “militias” recently conducted a “March [for] Jerusalem” on the streets of Baghdad.

“We should not trust a group of people who are terrorizing their own people, terrorizing neighbors in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, and who



Iraq’s Independent High Electoral Commission employee closes a ballot box at a polling station during the parliamentary election in Baghdad, Iraq, May 12, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Abdullah Dhiaa al-Deen / File.

because of the Iranian agents and Iranian killers,” he said. “Iran’s [agents] in Iraq published in the media threats to kill me. Anyone [that] says anything they don’t like,” their answer, says Alusi, is “not to discuss, but to kill. They are killers and terrorists.”

Alusi has traveled to Israel several times while in Parliament, prompting a sea change in Iraq’s official stance toward the Jewish state. After his first visit, he was “charged” with traveling to Israel — a capital offense under a Saddam Hussein-era law. In November 2008, however, Iraq’s Supreme Court ruled in his favor, stating it was no longer a crime for Iraqis to travel — including to Israel.

After Alusi won his case, hundreds of his supporters greeted and celebrated with him openly on the streets of Baghdad. But in the years since, conditions have deteriorated for anyone in Iraq who stands up to Islamist extremists, Alusi says.

He plans to continue to advocate for an Arab counter-terrorism alliance, in cooperation with Israel and the United States, and for human rights

the next day will terrorize Israel,” he said.

It is vital that the Trump administration identify and strengthen America’s true allies in the Mideast, rather than attempt to “bribe” hardened terrorists, which he maintains have too often characterized misguided past “peace process” attempts, Alusi says.

The focus of a Mideast summit of Arab and Israeli leaders should be “drying up sources of terrorism, [and] restricting [Iran’s] regime to a practical commitment not to manufacture nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

“Peace in the Middle East ... cannot be achieved without the successful preparation of Middle East countries to defend themselves against the Iranian threat,” Alusi says. “Those who imagine that peace can be achieved with the existence of the Iranian threat, will repeat the mistakes of the past.”

Heather Robinson is a regular contributor to The New York Post. Twitter: @HE_Robinson.

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



DIAMOND 123 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/10/18. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 24 Diamond Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. AJ; 5/18/25; 6/1/8/15/22

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Notice of Qualification of unTypical Films LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/03/18. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 02/23/18. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: c/o CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. AJ; 5/18/25; 6/1/8/15/22

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC) The name of the LLC is Prioritizing You, LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on March 5, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Kings County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is 302 6th Street, Unit 3, Brooklyn, New York 11215. AJ; 5/25; 6/1/8/15/22/29

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: BRONX Concrete Pumping LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY)on 02/01/2018 Office location: Bronx county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: United States corporation agents,inc. 7014 13th Ave. Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 5/25; 6/1/8/15/22/29

Notice of Qualification of BPS SUBSURFACE LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/16/18. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in New Jersey (NJ) on 05/09/18. Princ. office of LLC: 81 Willoughby St., Ste. 701, Brooklyn, NY 11201. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Ariana Tepedino at the princ. office of the LLC. NJ addr. of

LEGAL NOTICE

LLC: Ariana Tepedino, 670 N. Beers St., Holmdel, NJ 07733. Cert. of Form. filed with State Treasurer, Div. of Revenue, Business Services Bureau, 33 W. State St., Fifth Fl., Trenton, NJ 08646. Purpose: Any lawful activity. AJ; 5/25; 6/1/8/15/22/29

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: BAM FIT LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 05/21/2018 Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Bam Fit NYC 307 12th St.#13 Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/1/8/15/22/29; 7/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SLS Marketing LLC.Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York on 05/16/2018. Office location: Bronx county.SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom prices against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: The LLC 541 Hollywood Ave., Bronx, NY 10165 purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/1/8/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR DEUTSCHE ALT-B SECURITIES MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-AB4; Plaintiff(s) vs. EVELYN CHARLES; STEPHEN CHARLES; et al; Defendant(s) Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s): ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2 Summit Court, Suite 301, Fishkill, New York, 12524, 845.897.1600 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about April 16, 2018, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. On July 5, 2018 at 2:30 pm. Premises known as 560 QUINCY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11221-1811 Block: 1629 Lot: 12 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. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,091,573.31 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 550664/2013 AARON D. MASLOW, Esq., Referee AJ; 6/1/8/15/22/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: My LiL Treasures Nursery LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York on: 04/13/2018. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Carmen Candelario 302 E. 165th St. Apt.#1 bronx, NY 10456. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/1/8/15/22/29; 7/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: RIGHT TOUCH APPLICATIONS LLC.Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 05/07/2018. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process

to: Right Touch Applications LLC 675 Lincoln Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11208. purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/8/15/22/29; 7/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST BY PURCHASE FROM THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION AS RECEIVER OF WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK F/K/A WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, Plaintiff against JESSIE LOZADA, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Fein, Such & Crane, LLP 28 East Main Street Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale Entered March 27, 2017 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 261, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 12, 2018 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 167 Euclid Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. Block 4129 Lot 23. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$328,267.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 506966/2014. Zvi Storch, Esq., Referee YCHC190 AJ; 6/8/15/22/29;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR MANA 2007-A1, Plaintiff, vs. FABIENNE NELSON, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to an Order Appointing a Substitute Referee to Sell duly filed February 28, 2018 and a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on July 18, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 12, 2018 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 933 East 106th Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 8214 and Lot 28. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 19374/13. Doron Leiby, Esq., Referee Berkman, Henoch, Peterson, Peddy & Fenchel, P.C., 100 Garden City Plaza, Garden City, NY 11530, Attorneys for Plaintiff No cash will be accepted AJ; 6/8/15/22/29;

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: R&R SPECIAL PAINTING,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 06/16/2016. 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: The LLC 810 E. 152nd St., Bronx, NY 10455. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/8/15/22/29; 7/6/13

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR NOMURA ASSET ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-AP3, Plaintiff AGAINST ANTOINE Y. CHERESTAL, et al., Defendant(s)

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated March 27, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on July 12, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 761 HART STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11237. 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 3219, LOT 48. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,235,598.05 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 511359/2014. Bartholomew M. Verdiram, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 54562 AJ; 6/8/15/22/29;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for MortgageIT Securities Corp. Mortgage Loan Trust, Series 2007-1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Plaintiff AGAINST Patsy Carter; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 3, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 12, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 388 East 57th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 4767 Lot 15. Approximate amount of judgment \$599,692.48 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 6390/2013. Steven David Cohn, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: May 29, 2018 54524 AJ; 6/8/15/22/29;

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit Suisse First Boston Mortgage Securities Corp., CSMC Mortgage-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-6, Plaintiff AGAINST Andrea Romeo; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated August 8, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 12, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2952 Gerritsen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229. 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 8900 Lot 866. Approximate amount of judgment \$243,106.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 510782/2015. Gregory Laspina, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: May 2, 2018 54152 AJ; 6/8/15/22/29;

Notice of formation of Limited liability company(LLC) Name: GLOBE FREIGHT TRANS LLC. Articles of

LEGAL NOTICE

organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY)on :05/21/2018. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to : Globe Freight Trans LLC 7217 Avenue U Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: all lawful activity AJ; 6/8/15/22/29; 7/6/13

SUPREME COURT – COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF CSAB MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff against WILLIAM A. STALLONE, et al., Defendants. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on November 29, 2017. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 19th day of July, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, together with any improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 21 Preston Court, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234. (Block: 7949, Lot: 235). Approximate amount of lien \$ 303,103.81 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 500904-14. Steven Z. Naiman, Esq., Referee. Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 10 Bank Street, Suite – 700 White Plains, NY. 10606 (914) 949-2574 AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings Bank of America, N.A.K, Plaintiff AGAINST George S. Gabriel, Celine Gabriel, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 3/15/2017 and entered on 4/10/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 19, 2018 at 02:30 PM premises known as 144 Sterling Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 1319, LOT: 17. Approximate amount of judgment is \$784,767.21 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 506780/2013. Barry Martin Goldstein, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706 AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT-COUNTY OF KINGS BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, AGAINST WILLIAM VANVALKENBURG, et al. Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly entered on March 30, 2018 I the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224, Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 19, 2018 at 2:30 PM premises known as 21 Georgetown Lane, Brooklyn, NY 11234 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Block 8366 and Lot 170 Approxi-

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A9

mate amount of judgment \$774,797.12 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment. Index #505971/2015. JOEL ELIOT ABRAMSON ESQ., Referee, Aldridge Pite, LLP - Attorneys for Plaintiff - 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Roberto Jemmott; Winnifred H. Francis; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated March 15, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 19, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 574 Ralph Avenue, 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: 1387 Lot: 49. Approximate amount of judgment \$764,296.82 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 9649/13. Jageshwar Sharma, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: May 1, 2018 53986
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JDRMDBP-SM LLC, Plaintiff -against- NASIR CHOWDURY, 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 Court-house 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on July 19, 2018 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 Cleveland Street, distant 150 feet northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the westerly side of Cleveland Street and the northerly side of Pitkin Avenue; being a plot 90 feet by 25 feet by 80 feet by 25 feet. Block: 4000 Lot: 25. *REFEREE WILL ACCEPT ONLY BANK OR CERTIFIED CHECK FOR DEPOSIT REQUIRED FROM PURCHASER. NO CASH ACCEPTED* Said premises known as 434 CLEVELAND ST., BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$870,362.56 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 507374/2014. JOEL ABRAMSON, ESQ., Referee McGovern & Amodio, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 2 William Street, Suite 306, White Plains, NY 10601
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, S/B/M CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC, S/B/M TO CHASE MANHATTAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff against COLVILLE BARRETT, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Fein, Such & Crane, LLP 28 East Main Street, Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale Entered December 26, 2017 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224,

LEGAL NOTICE

Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 19, 2018 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 348 Warwick Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. Block 3982 Lot 24. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$115,322.40 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 511722/15. Philip L Kamaras, Esq., Referee XCHJC175
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court, Kings County, Omat I REO Holdings LLC v. John G. Abrams, et al., Defendants, Index No. 7754/2012. Lorenzo A. DeLuca, Esq., attorney for Plaintiff's Assignee, 269 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 (212) 239-2339. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on or about June 1, 2018, I, the referee, will sell in one parcel at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY, on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 2:30 p.m., the premises directed by said Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale to be sold therein known as 1074 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11238 (Block 2016, Lot 15 on the tax map of Kings County). ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with buildings and improvements thereon erected, 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 southerly side of Fulton Street, distant 146 feet 4 inches easterly from the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of Fulton Street and the easterly side of Classon; RUNNING THENCE southerly on a line at right angles to Fulton Street and partly through the center of a party wall, 121 feet; THENCE easterly parallel with Fulton Street, 24 feet; THENCE northerly on a line at right angles to Fulton Street and partly through the center of a party wall, 121 feet to the said southerly side of Fulton Street; and THENCE westerly along the said southerly side of Fulton Street, 24 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. Said premises will be sold subject to all provisions and conditions contained in the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale and Terms of Sale. Approximate amount due is \$466,153.20 plus interest and costs Leonard C. Spector, Esq., Referee.
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS MTGLQ INVESTORS, L.P.; Plaintiff -against- NUCHEM SCHWARTZ, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated April 11, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Court-house 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on July 19, 2018 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 the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of Neptune Avenue with the westerly side of Highland Avenue; being a plot 50 feet by 60 feet by 50 feet by 60 feet. Block: 6998 Lot: 25 Said premises known as 4000 HIGHLAND AVENUE A/K/A 3901 NEPTUNE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$695,627.66 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside

LEGAL NOTICE

for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 7004/2014. MORRIS MATZA, ESQ., Referee David A. Gallo & Associates LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 99 Powerhouse Road, First Floor, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 File# 7254.698
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff, Against CARMEN MENDEZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered on 5/7/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, on 7/19/2018 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 2297 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 8490 and Lot 27. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$392,717.23 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 500833/2014. Jack Segal, Esq., Referee. SHELDON MAY & ASSOCIATES Attorneys at Law, 255 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Dated: 5/25/2018 File Number: 28768 MNB
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO LASALLE BANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR MERRILL LYNCH FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET- BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-2, Plaintiff AGAINST ANNISA DANCE and RUSSELL DANCE, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated February 01, 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 July 19, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 686 WORTMAN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11208. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 4546, LOT 100. Approximate amount of judgment \$844,763.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 511425/2014. David J. Hernandez, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 54722
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: TOTALTECH CONSULTING & SOLUTIONS, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York. (SSNY)

LEGAL NOTICE

on 03/30/2018. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to: Totaltech consulting & Solutions, LLC 1223 E. 48th St., Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 6/15/22/29; 7/6/13/20

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff against ANDREA DANCE A/K/A ANDREA L. DANCE, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Fein, Such & Crane, LLP 28 East Main Street Suite 1800, Rochester, NY 14614 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale Entered April 10, 2017 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on July 26, 2018 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 1099 Stanley Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. Block 4506 Lot 31. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$927,403.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 511630/2014. Bartholomew Verdrame, Esq., Referee XCHJC362
AJ; 6/22/29; 7/6/13

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF11 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FF11, V. WILLIAM BLAGROVE, ET AL., NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 29, 2018, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF11 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FF11 is the Plaintiff and WILLIAM BLAGROVE; ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 360 ADAMS STREET ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on July 26, 2018 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1603 E 95TH ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11236; Block 8298, Lot 29: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 510180/2014. Jeffrey Miller, Esq. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. For sale information, please visit www.auction.com or call (800) 280-2832.
AJ; 6/22/29; 7/6/13

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS GRAND BANK, N.A., Plaintiff against MARIE GLEASON, Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on March 24, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Court-house, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 26th day of July, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying

LEGAL NOTICE

and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 2850 Gerritsen Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229. (Block: 8914, Lot: 279). Approximate amount of lien \$ 445,747.49 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 501000-14. Mark A. Longo, Esq., Referee. Stern & Eisenberg, PC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff Woodbridge Corporate Plaza 485 B Route 1 South - Suite 330 Iselin, NJ 08830 (732) 582-6344
AJ; 6/22/29; 7/6/13

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A., AS FHA QUALIFIED TRUSTEE FOR RESCAP LIQUIDATING TRUST, Plaintiff against DESIRE J. STARKS A/K/A DESIREE JOAN STARKS, MR. STARKS, ADRIANE STARKS, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on April 3, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 26th day of July, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Said premises known as 270 East 40 Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203. (Block: 4893, Lot: 17) Approximate amount of lien \$ 784,501.96 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 15303-12. Bruno Codispoli, Esq., Referee. Stern & Eisenberg, PC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff Woodbridge Corporate Plaza 485 B Route 1 South - Suite 330 Iselin, NJ 08830 (732) 582-6344
AJ; 6/22/29; 7/6/13

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: DYLAN & SHAW LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 6/11/2018. NY office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is David H. Perlman, Esq., 186 Montague Street Brooklyn, NY, 11201. Purpose/character of LLC: Any Lawful Purpose. #160978 AJ; 6/22/29; 7/6/13/20/27

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings Federal National Mortgage Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Tanya Tesler, Lev Yakubovich, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/11/2017 and entered on 6/6/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on July 26, 2018 at 02:30 PM premises known as 55 Oceana Drive East, Unit 5E, Brooklyn, NY 11235. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 8720, LOT: 2884. Approximate amount of judgment is \$446,608.68 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 503809/2014. Bartholomew M. Verdirame, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706
6/22/29; 7/6/13/

Continued on Page A12

Social.



Shashi Naidoo during a 2017 interview with SABC3. Photo: SABC3 / YouTube.

South African Model Says She Received Death Threats After Denouncing Hamas, Defending Israel

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A South African media personality said she received 10 death threats amid fierce online backlash to her comments calling the Gaza Strip “a sh*thole of immense proportions.”

Shashi Naidoo first drew controversy on Saturday after getting into a debate with an Instagram follower who criticized a photo she uploaded with Black Coffee, a South African DJ who drew the ire of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaign by performing in Israel in April.

According to screenshots of her now-deleted comments, the model rejected accusations that Israel was an “Apartheid state” and argued that the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas was responsible for poor living conditions in Gaza.

“Hamas, the elected government of Gaza, which even Taz agrees is a terrorist organisation, refuses to acknowledge Israel’s right to exist and is hell bent on its destruction,” she noted during the exchange. “[T]his has been clearly articulated inter alia in its manifesto, on air by its leaders and by virtue of the fact that they indoctrinate their children to hate Jews, have monetary incentive programmes to kill Jews and celebrate [the] death of innocent Israeli men, women and children.”

“Taz makes reference to Gaza being a ‘toxic waste dump,’ Naidoo continued. “No question Gaza is a sh*thole of immense proportions. Why? Because instead of using the millions of USD it gets in foreign aid to provide food housing, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure to help its citizens, it uses it to build terror tunnels and rockets to pursue its ambition of annihilating Israel.”

The model’s comments set off a firestorm of criticism on social media, prompting her to issue a public apology on Instagram Stories, the Sunday Times reported.

“I work very closely with a lot of Muslim people and I admire many aspects and traits of the Muslim community in general, they are extremely moral, have great values and have unbelievable discipline towards their religion which is a beautiful thing,” Naidoo wrote in part. “I am extremely sorry about the statements I have made, unfortunately my comments came from very little knowledge of the political standing as I am

not a political figure or even follow politics.”

She also shared a tearful video apology later in the day, saying she had received multiple death threats.

“The apology I made today was very sincere, I assure you of that, but I’ve already received 10 death threats today and a lot of backlash and I am sincerely sorry,” Naidoo said.

Several sponsors nonetheless decided to cut ties with the model, with Bellagio Jewellers pledging on Monday not to use her as a brand ambassador in the future.

The hair styling company Glampalm similarly said on Saturday that it does not share or appreciate Naidoo’s “political stance.”

She was also rebuked by Adila Dhorat, who designs conservative clothing for women.

“In light of recent statements made by Sashi Naidoo on Instagram, with regards to the Palestinian situation, I have decided to withdraw her as an ambassador for my brand and disassociate my brand from her completely,” the designer wrote on Saturday. “Israel is an Apartheid state that is perpetrating [sic] a genocide of untold proportions on the helpless people of Gaza and the West Bank.”

In the wake of the controversy, South African entertainment commentator Phil Mphela told HuffPost South Africa that the “biggest hit will be on her businesses.”

He observed that Naidoo’s comments — which appeared to have been thought out — would likely not sink her career.

“We are all in this business just one tweet away from being vilified or burnt at a stake,” Mphela said. “I don’t think she will hold the same esteem with the Muslim community any more, but she will bounce back.”

Naidoo is not the first public figure to draw outrage in South Africa for her views on Israel. In May, radio host Gareth Cliff came under fire from social media commentator for denouncing Hamas-led riots by the Israel-Gaza barrier on May 14. More than 60 Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops that day, the majority of whom were claimed by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

The South African government — ruled by the African National Congress (ANC) — recalled its ambas-

Prince William Itinerary Refers to Old City of Jerusalem as ‘Occupied Palestinian Territories’

BY JNS.org

The itinerary of Britain’s Prince William in his visit to Israel will include a visit to the Old City of Jerusalem, which the document refers to as “Occupied Palestinian Territories,” a characterization that set off criticism in Israel.

Jerusalem Affairs Minister of Knesset Ze’ev Elkin called the reference “regrettable,” and said “United Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel for 3,000 years and no distortion in the tour itinerary can change that reality.”



Britain’s Prince William leaves the Lindo Wing of St Mary’s Hospital after his wife Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, gave birth to a son, in London, April 23, 2018. Photo: REUTERS/Hannah McKay/File Photo.

Elkin recently announced that he will be running for the position of Jerusalem mayor in the upcoming elections in October.

Prince William will first travel to Jordan on June 24 and then arrive in Israel on June 25 for a visit that will last until June 27, at which point “the program will shift to its next leg, the Occupied Palestinian Territories,” including a “short briefing on the history and geography of Jerusalem’s Old City from a viewing point at the Mount of Olives” on June 28.

Stops during the Old City visit may include the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Church of John the Baptist, though the official itinerary did not elucidate.

William will also meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin, and make a stop at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In Ramallah, William will meet with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas.

sador to Israel over the incident.

In a December conference attended by Hamas officials, the party voted to downgrade South Africa’s embassy in Israel to a “liaison office” in an “expression of support to the oppressed people of Palestine.”

Tradition.

Legal Notice.

The Consolations of Mortality



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

Chukat is about mortality. In it we read of the death of two of Israel's three great leaders in the wilderness, Miriam and Aaron, and the sentence of death decreed against Moses, the greatest of them all. These were devastating losses.

To counter that sense of loss and bereavement, the Torah employs one of Judaism's great principles: The Holy One, blessed be He, creates the remedy before the disease. Before any of the deaths are mentioned we read about the strange ritual of the red heifer, which purified people who had been in contact with death – the archetypal source of impurity. That ritual, often deemed incomprehensible, is in fact deeply symbolic.

It involves taking the most striking emblem of life – a heifer that is pure red, the colour of blood which is the source of life, and that has never been made to endure the burden of a yoke – and reducing it to ash. That is mortality, the fate of all that lives. We are, said Abraham, “mere dust and ashes” (Gen. 18:27). “Dust you are,” said God to Adam, “and to dust you shall return” (Gen. 3:19). But the dust is dissolved into “living water,” and from water comes new life.

Water is constantly changing. We never step into the same river twice, said Heraclitus. Yet the river maintains its course between the banks. The water changes but the river remains. So we as physical beings may one day be reduced to dust. But there are two consolations.

The first is that we are not just physical beings. God made the first human “from the dust of the earth” but He breathed into him the breath of life. We may be mortal but there is within us something that is immortal. “The dust returns to the earth as it was but the spirit returns to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

The second is that, even down here on earth, something of us lives on, as it did for Aaron in the form of his sons who carry the name of the priesthood to this day, as it did for Moses in the form of his disciples who studied and lived by his words as they do to this day, and as it did for Miriam in the lives of all those women who, by their courage, taught men the true meaning of faith. For good or bad, our lives have an impact on other lives, and the ripples of our deeds spread ever outward across space and time. We are part of the undying river of life.

So we may be mortal, but that does not reduce our life to insignificance, as Tolstoy once thought it did, for we are part of something larger than ourselves, characters in a story that began early in the history of civilisation and that will last as long as humankind.

It is in this context that we should understand one of the most troubling episodes in the Torah, Moses' angry outburst when the people called for water, for which he and Aaron were condemned to die in the wilderness without ever crossing into the Promised Land. I have written about this passage many times elsewhere, and I do not want to focus on the details here. I want simply to note why the story of Moses hitting the rock appears here, in parshat Chukat, whose overarching theme is our existence as physical beings in a physical world, with its two potentially tragic consequences.

First, we are an unstable mix of reason and passion, reflection and emotion, so that sometimes grief and exhaustion can lead even the greatest to make mistakes, as it did in the case of Moses and Aaron after the death of their sister. Second, we are physical, therefore mortal. Therefore, for all of us, there are rivers we will not

cross, promised lands we will not enter, futures we helped shape but will not live to see.

The Torah is sketching out the contours of a truly remarkable idea. Despite these two facets of our humanity – that we make mistakes and that we die – human existence is not tragic. Moses and Aaron made mistakes, but that did not stop them being among the greatest leaders who ever lived, whose impact is still palpable today in the prophetic and priestly dimensions of Jewish life. And the fact that Moses did not live to see his people cross the Jordan did not diminish his eternal legacy as the man who turned a nation of slaves into a free people, bringing them to the very brink of the Promised Land.

I wonder if any other culture, creed or



civilisation has done greater justice to the human condition than Judaism, with its insistence that we are human, not gods, and that we are, nonetheless, God's partners in the work of creation and the fulfilment of the covenant.

Almost every other culture has blurred the line between God and human beings. In the ancient world, rulers were usually thought of as gods, demigods, or chief intermediaries with the gods. Christianity and Islam know of infallible human beings, the son of God or the prophet of God. Modern atheists, by contrast, have tended to echo Nietzsche's question that, to justify our dethronement of God, “Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?”

In 1967, when I was just beginning my university studies, I listened to the BBC Reith Lectures given that year by Edmond Leach, professor of anthropology at Cambridge, with their opening sentences, “Men have become like gods. Isn't it about time that we understood our divinity?” I recall that as soon as I heard those words, I sensed that something was going wrong in Western civilisation. We are not gods, and bad things happened when people thought they were.

Meanwhile, paradoxically, the greater our powers, the lower our estimate of the human person. In his novel *Zadig*, Voltaire described humans as “insects devouring one another on a little atom of mud.” The late Stephen Hawking stated that “the human race is just a chemical scum on a moderate size planet, orbiting round a very average star in the outer suburb of one among a billion galaxies.” The philosopher John Gray declared that “human life has no more meaning than that of slime mould.” In his *Homoc Deus*, Yuval Harari reaches the conclusion that “Looking back, humanity will turn out to be just a ripple within the cosmic data flow.”

These are the two options the Torah rejects too high or too low an estimate of humankind. On the one hand, no man is a god. No one is infallible. There is no life without error and shortcoming. That is why it was so important to note, in the parsha that deals with mortality, Moses sin. Likewise it was important to say at the outset of his mission that he had no special charismatic endowments. He was not a natural speaker who could sway crowds (Ex. 4:10). Equally the Torah emphasises at the end of his life that “No one knows his burial place,” (Deut. 34:6) so that it could not become a place of pilgrimage. Moses was human, all-too-human, yet he was the

greatest prophet who ever lived (Deut. 34:10).

On the other hand the idea that we are mere dust and nothing more – insects, scum, slime mould, a ripple in the cosmic data flow – must rank among the most foolish ever formulated by intelligent minds. No insect ever became a Voltaire. No chemical scum became a chemist. No ripple in the data flow wrote international bestsellers. Both errors – that we are gods or we are insects – are dangerous. Taken seriously they can justify almost any crime against humanity. Without a delicate balance between Divine eternity and human mortality, Divine forgiveness and human error, we can wreak much destruction – and our power to do so grows by the year.

Hence the life-changing idea of Chukat: we are dust of the earth but there is within us the breath of God. We fail, but we can still achieve greatness. We die, but the best part of us lives on.

The Hasidic master R. Simcha Bunim of Peshischke said we should each have two pockets. In one should be a note saying: “I am but dust and ashes.” In the other should be a note saying: “For my sake was the world created.” Life lives in the tension between our physical smallness and our spiritual greatness, the brevity of life and the eternity of the faith by which we live. Defeat, despair and a sense of tragedy are always premature. Life is short, but when we lift our eyes to heaven, we walk tall.

Shabbat shalom.

Continued from Page A7 *'Good Citizen'*

with what we called, back then, “the collapse of communism.” As East Germany and then the Soviet Union crumbled into fleeting dust, it did seem to many observers that this collapse would inevitably foster a new culture of political liberty.

As a political forecast, that was badly wrong. Yet behind it was a deeper insight into the ills of communism – and, indeed, all forms of government where party, state, and ideology converge under a supreme leader – that is worth restating after a week when the president of the United States met with the dictator of North Korea.

We had absorbed (or so we thought) the certain knowledge that any political system in which opposition is proscribed and dissidents are locked up in atrocious conditions can never be truly legitimate because, as 1989 reminded us with a jolt, political legitimacy is rooted in the informed consent of the people.

We also realized (or thought we had) that anti-democratic systems have a tendency to contribute to their own dissolution from birth; in the case of Nazi Germany, that process took 12 years, and in the case of the Soviet Union it took 72. In that light, even those communist governments that survived 1989 – in China, Cuba, and Vietnam, among others – seemed to be living on borrowed time as their economies sank and public demands for democracy surfaced.

Donald Trump's summit with Kim Jong-Un in Singapore does not, I modestly submit, undercut the validity of those three observations. When it comes to North Korea, even former Secretary of State John Kerry, an arch-appeaser of the Cuban and Iranian regimes, found it within himself to describe the ruling Kim dynasty in a speech in 2016 as the “illegal and illegitimate regime in North Korea.”

Moreover, since the end of the Cold War, the regime's primary goal has been to secure its own power. Unlike dictators such as the late Hugo Chávez in Venezuela, who lavished consumer goods and financial windfalls on the poorest sections of society when oil prices were high as a political tactic, the Kim dynasty has always kept its incarcerated population of 25 million cold, hungry, and abidingly fearful of not being the sort of “good citizens” as described by Sharansky.

Once the Cold War ended, this human suffering fueled the outside perception of North Korea as being permanently on the verge of collapse. That is, until the regime acquired nuclear weapons so it could shield itself effectively from a US-centered world order. But now,

LEGAL NOTICE

Continued from Page A10

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff(s), Against Index No.: 507611/2013 LOUIS IACOBUCCI, DANIELA IACOBUCCI, ROBERT FERRARO, MARIA FERRARO, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly granted 05/24/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, on 7/26/2018 at 2:30 pm, premises known as 1441 76th St. Brooklyn, NY 11228, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York; Block 6223 and Lot 62. The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$466,741.13 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 507611/2013. Jacob N. Gelfand, Esq., Referee. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C., 145 Huguenot Street, Suite 210, New Rochelle, NY 10801 Dated: 05/29/2018 File Number: 125-5644 AA/BGM AJ; 6/22/29; 7/6/13

North Korea has apparently agreed to engage in a process aimed at achieving its emasculation, in terms of hard power, by 2020.

There are many reasons to consider such an outcome fanciful, but the historical example of the Soviet Union, where disintegration followed disarmament, is the most compelling of all. The Soviet Union didn't go under because the United States refused to guarantee its external borders; it happened because of the pressures from within.

By the same logic, without its nukes, North Korea cannot remain the shuttered society that it is at present, with the Kim regime the sole focus of enforced public devotion. Should the regime turn its back on future negotiations, dread at the political consequences of opening up brains and markets – what the Soviets called “glasnost” and “perestroika” – will likely be why.

So, however absurd and distasteful Trump's encomiums to the tyrant of Pyongyang certainly are, the act of engaging the regime in dialogue is not in itself objectionable. It all depends on what the goals are.

Many of the people now advising Trump are longtime advocates of regime change in North Korea because they understand that talk of political reform in an enslaved state like this one is outlandish unless, by some extraordinary twist, the regime decides of its own volition to devolve power or even surrender it entirely. But as the sun clearly understood from its conversation with Erich Honecker, history has never worked like that. At least so far.

Ben Cohen writes a weekly column for JNS on Jewish affairs and Middle Eastern politics. His writings have been published in Commentary, The New York Post, Haaretz, The Wall Street Journal, and many other publications.