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Swiss Freeze Funding in Wake of UNRWA Corruption Allegations



UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl in January 2018. Photo: Reuters / Suhaib Salem.

BY BEN COHEN

Switzerland confirmed on Tuesday that it was temporarily freezing funding for UNRWA — the United Nations agency dedicated solely to Palestinian refugees and their descendants — following the emergence of an internal report that accused the agency's top management of systematic corruption and abuse.

Swiss public broadcaster SRF

reported that the country's Foreign Ministry decided to suspend funds following a phone consultation between leading officials and Pierre Krähenbühl — a Swiss national who serves as UNRWA's director-general, and whose own actions were at the center the reports' criticisms.

The report included accusations against UNRWA's management of "nepotism, retaliation, discrimination and other

abuses of authority, for personal gain, to suppress legitimate dissent, and to otherwise achieve their personal objectives." Krähenbühl was personally accused of appointing a woman with whom he was romantically involved as an adviser. Despite facing a deficit of more than \$200 million in UNRWA's current budget, the report charged that the pair had frequently traveled together on

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'Israel Expands Scope of Strikes Against Iranian Assets in Middle East'

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/JNS.org

Israel has expanded its target bank to include Iranian assets all over the Middle East, London-based Arabic daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat reported on Tuesday.

The report quoted Western diplomats as saying that the Israel Air Force was responsible for the July 19 attack on a military base in Iraq, northeast of Baghdad, used by pro-Iranian militias. The diplomats said the attack was carried out by a F-35 stealth fighter.

Sources also told the Arabic daily that the IAF was also responsible for a strike on Sunday against Camp Ashraf,



Two Israeli F-35I Adir jets fly in formation. Photo: US Air Force/1st Lt. Erik D. Anthony.

some 50 miles from the Iranian border and 25 miles north of Baghdad.

The strikes targeted a consignment of ballistic missiles from Iran, as well as "Iranian advisers," the sources said.

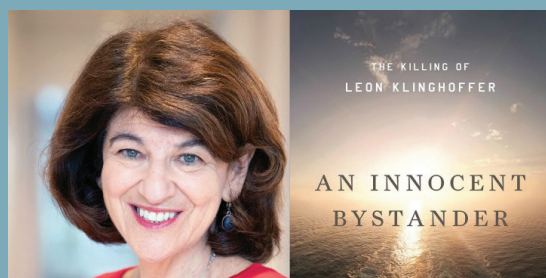
Israel has not commented on either report.

Syria has claimed that Israel was behind a strike on Tal al-Hara, a strategic hill in southern Syria, on July 24. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported at the time that the target was storage sites used by Hezbollah and

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Remembering Leon Klinghoffer

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat MATOT-MASEI | Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
פרשת מטות-מסעי | Shabbat Begins: 7:52pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:55pm



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Opinion.

The Tour That Israel Should Arrange for Tlaib and Omar

LORI LOWENTHAL MARCUS &
JEROME M. MARCUS/
JNS.org

Reps. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN) say that they are going to Israel and “Palestine” in order “to learn” about the region. Israel has granted the women permission to enter the country, notwithstanding the overwhelming evidence that their trip has only one purpose: to strengthen the hand of people and organizations that share these women’s desire to attack Israel, the nation-state of the Jewish people.

But just because Israel has let them in doesn’t mean its leaders have to sit passively by while Tlaib and Omar use the country as a backdrop for their personally designed advertisements for Hamas and Hezbollah; their accusations of apartheid, genocide, and all other things repugnant; and their program to eliminate Jewish self-determination.

On the contrary, as any fair-minded person knows, none of the things these women claim to believe about Israel is actually correct. So Israel has this one potent weapon on its side: the truth. Israel should use it with these two hate-filled politicians. Israel should invite these American officials to the places that make it absolutely clear that everything important they claim to believe about Israel

and its enemies is wrong.

Here’s a suggested itinerary:

- 1. The SodaStream factory.** Moved from the disputed territories because of vicious BDS movement protests, where it employed more than 100 Arabs working alongside Jews — at wages far in excess of what Arabs could earn in Jordan, Gaza, Egypt, or any Arab town in the territories themselves — SodaStream insisted on continuing to employ as many of its Arab workers as possible in its new factory inside the Green Line. Efforts by those boycotting Israel had exactly one effect on these people: They helped to dis-employ dozens of Arabs who are not able to reach the new location.
- 2. The Hamas tunnels.** Let Israel help Tlaib and Omar “learn” by seeing firsthand what Hamas has done with millions of dollars it poached from international aid sent to Gaza, which was instead spent constructing tunnels designed for use by Hamas “fighters” — men trained not to confront enemy combatants, but to invade towns inside Israel proper and murder civilians in cold blood. While they’re at it, they might want to visit the thousands of dunams of scorched Israeli farmland caused by the weekly “peaceful protests” along Gaza’s border with Israel.
- 3. The city of Haifa.** Tlaib and Omar should be brought to Haifa, where the population of Israeli citizens is more than 50 percent Arab. Let them talk to Arabs in the Haifa city council and meet with Arabs on the

faculty of Haifa University. Let them ask these people how many of them want to live instead in the Judenrein state that the Palestinian Authority wants to create.

- 4. Ir David.** Omar and Tlaib should join with other tourists walking on the road taken 2,000 years ago by Jews on their way to the Second Temple. Then they should be asked to explain how they can support the Palestinian Authority’s claim to Jerusalem and its absurd assertion — adopted by the great history scholars at the United Nations — that Jerusalem has no historical connection to the Jewish people. When Yasser Arafat tried that one on Bill Clinton, the Democratic US president remembered enough of the gospels he’d learned in Sunday school to know that if Jesus had preached outside the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, it was ridiculous to argue that there had never been a Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. Ir David is located in a neighborhood that Arabs call “Silwan” — a name they gave the place after they drove out its original residents: Yemeni Jews who built some of the first homes outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, which these Jews called Shiloach.
- 5. While they’re in Jerusalem they can meet with George Karra,** an Arab justice on



US Reps Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), July 15, 2019. Photo: REUTERS/Erin Scott.

the Israeli Supreme Court. When he was a trial court judge, Karra presided over the criminal trial of former president of Israel Moshe Katsav — and convicted him. (Israel doesn’t have trial by jury.) Tlaib and Omar can be invited to wonder when was the last time a Jew presided over a criminal trial of an Arab in any country in the world, much less when a Jew was given, and exercised, the power to send an Arab former president of any Arab country to jail.

- 6. The Rami Levi Supermarket** in Gush Etzion, where Arabs and Jews work and shop together, and where every aisle clerk and cashier earns the same salary, regardless of religion. And the Malcha Mall in Jerusalem itself, where Arabs and Jews shop and eat together every single day. Here, Tlaib and Omar can see Jewish apartheid as it really is — that is to say, as it isn’t at all.

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‘Is BDS Anti-Semitic?’ The New York Times Inquires



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

The *New York Times* devotes a full page in its Sunday newspaper to a deeply flawed look at the movement to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel.

Given all the advance work that usually goes into a long Sunday feature, you’d think the *Times* could be troubled to get the facts right the first time around. Yet by Sunday morning, the *Times* article already carried a two part correction: “An earlier version of this article incorrectly described the status of legislation in Ireland concerning goods produced by Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Ireland has advanced legislation to ban the import of those goods, it has not banned them. Also, the article misstated the status of Omar Barghouti, a B.D.S. spokesman. He is a Palestinian resident of Israel, not a citizen.”

That correction, though, only scratches the surface in terms of the problems with the *Times* article, which extend well beyond the errors that were corrected.

The so-far-uncorrected problems begin with first sentence, which claims, “In a matter of months, a campaign to boycott Israel has moved from the margins of politics — liberal college campuses and protest marches — to Congress.” Yet the overwhelming Congressional vote was to *condemn* the BDS

campaign, indicating that the campaign remains marginal. And, far from being a recent phenomenon as the phrase “a matter of months” indicates, the effort to boycott Israel, and Jews, dates back to before Israel even existed. Laws forbidding American companies from cooperating with such boycotts were passed in 1976 and 1977, a fact the *Times* almost invariably ignores in its coverage attempting to hype the boycott as some sort of innovative, new, or recent development.

In a section headed, “Who Is Behind It?” The *Times* article claims that BDS “appeals



BDS Photo: :::mediActivista:::

to those, including a significant number of politically liberal Jews, who are frustrated by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the blockade and frequent bloodshed in Gaza.” That was a clumsily worded sentence that could have used an editor. It can be interpreted two different ways. One way is accurate: it is true that a significant number of politically liberal Jews are frustrated by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Even some politically conservative Jews are frustrated by it. It is indeed frustrating, though if there’s an immediate better alternative, the Israeli electorate has yet to be convinced of it. But it’s also possible to read the *Times* as claiming something inaccurate: that the BDS movement is backed by “a significant number of politically liberal Jews.” That is misleading, because there’s no evidence to indicate that “a significant number of politically liberal Jews” support the movement to boycott, divest, or sanction Israel. The *Times* doesn’t define “significant” or provide any evidence to support the claim that the BDS movement has significant Jewish backing. It’s also misleading to refer to “the Israeli occupation of the West Bank” without letting readers on to the fact that Palestinian Arabs in much of that territory exercise self-rule to a significant degree.

The *Times* article appears under the online headline “Is B.D.S. Anti-Semitic? A Closer Look at the Boycott Israel Campaign.” In print, the headline is the more innocuous, “A Look at the International Drive to Boycott Israel.”

It’s often a bad sign when an article fails to

Continued on Page A10

World News.

'My Experience Hardly an Isolated Case,' Victim of Attack in German City of Potsdam Says

BY BEN COHEN

The 25-year-old Jewish man verbally assaulted and spat on by two Syrian refugees who spotted his kippah in the German city of Potsdam on Saturday has since remarked that his experience was "hardly an isolated case."

Speaking on Monday to the right-wing media outlet *Tichys Einblick* — a news and opinion site edited by Roland Tichy, a conservative columnist — the victim of Saturday's attack said that he and other active members of the Jewish community experienced antisemitic harassment "on a weekly basis."

Named only as Marvin F., the victim, who is a student, said that members of the community were "usually exposed to verbal insults and attacks on a weekly basis" especially when using public transport.

He emphasized that most of these incidents were almost never reported to the police, because of the common feeling among targeted Jews "that the perpetrators are often not caught anyway, or not really punished."

Describing his own experience, the student said that he had been spotted by two Syrian teenagers in the central railway station in the city of Potsdam — part of the Berlin region — while wearing a kippah with a Star of David symbol. The older of the two teens spat at the victim and assailed him with antisemitic and homophobic epithets, including "you dirty Jew!", before running off.

The victim said that an elderly woman who witnessed the attack approached him encouraging him to call the police. Four officers responded promptly and the perpetrator, who had remained in the station after the attack, was arrested shortly afterward. He has since been released.

Saturday's incident in Potsdam reignited the debate among German Jews over the safety of wearing visibly Jewish symbols in public. Last May, Felix Klein — the federally-appointed commissioner tasked with combating antisemitism — ruffled feathers inside and outside the Jewish community when he remarked it was not safe to wear kippah "everywhere, all the time" in Germany.

The victim of the attack in Potsdam concurred with that assessment, saying that he wore a kippah "most of the time," but would never do so in certain neighborhoods.

Continued from Page A1

Strikes
other pro-Iranian militias to house long-range missiles and other weaponry.

The report comes against the backdrop of the growing tensions between the West and Iran in the Persian Gulf over the Islamic republic's provocations in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Israel remains vigilant with respect to the security situation in the Gulf. On Sunday, Israel's

Continued from Page A1

Corruption
business class flights around the world.

SRF said that the Swiss Foreign Ministry was now "in contact with other donors" about the scandal, adding that this would "increase



A member of Berlin's Jewish community speaking to journalists at the trial of a Syrian migrant who assaulted a man wearing a kippah. Photo: Reuters / Hannibal Hanschke

"I wouldn't wear my kippah in Kreuzberg, Neukölln, Ostbahnhof and Wedding," the victim said, naming four neighborhoods in Berlin with large Muslim populations. "You would risk your health and your life. It's in these parts of the city that Islamist hatred of Jews hits the hardest."

In a separate interview, the head of the Jewish community in Potsdam said that he had been "shocked" by Saturday's assault.

"I've always believed that Potsdam was a quiet city," community chairman Evgeni Kutikov told local media outlet *Märkische Allgemeine* on Sunday. He called for Muslim migrants in Germany to "finally be informed and made aware that there are laws in Germany, and that there are consequences if you violate those laws."

Kutikov emphasized that he would not recommend against wearing Jewish symbols in public, despite the attack.

"If it comes to the point where we have to warn against it, then for us Jews, the point will have been reached where we leave Germany and emigrate to Israel," Kutikov said.

Antisemitic hate crimes in Germany rose by 20 percent in 2018; both the government and the police have been strongly criticized for assuming that attacks on Jews are solely the work of the far right.

Earlier this year, Marcel Luthe — a member of Berlin's state parliament for the liberal FDP Party — claimed that up to 60 percent of antisemitic offenses in the German capital had been incorrectly blamed by police on the far right, thereby diminishing the role played by Muslim extremists and militant anti-Zionists in attacking Jewish targets.

US-backed Arrow-3 ballistic missile defense system passed a series of tests in Alaska.

Jointly manufactured by US firm Boeing, the Arrow-3 is billed as being capable of shooting down incoming ballistic missiles above the atmosphere, at a safe altitude for the destruction of nonconventional warheads. The system passed its first full interception test over the Mediterranean Sea in 2015 and was deployed in Israel in 2017.

pressure on UNRWA." The broadcaster said it had been told that "further action" would be taken once a new UN internal probe into UNRWA, following on from the original report, was concluded. The head of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the lower house of the Swiss

Corbyn: Jew-Hatred in Labour Party Is Result of People Who 'Dip Into' Antisemitic Language



British Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn outside his home in north London. Photo: Reuters / Peter Nicholls.

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

UK Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn has appeared to once again minimize the problem of Jew-hatred in his party, saying the issue was merely one of people who sometimes "dip into" antisemitic language.

Asked about the matter during a recent Sky News interview, Corbyn gave a long sigh and rolled his eyes before saying, "People in politics do sometimes cross the line and confuse issues and can dip into antisemitic tropes and language."

"That's why I've introduced a new education program with a substantial pack of education materials which has been sent out last week," he added, "so that we say to people, 'Just be careful in your use of language.'"

Since the far-left Corbyn, an intense critic of Israel, became party leader in 2015, Labour has been wracked by antisemitism scandals, including numerous suspensions of party members, mass resignations by MPs and several controversies surrounding Corbyn himself.

The furor came to a head earlier this

month when the BBC program *Panorama* broadcast a lengthy expose on antisemitism in the Labour party.

The program detailed many of the upheavals that the party has faced, including former London Mayor Ken Livingstone's false claim that Zionists collaborated with Hitler, for which he was only temporarily suspended; activist Jackie Walker's claim that the Jews controlled the trans-Atlantic slave trade; and a general atmosphere of antisemitic attitudes toward Israel and its Jewish supporters.

In regard to Corbyn himself, the program cited, among other things, his defense of a blatantly antisemitic mural; his invitation to tea of Raed Salah, an antisemitic Israeli-Arab preacher who has engaged in the blood libel; his warm words about the terrorist group Hamas; and his claim that he saw the "hand of Israel" behind a jihadist attack on Egyptian soldiers.

The program also included the testimony of many Labour members, Jewish and non-Jewish, some of them near tears, describing an atmosphere of intense antisemitic racism in the party.

parliament voiced her support for the foreign ministry's move.

In a separate interview with SRF, Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter confessed that the scandal had left her "very surprised, especially as UNRWA is led by a Swiss citizen, Pierre Krähenbühl."

She continued: "It is a pity that UNRWA is again producing negative headlines. Fundamental decisions about its future need to be made."

Official Swiss reservations about both UNRWA's mission and its management pre-dated the internal report into the agency, Schneider-Schneiter noted. She pointed out that in May 2018, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis had openly criticized UNRWA's mandate — which imposes continuing refugee status on the five million descendants of the original Arab refugees of 1948, preventing their integration into host countries — for perpetuating the Palestinian conflict with Israel.

"UNRWA has become part of the problem," Cassis said in the wake of a visit

to Jordan. "It provides the ammunition to continue the conflict. For as long as Palestinians live in refugee camps, they want to return to their homeland."

Nevertheless, Switzerland has faithfully made annual payments to UNRWA, with a contribution of almost \$30 million in 2018 alone. Ironically, a plea from Krähenbühl for emergency funding this past January saw him single out Switzerland for praise for its "robust" and "generous" contributions. That plea in turn was the outcome of the September 2018 decision by the US government, which previously provided 30 percent of UNRWA's annual budget of \$1.2 billion, to end all funding to the agency.

A State Department statement at the time emphasized that the US would "no longer commit further funding to this irredeemably flawed operation." The core of UNRWA's problem, the statement argued, was that its mandate had led to an "endlessly and exponentially expanding community of entitled beneficiaries."

World News.



Ofir Hasdai. Photo: Courtesy of the Hasdai family.

More Than \$186,000 Donated to Family of Israeli Man Shot Dead in Parking Dispute

BY JNS.org

As many as 3,200 people donated to an online fundraising campaign for the disabled wife and three daughters who survive Ofir Hasdai, 40, who was shot dead after getting into an argument over a parking space at the Azrieli shopping mall in the Israeli city of Ramle.

As of early Tuesday, more than \$186,000 had been donated online to the surviving family members.

Hasdai was parking in a handicapped

spot at the mall on Sunday because his wife suffers from muscular dystrophy. A fight ensued with another driver over the parking space, ending with gunfire and the arrest of 74-year-old Victor Katan.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the public to support the family, posting on Facebook that “there is no place for violence among us; we will not tolerate it.”

He also posted the bank details of Hasdai family in order to donate directly.

ADL Report Exposes Continued Sale of Far Right Hate Symbols on Amazon

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Online retail giant Amazon has been taken to task by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) for allegedly “violating” its own company policies with the continued sale of far-right literature, t-shirts and similar paraphernalia.

An ADL report issued on Monday said that a recent search of Amazon by experts in the civil rights group’s Center on Extremism had demonstrated that “items and

still being offered for sale by various third-party sellers.”

The report said that “hateful books (including paradigmatic white supremacist novel ‘The Turner Diaries’)” along with “flags bearing extremist symbols,” such as the Celtic Cross rendered in a style reminiscent of the Nazi swastika, could be found with some creative searching.

“Searching Amazon using explicit terms such as ‘white power,’ ‘swastika’ and ‘skinhead’ does not yield any problematic results,” the report noted. “But using more obscure search terms turns up plenty of extremist-related products.”

The ADL pointed out that Amazon’s own policies prohibit the sale of “products that promote, incite, or glorify hate or violence towards any person or group” and “products that promote intolerance based on race, religion, and sexual orientation.”

The ADL report observed that additional flags for sale on Amazon showcased “the symbol for the British Union of Fascists (BUF), Nazi-styled flags with Othala runes or Sonnenrads (sun wheels) in place of the traditional swastikas and Iron Crosses, and the Iron Guard flag — popular among today’s white supremacists.”



ADL Report Exposes Continued Sale of Far Right Hate Symbols on Amazon

merchandise promoting right-wing extremist ideologies, including white supremacy and the anti-government militia movement, are

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20 Adar I, 5779/ February 25, 2019

In years past, Beth Shifra maintained a Free Soup 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 Sedorim and daily meals around the city for thousands of people. We are personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, 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, 2019/5779, Beth Shifra is sponsoring free Kosher for Pesach Seders and meals daily from Friday, April 19, through Saturday (Shabbat), April 27, at The White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21st Brooklyn. Free Kosher for Passover food packages will be offered on Thursday, April 18, at the White Shul, 2102 Avenue T & East 21 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 Igud/RAA Presidium and of the Beth Din, I extend greetings of Torah.

Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik Executive Vice - President, Rabbinical Alliance of America

July 17, 2018

For almost 50 years, the Beth Shifra organization, located in Brooklyn, NY, has provided year round daily free meals to those who are most needy in the New York Jewish community. I am personally familiar with the outstanding work that they do under the leadership of Rabbi Chaim Prussman, and urge you to help Beth Shifra in any manner possible, including publicizing their work in your shul or organization. During the Pesach holiday, the organization sponsors Kosher for Passover sedorim, food packages, lectures and programs to hundreds of people who would otherwise be unable to celebrate the holiday. In 2019, they will be sponsoring free kosher for Passover Seders and daily meals from Friday. Pesach food packages will be distributed on Thursday, April 18 at the synagogue between the hours of 12:00-2:00 PM. In the merit of helping the hungry and poor, may you only receive the choicest blessings from Heaven.

Dov Hikind
Member of Assembly

These are some of the FREE programs Beth Shifra ran for the Poor and Russian Families.

- Separate Orthodox Boy Scout & Girl Scout Club • Matchmaking
- Trips and Rallies • Free Legal Advice
- Jewish Films Jewish History Classes
- Job Placement • Karate • CSW on Premises
- Business School • Brisim Performed
- Speakers Bureau • Free Hebrew School
- Free Summer Camps • Nursery schools
- Jewish Services • Boxing
- High School Programs In Public Schools
- Chess Tournament • Free Bar Mitzvahs and Mezuzas by Rabbi Zalmen
- Several English Classes (Green Cards)
- Work Release Programs • Release Hours
- Free Flee Market • Homeless Shelter

“We urge you to do whatever you can do to help Beth Shifra, תבא עליהם ברכה”

RABBI AVIGDOR MILLER ZT”L

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TABLE #2
at the **Brighton Beach Jubilee**
Corner of Coney Island Ave. and
Brighton Beach Ave.
Sunday, August 25
10 am - 5 pm

Bogus Purim Service Broken Up

Reprinted from the Jewish Press • Friday, March 20, 1987

A group of missionaries in Brighton Beach who rented Public School 225 on the premise they were holding a social, attempted to hold a bogus “Purim Megilla” reading. The missionaries widely advertised their program in Russian as well as English throughout the Manhattan Beach and Brighton Beach area in an effort to entice young people to their service. However, when the real purpose of the “service” was discovered, groups from Boro Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Monsey descended on the area to help the staff of the Beth Shifra Institutions break up the rally. Since many of the protesters missed the Megilla reading, the staff of Beth Shifra held to Megilla readings, so those who were instrumental in breaking up the rally could observe the Mitzva properly. The Beth Shifra rally, held at the Jewish Center of Ocean Parkway, was termed a huge success by the children and parents who attended. There was a live band and a puppet show to entertain the children.

Tzedaka Donations: : Beth Shifra P.O. Box 700 Bklyn, NY 11229 (718) 449- 1397

U.S. News.

Jewish Man Shot Outside Florida Synagogue 'Making Progress,' Police Investigate Incident

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN/ JNS.org

A driver passing by the Young Israel of Greater Miami around 6:30 p.m. on Sunday night fired six shots at Yosef Lifshutz, 68, with four of them striking him the leg. A volunteer of Hatzalah, the non-profit emergency medical service organization, was reportedly at the synagogue and helped the victim. Lifshutz was taken to Aventura Hospital and Medical Center, where he underwent surgery.

Damon Salzman, president of Young Israel of Greater Miami, told JNS that the victim remains in the ICU under police guard.

"I'm told that the victim remains in the ICU and that the injuries were impressive. He is under police guard, and that the public is not allowed to see him," he said.

Salzman also suggested that the incident was likely a hate crime.

"Having personally reviewed the security tapes there is nothing to suggest that this was not a hate crime."

Farley Weiss, a representative from the National Council of Young Israel, told JNS that Lifshutz remains in the hospital and is "making good progress." His brother is with him.

"There clearly is a major concern that the shooting of this shul-goer at the Young Israel of Greater Miami is a hate crime," said Weiss. "It's taken very seriously by the Young Israel of Greater Miami and National Council of Young Israel, and by the Jewish community as a whole. We hope that the person or persons who did this will be apprehended very quickly because clearly there's heightened tensions until that happens, and that we can come up with a better system to help prevent these types of shootings. Prayers are going out for him."

"The investigation has to run its course, but anytime that someone is shot sitting outside a synagogue, it's going to create fear in the Jewish community," synagogue member Yehuda Kaploun told Florida's Local 10 News.

The motive for the shooting remains unclear.

Miami-Dade Police Department detective Alvaro Zabaleta told news outlets the attacker got out of a black Chevrolet Impala and opened fire. Detective Angel Rodriguez told JNS it is too early in the investigation to determine whether the shooting was a hate crime, though the police department is investigating.

'An important member of our congregation'

Friends and congregants at Lifshutz's synagogue reacted to the shooting at the synagogue, saying that he was an important member of the community.

They said Lifshutz was sitting on a bench outside the synagogue, waiting to escort the elderly Rabbi David Lehrfield in for afternoon prayer services when he was shot. The rabbi of the synagogue described Lifshutz to Miami's WSVN news station saying, "He's a wonderful person. Everybody loves him."

Congregant Koby Litowich, a board member of the synagogue who saw the shooting took place, called the incident "scary [and] terrifying" and said that Lifshutz "helps out on a regular basis. He volunteers. He helps the rabbi. He's an important member of our congregation."

Jewish organizations reacted quickly to the shooting, which comes at a time of heightened concern regarding antisemitism and safety at synagogues following the deadly attacks in Pittsburgh and Poway.

Sara Gold Rafel, executive director of the southeast division of StandWithUs, told JNS, "StandWithUs is horrified by this shooting, and our thoughts are with Yosef Lifshutz and his family as we wish for his speedy recovery. We hope the authorities are able to apprehend the perpetrator as soon as possible, and determine whether or not this was yet another hate crime targeting Jews at a synagogue."

Yaakov Hagoel, vice chairman of the Jewish Agency, said, "I call upon the US authorities to put an end to the wave of antisemitic terrorist attacks that are being perpetrated against Jews in the United States. It's time for Jews to be able to live their lives like any other citizen."

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, said that "we are saddened but cannot be surprised any more when a Jewish person is shot in front of a synagogue this time in Miami. We pray for his recovery as we intensify our efforts to keep our entire Jewish community safe."

The incident comes almost five years to the exact day after Rabbi Joseph Raksin of Brooklyn, NY, was killed as he walked to the Bais Menachem Chabad synagogue in Miami Beach, just two blocks from the Young Israel.

'Help prevent future crimes'

Damon Salzman, president of Young Israel of Greater Miami, posted a message on the synagogue's Facebook page in which he called the shooter a "bully."

He wrote, "It does not take a criminal mastermind to shoot an elderly person sitting on a bench. It does not take a terrorist to try and kill someone isolated and defenseless. It takes a coward. It takes someone without courage to attack an elderly defenseless man sitting in front of a place of sanctuary. It takes someone devoid of humanity to perform such a disgusting and repulsive action."

"Now is the time to act as a hero... A hero is someone who does what is required especially when it is neither the easiest, nor the most enjoyable, nor the most popular thing to do."

"Our first course of action is to take care of the man who was shot," he added. "Our

second course of action is to have cool heads. Not to react like we would first want—with righteous indignation and suspicion and perhaps violence. Rather, to pursue a stronger collaboration between the leaders of our community, our synagogues and schools, and the local law enforcement not only to bring this villain to justice, but to help prevent future crimes as well."

He concluded by saying that the well-respected security agency Community Security Organization has assembled a program to help train members and coordinate security among Jewish institutions.

Salzman said, "This endeavor can only work if every organization is invested in its success. We can work together to try and prevent another senseless tragedy. Together as a neighborhood, as a community, we can be stronger."

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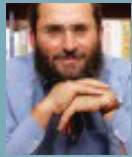
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Opinion.

The Unfair Criticism of Ambassador Ron Dermer



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

I know and like Yair Lapid, even as our politics diverge in substantial ways. He is an engaging and direct man who has honored his father's legacy as a Holocaust survivor by ably serving the state of Israel.

But I was shocked by Lapid's inaccurate comments about Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer, perhaps the most consequential and eloquent diplomat Israel has ever sent to the American capital.

Lapid wrote, "I strongly oppose the extension of Dermer's appointment as the Ambassador to the United States by a transitional government. Dermer is not really an ambassador, he is [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's political emissary ... there hasn't been an ambassador who has caused more damage to Israeli-American relations."

In truth, Ambassador Dermer has emerged as highly respected in all diplomatic circles, and revered at all levels of the Trump administration. To American audiences, he is an Israeli rock star to whom people flock in their thousands just to hear.

I have known Ron since we were boys growing up together in Miami Beach, Florida. But it was when I served as rabbi at Oxford University, where Ron served as my student

president, that I got the full measure of the man. The Oxford L'Chaim Society, the university's second largest student organization, flourished under Ron's charismatic presidency like never before. At Oxford he debated and eviscerated Israel's adversaries, even as he befriended the scions of leading Arab families who loved and respected him. He was a loyal and devoted friend to all in his circle. He has forever remained so. After graduating from Oxford, he chose to move to Israel and cast his lot with the Israeli people amid limitless opportunity in the United States. He quickly rose to become senior adviser to the prime minister of Israel by virtue of his knowledge, sterling character, and exceptional wisdom.

I have learned that there are two kinds of leaders: those who will do everything to remain personally relevant, and those who will risk all for the welfare of their people. Ron cares little for personal viability and is bereft of vanity. His every waking moment is focused on the safety of Israel.

Lapid seems upset that Ron took on President Obama at the time of the Iran nuclear agreement. But what did he expect of Israel's ambassador? To remain silent as Iran threatened to annihilate the Jewish people, even as they were rewarded with \$150 billion in unfrozen assets for doing so?

Obama and John Kerry's deal threatened America and America's foremost ally in the Middle East, and bolstered dictators like Ayatollah Khamenei and his client, Syria's Bashar al-Assad, himself guilty of the murder

of hundreds of thousands of innocent Arabs. In Obama's deal, Iran agreed to wait just ten years before being able to cultivate the ingredients for a nuclear bomb. Worse, they instantly received \$150 billion dollars in global assets — the equivalent, as Dermer recently pointed out, of the United States' economy getting an \$8 trillion windfall — and the international legitimacy to both accept lucrative investments and sell oil with impunity.

To the extent that Israel helped frame the dangers of the deal with Iran, few deserve credit as much as Ambassador Dermer. Considering Trump's recent departure from the agreement, it seems Dermer did so effectively enough. But in the calm after the storm, one cannot forget just how rough the seas were for Dermer at the time.

In his tireless campaign to lobby members of Congress to push for a better deal with Iran, Ambassador Dermer met with more than two dozen Congressional leaders, authored brilliantly lucid columns, and addressed dozens of political leadership groups and action committees on both sides of the aisle. Whether on TV or at the lectern, Ron clarified the perils that faced both Israel and the United States with facts, insight, eloquence, and passion. But his finest moment by far was the central role he played in Prime Minister Netanyahu's address to a joint session of Congress to oppose the catastrophic deal.

Dermer would face torrential criticism from the left for what they considered a snub



Benny Gantz, head of Resilience party and Yair Lapid, head of Yesh Atid, Moshe Yaalon and Gabi Ashkenazi react at the end of a news conference to announce the formation of their joint party, following an alliance between their parties, in Tel Aviv, Israel February 21, 2019. Photo: REUTERS/Amir Cohen.

of the American president. One former deputy chief of mission at the American embassy in Tel Aviv even said the speech episode rendered Mr. Dermer "damaged goods," and "practically persona non grata among senior policy makers" in the United States government. Despite the harshness and scope of the criticism, Ron never backed down. President Trump's removal of the United States from the disastrous JCPOA has provided the ambassador historic validation. Today, Ron is revered in the American pro-Israel community, particularly among American Christians, for his unparalleled courage.

Israel would be making a catastrophic error were he to be replaced. And Yair Lapid, who loves Israel with all his heart, should hear the thunderous applause at a Ron Dermer speech before he repeats the mistake of attempting to deny Israel its most eloquent spokesperson in the US.

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

Russia Is Outmaneuvering Trump, and Using the Middle East to Benefit Its Power



SHAY ATTIAS
JERUSALEM

For some time now, Russia has been striving to establish itself as the Middle East's pre-eminent external great power. Through its military involvement in the Syrian conflict and deep partnership with Iran against the US, its relations with neighboring countries have gathered new momentum.

In 2019, the Taliban and Russia gathered together and called for the withdrawal of US coalition forces from Afghanistan. Meetings were held in Moscow after the failure of direct negotiations between the US and the Taliban. They were organized not by official Russian diplomats, but by an organization called The Afghan Diaspora in Russia. This event, while unofficial, involved both the Afghan diaspora and Afghan citizens and was thus a significant expression of Russian soft power within the region (although, when asked about Putin's involvement, one of the organizers said Russian diplomats had "provided only technical support"). The event included repre-

sentatives of all the Taliban and Afghanistan's major politicians, including the country's most powerful leaders, and is considered to have been a success.

If the occurrence of this event itself was not enough to demonstrate the decline in Washington's regional leadership, the Taliban attacked American targets while it was going on. For all intents and purposes, Russia, not the US, is now perceived as the "sheriff" to turn to regarding Afghanistan's efforts to build a future.

The US dethronement of the Taliban in 2001 for sheltering al-Qaeda seems very far away. Today, the Taliban is an almost entirely legitimate "diplomatic actor" controlling over half the country while causing heavy casualties to US-led coalition and Afghan armed forces. According to Russia's foreign minister, "Russia is convinced that the conflict in Afghanistan has no military solution. The only possible way to achieve peace is through diplomatic means."

Moscow's current engagement with the Taliban, Syria, Iran, and Israel is a genuine grand strategy. While this strategy is not strictly in the mold of Joseph Nye's concept of peaceful soft power, Russia has been developing a new diplomatic soft power prototype, and with some success.

Moscow has never managed to regain the level of influence it enjoyed prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Putin is doing his best to change this, largely through soft power. The number of public diplomacy projects to promote Russia's global image in politics, sport, culture, economy, and science has dramatically increased. At the same time, the decrease in the US's standing in the Middle East works to enhance Russia's position as a regional peace broker. Putin has put Russia in a preeminent regional position through the classical hard power tool of fighting in Syria while simultaneously talking "peace" with the Taliban, who are still killing Americans.

This is not a random success. As early as 2012, Putin was already openly discussing "Russia and the changing world." According to his definition, Russian soft power can be understood as providing an opposition to the country's negatives. He was very clear about Moscow's soft power goals:

Russia has a chance not only to preserve its culture, but to use it as a powerful force for progress in international markets. The Russian language is spoken in nearly all the former Soviet republics and in a significant part of Eastern Europe. This is not about empire, but rather cultural progress. Exporting education and culture will help promote Russian goods, services, and ideas; guns and imposing political regimes will not.

We must work to expand Russia's educational and cultural presence in the world, especially in those countries where a substantial part of the population speaks or



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. Photo: Kremlin.ru

understands Russian.

The diplomatic efforts toward the Taliban are just one example of the Russian attempt to turn itself into a modern soft-superpower. Russia has also built up the international media channel RT, formerly known as *Russia Today*. RT is working hard on its Arabic service — *RT Arabic* is one of the largest TV networks in the region (along with *Al Jazeera*). Labeled "Putin propaganda" by the US, RT is doing a great job at pushing the Russian perspective in region. Numbers don't lie, and *RT Arabic* has 6.3 million monthly users in six Arabic-speaking countries: Egypt, Morocco, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Jordan.

Another impressive effort was the establishment of the Russian diaspora agency Rossotrudnichestvo Federal Agency (the Russian version of the US Agency for International Development). It operates Russian Centers for Science and Culture (RCSC) in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and the Palestinian areas.

Russia's aspiration to become a regional "super soft-power broker" is coming to fruition.

Continued on Page A10

Opinion.

Getting Human Rights Right at the State Department

CLIFFORD D. MAY/
JNS.org

At the US State Department, human rights have generally been a not-so-high priority. The big kahunas tend to focus on war and peace, allies and adversaries, national security, and global economics.

So it came as something of a surprise when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently launched a bipartisan Commission on Unalienable Rights. Its task, Pompeo wrote in *The Wall Street Journal*, “isn’t to discover new principles but to ground our discussion of human rights in America’s founding principles.”

Commission members “will address basic questions: What are our fundamental freedoms? Why do we have them? Who or what grants these rights? How do we know if a claim of human rights is true? What happens when rights conflict? Should certain categories of rights be inextricably ‘linked’ to other rights?”

Good questions and a praiseworthy initiative, yes? Not to members of the human rights establishment and their tribunes.

The New Yorker took the lead, with two of its writers attacking Pompeo and the new commission. Robin Wright’s piece was titled “The Unbelievable Hypocrisy of Trump’s New ‘Unalienable Rights’ Panel.”

Serra Sippel, president of the Center for Health and Gender Equity, tells Wright what time it is: “It’s time to call the Commission on Unalienable Rights what it really is: a thinly veiled religious fundamentalist panel that aims to cut back the human rights of people all over the world.” (Did I mention that the panel was launched less than two weeks ago?)

Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, says: “We don’t need a commission to figure out that the Trump administration will have little credibility promoting human rights so long as the President continues to embrace autocrats.” Wright neglects to mention that last week on Twitter, Roth praised Mohammad Javad Zarif, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

New Yorker staff writer Masha Gessen observes that Pompeo, a West Point graduate who previously served as a member of Congress and CIA director, “was, for many years, a Sunday school teacher and a church deacon.” Ouch!

Mark Bromley, chair of “an LGBT foreign policy advocacy group,” tells Gessen that he “fears the State Department is about to create a hierarchy of human rights and will place religious freedom at the top of the pyramid.” He adds: “It’s pretty scary.”

Let me attempt to explain what’s going on here, drawing on the two years I served as a commissioner on the bipartisan US Commission on Religious Freedom.

ForB, for Freedom of Religion or Belief, is not at the top of the human-rights pyramid. It’s at the bottom. To believe or disbelieve is the most foundational right. Until regimes stop punishing “thought crimes,” there is zero chance they will progress to such rights as freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The development of human rights has to start somewhere, and ForB is the logical place.

The New Yorker writers are smart enough to grasp this, but don’t want anyone detouring, however briefly, from the priorities



US State Department Truman Building. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

of the human rights establishment, in particular abortion rights, LGBT rights, and migrant rights.

Gessen writes: “A troubling word in Pompeo’s speech was ‘citizen.’ Did the secretary of state mean that only the rights of citizens are inalienable?”

Of course, that’s exactly the kind of question this commission should contemplate. But I’ll take a stab at it.

America’s founders believed that “unalienable” rights were “endowed” by the “Creator.” They were acutely aware that rulers could deprive citizens of these rights. They deemed such rulers illegitimate. They understood that only in a democratic society could rights be guaranteed.

That was to be accomplished by limiting state power. Re-read the Bill of Rights. Each amendment imposes restrictions on the government: “Congress shall make no law.” The right to bear arms “shall not be infringed.” Law officers may not conduct “unreasonable searches and seizures.”

Also significant: The founders believed in individual rights. Later, Marxist-Leninists decreed that one’s rights should be determined by one’s economic class.

Similarly, today’s social Marxists champion “identity rights.” They insist that groups they perceive as qualifying for victim status deserve enhanced rights — to be endowed by the state — while the rights granted to groups they regard as “privileged” are to be limited.

Social justice warriors have developed the habit of asserting that a right is whatever they demand and insist the state provide. I think that’s conceptually flawed. A right is something everyone can have starting this minute because, as Jamie Kirchick observed in Commentary last year, “there is no scarcity of freedom that we must apportion in a judicious manner. There can never be a valid reason to ‘cut’ one’s natural rights.”

By contrast, health care, a “living wage,” college tuition at no cost to students, and “affordable housing” require resources. To provide them, the state must appropriate labor or property from some citizens to give to other citizens (or non-citizens). This suggests that these are not “natural” or “unalienable” rights. What are they instead? Taxpayer-provided benefits, social goods, or welfare-state entitlements — a different kettle of fish.

To head the commission, Pompeo named Mary Ann Glendon, a Harvard professor, former US ambassador to the Vatican, and author of a book on Eleanor Roosevelt’s impact on human rights. She said the panel would attempt to provide clarity at a time when “basic human rights are being misunderstood by many, manipulated by many, and ignored by the world’s worst human rights violators.”

A worthy mission, no? Not to the members of the human rights establishment and their tribunes.

Clifford D. May is president of the *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*. This article first appeared in *Israel Hayom*.

An Iranian Lie Unfolds in the Spanish Media



BEN COHEN
/JNS.org

Amid the profusion of commentary about the hostile attitudes towards the Jewish community found on certain parts of the American political left along with the British Labour Party, there was a useful piece of research on the same topic from a pro-Israel advocacy group in Spain that is worth taking note of.

In a report issued last week, ACOM, a pro-Israel advocacy group based in Madrid, laid bare the anatomy of a very ugly conspiracy theory that has been spreading in the media and in online exchanges — one that contains all the usual tropes about sinister, unaccountable Jewish power, and yet one that has become a rallying cry for a significant element of the Spanish left.

Just as the Al-Qaeda atrocities of Sept. 11, 2001 gave rise to the “truther” movement with its various “Mossad false flag” allegations, so has the attack in Barcelona of Aug. 17, 2017, in which 13 people were killed and more than 100 wounded when a truck driven by an Islamist terrorist rammed into pedestrians congregating along the city’s much-loved La Rambla boulevard. A few hours after that massacre, one woman was stabbed to death and six other people were wounded in knife attacks carried out by a group of Islamists in the nearby town of Cambrils. Both these attacks took place in the midst of the campaign to secure the independence of Catalonia, the region of Spain where Barcelona is located, in a referendum that took place on Oct. 1 the same year.

According to the ACOM report, the left-wing Catalan newspaper *Público* is now pushing a distinctly revisionist account of these events through a series of four reports it published earlier this month. As ACOM pointed out — and as is so often the case with conspiracy theories — despite being billed as an “exclusive,” most of the claims the series contained had already been passed around the Internet two years ago and largely faded.

In essence, the conspiracy theory holds that the Spanish security services, eager to overrule their Catalan subordinates, colluded with the Islamist terrorist cell that planned the attacks, and that the Mossad, Israel’s intelligence service, executed the attack on the Rambla by remotely controlling the truck from an operational base thousands of miles away in Richmond, Virginia. The Mossad, of course, has been accused by conspiracy-mongers of doing much the same in Islamist terror attacks in Paris, Cairo, Mumbai, Damascus, and all points in between; the destinations may change, but the template is basically the same.

Again, as with most conspiracy theories, the Catalonia one is camouflaged by plausible questions, in this case concerning the exact relationship between the CNI, Spain’s national intelligence service, and Abdelbaki Es Satty, a Moroccan imam who led the cell behind the attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils. The night before those attacks, Es Satty, an individual whose Islamist connections stretched back more than a decade, was accidentally killed in the coastal town of Alcanar by explosives that he evidently mishandled.

While these threads and more would present a genuine investigative journalist with an enormous range of questions to probe, for conspiracy theorists any ambiguities are a propaganda gift, enabling the spread of the

most outlandish conclusions irrespective of actual evidence.

In the example studied by ACOM — the four-part series in *Público* — the writer in question, Carlos Enrique Bayo, is already a known purveyor of baseless conspiracy theories. One week after the Catalonia attacks, Bayo published a breathless “exclusive” claiming that a private intelligence company fronting for the CIA had been in contact with the Islamist cell in Catalonia in the days leading up to the terrorist attacks. The “note” he based his report on was later exposed as a fabrication, replete with the basic spelling mistakes that gave it away.

As the old English proverb has it that there are none so blind as those who will not see, the reason Bayo fell for such a poorly executed hoax is that he had already arrived at his conclusions. Bayo, you see, believes that the true engineers of global suffering — “Goldman Sachs and the Wall Street banks” — are in “the hands of the Jews.” And he said exactly that in a panel discussion broadcast on *HispanTV*, an Iranian regime broadcaster that does for Spanish-speaking audiences what the Tehran-funded Holocaust deniers of *PressTV* do for English-speaking ones.

In the *Público* series, Bayo introduced a related theme, alleging that the Mossad was the ultimate author of the Catalonia attacks. The ACOM report highlights that this conclusion conveniently (rather too conveniently for any objective observer) dovetails with the pro-Iranian, pro-Catalan separatist political positions that Bayo pushes in the Catalan media.

Nowhere was that more evident than in the social-media posts that trumpeted Bayo’s series. “The Mossad exploded the chalet in Alcanar, and not to do us a favor, but because it is not good for their interests that the pseudo-Islamic terrorism appears more powerful than it is thanks to the Francoist regime” (i.e. the democratically elected government in Madrid), barked one typical commentary alongside the appropriate links.

The most interesting part of the ACOM report focuses on the dissemination of Bayo’s conspiracy theory, particularly by the leadership of Podemos — a far-left political party that has enjoyed some success in elections and is presently dueling with Spain’s acting prime minister, Pedro Sanchez, as the possibility of a new election looms.

Among those presenting Bayo’s conclusions as the revelations of truth before the stony face of power was Pablo Iglesias, one of the founders of Podemos and the party’s secretary-general. Just as *PressTV* has used British left-wingers like George Galloway and Jeremy Corbyn as presenters, *HispanTV* does the same with Iglesias, who hosts two political talk shows on the channel, including the one in which Bayo, unchallenged, made his comments about Jewish bankers controlling the reins of global finance.

Though the ACOM report doesn’t note the irony, the core elements of this story can be traced back not to some windowless operations room in Tel Aviv (or Virginia), but to Tehran. For nearly a decade, Iran has pushed the falsehood that ISIS and other Sunni Islamist death squads are a “Zionist” creation intended to deliberately create havoc in the Muslim world. Thanks to ACOM, we now have a much clearer sense of how this lie has been adapted to fit the Spanish context.

Ben Cohen is a New York City-based journalist and author who writes a weekly column on Jewish and international affairs for JNS.

Impressions.

Remembering and Clarifying the Murder of Leon Klinghoffer

BY ALAN ZEITLIN

Former New York Times and Wall Street Journal reporter Julie Salamon is the author of *An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer*.

Klinghoffer, a 69-year-old American Jew who was disabled and in a wheelchair, was shot twice by Magid al Molqi, one of four Palestinian terrorists who hijacked the Achille Lauro, the cruise ship that Klinghoffer was traveling on with his wife in 1985. His body was then thrown overboard.

In her riveting book, Salamon gives the perspective of many of the key players, including one of the terrorists, and the wife of Alex Odeh, a Palestinian American whose wife was killed in his California office — possibly as a form of retribution for Klinghoffer's murder. In a phone interview, she spoke about some of the complexities of her book.

Q: What was the most surprising thing you learned in your research?

A: The story we always knew was very simple. Four terrorists boarded the ship, killed Leon Klinghoffer, threw his body overboard, and end of story. The whole geopolitical complications of it were amazing. The negotiations between Italy and all of the players was fascinating. The surprising thing was that there was this idea that Leon Klinghoffer was killed because he was Jewish. He was killed because he was an American. ... But it was interesting how we are told things, but when we go deep into the facts, things were different.

Q: You write that Bibi Netanyahu and others politicized the murder, and said Klinghoffer was killed because he was a Jew, and you write there was no evidence to support that. Is it possible that the terrorist who killed him asked him if he was a Jew, and he said yes?

A: I would say it would have been almost impossible since Molqi, the guy who killed him, didn't speak English — and Leon Klinghoffer didn't speak Arabic, and could barely talk. It's pretty unlikely.

Q: In terms of getting the guns on the ship, security didn't check any bags?

A: They didn't check any bags at all. There was no security at all. Zero.

Q: What's one detail you wanted to have that you didn't get?

A: I would have been interested in talking to Molqi. He vanished. I felt very lucky to even be able to speak to one of the hijackers, Bassam al-Askar. He [Molqi] ultimately is the murkiest. Why did he kill Klinghoffer? I would want to know why he killed him, and did he have any regrets for it.

Q: As you say, you did interview one of the terrorists. What do you say to those who argue that journalists shouldn't do this because it gives terrorists a platform?

A: I don't subscribe to that. Interviewing is one thing. Now we live in a more media savvy and horrific era of terrorism since 9/11. There are people cutting people's heads off in front of TV cameras. Obviously, that is something I think shouldn't be shown. But to talk to someone and see what are their motives? I think it's a useful conversation. When Hitler was rising to power, journalists were talking to Hitler and he was saying exactly

what he was gonna do. Nobody paid attention. To say you don't talk to a terrorist or the enemy or however you want to describe them seems close-minded to me. I know NBC came under attack for interviewing Abu-al Abbas, but I thought having that interview was very instructive.

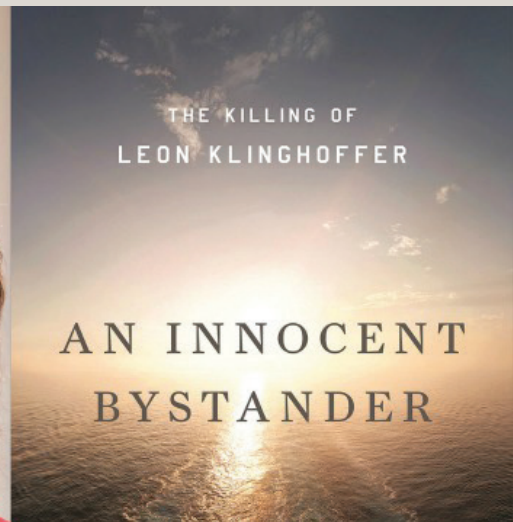
Q: When you interviewed the terrorist, why did he want to be interviewed?

A: He's a very smart guy. I think he genuinely believes in his cause. He genuinely has this yearning fostered in him from the time he was a

kind of thing. I'm sure if you ask whoever edited that piece, do you wish they hadn't done that, I'm sure they'd say yeah.

Q: You describe in great detail how President Reagan ordered US pilots to follow and force down the plane with the terrorists on it. Do you think former President Jimmy Carter would have done the same thing?

A: The interesting thing about Reagan sending the planes up is it was probably an ill-conceived, and possibly an illegal, idea that worked. In the



The book cover and author of "An Innocent Bystander," a book about the murder of Leon Klinghoffer. Photo: provided.

baby to return to the homeland. I said to him, "Why are you willing to be interviewed?" He said, "I have nothing to hide." He did not support the killing of Leon Klinghoffer. He was ashamed of it. This was not what he had signed up for, to kill an older man in a wheelchair who was disabled.

Q: You think he was sincere?

A: I do. He was not with the terrorist who killed Klinghoffer, and the captain's book corroborates that. You don't have to be a genius to know this wasn't gonna look good for their cause.

Q: Alex Odeh's killers were never brought to justice, though it was believed that members of the Jewish Defense League may have been responsible. Do you think there was a purposeful lack of effort to find his killers?

A: Obviously they never found who the killers were. They were zeroing in on this guy Manning who escaped to Israel and ended up getting jailed there for something else. At that point, there was not much effort to get him extradited. The feeling was it was someone else's problem. There was a lot of hot potato going on.

Q: A news piece on Odeh on TV was edited and made him look harsher [in his anti-Israel position] than he was. Do you think if his killer would have seen a softer version, it would have made a difference?

A: From the point of view of Alex Odeh's survivors, it's one of those things that would haunt you, you know, would it have made a difference? It made him seem more hawkish. I think it's a possibility for sure. Any time you strip out the context ... to be fair to the news station, everyone has done it. In those days, people were much less worried about that

end, you could say justice was served because the hijackers underwent a court proceeding, not in the United States but in Italy, which you could argue was the correct jurisdiction. The real question is would Carter have ordered the various countries not to let the Achille Lauro land. The irony is, had Syria not been told by the US, "don't let the boat land there," they would have landed there. The hijackers would have gotten away, but nobody would have been killed. These are hypotheticals, but it's interesting how politicians make decision that follow their normal tendencies. Reagan's advisers took a militaristic stance that Carter might not have taken.

Q: What do you hope people take away from your book?

A: It's important for people to know [that] terrorism didn't start with 9/11, and certainly the situation in Israel didn't start yesterday. It's amazing how many people know so little about the history. I think just to understand where we are today with all of these conflicts, just to understand it's part of a long game is one thing. ...

I'm not so arrogant and I don't have such a big ego to think that my book is going to change the minds of people whose minds are fixed on this issue, but I think it's sad there's almost no discussion of Israelis and Palestinians talking to each other. I don't lay the blame at the feet of Israelis or Palestinians only. It's a two-way street. But certainly the rise of Hamas has not helped. Certainly the rise of fundamentalists in Israel has not helped. If this book would just move the needle a little bit, that would be amazing. But who knows?

Legal Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: KYLE,CIO,LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 02/08/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Kyle Naff 400 E 21 Street Apartment 4C Brooklyn, NY 11226. Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 6/28; 7/5/12/19/26; 8/2

Notice of Formation of Milton Management Team LLC. Articles of Org. filed with SSNY on the 06/19/2019. Office location is Kings Co. Milton Management Team LLC is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall be sent to Milton Management Team LLC 2400 E Cesar Chavez Street Ste 208, Austin, TX 78702. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

AJ; 6/28; 7/5/12/19/26; 8/2

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: 432 HENRY ST, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 2, 2019. Office Location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 175 Van Dyke Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: to engage in any and all business for which LLCs may be formed under the New York LLC law.

AJ; 7/5/12/19/26; 8/2/9

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST SERIES 2006-3, Plaintiff AGAINST CLAUDE T. BOSTON, SONIA A. RILEY, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 16, 2019, 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 August 15, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1156 EAST 82ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK 8047, LOT 71. Approximate amount of judgment \$407,353.26 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 512003/2014. LEONARD C. SPECTOR, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 64177

AJ; 7/12/19/26; 8/2

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, N. A., Plaintiff AGAINST Araina R. Carino, Individually and as Co-Administratrix of the Estate of Raymond Garvey; Raymond J. Garvey a/k/a Raymond J. Garvey, Jr, Individually and as Co-Administrator of the Estate of Raymond Garvey; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated

LEGAL NOTICE

February 14, 2019 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on August 15, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2154 East 38th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8537 Lot 67. Approximate amount of judgment \$325,116.80 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 510688/2016. Jeffrey Dinowitz, Esq, Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: June 24, 2019 64163

AJ; 7/12/19/26; 8/2

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings CitiMortgage, Inc. sbm ABN AMRO Mortgage Group, Inc., Plaintiff AGAINST Carmelle Telemaque, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 10/10/2018 and entered on 10/22/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on August 15, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 1220 East 102nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 8266, LOT: 54. Approximate amount of judgment is \$385,921.01 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 508306/2013. Randolph Jackson, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

AJ; 7/12/19/26; 8/2

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff -against- JAAKOV WINKLER, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated May 16, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on August 15, 2019 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 Southerly side of 52nd Street, distant 360 feet 6 inches Westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Southerly side of 52nd Street with the Westerly side of 20th Avenue; being a plot 100 feet 2 inches by 18 feet 3 inches by 100 feet 2 inches by 18 feet 3 inches. Block 5475 and Lot 23. Said premises known as 1940 52ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$554,292.43 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 19421/2013. M. RANDOLPH JACKSON, ESQ., Referee David A. Gallo & Associates LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 99 Powerhouse Road, First Floor, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 File# 9026.01

AJ; 7/12/19/26; 8/2

LEGAL NOTICE

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR OPTION ONE MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2007-FXD1 ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-FXD1, Plaintiff - against - CHRISTOPHER BRANDON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 4, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, in room 261, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York on the 15th Day of August, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. 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. Premises known as 1091 Ralph Avenue, Brooklyn, (City of New York) NY 11236. (Block: 4746, Lot: 29) Approximate amount of lien \$244,005.33 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 508192/2014. Leonard Spector, Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY 14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 Dated: July 2, 2019

AJ; 7/12/19/26; 8/2

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Credit Suisse First Boston 2006-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Shira Frank, Avraham Frank, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 4/26/2017 and entered on 5/11/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on August 22, 2019 at 02:30 PM premises known as 799 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11230. 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: 6496, LOT: 53. Approximate amount of judgment is \$573,284.05 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 3261/2009. Jeffrey R. Miller, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: HEALTHY TEXTURES HAIR CLINIC LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/28/2019. Office of location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC 869 Albany Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of a limited liability company(LLC) Name: ZAHN STUDIOS LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 05/01/2019. Office of location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to ZAHN studios LLC 97 Diamond St.#2R Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: All lawful activity

AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: JEFFERSON

LEGAL NOTICE

BLVDMRLLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 12/04/2018. Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: LLC 132 Jefferson Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10312 purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 7/19/26; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SIMO INTERIORS LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 04/08/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it maybe Served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Simo Interiors LLC 4 Downing St. #1A Brooklyn, NY 11238. purpose: all lawful activity.

AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

Notice of formation of Limited Liability Company (LLC) Name: PIXEL CHURCH LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on :06/28/2019. Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall Mail copy of the process to: Steve Cox 1746 E. 13th Street APT 1E Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: all lawful activity

AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff -against- RIFKA GRUNBAUM, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated May 14, 2018, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on September 5, 2019 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 southerly side of Beach 46th Street, distant 320 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the southerly side of Beach 46th Street with the westerly side of Surf Avenue; being a plot 112.43 feet by 127.16 feet by 121.88 feet by 138 feet. Block: 7038 Lot: 61. Said premises known as 4601 BEACH 46TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$1,404,855.36 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Index Number 21292/2013. PHILIP L. KAMARAS, ESQ., Referee David A. Gallo & Associates LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 99 Powerhouse Road, First Floor, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 File# 5025.2122

AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, Trustee of the SRP 2013-9 Funding Trust, Plaintiff AGAINST Jason Dorset a/k/a Jason H. Dorset; Louisa Dorset; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 25, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn,

LEGAL NOTICE

NY 11201 on September 5, 2019 at 2:30PM, premises known as 374 East 96th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212. 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 4670 Lot 156. Approximate amount of judgment \$206,897.96 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 502684/2015. Jeffrey R Miller, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: July 29, 2019 64743

AJ; 8/2/9/16/23

Continued from Page A2 Tour

7. **Rawabi**, just up the street from Ramallah. No Jews are allowed into this fabulously wealthy Arab enclave just outside of Ramallah. But the beautiful mall, gracious apartments, clean streets, and uninterrupted electricity, gas, and water show just how bitter the oppression wrought upon Arabs by their Jewish neighbors really is. Of course, residence in Rawabi is available only for those people approved, one at a time, by the Palestinian Authority, just as access to well-stocked stores is available in Havana only to members of the ruling party. Oppression of Arabs in all the towns that don't have the advantages available in Rawabi? Yes, indeed. By Jews? Not so much (as in not at all).

After they've completed this short itinerary, Taib and Omar should then go on their way to whatever Potemkin villages of oppression, unemployment, and misery their Arab hosts will have prepared for them. By all means, let Taib and Omar use these scenes as sets for the scripts they have no doubt already written in support of their well-known anti-Israel and antisemitic views. Surely, there will be quite a few "Benjamins" handed to these gentlewomen by wealthy supporters hoping to ensure a horrific public-relations' disaster for Israel.

But at least Israel will have footage of these women being confronted by the truth. Some day, to some people, that might make a difference.

If, as it seems likely, Taib and Omar refuse to see the facts on the ground that give the lie to their accusations, it would still be fun to have someone go with two empty chairs or seats in a tour bus, and take the trip that these women were invited to take, but were too afraid to go on. That fear of reality is itself a very important fact.

Lori Lowenthal Marcus writes about the Middle East for national and international media outlets. Jerome M. Marcus is a lawyer and a fellow at the Kohelet Policy Forum.

Tradition.

Priorities



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

The Israelites were almost within sight of the Promised Land. They had successfully waged their first battles. They had just won a victory over the Midianites. There is a new tone to the narrative. We no longer hear the querulous complaints that had been the bass note of so much of the wilderness years.



We know why. That undertone was the sound of the generation, born in slavery, that had left Egypt. By now, almost forty years have passed. The second generation, born in freedom and toughened by conditions in the desert, have a more purposeful feel about them. Battle-ried, they no longer doubt their ability, with God's help, to fight and win.

Yet it is at just this point that a problem arises, different in kind from those that had gone before. The people as a whole now have their attention focused on the destination: the land west of the river Jordan, the place that even the spies had confirmed to be "flowing with milk and honey" (Num. 13:27).

The members of the tribes of Reuben and Gad, though, begin to have different thoughts. Seeing that the land through which they were travelling was ideal for raising cattle, they decide that they would prefer to stay there, to the east of the Jordan, and propose this to Moses. Unsurprisingly, he is angry at the suggestion: "Moses said to the Gadites and Reubenites, 'Are your brothers to go to war while you stay here? Why would you discourage the Israelites from going over into the land the Lord has given them?'" (Num. 32:6-7). He reminds them of the disastrous consequences of the earlier discouragement on the part of the spies. The whole nation will suffer. This decision would shown not only that they are ambivalent about God's gift of the land but also that they have learned nothing from history.

The tribes do not argue with his claim. They accept its validity, but they point out that his concern is not incompatible with their objectives. They suggest a compromise:

Then they came up to him and said, "We would like to build sheepfolds for our flocks and towns for our children. But we will then arm ourselves and go as an advance guard before the Israelites until we have established them in their home. Meanwhile our children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants of the land.

We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has received his inheritance. We will not receive any inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan." (Num. 32:16-19)

We are willing, in other words, to join the rest of the Israelites in the battles that lie ahead. Not only this, but we are prepared to be the nation's advance guard, in the forefront of the battle. We are not afraid of combat, nor are we trying to evade our responsibilities to our people as a whole. It is simply that we wish to raise cattle, and for this, the land to the east of the Jordan is ideal. Warning them of the seriousness of their undertaking, Moses agrees. If they keep their word, they will be allowed to settle east of the Jordan. And so, indeed, it happened (Josh. 22:1-5).

That is the story on the surface. But as so often in the Torah, there are subtexts as well as texts. One in particular was noticed by the Sages, with their sensitivity to nuance and detail. Listen carefully to what the Reubenites and Gadites said: "Then they came up to him and said, 'We would like to build sheepfolds for our flocks and towns for our children.'" Moses replied: "Build towns for your children, and sheepfolds for your flocks, but do what you have promised" (Num. 32:24).

The ordering of the nouns is crucial. The men of Reuben and Gad put property before people: they spoke of their flocks first, their children second. Moses reversed

the order, putting special emphasis on the children. As Rashi notes:

They paid more regard to their property than to their sons and daughters, because they mentioned their cattle before the children. Moses said to them: "Not so. Make the main thing primary and the subordinate thing secondary. First build cities for your children, and only then, folds for your flocks." (Commentary to Num. 32:16)

A Midrash makes the same point by way of an ingenious interpretation of a verse in Ecclesiastes: "The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left" (Eccl. 10:2). The Midrash identifies "right" with Torah and life: "He brought the fire of a religion to them from his right hand" (Deut. 33:2). "Left," by contrast, refers to worldly goods:

Long life is in her right hand;

In her left hand are riches and honour. (Prov. 3:16)

Hence, infers the Midrash, the men of Reuben and Gad put "riches and honour" before faith and posterity. Moses hints to them that their priorities are wrong. The Midrash continues: "The Holy One, Blessed Be He, said to them: 'Seeing that you have shown greater love for your cattle than for human souls, by your life, there will be no blessing in it.'"

This turned out to be not a minor incident in the wilderness long ago, but rather, a consistent pattern throughout much of Jewish history. The fate of Jewish communities, for the most part, was determined by a single factor: their decision, or lack of decision, to put children and their education first. Already in the first century, Josephus was able to write: "The result of our thorough education in our laws, from the very dawn of intelligence, is that they are, as it were, engraved on our souls." The Rabbis ruled that "any town that lacks children at school is to be excommunicated" (Shabbat 119b). Already in the first century, the Jewish community in Israel had established a network of schools at which attendance was compulsory (Bava Batra 21a) – the first such system in history.

The pattern persisted throughout the Middle Ages. In twelfth-century France a Christian scholar noted: "A Jew, however poor, if he has ten sons, will put them all to letters, not for gain as the Christians do, but for the understanding of God's law – and not only his sons, but his daughters too."

In 1432, at the height of Christian persecution of Jews in Spain, a synod was convened at Valladolid to institute a system of taxation to fund Jewish education for all. In 1648, at the end of the Thirty Years' War, the first thing Jewish communities in Europe did to re-establish Jewish life was to re-organise the educational system. In their classic study of the shtetl, the small townships

of Eastern Europe, Zborowski and Herzog write this about the typical Jewish family:

The most important item in the family budget is the tuition fee that must be paid each term to the teacher of the younger boys' school. Parents will bend in the sky to educate their son. The mother, who has charge of household accounts, will cut the family food costs to the limit if necessary, in order to pay for her son's schooling. If the worst comes to the worst, she will pawn her cherished pearls in order to pay for the school term. The boy must study, the boy must become a good Jew – for her the two are synonymous.

In 1849, when Samson Raphael Hirsch became Rabbi in Frankfurt, he insisted that the community create a school before building a synagogue. After the Holocaust, the few surviving yeshiva heads and chassidic leaders concentrated on encouraging their followers to have children and build schools.

It is hard to think of any other

religion or civilisation that has so predicated its very existence on putting children and their education first. There have been Jewish communities in the past that were affluent and built magnificent synagogues – Alexandria in the first centuries of the Common Era is an example. Yet because they did not put children first, they contributed little to the Jewish story. They flourished briefly, then disappeared.

Moses' implied rebuke to the tribes of Reuben and Gad is not a minor historical detail but a fundamental statement of Jewish priorities. Property is secondary, children primary. Civilisations that value the young stay young. Those that invest in the future have a future. It is not what we own that gives us a share in eternity, but those to whom we give birth and the effort we make to ensure that they carry our faith and way of life into the next generation.

Shabbat Shalom

Continued from Page A2
BDS

answer the question in the headline. The *Times* waffles. In a section headed, "Is B.D.S. anti-Semitic?" the article reports, "Leaders of B.D.S. insist that it is not anti-Semitic... But many Israelis and American Jews say it is." That's not particularly helpful. In a different section, the *Times* article does eventually concede, "There is some overlap between support for B.D.S. and anti-Semitism." What a coincidence!

Another unsatisfactorily answered question in the *Times* article is, "Is there a link between the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and B.D.S.?" The *Times* reports,

Anti-Semitism has increased in Europe because of numerous factors, including globalization, populism, loss of national identity and the perceived oppression of Palestinians by Israel. A growing Muslim minority, mostly from North Africa, has viewed Israeli policies toward the Palestinians as anti-Muslim, leading many to support B.D.S.

This is actually so confused it approaches being funny – the *Times* blaming "loss of national identity" for anti-Semitism. In America, the *Times* blames nationalism for antisemitism, so it's a bit jarring, or at least confusing, for the *Times* to blame "loss of national identity" and "globalization" rather than "resurgent nationalism" for antisemitism. Should one oppose globalization on the grounds that it would reduce antisemitism? The *Times* has previously told us that using "globalist" as code for Jews is a sign of antisemitism, yet here the paper is earnestly explaining that globalization contributes to antisemitism. In addition, plenty of Europeans and Muslims had antisemitic attitudes well before any "Israeli policies," leading many Jews, including myself, to conclude that the antisemitism has nothing to do with "Israeli policies." The whole *Times* take on this question veers perilously close to blaming the Jews, rather than the antisem-

Continued from Page A6
Russia

Ranging from Kabul to Israel-Palestinian-controlled territories to Libya and the Gulf countries, it is no longer just the site of mega sports events like the Sochi Olympics and the FIFA World Cup.

If there is in fact a soft power battle between Russia and the US in the Middle East, most parameters suggest that Moscow has the momentum. Two recent regional polls show that young Arabs (aged 18-24) increasingly view Russia as an ally and the US as unreliable or worse. The percentage of young Arabs who see the US as an ally dropped from 63 percent in 2016 to 35 percent last year. Russia is increasingly regarded as the top non-Arab ally by young people in the Middle East, with 20 percent seeing it as the region's best friend outside the Middle East and North Africa.

If Trump still believes the US should be the world's sheriff, he will have to counter Putin's soft power push. Otherwise, Washington will find itself trailing Russia's diplomatic successes in the region.

Shay Attias was the founding head (2009-2013) of the Public Diplomacy Department at the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and is a doctoral candidate in international relations at Bar Ilan University, where he is a lecturer at the Communications School.

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

ites, for the antisemitism.

For an effort that seems designed to explain the issue to *Times* readers, the whole project amounts to a disappointment, offering lots of questions but few answers. When it comes to the underlying issues, it confuses more than clarifies. It does serve to clarify, though, that the *Times* is an unreliable guide on these topics.

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

Social.



Tuvia Ruebner in 2012. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Israeli Poet Tuvia Ruebner, 95, Dies at Kibbutz Home

BY JNS.org

Renowned and prolific Israeli poet Tuvia Ruebner died on Monday morning at the age of 95 at his home in Kibbutz Merchavia.

Ruebner was born as Kurt Erich in 1924 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. He grew up in a German-speaking Jewish family, and in 1941, at the age of 17, immigrated to British Mandate Palestine with the Zionist youth movement Hashomer Hatzair. He left behind his parents and only sister, who later died in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Ruebner settled in Kibbutz Merchavia and had a daughter, Miriam, with his first wife, Ada Klein, who was killed in a car accident in 1950. Three years later, he remarried pianist Galila Israeli, and they had two boys. Their youngest, Moran, disappeared in the 1980s during

a trip to Ecuador.

Ruebner wrote poems in both Hebrew and German. He also translated and edited other works, taught and lectured, and took photos.

He was awarded every major literary prize in Israel, including the Jerusalem Prize and the Israel Prime Minister's Prize for Literature twice. In 2008, he was awarded the coveted Israel Prize for Poetry. Ruebner also won several awards in Europe, including the Anne Frank Prize and the Adenauer Foundation Award.

His 17th book *Od Lo Od*, which translates to *Not Yet, No More*, was published this year; it was his third book in the past two years.

He recently agreed to have his personal archive stored in the Gnazim Archive of the Hebrew Writers Association in Israel. The transfer began on Monday, the day of his death, according to Haaretz.

Barbara Streisand Calls Antisemitism One of Most 'Vexing, Terrifying Issues of Our Times'

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Singer, actress and filmmaker Barbara Streisand called antisemitism undeniably one of the most "vexing, terrifying issues of our times" in an interview last week.

The 77-year-old, who is Jewish, told the *Chicago Tribune*, "As [a] person who is proud of my Jewish heritage, it's deeply concerning ... this anger and hatred has actually been here for 3,500 years. It just reveals itself in different ways through the millennia, but it's ever-present."

Streisand said Jews had "always been the scape-

goats, blamed for the ills of the world," adding, "I'm not articulate enough to enumerate the many ways antisemitism manifests itself or how to end it. It's interesting though, I have some friends with kids who are now tweens and teens. They're barely aware of the societal differences between them — they don't see, or at least they don't differentiate, between Jews vs. Muslims or black skin vs. white skin or gay vs. straight ... and that really gives me hope that somehow the things which have divided society for so long are going to become less divisive over time."

Jon Bon Jovi Meets With Israeli Super Fan Battling Cancer

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

An Israeli woman battling an aggressive form of cancer met with legendary rocker Jon Bon Jovi last week in Israel ahead of his band's concert in Tel Aviv.

Netta Sadan, who is suffering from breast cancer, said that she has idolized Bon Jovi and dreamed of meeting the "It's My Life" singer since she was 10. She wrote a post on Facebook on June 29 asking people to help her meet the rock and roll legend and almost immediately her message went viral. She said she began receiving requests from many people who wanted to help, although some told her it would be difficult to arrange since the singer did not do fan meetings anymore.



Netta Sadan with Jon Bon Jovi in Israel. Photo: Facebook.

Sadan eventually met her idol two days before his sold-out performance in Tel Aviv's Park HaYarkon last Thursday.

"Two hours ago I met face-to-face with my hero," she wrote on her Facebook page following their meeting. "He sat with me, talked to me, invested in me time and attention. Half an hour we sat, we talked and laughed. It was just perfect!!! There were no cameras or media. He did it just to make me happy and proved to me unequivocally that I haven't been wrong in the last 25 years."

Sadan also said, "In such a difficult period of treatment and routine of doctors and hospitals suddenly I find myself fulfilling my oldest dream!! This meeting gave me a boost of energy, suddenly I feel better and the smile does not leave my face! Thanks to everyone who helped, hoped and tried to push this dream into reality. There is nothing like the love that Israeli people know how to give and there is none like Jon Bon Jovi."



Barbara Streisand during an appearance on 'The Ellen Show' in 2017. Photo: YouTube screenshot.

Attention Not-For-Profit Organizations

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