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## Israeli Envoy Danon Says Peace Not Possible With PA Leader



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas holds a map at a Security Council meeting at the UN, Feb. 11, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Shannon Stapleton.

BY ALGEMEINER  
STAFF & AGENCIES

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas — appearing before the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday — angrily denounced US President Donald Trump's recently-unveiled Middle East peace proposal as a gift to Israel and unacceptable to Palestinians.

Waving a copy of a map that the Trump plan, Abbas said the state envisioned for the Palestinians looked like a fragmented "Swiss cheese."

In a potential rebuke to the US initiative, a draft UN Security Council resolution being circulated to council members by Tunisia and Indonesia would condemn an Israeli plan to annex its settlements in the West Bank.

If put to a vote, the text would

face a certain US veto but nonetheless reflected some members' dim view of the plan that Trump rolled out two weeks ago with great fanfare.

Released on Jan. 28, Trump's plan would recognize Israel's authority over its West Bank settlements and require Palestinians meet a difficult series of conditions for a state, with its capital in a West Bank village east of Jerusalem.

"This is the state that they will

*Continued on Page A3*

## Netanyahu: US Recognition of Israeli Sovereignty is Certain

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/  
JNS.org

During a tour of the Jordan Valley on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated his pledge to apply Israeli law there and in other areas designated as Israeli territory under the newly unveiled White House peace plan.

"[US] President Donald Trump said that he will recognize Israel's application of sovereignty [over the relevant areas], and he will do so once we finalize the processes that



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leads the weekly cabinet meeting, in the Jordan Valley, on Sept. 15, 2019. Photo: Marc Israel Sellem/POOL.

have already begun," said Netanyahu, referring to the joint Israeli-American effort to delineate the relevant territorial boundaries and deal with other technical matters required for the implementation of the peace plan.

During his tour of the area Netanyahu planted a sapling, as is customary on the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shvat, touted the Trump plan's favorable terms and asked Israelis to give him a renewed mandate in the March 2 election to implement the plan.

*Continued on Page A3*

## Confirmation Bias and Antisemitism

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat YITRO  
פרשת יתרו

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 5:02pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:04pm



the algemeiner

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## Opinion.

## Arab Outrage (Over the Prospect of Living in Palestine)



MELANIE PHILLIPS  
/JNS.org

Leave aside, for the moment, the deepening rows about Donald Trump's "vision" for ending the Middle East conflict.

Leave aside the question of whether the plan's lead author Jared Kushner and the US ambassador to Israel David Friedman backtracked on an "immediate" Israeli declaration of sovereignty over the Jordan Valley and the "Triangle" of disputed territory (they didn't; the need to first map out and agree on the details was stated from the start). Leave aside the uproar among Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria, along with certain southern areas of Israel, who are appalled by the prospect of a proposed Palestinian state (it won't happen because it's conditional upon the Palestinians ending their war to exterminate Israel, which they won't ever abandon).

Leave aside the way Israel's beleaguered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may be using the Trump proposal for electoral purposes (so he's behaving like a politician; big deal).

Look instead at the reaction by Israel's Arabs. Not the reaction by the Palestinian Authority, which was merely the latest of their many rejections of a state of their own alongside Israel. Look at the Arabs themselves for whom that state is intended. What is their

reaction to the offer of more than 80% of the land for such a state? They're furious.

This isn't because it's not 100 percent of the land. They're furious at the idea that they might find themselves living in such a state. So furious that they demonstrated in the thousands against the prospect.

Palestinian leaders and their Western supporters are shrieking that the plan would strip the Israeli Arabs in the Jordan Valley and the "Triangle" area of their Israeli citizenship, and transfer them into Palestine by the simple expedient of drawing its border around their villages. This is untrue. The Trump plan states that they will be able to choose between remaining citizens of Israel and becoming citizens of Palestine. So they wouldn't be "stripped" of their citizenship at all. Changing it would be their choice.

And surely, they would all choose to become citizens of Palestine — the outcome we've been told is the absolute precondition for ending the Arab-Israel conflict.

Well, guess what: Given this choice — as the evidence has consistently indicated — many, if not most, would voluntarily choose to remain citizens of Israel. Who could possibly be surprised?

As the authoritative Israeli Arab journalist Khaled Abu Toameh has written for the Gatestone Institute, the main reason these "Triangle" Arabs strongly oppose becoming citizens of a Palestine state is that it would extinguish the freedoms they enjoy as Israeli citizens.

"The Arab Israelis' protests," he writes,

"are seen as a message to the world that they prefer to continue living in Israel and not under another Arab dictatorship."

They hear daily about the oppression of Gaza's Arabs at the hands of Hamas. And recently, several students, mostly at An-Najah University in Nablus, were arrested by Palestinian Authority security forces and brutally tortured. Arab students living in the disputed territories, he says, can only envy Israeli Arab students who are free to hold political activities on Israel's campuses.

Regardless of this reaction to the proposed Palestine state, it's important to note just how bizarre this particular aspect of the Trump proposal is.

In other wars, the displacement of at least parts of a population is commonplace, which hardly occasions any comment. In no other conflict have the victims of aggression suggested, as under this plan, that members of this aggressive people should not only be allowed to stay in their own homes, not only be ruled by those they say want to rule them, but that they should also be invited to remain instead citizens of the country their people have been trying to wipe out.

And all this while these people are still led by a regime inciting them to continue their war — and who are regarded as such a permanent threat that they can never be trusted with full sovereignty over their own airspace and other security issues. On the face of it, therefore, the proposal for such a Palestine state is suicidally stupid for Israel. So we



Israeli police clash with Palestinian worshippers on the Temple Mount as Muslims mark Eid al-Adha, in Jerusalem's Old City August 11, 2019. Photo: REUTERS/Ammar Awad.

should ask why — even though its conditions mean there's zero possibility that the Palestinian Arabs would ever agree to it — such an apparently perverse offer is being made at all.

One answer is that many in the West, including, it seems, Jared Kushner, still naively believe that, offered the prospect of massively leveraged prosperity, the Palestinians will eventually realize that their interests lie in peace rather than war. This suggests a failure properly to internalize the true cause of this conflict, which is not the absence of a Palestinian state but the intention of exterminating Israel.

For its own part, vulnerable Israel has felt obliged to go along with this misguided Western consensus because it is nervous about pushing too hard against its allies, even its two-faced "friends" in Europe and Britain. In addition, right from the start, the Jews of Israel have been strikingly ambivalent about the Arabs who lived in the land, despite the war waged by those Arabs to deny the Jews

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## New Realities in Africa Open Diplomatic Opportunities for Israel



OLIVIER GUITTA  
NEW YORK

While the uproar over the Trump administration's "Deal of the Century" to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has dominated attention, some key Muslim-majority nations, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman have responded in positive ways. Indeed, Israel has been able to build good relationships with numerous Muslim countries in recent years, often behind the scenes.

And this warming toward Israel also extends to Africa.

Israel has a card to play, especially in the Sahel — an arc of land immediately south of the Sahara Desert and stretching across the African continent. Terrorism from jihadist groups such as the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, and Boko Haram has become a top priority for countries there, such as Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria.

Security needs seemed to be part of the agenda a year ago, when Benjamin Netanyahu reestablished diplomatic ties with Chad, and became the first Israeli prime minister to visit the country.

"There is a lot that we can do together," Netanyahu said, "and we discussed how to deepen our cooperation in every field beginning with security, but also agriculture, food,

water, energy, health, and many more. And I believe that this cooperation will build a better, safer, and more prosperous future for both our peoples."

After restoring diplomatic ties, Israel did not waste any time sending in large business delegations to capitalize on the opening to a new market for Israeli industry and services.

Israel's most recent breakthrough came on February 3 of this year, when Netanyahu held a "secret" meeting in Uganda with Sudan's leader, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. Al-Burhan did not inform his own government about the meeting for fear he would have been pressured to cancel it. Sudan is trying to persuade the United States to remove it from its list of state terrorism sponsors, and al-Burhan's restoration of ties with a key US ally might help.

The United Arab Emirates, recently the most active ally to open doors for Israel in the Muslim world, helped set up the meeting.

Uganda's role as the meeting's host also highlighted the close cooperation between it and Israel. As proof, a Lebanese Hezbollah



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) meets with Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: Haim Zach/GPO.

agent was arrested in Entebbe last July in a joint Uganda-Israel operation. Hezbollah had instructed him to identify possible American and Israeli targets in Uganda and the region, and recruit Lebanese living in Uganda for Hezbollah operations — from terrorism to funding and intelligence gathering.

Israel has also had a long friendship with Cameroon President Paul Biya. Israel set up the Rapid Intervention Battalion that is central to Cameroon's security, and continues to train its elite troops. Interestingly, the good relations did not prevent an antisemitic rant last year by a Cameroonian minister who declared that the extermination of the Jews by Nazi Germany was due to their "arrogance." The Cameroonian government quickly condemned the minister's statement.

Meanwhile, Rwanda is home to a new Israeli embassy, its eleventh in Africa. The two countries cooperate on agriculture, technology, and security. For example, Israel's Foreign Ministry, through its international development cooperation arm MASHAV, built an agricultural center of excellence in Rwanda.

Last but not least, Morocco, an Arab country, has had a close relationship with Israel because of its large Jewish community. But the two countries do not have formal diplomatic relations. When the Muslim Brotherhood's PJD party won control of parliament in 2011, it pushed a hardcore line against Israel and made the Palestinian issue a top priority. Since then, it is difficult for any Moroccans to express any support for the

Continued on Page A4

## World News.

# Popular Social Media App TikTok Removes Video Glorifying Palestinian Terrorism

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The popular social media app TikTok has removed a video glorifying Palestinian terrorism following protests.

The video was discovered by Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), which requested it be taken down. The group said on Monday that it was “pleased to report that TikTok responded immediately and removed the terror-glorifying video.”

Popular among children, TikTok allows users to share short videos with each other. With massive global reach, it was listed by *CNet* as the seventh-most downloaded app of the 2010s and the fourth-most downloaded of 2019 worldwide.

The video in question shows a computer-animated eagle flying from place to place, where Palestinian terror attacks are then depicted in explicit detail.

The first is a 2014 car ramming attack in which two Israelis were killed, including a 17-year-old, and 13 were wounded. The second is a 2015 stabbing attack that killed two and wounded two, among them a

two-year-old child.

The third is a 2016 drive-by shooting of Israelis at a Jerusalem light rail stop that killed two and wounded five. The final scene shows a 2015 stabbing attack on Israeli police officers that wounded three at the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem’s Old City.

The killings are shown in considerable detail, certainly unsuitable for children, depicting knives being stabbed into people’s throats, people flying through the air after being struck by cars and explicit depiction of bullet wounds.

Text accompanying the video reads in Arabic, “Jerusalem is the dread of the Jews.”

PMW’s senior analyst, Nan Jacques Zilberdik, said of the clip: “This animation is utterly shocking. The graphic content aims to incite violence and glorify murder.”

“TikTok is a social network popular among children, so there is no doubting the target audience for this is Palestinian youngsters,” Zilberdik added. “Its goal is to indoctrinate and the message is clear — whatever your chosen method, if you kill an Israeli you too can become a hero.”

*Continued from Page A2*  
**Outrage**

their rightful home.

Thus, during Israel’s War of Independence, the embattled Jews declared they didn’t want the Arabs of the land to leave the Jewish state that they were at that very time desperately fighting Arab armies to establish. Even during that struggle for existence, they drew a distinction between the leaders and the led. There’s a direct line from that to the Israel of today — not just to the two-staters on the left who seem blind to the potential threat that Palestine would pose, but to Jewish centrists who believe that the Palestinians are entitled to a state of their own. Yet by any normal moral standard, whatever rights the Palestinian Arabs may ever have had must be considered forfeit many times over as a result of their century-old war of extermination.

So why are the Israeli Jews so benign towards these enemies?

Maybe there’s a submerged degree of guilt, particularly among secular Jews from a European background who originally felt themselves to be cultural outsiders and were therefore sympathetic to the situation of the Arabs living in the land.

At the same time, maybe the Palestinian Arabs are a necessarily ambiguous enemy because they are family. A step-family, for sure:

*Continued from Page A1*  
**US Recognition**

“We are going to make history. After having the United States recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, we then got a statement from Trump in which he said that he will definitely recognize the application of Israeli law [in certain areas in Judea and Samaria],” said Netanyahu, adding the American support for Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan valley

as the Torah tells us, the descendants of Ishmael who, with his mother Hagar, was driven out into the desert by his father, Abraham.

But with that common father, family nevertheless. And however much your family hurts and threatens you, even with unconscionable barbarism and savagery, there’s often still a part of you that against all the odds never stops yearning to repair the rift with those to whom you will always feel linked.

Peace between the Arabs and the Jews, however, won’t come through redrawing the map of the Middle East, but only if the Arab and Muslim world stops trying to wipe the State of Israel off it.

But the generosity Israel is displaying towards its Arabs by offering them this choice of nation — and the reason for their response — provides an opportunity to educate Jews whose view of Israel is increasingly shaped by its enemies about what being a Jewish state actually means.

And some Israelis need to learn that too.

*Melanie Phillips, a British journalist, broadcaster, and author, writes a weekly column for JNS. Currently a columnist for The Times of London, her personal and political memoir Guardian Angel has been published by Bombardier, which also published her first novel, The Legacy, in 2018. Her work can be found at www.melaniephillips.com.*

“is also pertinent to our ability to settle the heart of our land without restrictions. We have fought over this area since the days of Joshua and the Israelites. We are here to stay.”

Netanyahu stressed that this recognition would not be affected by Palestinian intransigence.

“This is not dependent on them [the Palestinians], this will happen once we complete mapping out the relevant areas,” he said.

really. Who among you will accept a similar state and similar conditions?”

Speaking at an election rally in Bat Yam

*Continued from Page A1*  
**Not Possible**

give us,” said Abbas. “It’s like a Swiss cheese,

# Fearing Assassination, Hamas Leader Skips Gaza Meet With Egyptian Delegation



Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas in Gaza, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Feb. 24, 2017. Photo: Abed Rahim Khatib / Flash90.

BY JNS.org

Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar skipped a meeting with a visiting Egyptian delegation on Monday out of fear of an Israeli assassination attempt against him, Israeli media reported on Tuesday.

The delegation passed on a message from Israel that if quiet does not return to the Gaza Strip, it will deal a major blow to the group, something the Egyptians warned would have both US and international support, according to *Ynet*.

The Egyptian delegation was in Gaza to negotiate a ceasefire between Hamas and

Israel, and met with Israeli security officials before heading to the coastal enclave.

Hamas reportedly told the members of the delegation it did not want to escalate tensions but that quiet would not return until an agreement is reached regarding aid to Gaza. The terrorist group also warned that any assassination attempt by Israel would lead to a major round of fighting.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Naftali Bennett said Israel might have to return to a policy of targeted assassinations if the terror group continued to launch attacks on Israel.

on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the criticism and hinted at the possibility that Arab states might entertain the Trump plan even if Palestinians do not.

“This is not Swiss cheese. This is the best plan that exists for the Middle East — for the Middle East — and for the State of Israel and for the Palestinians, too,” he said, adding that the plan “recognizes reality and the rights of the people of Israel, both of which you [Abbas] constantly refuse to recognize.”

Abbas urged Trump to disavow the plan and seek a return to negotiations based on existing UN resolutions that call for a two-state solution based on pre-1967 border lines. He rejected traditional US mediation in resolving the conflict and called for an international conference.

“The US cannot be the sole mediator,” he said. Suggesting violent protests could break out, Abbas said “the situation could implode at any moment. ... We need hope. Please do not take this hope away from us.” He later said Palestinians would not “resort to terrorism.”

While Arab League foreign ministers on Feb. 1 rejected the plan, three Gulf Arab states — Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — were represented at its White House announcement event, suggesting that they may be prioritizing ties with the US and a shared hostility toward Iran over traditional Arab alliances.

Abbas said the deal is not an international partnership but rather a proposal from one state supported by another state to be imposed on Palestinians.

Israel’s ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, accused Abbas of being unrealistic and said peace was not possible while he remained in power.

“If President Abbas was serious about

negotiating, he wouldn’t be here in New York, he would be in Jerusalem,” Danon said. “Complaining instead of leading, that is Abbas’ way.”

“Progress toward peace will not be made so long as President Abbas remains in his position,” the Israeli diplomat asserted. “Only when he steps down, can Israel and the Palestinians move forward. A leader who chooses rejectionism, incitement and glorification of terror can never be a real partner for peace.”

“Peace is a core aspect of our belief, of the Jewish way of life. We thank President Trump and his team for their dedication to the cause of peace,” Danon concluded.

US Ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft said, “This plan is not a ‘take it or leave it.’ It is not a ‘my way or the highway.’ It is not set in stone. Rather, it is an opening offer. It is the beginning of a conversation — not the end of one.”

“The United States stands willing to support all efforts to begin this conversation, and moving forward, we hope all parties will keep an open mind, listen, and engage,” she continued. “I’m optimistic all Council members will give this approach a fair hearing, rather than revert to the old habits that have not produced, and cannot produce, peace that we all seek.”

“My fervent hope is that after today’s rhetoric clears, Palestinian leaders will see this plan for the opportunity it is, roll up their sleeves, and seize this chance to sit down with the leaders of Israel to begin a new conversation,” Craft stated.

A Feb. 5-8 poll conducted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research found that 94% of Palestinians reject the Trump plan, which the US president has called the “Deal of the Century.”

## World News.



Soccer Football - Champions League - Feyenoord vs Napoli - De Kuip, Rotterdam, Netherlands - December 6, 2017 Napoli's Elseid Hysaj in action with Feyenoord's Sven van Beek. Photo: REUTERS/Michael Kooren.

## Intel's Israel-Developed Sports Viewing Technology Comes to French Soccer

BY ADI PICK/CTech

The Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP), France's governing body of professional soccer, has begun integrating Intel's Israel-developed multi-angle sports viewing technology True View, the company announced Monday. True View serves sports fans game replays that traditional cameras cannot deliver, using dozens of high-definition cameras that capture large amounts of volumetric video. The LFP is already using the technology at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris.

Intel's True View technology is based on several acquisitions, most profoundly on its 2016 \$180 million acquisition of Tel Aviv-based Replay Technologies. Replay developed a technology that allows viewers to see footage from virtual cameras, derived from the input of multiple cameras spread across a stadium.

The LFP also plans to roll out the technology at the Orange Vélodrome of Olympique de Marseille and the Groupama Stadium of Olympique Lyonnais by the end of the year, according to the announcement.

## 50 Years After Deadly Arson Attack on Jewish Elderly Home in Munich, Local Activist Seeks Justice

BY BEN COHEN

A cabaret artist in the German city of Munich has been waging a one-person campaign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of an arson attack on a Jewish community center in which seven elderly people lost their lives.

The long-forgotten attack, on Feb. 13 1970, occurred during a time of heightened terror against Israeli and Jewish targets. Just the previous week, one person was killed and 23 injured when armed Palestinian terrorists opened fire on passengers lining up for a flight to Tel Aviv from Munich airport.

"According to a report from Amman, Jordan, carried on the West German radio yesterday, the Palestinian terrorist organization that claimed credit for the Munich Airport attack denied any connection with the fire in the Jewish community center," a dispatch from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported at the time. "The prevailing opinion here is that the fire was set by Arab agents or by German extremists of the far left or far right."

Half a century later, the attack remains unsolved, though fresh evidence that emerged in 2012 indicated that it may have been the work of a viscerally anti-Zionist anarchist group.

On Tuesday, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* carried an extensive interview with a local activist, Christian Springer, who insisted that it was not too late to seek justice for the victims,

two of whom — David Jakobowicz and George Pfau — were Holocaust survivors.

Now working as a cabaret artist, Springer was a child at the time of the attack on the Jewish community building at Reichenbachstrasse 27 — a four-story building that housed a synagogue, a community center



An installation in downtown Munich commemorating the Feb. 13, 1970 arson attack on a Jewish community center in which seven elderly people were killed. Photo: @springermunich / Twitter

and a retirement home for the elderly. Years later, when an assignment for his high school newspaper took him to the community center, he noticed a commemorative plaque on the wall dated "1970." Thinking that the plaque was intended to commemorate the Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics in 1972, Springer said he initially wondered why the wrong year was shown. He then learned of the arson at the retirement home, beginning his quest for justice.

One year ago, Springer publicly appealed to the perpetrators of the attack to reveal

## Swastikas Scrawled on Holocaust Family's House Highlight Concern Over 'Resurgence' of Antisemitism in Italy

BY BEN COHEN

A small town in northern Italy was in uproar on Monday after Nazi swastikas were discovered at the entrance to the home occupied by a Jewish family deported during the Holocaust — the second antisemitic incident in the same locality in less than a fortnight.

"This was a despicable act, all the more ignoble because whoever did this understands the significance of that house," Pietro Valent — the mayor of the town of San Daniele del Friuli, in the northeastern Udine province of Italy — told reporters after the swastika was discovered on Friday.

The Nazi symbol defaced the house owned by the Jewish Szörény family, who lived there prior to their deportation to the Auschwitz extermination camp in 1944. Three members of the family — sisters Arianna and Edith and brother Alessandro — survived the Nazi genocide.

Following the war, Arianna Szörény became well-known in Italy through her willingness to speak out about her ordeal as a Jewish child in Nazi captivity. Shortly after the swastikas were found, locals covered them with red love heart symbols in a gesture of solidarity with the family.

On Saturday afternoon, dozens of people attended a demonstration outside the Szörény house that was originally called to protest an earlier antisemitic incident in the town. On Jan. 30, four councillors in San Daniele del Friuli received the same anonymous threat that read, "After 75 years, a Jew is still a Jew" — a reference to this year's 75th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.

Both of the offenses in the town are now under investigation by the Italian DIGOS law enforcement agency.

DIGOS is also looking into a handful of similar antisemitic acts reported in northern Italy since International Holocaust Memorial Day was marked on Jan. 27 — among them stickers bearing the Nazi slogan "Sieg Heil"

*Continued from Page A2*  
*New Realities*

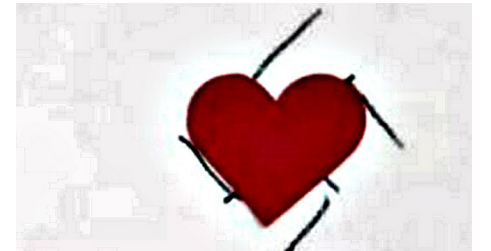
Jewish state or visit it: a Moroccan journalist explained during a visit to Israel that showing any kind of support for Israel or even visiting the country can result in ostracization and even death threats.

For example, when a Moroccan radio station, *Medi1*, had the courage last year on its website to describe a Palestinian who killed two Israeli soldiers as a terrorist, it had to change the headline under pressure. To alleviate this Islamist aggressive behavior toward Israel, King Mohamed VI, following the tradition of his father and grandfather, has kept a friendly and amicable attitude towards Israel. Now there are reports that Morocco would normalize relations with Israel in exchange for US-recognition of Moroccan

themselves. No one came forward, Springer said, but he remained convinced that German police reports on the incident that were now in state archives contained "illuminating material."

"We'll follow up and follow up and follow up," Springer pledged in the interview.

Meanwhile, visitors to Munich's



A swastika scrawled on the home of Holocaust victims in the Italian town of San Daniele del Friuli covered with a heart symbol. Photo: Screenshot.

plastered outside the apartment of a veteran of the Italian partisans and the German words "Juden Hier" ("Jews Here") daubed on the home of a Jewish family.

The rash of incidents came as a leading Italian think tank warned of a "resurgence" of antisemitism in the country in its annual report.

The "Italy 2020 Report" — compiled by the Rome-based Eurispes research institute — revealed an alarming rise in antisemitic beliefs among Italians.

Asked about the Nazi Holocaust, nearly 16 percent of respondents declared that it was a myth — compared with just 2.7 percent of respondents to the same question in the 2004 report.

In addition, a further 16 percent of respondents in the 2020 report said that the agreed number of six million Holocaust victims had been "exaggerated."

The Eurispes report also highlighted the clear division in Italian society over the threat presented by antisemitism.

"For less than half of those sampled — 47.5 percent — the acts of antisemitism that have occurred in Italy are a sign of a dangerous resurgence of the phenomenon," the report observed. "In contrast, for 37.2 percent they are bravado carried out for provocation, or as a joke."

According to the European Jewish Congress, approximately 28,400 Jews presently live in Italy. The Jewish community is concentrated mainly in Rome and Milan, with smaller presences in Turin, Florence,

sovereignty in the occupied Western Sahara.

There remains a lot of bad blood towards Israel in Africa. South Africa recalled its ambassador to Israel in 2018 and last year downgraded diplomatic relations further in protest of Israel's response to violent, Hamas-orchestrated demonstrations on the Gaza border.

But the trend toward a warming relationship between some countries on the continent and the Jewish state is quite hopeful.

*Olivier Guitta is the Managing Director of GlobalStrat, a security and geopolitical risk consulting company for companies and governments. Olivier tweets @OlivierGuitta.*

*A version of this article was originally published by The Investigative Project on Terrorism.*

Gärtnerplatz Theater this week will see a commemorative installation created by Springer to mark the attack's 50th anniversary.

Photographs of the fire and the names of the victims have been placed in a transparent container intended to remind spectators that, Springer explained, "remembering means telling people today about what happened."

U.S. News.

# Promising ‘Never Again,’ Maryland High School Apologizes for Nazi Flag Display

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A public school in Maryland has apologized after a Nazi swastika flag was seen hanging in a window.

A photo of the flag went viral after it was posted on Facebook by Nicole Hopkins, who had arrived for a basketball game at the Gov. Thomas Johnson High School in the city of Frederick last Friday night when she spotted the swastika on display in classroom window.

“I looked at it and I thought wait a minute. I looked at it again, I looked at my boyfriend and I was like ‘is that what I think it is?’ Hopkins told local outlet the Frederick News-Post.

She then snapped a picture because she felt no one would believe the flag had been there without proof.

According to an email sent to the school community from principal Daniel Lippy, the flag was used in a class studying World War II and was left hanging in the classroom.

“We immediately responded to the concern and

# Las Vegas Man Pleads Guilty to Plotting Attacks on ADL, Messianic Jewish Synagogue and Gay Bar in City

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A Las Vegas man had pled guilty to charges related to his plans to commit a series of hate-motivated attacks in the city.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that the guilty plea on federal weapons charges entered by 24-year-old Conor Climo on Monday was the result of an agreement with authorities concluded last month.

The deal, filed in US District Court, said Climo “expressed biases and hatred against various racial and religious groups.”

“Defendant stated that he wanted to do more against the groups he hated by carrying out violent attacks against them,” it said.

According to the document, Climo intended to target the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Lev HaShem Messianic Synagogue and a Fremont Street LGBT bar.

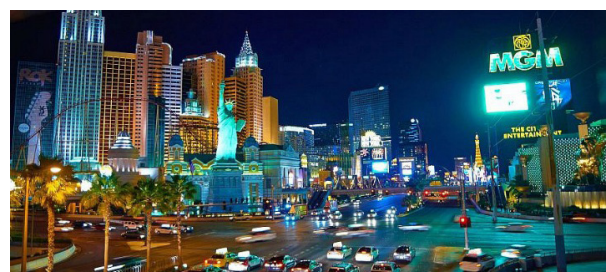
Climo was caught after he sent satellite images of the site to an undercover FBI agent and pointed out a possible escape route.

At his plea hearing, the judge asked what Climo had done to warrant the guilty plea and he answered, “I possessed materials needed to construct a destructive device, your honor.”

Aaron Rouse, the special agent in charge of the FBI’s Las Vegas field office commented after the hearing, “This is an excellent example of proactive law enforcement, and the success of this case shows that the partnerships in the Las Vegas law enforcement community work for the betterment of the community.”

“We’re very pleased with the investigative effort, and we’re very pleased with the outcome,” Rouse added.

Nevada’s US Attorney Nicholas Trutanich called Climo’s prosecution “part of DOJ’s national strategy to disrupt and proactively stop potential bias-motivated mass violence.”



A view of the Las Vegas Strip. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

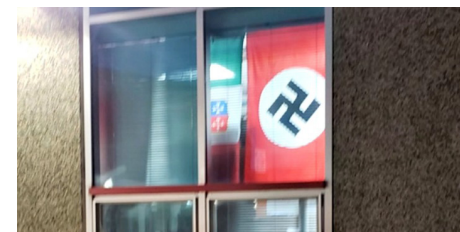
removed the flag,” Lippy said in the email. “We share the concerns in the community about the feelings of hatred and intolerance that the flag represents. We pride ourselves on accepting all members of our society and this message is central to who we are as Patriots.”

The email went on to say that the photo captured “certainly gives a different impression” and that the school sent its apologies to the community at large.

“We have taken steps to ensure that this never occurs again,” Lippy said in the email.

The principal concluded: “I know it will be used as a learning lesson for staff and students. I on behalf of the school apologize for it happening.”

Frederick Country Public Schools Superintendent Terry Alban said in a statement on Tuesday that the school district would “take appropriate action” to mitigate damage after



A swastika flag hangs in the window of a high school in Frederick, Maryland. Photo: Facebook / Nicole Hopkins.

the incident.

“FCPS sincerely apologizes to our community for this incident as we share your feelings regarding the hatred and intolerance message this flag represents,” Alban said. “We understand the seriousness of this matter and care deeply for our community...which celebrates diversity.”

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## Opinion.

# God, Not Balfour, Gave Israel to the Jews



SHMULEY BOTEACH  
ENGELWOOD

President Donald Trump is the most pro-Israel president in history, and proved it again with his precedent-setting peace initiative. The plan recognizes that Israel will never compromise on the indivisibility of its capital in Jerusalem and that the Jewish people have a legitimate claim to Judea and Samaria. The plan also prioritizes Israel's security needs.

But I want to focus on a question the plan brings into sharp focus: who gave Israel to the Jews? Do the Jewish people have Israel as a grant from the United Nations, the United States, and the great powers? Or is it bequeathed to the Jewish people by divine right?

The very first comment by Rashi on the Torah says that all of the book of Genesis is superfluous. The haunting stories of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, Jacob's love of Rachel, Joseph's colorful dreams, and the Jewish people's move to Egypt — it's all extra-

neous. He says the Torah should have started with the first commandment, to bless the new moon and declare new lunar months, found about a third into the book of Exodus.

So why does the book of Genesis exist? For one reason. To teach us that God created the world. The earth belongs to Him. He gives it to whom he sees fit. And he gave a tiny sliver of land in the Middle East to the Jews as an eternal inheritance. It's called Israel. And, Rashi adds, the time will come when the nations of the world will tell the Jews you have no home. You belong nowhere. Not in France. Not in Germany. Not in England. And certainly not in Israel. Perhaps you Jews belong on the moon. And at that time, the Jews will show the world the book of Genesis along with its declaration that God created all the earth and parceled out the lands to those who were fit in His eyes. And He gave Israel to the Jews. For all eternity.

This Rashi interpretation is 1,000 years old. The Talmud upon which it's based is 2,500 years old. How utterly prophetic. The Jews today are accused of stealing Israel from the Arabs, a people who came to the land only after the Jews were expelled by the Romans.

It amazes me that the Arabs can speak with such conviction of their holy places and their divine rights. Catholics can speak of the Vatican belonging to them as an eternal city, even though it is merely 100 acres carved out of the city of Rome. Yet we Jews feel that such arguments of divine right and religious connection lack sophistication in the world of modern politics.

Donald Trump is the best friend Israel has ever had in the Oval Office. Likewise, the United States is Israel's stalwart friend and ally. But Israel is not given to the Jewish people by the most powerful man in the world, nor by the world's mightiest nation — but by a source infinitely more powerful.

Our evangelical brethren understand this argument much more than the Jews. To them, the Bible is a land deed that dare not be questioned. The president's plan to allow Israel to annex the Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria is precedent-setting and is a recognition of the divine right of the Jewish people to the land. Judea and Samaria is the region where 80 percent of all Biblical events occurred. They are intrinsically connected to Jewish identity.

The coming weeks will see the gradual



The Temple Mount in Jerusalem.  
Photo: REUTERS/Ammar Awad.

unfolding of the Trump peace plan, whether it is realistic, and how it is embraced by Israel and the world. But one thing is certain. Its focus on Israel in general, and Judea and Samaria in particular, finally puts the lie to the European argument that the Jews essentially have no home and any land given to the Jews is a byproduct of the Balfour Declaration or some other act of European benevolence. Rather, Israel was gifted to the Jews by God as an eternal inheritance that no power on earth can undo.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, whom *The Washington Post* calls "the most famous Rabbi in America," is the international best-selling author of 33 books, including the upcoming *Holocaust Holiday: One Family's Descent into Genocide Memory Hell*. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

## Why the Left Won't Tolerate Liberal Zionists



JONATHAN S. TOBIN  
JNS.org

*The Columbia Journalism Review* touts itself as "the voice of journalism." While the magazine, which is published by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, has faced accusations of liberal bias, it still retains a reputation as a prestigious source of commentary about the news media. So when *CJR* commissions a hit piece on a publication, it is an event of some significance and, at least in theory, ought to alert readers to serious misconduct.

The latest *CJR* exposé, however, is important not because it reveals biased or misleading reporting or unprofessional behavior. According to the magazine that still claims to be the "intellectual leader" of the press, the problem with *The Forward* is that it has taken a stand against left-wing antisemitism and appears open to publishing occasional dissent against its liberal editorial stands on American and Israeli politics.

*The Forward's* financial troubles made news last year when it ceased publishing in print, fired its editor, and laid off much of its staff. I have strong disagreements with the left-leaning editorial philosophy that the English-language successor to the historic Yiddish newspaper has adopted since it ousted Seth Lipsky, its founding editor, in 2000. But I view *The Forward's* struggles as indicative of problems afflicting the media and Jewish publishing that transcend politics. We need publications that can reflect the legitimate debates on important issues that are being conducted in the United States and Israel.

But *CJR's* decision to publish a rant against *The Forward's* editorial decisions

in the last year by far-left anti-Zionist writer Mairav Zonszein is important. That's because what *CJR* has done here is essentially to smear a liberal Jewish journal because it had the temerity to call out left-wing antisemites like Reps. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D-Minn.), as well as antisemitic activity on campuses like Bard College. Zonszein claims that *The Forward*, which in recent years has disappointed many in the Jewish community by providing space to Palestinian opponents of Israel and Zionism, let the left down by calling out such hatred and claims that its occasional publishing of conservative opinion is "polarizing."

She also cheers *CNN* contributor/writer Peter Beinart's defection from *The Forward* to the smaller but openly anti-Zionist *Jewish Currents*, as a harbinger of a power shift on the Jewish left.

It is curious that *CJR* would consider Zonszein, whose work has regularly appeared in far-left anti-Israel publications like *Jewish Currents*, *+972mag* and *The Nation*, to be qualified to comment in their august pages on any subject, let alone a Jewish one. But as new *Forward* editor Jodi Rudoren pointed out, it was a gross breach of journalistic ethics on the part of *CJR* to commission her to write an evaluation in a forum supposedly dedicated to the study of journalism about a publication that she has bitterly criticized in rants on Twitter and elsewhere. *The Forward* was entirely correct to refuse to cooperate in the writing of an article that could not possibly have been fair in its treatment of its subject.

From the point of view of pro-Israel opinion, does any of this matter? Does anyone really care if the far-left thinks a liberal paper isn't left-wing enough to suit the tastes of radicals? No doubt that would be the point of view of most on the right, as well as centrists.

It does matter. For two reasons:

One is that while *The Forward* has

often been deeply and often unfairly critical of Israel, if the center of gravity in the liberal Jewish world has come this far to the left, then American Jewry is in deeper trouble than many of us had thought.

The second and perhaps even more important reason to be alarmed is that the *CJR's* decision to publish such a flawed and biased article indicates that liberal elites are now seeking to legitimize not merely anti-Zionism, but open antisemitism.

The notion that *Jewish Currents* — a publication founded by the Communist Party USA in 1946, and more recently, a place for radical Israel-haters to vent their spleen — represents mainstream American Jewish opinion is ludicrous. But there is no denying that Beinart's move and the decision of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the current leader in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination and the most critical of Israel of the candidates, to publish an article there demonstrates the way the far-left is gaining ground on traditional liberals.

But the imprimatur that *CJR* gave to Zonszein's assertion that *The Forward's* opposition to the antisemitism and anti-Zionism of Omar and Tlaib is a betrayal of Jewish values and the principles of journalism remains truly outrageous. When the BDS

movement that is drenched in the traditional language of Jew-hatred has been legitimized in this manner, it means that antisemitism is being mainstreamed. Indeed, when a *CJR* article approvingly quotes cartoonist Eli Valley, whose work has smeared Israelis and supporters of Israel with imagery that is straight out of the playbook of the Nazi publication *Der Stürmer*, as being critical of a Jewish publication pushback against Jew-hatred, then it's clear that the journalistic establishment has been hijacked by those who would tolerate, if not laud, hate for Jews and Israel.

We all ought to be worried when an authority on journalism denounces those who oppose hate. The firewall that ought to separate mainstream and establishment opinion from anti-Zionist invective rooted in antisemitic hate seems to be disappearing. If we are now at the point when a liberal publication like *The Forward*, which has in recent years welcomed anti-Zionist writers to its pages, is not liberal enough for the Jewish left and is subjected to unfair attacks in the *CJR* because it opposed antisemitism, then a sea change for the worse really is in progress.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of *JNS—Jewish News Syndicate*. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans\_tobin.

## Whitewashing Hamas at Georgetown University

ZAC SCHILDCROUT/  
JNS.ORG

"There are Jews everywhere! We must attack every Jew on planet Earth! We must slaughter and kill them, with Allah's help. ... You can buy knives for five shekels! How much is the neck of a Jew worth to us? Isn't it worth five shekels, or even less?"

This psychotic outburst was uttered on July 12, 2019 by Fathi Hammad, a member of Hamas' "political bureau" in the Gaza Strip.

Anyone who spends more than 10 minutes studying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict knows that this vile organization has wreaked havoc in the Middle East since its founding in the late 1980s. Its members and allies have perpetrated hundreds of suicide bombings, launched thousands of rockets at Israeli civilian communities since the early 2000s (before any "blockade of Gaza"), and

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## Opinion.

# What Should Be Done With the 'Judensau'?



BEN COHEN  
/JNS.org

"Here in Wittenberg, in our parish church, there is a sow carved into the stone under which lie young pigs and Jews who are sucking," wrote Martin Luther, the founder of the Protestant faith in Germany, in one of his anti-Jewish tracts.

This particular example was titled "Vom Schem Hamphoras" — an insulting corruption of one of the names for God in the Jewish tradition that is inscribed above the carving of the female pig on the church in the German city of Wittenberg that Luther referred to.

For Luther, the grotesque image of the "Judensau," which depicted Jews engaged in humiliating physical contact with an animal that is prohibited to them, symbolized the status of the Jews as a people "chosen" not by God, but by the devil.

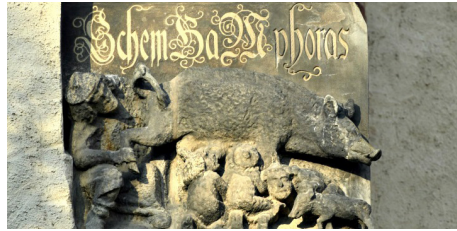
When Luther published this tirade in the middle of the 16th century, the "Judensau" carving was already a historical relic, having been struck on to the outer wall of the Stadtkirche church in 1305. Some 701-odd years later, the "Judensau" remains exactly where it was: a graphic testament to the long-established, murderous anti-Jewish tradition in Germany that also encompassed Luther, the antisemitic rabble rousers of the 19th century, and ultimately the Nazi regime.

There should be no doubt as to the message of the "Judensau." Luther himself called for the burning of synagogues and Jewish holy texts, accused Jews of committing ritual murder, and thundered that rabbis should be forbidden from teaching Judaism "on pain of death." The sinister-looking Jews who delightedly gathered around the female pig in the "Judensau" carving, Luther underlined, were the same Jews who could be seen living among and exploiting upstanding Christians. Four centuries before the gas chambers were constructed, the logic of genocide was starting to unfold.

That legacy in large part explains the ongoing, furious political and legal tussle in Germany over whether the "Judensau" carving should remain on the wall of the Wittenberg church. Since the late 1980s, there have been periodic attempts to have the carving removed on the grounds that because a straight line links the "Judensau" of medieval times with the Nazi ideology of modern times, its continued presence amounts to antisemitic incitement. As one German Jewish leader recently put it, the "Judensau" is "unseemly, obscene, insulting, offensive, libelous, and a portrait of hate speech and antisemitism that defames Jewish people and their faith."

Yet Germany's courts have so far rejected all legal efforts to have the "Judensau" removed from the church. In the latest development, Michael Düllman, a member of Berlin's Jewish community who has been campaigning for the carving's removal, had his appeal rejected by a regional court last week, which left him vowing to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights, if necessary.

This outcome was arrived at — it should be emphasized — not because the court regarded the carving as inoffensive, but because the Wittenberg church features an information board that explains the "Judensau" in all its historic ugliness alongside a monument commemorating the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis.



The carving of the "Judensau" — a medieval antisemitic trope, in Wittenberg, Germany.  
Photo: Reuters/Annegret Hilde.

In this way, the counter-argument goes, an image that was once a source of German national and Christian pride has been recast as a symbol of Germany's shame.

To a fair-minded person observing this debate from the outside, the merits of both of these opposing arguments are easily understood. One possible resolution has been suggested by Felix Klein, the top German government official tasked with combating antisemitism, who said last week that the "Judensau" should be extracted from the wall of the church and placed in a museum. Because in a museum environment, of course, you can preserve the past, as well as shape how people understand the objects on display before them.

Above all, putting the "Judensau" carving in a museum, as Klein proposes, would send the signal that this is where antisemitism itself belongs too. Over the last decade, in Germany and in other European countries, as well as within the European Union bureaucracy, there has been a trend of appointing senior officials to combat antisemitism at all levels. Invariably, these officials present their task proactively: rather than managing or containing antisemitism, the purpose of their efforts is to eradicate it once and for all.

These officials are smart people, and so they undoubtedly know that eradicating an idea is pretty much impossible, particularly one as durable as antisemitism. As Harvard University Professor Ruth Wisse summarized it in *Jews and Power*, her magisterial study of antisemitism: "Underestimated by Jews, largely ignored by genuine liberals, and embraced by politicians of the Left and Right, antisemitism became the most effective ideology in Europe — the ideology of the twentieth century that came closest to fully achieving its goal."

Political trends in Europe and the United States in this century confirm that however much antisemitism is portrayed as a wicked superstition of the past — as alien to our digital democracy as child labor, or any other relic of our society's historic sins — it remains anchored in the present. Sure, you can put the "Judensau" carving in a museum, but its method of provocation — demonizing Jews through visual associations — is still active.

After all, antisemitic caricatures through the ages have shown us not only Jews frolicking with a pig, but also Jews as drinkers of gentle blood, Jews as Christ-killers, Jews as sexual predators, Jews as grasping money-lenders and all-powerful bankers, and, more recently, Jews as ruthless colonizers of Palestine, subjecting an indigenous Arab nation to indignities and cruelties that they learned directly from the Nazis. The "Judensau" is an integral part of this history; how we explain this horrible image is, in the last analysis, more important than where we locate it.

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

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**Whitewashing**

inflicted countless stabbings, kidnappings, and shootings on innocent Israelis.

The organization's 1988 covenant proudly declares that "our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious" and "the Day of Judgement will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees." The document approvingly cites *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as an authoritative foreshadowing of the "Zionists" plans for "further expansion."

Cue the Bridge Initiative: Georgetown University's "multi-year research project" to "inform the public about Islamophobia," which matter-of-factly described Hamas as a "political and social organization with an armed wing aimed at resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestine" — as if purposely killing civilians is somehow a legitimate means of "resistance."

What is the context behind this flagrant whitewash? A "fact sheet" that purports to uncover the putative "Islamophobia" behind the Federal government's conviction of multiple Holy Land Foundation officials who channeled millions of dollars to Hamas-run charities. This reveals the motivation behind the Bridge Initiative team's duplicity — if Hamas can be described as anything other than the genocidal antisemites that they are, it becomes easier to paint the government's efforts to hamper their cash flow as "Islamophobic."

Not only does the Bridge Initiative team's fact sheet ignore Hamas' murderous ideology and actions, it even suggests that its designation by the US government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) might (according to "legal scholars") "chill free speech," have a "disparate impact on the Arab Muslim community," and be the result of "politicization by the State Department." The fact sheet provides no legal arguments in favor of the FTO designation.

What on earth explains this behavior? Why is a project of one of the country's most

prestigious institutions of higher education bending over backwards to normalize antisemitic terrorists in the name of fighting bigotry?

Simple: The answer is that an outright opposition to Israel's existence as a Jewish state is prolific within our nation's universities.

Seen as a racist, ethno-nationalist outpost of Western colonialism, Israel's establishment is regarded as a historic injustice that demands a "struggle" to undo. The "oppression" that the Jewish state inflicts upon the Palestinian people in the form of "military assaults," "blockades," and "apartheid walls" is so unforgivable that terrorism is dismissed merely as an unfortunate consequence of Israeli power (never mind the fact that terrorism is the only reason that these Israeli defensive measures exist in the first place).

Acknowledging that Israel's foremost enemy in the Gaza Strip enthusiastically espouses Nazi-like ideology puts a wrench in the (false) narrative of perennial Palestinian victimhood and Israeli brutality. Consequently, the true nature of Israel's enemies is willfully obscured. The Bridge Initiative team cannot plead ignorance, however; they are faculty of an elite university and undoubtedly possess the intellectual capacity to recognize violent antisemitism when they see it, and they must (or should) realize that bombing civilians is not a "response to occupation."

We have no choice but to assume that their preposterous contextual omissions are motivated by a desire to defend the former Holy Land Foundation employees in the court of public opinion. Of course, the evidence against the "Holy Land Five" is aplenty.

Opposing terrorists who "struggle against the Jews" is not Islamophobic. To suggest otherwise is to dishonor the memory of every Israeli killed by Hamas, and to obscure what it truly means to fight bigotry. The Bridge Initiative team should immediately amend their fact sheet to reflect Hamas' true ideology, intentions, and history of terrorist attacks. True academic honesty demands it.

Zac Schildcrout is a CAMERA Campus adviser and online editor.

## If You Will It, It Is No Dream... but Only on Our Terms



ASAF ROMIROWSKY  
WASHINGTON DC

In his address to the Zionist Congress in London on August 2, 1900, Theodor Herzl said:

*Zionism demands a publicly recognized and legally secured home in Palestine for the Jewish people. This platform, which we drew up three years ago, is unchangeable. It must have responded to a very deep necessity, a very old longing of our people, otherwise its effects would be inexplicable. There is no need of my enumerating these effects at the present day. Everyone knows them, everyone sees and hears them. Four years ago in speaking of a Jewish nation one ran the risk of being thought ridiculous. Today he makes himself ridiculous who denies the existence of a Jewish nation. A glance at this hall, where our people is represented by delegates from all over the world, suffices to prove this.*

The Zionist enterprise has evolved over the past 120 years, but has always been predicated on the reestablishment of Jewish statehood in the ancestral homeland. The collective memory of Jewish statelessness and powerlessness was vivid during the early decades of the Jewish State. Left, right, or

center, the founding fathers of Zionism were all motivated by the imperative of Jewish statehood as both a manifestation of the Jewish people's right to national self-determination, and a means of lessening Jewish vulnerability and increasing the likelihood of Jewish survival.

This foundational axiom was also widely understood by American Jews, particularly in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Statehood was seen as the necessary extension of the shared sense of Jewish nationhood that had existed for millennia, a sense of unity and even destiny that went beyond culture or even religion.

Today, however, among an increasing number of American Jews, the idea of a Jewish state is no longer a building block but rather a wedge issue.

The very idea of nations and nation states may be suspect in the 21st century, but no other national movement evokes so uniquely visceral a reaction as does Zionism. No other term for a national movement has been infamously defined by the UN as "a form of racism and racial discrimination" — an epithet assigned to it by a bigoted coalition led by the Soviet Union. And no other definition has caused so much anxiety among a movement's putative supporters and rendered them so unwilling to stand up for their cause. Too many American Jewish supporters of Israel live in fear of being declared racist by enemies

Continued on Page A10

## Impressions.

# Confirmation Bias and Antisemitism

BY MANFRED GERSTENFELD

Sometimes a new expression sheds fresh light on ancient ideas. One example is the phrase “confirmation bias,” which was coined only 60 years ago. It means that people are more receptive to information, even questionable information, that confirms their existing opinions.

By looking at the problem of antisemitism through the lens of confirmation bias, we can better understand how it has persisted so stubbornly over the centuries.

Christian theologians long stereotyped Jews as evil, claiming they were collectively responsible across the generations for the death of Jesus. Clergymen regularly confirmed the opinions of those members of their flocks who held this prejudice. Anti-Defamation League (ADL) studies show that many modern-day Westerners continue to believe the Jews are responsible for Jesus’ death (22% in Europe, 26% in the US, and 22% in Argentina). This, despite the fact that the primary historical promoter of this notion, the Catholic Church, took that opinion back in its document *Nostra Aetate*, which is now over 50 years old.

The persistence of this and other antisemitic tropes can be explained in part by confirmation bias, which is more prominent today than ever before thanks to the instant and widespread dissemination of personal opinions over social media.

Hate speech confirms the bias of those who already believe it. This can be seen in the proliferation of a host of more contemporary anti-Jewish hate motifs that are constantly repeated by modern-day antisemites. One of these newer motifs is that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the country of which they are citizens. This kind of accusation is almost never hurled at other immigrant communities residing in democratic societies. Consider, for example, Turkish immigrants living in Western countries, many of whom exercise their right to dual citizenship and use it to vote in favor of President Erdogan’s anti-democratic measures. They draw little if any condemnation for this. Jewish citizens of Western countries, on the other hand, most of whom do not claim Israeli citizenship, are suspected of dual loyalty simply because they are Jews.

Many other antisemitic prejudices are kept alive by confirmation bias, particularly in the Arab world. As Rafael Israeli has illustrated, the centuries-old blood libel and the Jew-as-poisoner motif litter contemporary Arab texts. These outrageous prejudices also sometimes appear in new forms in the Western world. For example, the largest Swedish paper, the socialist *Aftonbladet*, published an article by Donald Boström in 2009 stating that Israel kills Palestinians to harvest their organs. Rutgers associate professor Jasbir Puar, during a speech at Vassar College in 2016, accused Israel of “extracting organs from Palestinians for medical research.”

Were there not a long history of antisemitic blood libels behind such accusations, they would have little importance. But because they fit within an established history of such antisemitic motifs,

confirmation bias encourages them to be more readily accepted.

Nico Voigtländer and Hans-Joachim Voth state in a lengthy article about Nazi Germany, “Where schooling could tap into preexisting prejudices, indoctrination was particularly strong. This suggests that confirmation bias may play an important role in intensifying attitudes toward minorities.”

The worst example of the impact of confirmation bias on Jew-hatred is the more than 1,500-year-old core antisemitic trope that Jews are the embodiment of absolute evil. For Christians, the killing of Jesus was the most evil act imaginable, and the church fed their belief that the Jews were responsible for it. For the Nazis, Jews were “subhuman,” “vermin,” or “bacteria,” and thus warranted extermination.

Today, the genocidal Nazis are themselves the symbol of absolute evil. Antisemitism has accordingly adapted to permit the labeling of Jews as Nazis. Many citizens of the EU are openly willing to accept

culmination of a persistent hatred that has lasted more than a thousand years.

Nor is that the only element that makes the Holocaust unique. The existence of long-lasting prejudices against Jews are what made it possible for the Germans to round up, transport, and murder them so efficiently. No other genocide has ever been characterized by an industrial attempt to hunt down and slaughter every member of a group wherever they may reside in the world, with the object of exterminating them completely from the face of the earth.

French leftist philosopher Alain Badiou wrote: “If one wants to resolve the problem of the unlimited war of the Middle East, one has to arrive, I know it is something difficult — to forget the Holocaust.” By viewing this astonishing conclusion through the lens of confirmation bias, one can better see how appalling it is.

The existence of confirmation bias suggests that better education is needed as a remedy to



An Anglican cathedral. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

and repeat the slander that Israel intends to exterminate the Palestinians and thus has a Nazi ideology.

Christians created the infrastructure for this hateful perception through their blaming of the Jews for the death of Jesus. The Germans intensified it during the Holocaust, helped by many Europeans for whom the Nazi position on the Jews confirmed their Christian bias. The absurd belief that Israel wants to exterminate the Palestinians could not have become so widespread without tapping into the confirmation bias of those who already believe Jews are evil.

Other related topics can be clarified by looking at them through the lens of confirmation bias. Some philosophers and others claim, for instance, that the Holocaust was not unique but a genocide like any other. Once one grasps the power of confirmation bias, one sees how perverse this position is. No other genocide was based on a profound prejudice that had been nursed and carried on for centuries on end. The Armenian, Cambodian, and Rwandan genocides were horrifying, but they were not the

antisemitism. It would of course be helpful, but it will not be easy. Prejudices are irrational. Those who are accustomed to having their prejudices confirmed in the public domain cannot be easily educated out of them — particularly in the era of social media, which bombards users with online antisemitic messages.

There is another major example of confirmation bias that many Westerners refuse to acknowledge. The Arab and Muslim world incessantly repeats the most vile antisemitic slanders. Allowing Muslims to immigrate into Europe without vetting them for antisemitism increases the percentage of antisemites on the continent.

*Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld is a Senior Research Associate at the BESA Center and a former chairman of the Steering Committee of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He specializes in Israeli-Western European relations, antisemitism, and anti-Zionism, and is the author of *The War of a Million Cuts*.*

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

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CINE MAGIC SUNSET PARK STUDIOS LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/03/2020. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 11 Kent Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.  
AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 22 NORTH 6TH STREET 8B LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 10/07/2019. 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: 22 North 6th Street 8B LLC 16 Melbourne Road great neck NY 11021 . Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

Notice of location of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SKY CASTLES CONSTRUCTION LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on 10/24/2019. 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: Legal-corp Solutions, LLC 11 Broadway Suite 615 New York, NY 10004. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 1/17/24/31; 2/7/14/21

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST ABBEOLA AARON AKA ABBEOLA O AARON, ALVIN ASHBY, MARCIA CROAL, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 1091

## LEGAL NOTICE

E 96TH 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 8184, LOT 31. Approximate amount of judgment \$412,546.22 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 501950/2012. LEONARD C. SPECTOR, ESQ., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 67335  
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 6 MILDRED PLACE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/27/2019. 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: Anderson registered agents 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 210 Brooklyn, NY 11228. purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Bruno Brancalone; Maria Brancalone; Robert Goldschmidt; Antonella Goldschmidt; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 14, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 2051 West 10th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223. 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 7096 Lot 62. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,227,564.11 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 15699/2013. Shmuel Taub, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: November 20, 2019 66817  
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Necta Dupuy; Frantzy Dupuy; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 18, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on February 27, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 8610 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY 11236. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block 8083 Lot 5. Approximate amount of judgment \$703,916.99 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 1128/13. Steven Naiman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 15, 2020  
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: SOMETHING FRENCH, LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 10/10/2019. 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: Osher Battal 2247 E. 66 street Brooklyn, NY 11234. Purpose: All lawful activity  
AJ; 1/24/31; 2/7/14/21/28

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE J.P.MORGAN ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2006-A5 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, Plaintiff against ISAAC SHOUELA, A/K/A ISAAC SHOUELA, ELI SHOUELA A/K/A ELI SHOUELA, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 25, 2018. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY. on the 5th day of March, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. premises described as follows: All that certain lot, 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, known and designated as Lots Numbers 63 and 64, Block 6826, on a certain plan of lots called "Brooklyn Harlem" (temporary Name) surveyed for Wood Harmon & Co., March 1902 by Samuel H. McElroy, C.E. and C.S. and filed in Kings County Register's Office, March 23, 1902, and bounded and described as follows, to wit: Easterly at East 21st Street, 40 feet as shown on said plan; Southerly by Lot 62 in Block 100 feet as shown on said plan; Westerly by lots 26 and 25 in said Block 40 feet as shown on said plan; Northerly by Lot 65 in said Block 100 feet as shown on said plan. Said premises known as 1946 E. 21st Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229. (Block: 6826, Lot: 27). Approximate amount of lien \$ 1,153,565.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 20507-13. Steven J. Baker, Esq., Referee. Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 10 Bank Street - Suite 700 White Plains, New York 10606 (914) 949-2574  
AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, vs. GLEN R. EDMONDS, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on August 21, 2018, and a Decision and Order filed on December 6, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 27, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 429 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 1677 and Lot 48. Approximate amount of judgment is \$713,853.33 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 1597/2015. Philip L. Kamaras, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite

## LEGAL NOTICE

590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted.  
AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: BRIDGETTE'S DINING & EVENT HALL, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 01/23/2020 . Office location: Kings county . SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Bridgette's Dining & Event Hall, LLC 200 Utica Avenue store Brooklyn, NY 11213 purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 1/31; 2/7/14/21/

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S. Bank, National Association, as Successor Trustee to Bank of America, N.A., as Successor By Merger to LaSalle Bank, N.A. as Trustee for the Certificate-holders of The MLMI Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-AR1, Plaintiff AGAINST Cheryle Williams a/k/a Cheryle E. Williams a/k/a Cheryle E. Dent a/k/a Cheryl E. Dent; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 5, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on March 12, 2020 at 2:30PM, premises known as 297 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of NY, Block: 1675 Lot: 42. Approximate amount of judgment \$754,004.40 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 20070/2013. Meryl L. Wenig, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 29, 2020 67721  
AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE Supreme Court County Of Kings Citibank, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST Arthur Breuer, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 8/9/2018 and entered on 9/10/2018, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 12, 2020 at 02:30 PM premises known as 1144 51st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. 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: 5654, LOT: 24. Approximate amount of judgment is \$402,986.71 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 508190/2013. Jeffrey R. Miller, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 53 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706  
AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. SERAFIN VASQUEZ, ET AL., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on February 6, 2019, and an Order Pursuant to CPLR 2004 Extending

## LEGAL NOTICE

The Time to Set Sale filed December 19, 2019, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on March 12, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 293 Powell Street, Brooklyn, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 03763 and Lot 00111. Approximate amount of judgment is \$850,187.63 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 21054/13. Julie A. Clark, Esq., Referee Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff Cash will not be accepted.  
AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF11 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FF11, V. WILLIAM BLAGROVE, ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 29, 2018, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2006-FF11 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-FF11 is the Plaintiff and WILLIAM BLAGROVE, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE 360 ADAMS STREET, ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on March 12, 2020 at 2:30 PM, premises known as 1603 E 95TH ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11236: Section , Block 8298, Lot 29: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 510180/2014. Jeffrey Miller, Esq. - Referee. RAS Borisikin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff.  
AJ; 2/7/14/21/28

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: KOZIE DESIGN LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/02/2019. Office location: Bronx county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Legalinc Corporate Services Inc. 1967 Wehrle Drive Suite 1 #086 Buffalo, NY 14221 purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 2/7/14/21/28; 3/6/13

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: JAMONIX GLOBAL LLC Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York (SSNY) on: 01/27/2020 . Office location: Kings county. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Matthew Rogers 26 Bergen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6/13/20

Continued on Page A10

## Tradition.

## Legal Notice.

# The Universal and the Particular



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

The quintessential Jewish expression of thanks, gratitude and acknowledgment is *Baruch Hashem*, meaning “Thank God,” or “Praise be to the Lord.”

Chassidim say of the Baal Shem Tov that he would travel around the little towns and villages of Eastern Europe, asking Jews how they were. However poor or troubled they were, invariably they would reply, *Baruch Hashem*. It was an instinctive expression of faith, and every Jew knew it. They might have lacked the learning of



the great Talmudic scholar, or the wealth of the successful, but they believed they had much to thank God for, and they did so. When asked what he was doing and why, the Baal Shem Tov would reply by quoting the verse: “You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:4). So every time a Jew says *Baruch Hashem*, he or she is helping to make a throne for the Shechinah, the Divine Presence.

The words *Baruch Hashem* appear in this week’s parsha. But they are not spoken by a Jew. The person who says them is Yitro, Moshe’s father-in-law. Rejoining Moshe after the Exodus, bringing with him Moshe’s wife and children, and hearing from his son-in-law all that had happened in Egypt, he says, “Praise be to the Lord [*Baruch Hashem*], who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians” (Ex. 18:10).

Three people in the Torah use this expression – and all of them are non-Jews, people outside the Abrahamic covenant. The first is Noah: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem” (Gen. 9:26). The second is Abraham’s servant, presumed to be Eliezer, whom he sends to find a wife for Yitzchak: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned His kindness and faithfulness to my master” (Gen. 24:27). The third is Yitro in this week’s parsha.

Is this significant? Why is it that this praise of God is attributed to Noah, Eliezer and Yitro, whereas from the Israelites, with the marked exception of the Song at the Sea, we seem to hear constant complaints? It may be simply that this is human

nature: we see more clearly than others what is lacking in our lives, while others see more clearly than we do the blessings we have. We complain, while others wonder what we are complaining about when we have so much to be thankful for. That is one explanation.

It is, though, possible that a more fundamental point is being made. The Torah is signalling its most subtle and least understood idea: that the God of Israel is the God of all humankind, even though the religion of Israel is not the religion of all humankind. As Rabbi Akiva put it: “Beloved is humanity, for it was created in the image of God. Beloved is Israel, for they are called children of God.”

We believe that God is universal. He created the universe. He set in motion the processes that led to stars, planets, life, and humanity. His concern is not limited to Israel. As we say in the prayer of Ashrei, “His tender mercies are on all His works.” You do not need to be Jewish to have a sense of reverence for the Creator or recognise, as Yitro did, His hand in miraculous events. It would be hard to find another religious literature that confers such dignity on figures who stand outside its borders.

This is true not only of the three notable figures who said *Baruch Hashem*. The Torah calls Abraham’s contemporary, Malkizedek, king of Shalem, a “Priest to God Most High.” He, too, blessed God: “Blessed be Avram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High who delivered your enemies into your hand” (Gen. 14:19-20).

Consider also, the fact that the title of our own parsha this week, which contains the Ten Commandments as well as the most significant event in all of Jewish history, the covenant at Sinai, carries the name of a non-Jew. What is more, immediately prior to the revelation at Sinai, the Torah tells us how it was Yitro the Midianite Priest who taught Moshe how to organise the leadership of the people.

These are remarkable expressions of spiritual generosity to those outside the covenant.

Or consider Tishri, the holiest month of the Jewish year. On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, as well as reading about the birth of Yitzchak, we read of how an angel came to the aid of Hagar and Yishmael. “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid. God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation” (Gen. 21:17-18). Yishmael was not destined to be a carrier of the covenant, yet he was rescued and blessed.

On Yom Kippur, in the afternoon, after we have spent most of the day fasting and making confession, we read the book of Yonah, in which we discover that the Prophet uttered a mere five Hebrew words (“In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed”) and

then the entire population – Assyrians, Israel’s enemies – repented. Tradition takes this as the model of collective repentance.

On Succot we read Zechariah’s prophecy that in days to come all the nations will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of rain (Zech. 14:16-19).

These are three stunning examples of universalism. They do not imply that in the fullness of time everyone will convert to Judaism. Rather, that in the fullness of time everyone will recognise the one God, Creator and Sovereign of the universe. That is quite a different thing.

This idea that you can stand outside the faith and still be acknowledged by people within the faith as someone who recognises God, is very rare indeed. Far more common is the approach of one God, one truth, one way. Whoever stands outside that way is Godless, unsaved, the infidel, unredeemed, a lower class of humanity.

Why then does Judaism distinguish between the universality of God and the particularity of our relationship with Him? Answer: because this helps us solve the single greatest problem humanity has faced since earliest times. *How can I recognise the dignity and integrity of the ‘other’?* History and biology have written into the human mind a capacity for altruism toward the people like us, and aggression toward the people not like us. We are good, they are bad. We are innocent, they are guilty. We have truth, they have lies. We have God on our side, they do not. Many crimes of nation against nation are due to this propensity.

Which is why Tanach teaches otherwise. Noah, Eliezer and Yitro were people of God without being members of Israel. Even the people of Nineveh became an example of how to heed a Prophet and repent. God blessed Yishmael as well as Yitzchak. These are powerful lessons.

It is hard to think of a more compelling principle for the 21st century. The great problems humanity faces – climate change, economic inequality, cyberwarfare, artificial intelligence – are global, but our most effective political agencies are at most national. There is a mismatch between our problems and the available solutions. We need to find a way of combining our universal humanity with our cultural and religious particularity.

That is what the Torah is doing when it tells us that Noah, Eliezer and Yitro said *Baruch Hashem*. They thanked God, just as we, today, thank God. God is universal. Therefore humanity, created in His image, is universal. But the revelation and covenant at Mount Sinai were particular. They belong to our story, not the universal story of humankind.

I believe this ability to be both particular in our identity and universal in our commitment to the human future is one of the most important messages we, as Jews, have to deliver in the 21st century. We are different, but we are human. Therefore let us work together to solve the problems that can only be solved together.

Shabbat shalom

*Continued from Page A7*  
**Our Terms**

of Zionism, or by those who purport to be so “enlightened” that they can see through the facade of Israeli democracy.

Those individuals take it upon themselves to distinguish between the “good” and the “bad” parts of Israel and avail themselves freely of the all-purpose evil of the “occupation.” Some in today’s left and progressive circles use the 1967 “Green Line” as a red herring in their representation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the American Jewish community. Journalist Peter Beinart, one of the driving forces behind this trend, claims “the American Jewish establishment and the Zionist establishment [render themselves] morally corrupt by defending the indefensible, for defending an occupation that holds millions of people occupied.”

Beinart, J Street head Jeremy Ben-Ami, and others believe a “Zionist BDS” directed only against Israeli West Bank neighborhoods (or “settlements”) is fair game. Like many post-Zionists and revisionists, they propound a false reality that puts the entire onus for the Arab-Israeli conflict on Israel. This distorted narrative maintains that Israel is almost exclusively to blame for the collapse of the Oslo “peace process” and the failure to revive it, rather than Arab rejectionism or Yasser Arafat’s web of lies to his people, Israel, and the US.

Cognitive dissonance — the discomfort caused by carrying conflicting beliefs or values simultaneously — applies to many aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is an especially apt description of the emotions produced by the difference between historical fact and the Palestinians’ view of their national narrative.

The notion of “occupation” has become the defining lens through which everything about the Palestinians’ self-conception is explained and justified. This is exactly the myopic view taken by Beinart and his colleagues. The only difference is that unlike overtly anti-Zionist bashers like Norman Finkelstein, Ilan Pappé, and others, Beinart claims to be a lover of Zion — just one who is having a difficult time grappling with the “harsh” Israeli reality.

American Jewish intellectuals have placed other Jews in the class of people who cannot be debated or remain unpunished for where they live or for their views. Moreover, a strict double standard applies: Jewish organizations like Hillel must include anti-Israel voices or be deemed intolerant or racist, but Palestinians and their supporters should never be expected to reciprocate. Jewish intellectuals must engage in dialogue with BDS representatives or other Palestinian advocates who demand the ethnic cleansing of Israel lest they be called cowards or worse. Leading American Jewish intellectuals have themselves adopted the rhetoric and methods of BDS, to be applied to Jews only.

This strategy has been mostly local up to this point, but individuals like Beinart and Ben-Ami now feel empowered to attempt to hijack the World Zionist Congress and steer funding away from anything related to the “settlements.” The legislative authority of the 120-year-old

## LEGAL NOTICE

*Continued from Page A9*

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC )Name: MIKEGEEZ FITNESS BOUTIQUE LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on : 01/29/2020 . Office location: Richmond County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: MIKEGEEZ Fitness Boutique LLC 318 Nelson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. Purpose: all lawful activity  
AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6/13/20

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT KINGS COUNTY CITIBANK, N.A., Plaintiff against ALIZA SHREM, et al Defendants Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523 Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered January 17, 2018, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201 on March 19, 2020 at 2:30 PM. Premises known as 2238 West Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223. Block 7151 Lot 71. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$441,324.93 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 5872/2012. Cash will not be accepted at the sale. Doron Leiby, Esq., Referee 11582  
AJ; 2/14/21/28; 3/6

World Zionist Organization helps determine the fate of \$1 billion in spending on Jewish causes. Beinart contends that “Israeli settlements in the West Bank are institutionalized expressions of bigotry. The American and Israeli politicians who legitimize them are the moral equivalent of those politicians who legitimized Jim Crow” because “Jewish settlements are Jewish-only settlements.” J Street has announced a new campaign to pressure 2020 Democratic candidates into opposing Israel’s presence in the West Bank, with the goal of getting the party to include a formal opposition to the “occupation” in its official platform.

There are countless unresolved questions regarding the territories and “settlements,” all of which should be decided by Israelis and Palestinians. American Jews imposing their conceptions, based on a palpable lack of understanding and sympathy for their Israeli cousins, is patronizing and foolish. Hijacking Zionism’s most important institution to demand that Israelis follow the dictates of Americans is far from what Herzl and his successors intended.

*Asaf Romirowsky is executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), a senior non-resident fellow at the BESA Center, and a Fellow at the Middle East Forum.*

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

## Social.



Eden Alene, winner of the reality show 'The Next Star to Eurovision,' during the finals in the Neve Ilan studio near Jerusalem, Feb. 4, 2020. Photo: Shlomi Cohen / Flash90.

## First Ethiopian-Israeli Chosen to Represent Jewish State at Eurovision Song Contest

BY JNS.org

Eden Alene will be the first Ethiopian-Israeli to compete on behalf of the Jewish state at the Eurovision international song contest, set for May 16 in the Dutch city of Rotterdam.

On Tuesday night, the 19-year-old won Israel's reality show "The Next Star to Eurovision," whose winner then goes on to represent Israel in the Eurovision competition. Her final performance was of Beyoncé's "Halo," and she was crowned the winner after a tally of votes by the public and several panels of judges.

Alene, currently a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces, was the oldest of the four finalists on the show.

"It is an insane honor to represent my country," she said of her win. "It is amazing that an Ethiopian is doing it for the first time."

She also said, "I want to thank everyone who voted for me, and I promise to do my best to represent Israel with honor at the Eurovision."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Alene on Twitter, saying, "Eden, you are a champion! We trust you to bring Eurovision back home. Good luck!"

Alene, who moved this year with her single mother to Kiryat Gat from Jerusalem, studied ballet and theater and has taken voice lessons. She sang for two years with the YMCA Jerusalem Youth Choir, a mixed choir of Jewish and Arab teens, and was the winner of Israel's "X-Factor" in 2018, in which she received a recording contract.

Viewers and professionals will vote on the song Alene will sing in the Eurovision competition, and the track will be revealed during on March 3 special broadcast on Kan.

Israel's last winner in the Eurovision came was Netta Barzilai in 2018, who won with the song "Toy."

## Novel Depicting a Jewish-Muslim Romance Sparks Controversy in Saudi Arabia

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A bestselling novel about a Jewish-Muslim romance has aroused fascination and controversy in Saudi Arabia, with charges being made that the book was intended to advance Israel's diplomatic interests.

The Israeli news site *Mako* reported on Monday

that author Raja Bandar's book, *The Foreign Jew*, tells the story of a struggling Jewish woman from Yemen who marries a wealthy Arab man. The couple has a child who — because Jewish descent is matrilineal and Muslim descent patrilineal — is considered to be a member of both religions.

The couple divorces and the daughter is raised

## Israeli Orthodox Jewish Female Runner Wins Miami Half Marathon, Her First US Race

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Beatie Deutsch, an Orthodox Jewish runner from Israel, came in first place on Sunday in the Life Time Miami Half Marathon women's division.

Deutsch's race time was 1:16:50. This was her first time racing in the US.

"Hi! It's your wife. I won!" the mother-of-five, 30, told her husband, Michael, in a phone call moments after finishing the race. "It wasn't a great [finish] time, but it was hard — windy."

She later wrote on Facebook, "Thank you Hashem



Beatie Deutsch, center, receiving her first place award after the Life Time Miami Half Marathon. Photo: Facebook.

for giving me the opportunity to stand on the podium today at the @themiamimarathon and proudly represent Israel and the Jewish people."

Deutsch — a New Jersey native who moved to Israel in 2008 — was running to raise money for Beit Daniella, a charity for children with mental illnesses.

Jewish, but her mother eventually dies and the girl is sent to live with her father in a very conservative Muslim environment, where she struggles to maintain her Jewish identity.

Response to the book was electric, with some readers charging that it is an attempt to prepare the Saudi public for the normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which have grown warmer in recent years in the face of a mutual threat from Iran.

Ultra-conservative religious forces in the kingdom have also criticized the book, saying it should not be read because it exposes readers to an intimate interfaith romance between a Jew and a Muslim.

Many, however, have praised the novel, and even saw it as a "source of pride."

Bandar herself says that she wrote the book out of a lifelong interest in Jews from Arab countries, and that she was aware the novel would be controversial.

She denied that she was trying to "normalize" Israel among Saudis and charged those who claimed otherwise were doing so based on their own personal interpretations and not her intentions.

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