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## Israeli Leaders Ring in Subdued Independence Day Celebrations



People watch fireworks during celebrations in downtown Jerusalem, May 1, 2017. Photo: Yonatan Sindel / Flash90.

### BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israel kicked off festivities marking its 72nd Independence Day on Tuesday night with the traditional torch-lighting ceremony on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Due to coronavirus-related restrictions, the event was pre-recorded with no audience.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video message, "We've never had an Independence Day like this. We're far apart physi-

cally, but we've never been closer." "It is time for unity," he declared. "If we join forces, we can overcome the coronavirus."

Speaking at the event, Knesset Speaker Benny Gantz — the head of the centrist Blue and White party who recently forged a coalition agreement with Netanyahu and his right-wing Likud party after three inconclusive Knesset elections in one year — said, "We are going through difficult times, and we must prepare for even harder times. We will win this war, and form a new

ethos, a story of solidarity — a story that will not be defined by strangers or enemies, but by ourselves."

"We will continue to build a nation that is greater than the sum of its parts," Gantz pledged. "A model society that is not afraid of challenges, and looks ahead with hope. A society in which we, the leaders, take responsibility, work for you, the citizens of Israel, care for the unity of the nation and uphold democracy and human rights for all. A society that has some chutzpah and is out of the box, but is also stable and strong."

## Israeli Coronavirus Patients on Ventilators Dip Below 100

BY ADI PiCK/CTech

The number of confirmed coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in Israel reached 15,589 on Tuesday, but the number of recoveries continues to exceed the number of new diagnoses.

According to Israel's Ministry of Health, the number of Israelis who have recovered from the virus now stands at 7,375, while 208 people have died from the disease throughout the country so far. The number of people in severe condition has also continued to drop, from 136 on Thursday to 117 on Tuesday, with 94 of them requiring



A medical ventilator. Photo: Przemyslaw Jahr via Wikimedia.

connection to ventilators. Israel has a total of 2,391 ventilator beds.

A health ministry announcement said it is capable of conducting up to 15,000 coronavirus tests a day throughout the country, roughly half of the goal set out by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the start of the outbreak. On Saturday, 9,031 Israelis were tested for Covid-19 while 160 tests came back positive. On Monday, 9,546 were conducted with only 110 tests showing positive results.

Given the decrease in new diagnoses and the gradual

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## A Painful Memorial Day

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### ShabbatCalendar

Parshat ACHAREI -  
KEDOSHIM  
פרשת אחרי-קדושים

Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting  
Shabbat Begins: 7:34<sup>pm</sup> | Shabbat Ends: 8:34<sup>pm</sup>



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## Opinion.

# New York Times World War II-Era Diary Project Gets History Wrong



IRA STOLL  
BOSTON

The *New York Times* devoted the front of a recent Sunday arts section and four full broadsheet pages inside to World War-II-era Dutch diaries.

The *Times* aims to link the project to the coronavirus crisis, contending, "Their words, filled with the anxiety born of illness, isolation and uncertainty, register with particular power today in another unsettled time."

The *Times* project, also timed vaguely to coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Day, does register with particular power, though not in precisely the way the *Times* intended. By whittling 2,000 diaries down to a few newspaper pages, the *Times* demonstrates its editorial priorities, putting its own unmistakably opinionated, tendentious, and misleading spin on the events of the Holocaust era.

Here is how the *Times*' Dutch diary project handles the question of communism:

*Jan Christiaan Marius Krusinga's diary features accounts of events in 1941, when the occupiers first began rounding up and deporting Jews. Members of the Dutch Communist party, which was illegal at the time, called for a protest strike in response.*

*On Feb. 25, trams in Amsterdam stopped working. Dockworkers walked off the job. Many shops closed in solidarity. Krusinga, a notary and poet from Den Helder, wrote 3,600 pages in his multivolume diary. ... Some 300,000 workers joined the strike in Amsterdam, where there was marching in the streets. The next day, workers in Haarlem, Hilversum, Utrecht, and other cities joined in. Clashes with retaliating German forces in various places left nine dead and 24 wounded.*

Depicting the communists as heroic anti-Nazi activists defending the Jews is misleading. It ignores the 1939 Hitler-Stalin nonaggression pact that gave the Nazis time to build their war machine and begin their war against the Jews while the Soviet Union and its loyalists stood idly by. And it ignores that the Soviet Communists turned viciously against the Jews, banning the teaching of Hebrew, preventing Jews from escaping the Soviet Union, funding anti-Israel terrorism, and, in 1952, executing 13 Jewish writers after a show trial.

Soviet communist antisemitism has been a strange repeated blind spot for *The New York Times*. A year ago, the *Times* published a front-page news article claiming inaccurately that during the decades between the Nazis and the Trump administration "antisemitism was mostly consigned to the political fringes." As I wrote then, "The Soviet Union was founded on a communist ideology

that opposed all religion, but it took a particularly nasty and cruel dislike to Judaism and Jews. The superpower spent much of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s brutally restricting the freedom of its Jews to emigrate to America or Israel. Hebrew was banned."

In 2018, the *Times* acknowledged Soviet antisemitism, but blamed it on Israel. In fact, I wrote then:

*Stalin allied with Hitler and Nazi Germany in 1939 in the Hitler-Stalin pact until 1941. Joshua Rubenstein tells some of the story in his introduction to the 2001 book Stalin's Secret Pogrom: The Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, which was published by Yale University Press in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.*

Rubenstein notes that two leaders of the Bund, a Jewish socialist group, Henryk Erlich and Viktor Alter, were arrested by Stalin's secret police in 1939 and again in 1941; the Soviet Communists murdered Alter in 1943, and Erlich died in Soviet confinement in 1942. Rubenstein further notes that as early as the late 1920s, under Stalin "Hebrew was prohibited," by the late 1930s, "Yiddish books were removed from libraries."

Now, the *Times* or its defenders may claim that the Communist party of the Netherlands was somehow independent of Moscow's control, but that's not the case. The book *Communism in History and Theory:*

*the European experience*, by Donald F. Busky, reports, "As with other communist parties of the era, the CPN changed political lines drastically according to Comintern dictates and the Soviet Union's foreign policy interests. In 1935 they were for the Popular Front with the Socialists. The Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939 saw them swing around to defeatism. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 saw them swing back to antifascism and active participation in the underground resistance to the German occupation." A master's thesis by Tijn Sinke of the University of Utrecht, "Dutch Communism in Transition," reports that the Dutch Communist party leader Paul de Groot "wrote in June 1940 that the Dutch population should not support the war effort, but maintain its neutrality towards Germany. He asked the workers to take up a 'correct' position towards the German occupier, an expression for which the CPN would be criticized by social democrats and other resistance fighters during the entire war."

The *Times* gives the last word in the long project to a kind of anti-war exhortation. As the *Times* puts it, "Anton Frans Koenraads, a 39-year-old teacher in Delft, the hometown of Johannes Vermeer, wrote about how the war in the Netherlands ended on May 5, 1945." The final sentence the *Times* quotes from his diary is "I've had the painful privilege of having experienced an 'all-out war.' That is behind us

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# Applying Israeli Sovereignty: Changing the 'When,' Not the 'What'



SHOSHANA BRYEN/  
JNS.org

European Union foreign-policy chief Josep Borrell put forward a surprise resolution on Israel's new government that included the following: "The EU does not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the occupied West Bank. The EU reiterates that any annexation would constitute a serious violation of international law." But EU statements have to be unanimous, and Borrell was thwarted by members of his own club. The details aren't clear yet, but Hungary and Austria were definitely opposed, and an Israeli diplomat noted that the largest number of EU delegates to date opposed a resolution aimed at Israel.

It was the second time Borrell made such a move, and the second time countries of the European Union opposed him. In February, Borrell met with Iranian leaders and shortly thereafter tried to ram through a condemnation of US President Donald Trump's Mideast peace plan. Of the 27 EU members, six refused, including Italy, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. In an apparent "sop" to Israel, Borrell's latest statement also said that the European Union is willing to continue cooperation with Israel on fighting the coronavirus. He appears to have been channeling Omar Barghouti, founder of the BDS movement, who blatantly compro-

mised his antisemitic principles because Israel appears set to create something he wants to use. Barghouti said, "If Israel finds a cure for cancer, for example, or any other virus, then there is no problem in cooperating with Israel." Borrell's point is the same — the European Union will happily benefit from Israel's medical and high-tech innovation, as well as use Israeli security mechanisms (including intelligence that has saved countless European lives by thwarting planned terrorist attacks). Nevertheless, criticism of Israel will be attached to everything it says.

The delegates who voted against Borrell, in fact, appeared unhappy that the European Union's first message to Israel's unity government would be the repetition of an old criticism couched in the cloak of opposition to Trump's peace plan. So, bravo to EU countries that appear tired of using every message, every platform, and every possible moment to criticize Israel.

Moving to the substance of Borrell's criticism, as the Israeli political establish-



EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, February 11, 2020.  
Photo: REUTERS/Vincent Kessler.

ment resolves itself into a unity government, it is devoted first and foremost to continuing to manage the outbreak of COVID-19, as it should be. But on the table is the intention of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to move forward on applying Israeli sovereignty to parts of the territory acquired by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. An Israeli diplomat was very specific recently about the phrase "applying Israeli sovereignty." Not "annexation," the relevant definition of which is "to incorporate (a country or other territory) within the domain of a state."

This goes to the heart of the ongoing dispute between the EU version of life and the Israeli version with which the American government is in accord.

If you posit that Israel's presence anywhere east of the armistice line is "illegal," as the European Union does, Israel would be taking another country or someone else's territory for incorporation into Israel, aka annexation. But that is not the case. The territory's last legitimate ruler was Great Britain under the UN Mandate for Palestine. Before that, it was a province of the Ottoman Empire. Jordan's 1950 annexation — the proper use of the word here — was illegal and deemed so by all the countries of the United Nations, except Great Britain and Pakistan.

The application of Israeli sovereignty to the unallocated part of the British Mandate is not illegal. The UN resolution specified that Israel was entitled to "secure and recognized boundaries," which the armistice line certainly

*Continued on Page A9*

## World News.

## UK Educational Publisher Withdraws Textbook Accused of Bias Against Israel

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A major UK publisher of educational materials is withdrawing a textbook on the Middle East conflict that has been criticized as biased against Israel.

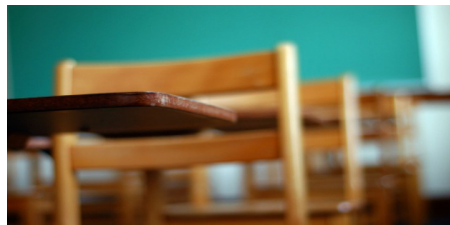
Hodder Education said in regard to its textbook *Conflict in the Middle East 1945-95*: "After further consideration, we have decided to remove the book from sale and will reconsider its future."

The move comes after a 45-page criticism of the first chapter of the textbook, written by Noru Tsalic, was issued by the group UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI). It pointed out what it considered inaccuracies and biased statements in regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The study found, for example, that the textbook tended to use the term "Palestine" to describe the area in question, while using the Jewish name for the area — "the Land of Israel" — only in direct references to Jews or Zionism, thus privileging one side of the conflict.

The textbook also used the term "Jewish settlers" to describe the early Zionist immigrants, thus employing a loaded term from today's political debates that does not apply to earlier periods in history.

The term "terrorism" appears in the textbook in reference to actions by Zionist



An empty classroom. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

groups, such as the Irgun and Lehi, but not in reference to Arab attacks on Jewish civilians.

The textbook also refers to America's "large and powerful Jewish community" as a major factor in US support for a Jewish state.

Tsalic stated, "There are many issues with this textbook. The factual account is often selective, partial and marred by errors; essential historical context is ignored or superficially treated; there is a general lack of scholarly rigor in the way the topic is covered."

UKLFI Director Caroline Turner commented on the news that the textbook had been withdrawn, saying, "It is very important that children learning about this complex subject are taught in a balanced and accurate manner. We are pleased that another misleading and inaccurate school textbook, purporting to teach about Middle East history, is being withdrawn and reconsidered."

taught intermittently and not throughout the entire week. In elementary schools, in-class instruction will be held on Sundays through Thursdays, and recess breaks will be staggered to avoid further exposure.

Netanyahu chaired a discussion on Monday with the chairmen of the open-air market committees in order to formulate an outline for the gradual reopening of the markets.

*Continued from Page A1*  
**Ventilators Dip**

easing of restrictions, preschools, daycares, and grades one through three are expected to resume in-class instruction as of Sunday, subject to a situation assessment this Friday. The outline that has been formulated by the Ministry of Education is to split the classrooms into groups of 15 children on average. According to the model, the children will be

## Travel Tech Is Down but Not Out, According to Israeli Organizer of Major Tourism

BY RON FRIEDMAN/CTech

The tourism and travel sector is without a doubt one of the industries most hurt by the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Over a matter of weeks, the sector went from business as usual to a near standstill due to severe travel restrictions put in place by governments, impacting thousands of companies and millions of employees worldwide. According to a UN World Tourism Organization report issued on March 27, "International tourist arrivals could decline by 20% to 30% in 2020." Such a drop would translate to an industry-wide \$300-450 billion loss. The agency is set to publish updated figures on May 5 and has stressed that its estimates were based on previous crises, which were smaller

and less volatile.

With such gloomy forecasts, industry players could be excused for wanting to hide and curl into a ball. But when it comes to the travel tech industry there are still signs of optimism and activity, at least judging by the attendance at a recent virtual conference organized for the ecosystem.

Roughly 3,500 industry representatives took part in an online conference last week dedicated to meeting the challenges of the outbreak and preparing for the day after Covid-19. Organized by Israeli startup Avian and Travel Tech Nation, a platform dedicated to promoting the industry, OTC 2020 saw two full days of online speeches, panels, and meetings, featuring speakers from some of the biggest companies and forward-thinking startups.

## Israeli Woman Wounded in Palestinian Stabbing Attack on Memorial Day



Emergency services at the scene of a stabbing attack in the Israeli town of Kfar Saba, April 28, 2020. Photo: United Hatzalah.

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A Palestinian terrorist stabbed a 61-year-old Israeli woman in the central city of Kfar Saba on Tuesday, which was Memorial Day in Israel.

Israeli news site N12 reported that the woman was waiting for a bus near the G Mall when the attacker stabbed her several times in the head, legs and hands. The assailant was then shot by a passing civilian who happened to be armed.

The victim was evacuated to hospital and was described as being in moderate condition.

The terrorist — reportedly a 19-year-old resident of the West Bank — was also in moderate condition and was receiving medical treatment.

The woman's husband, who was at the hospital with their children, said he had spoken to his wife, stating, "She suffered from multiple stabbings and lost a lot of blood."

"We understand she went shopping... and was stabbed while waiting for the bus," he added.

Ofek Pollak, who witnessed the entire incident, said, "I heard cries of 'help!' I saw [the victim and the terrorist] running into the road from a bus stop, and while I saw the terrorist hit her in the back, I didn't know it

was stabbing."

"When I got halfway there, I saw that a white jeep had stopped, and someone with a gun got out of it and fired two shots at the terrorist and the terrorist fell down," she added.

Rivka Mahluf, who was driving a taxi that passed by at the moment the incident occurred, said, "I saw a crowd and heard gunshots. As I approached, I saw the terrorist lying on the ground after one of the civilians neutralized him. It was a very scary situation."

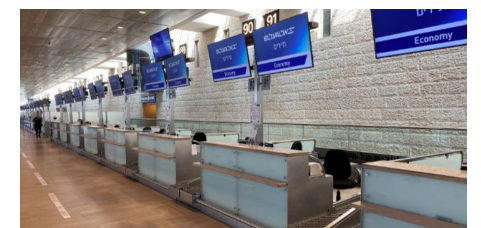
The Shin Bet and the Israel Police are investigating the attack and particularly how the terrorist succeeded in entering Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesperson to the Arab media, Ofir Gendelman, tweeted, "On the very day when we remember the IDF soldiers who fell defending Israel and Israeli civilians who were murdered by Palestinian terrorists, a Palestinian terrorist chased & stabbed a 62 y/o Israeli woman on the street, just because she's Israeli."

"The Palestinian terrorists do not differentiate between soldiers or civilians and between children or older people, as we saw today," he added. "Our answer to this is fighting these terrorists, foiling their vicious attacks and building our country."

"It feels like a disaster right now, but everybody is gearing towards the recovery. The general opinion seems to be that local tourism will resume in the summer and regular international flights in the winter, assuming there are no further (infection) waves that could shake everything up," Mickey Haslavsky, CEO and founder of Avian Software Solutions, an online marketplace connecting airlines and travel resellers, told *CTech* in an interview Sunday. "The situation is not great, to say the least, but everyone realizes that travel is a commodity and that people will continue to move around the world."

Despite the optimistic bottom line, Haslavsky is well aware that the industry that emerges from the crisis will not be the same as it was going into it. He said smart companies were already making adjustments to their products and planning their futures based on a range of contingencies of border-closure policies. "The health and social distancing considerations are going to be central when we exit the lockdown. It will be a challenge to ensure people feel secure and comfortable enough to board a plane or a train at a safe distance from fellow passengers or enter a hotel room previously used by other people," he said.



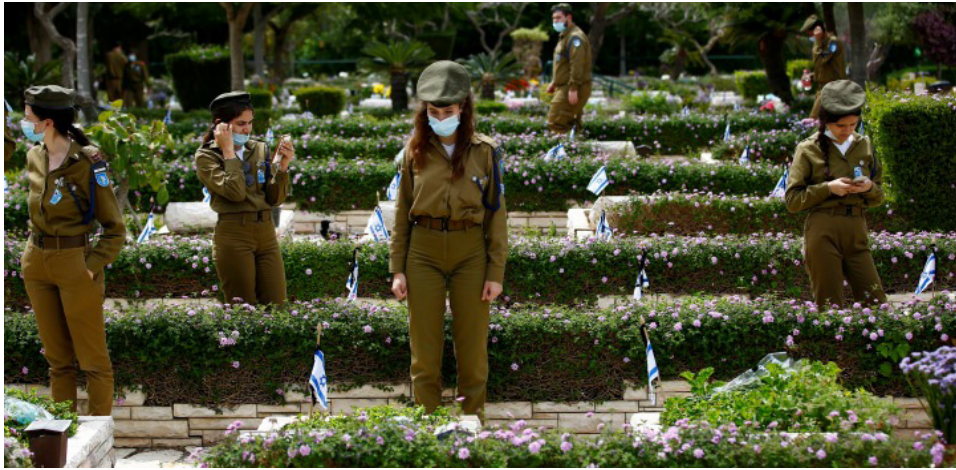
A general view shows an area of the departures terminal in Ben-Gurion International Airport, near Tel Aviv, Israel, March 8, 2020.

Photo: Reuters / Rami Amichay.

Avian, which under normal circumstances would be busy this time of year connecting booking companies with other service providers at travel destinations, saw their demand decrease substantially. "We were about to launch a new product with Kiwi International in May that has been put on hold," Haslavsky said. But the crisis also opens new opportunities for startups, case in point, organizing online conferences, which are sure to see a boost in the short term and may even become the norm going forward as companies weigh the cost and benefits of shaking hands in person. Luckily for them, Avian managed to secure operational funding ahead of the

*Continued on Page A10*

## World News.



Israeli soldiers stand next to graves of fallen soldiers during a ceremony at a military cemetery in Tel Aviv, April 27, 2020. Photo: Reuters/Corinna Kern.

## Israel Comes to a Halt in Memory of Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israelis stood in silence — many on the balconies of their homes due to coronavirus restrictions — on Monday night as a one-minute siren sounded nationwide to mark the start of the annual Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism.

A total of 23,816 soldiers have died defending Israel, while 3,153 civilians have lost their lives in terrorist attacks throughout the country's history.

Another siren — two minutes in length — will be heard in the morning on Tuesday morning.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, family members and friends of the fallen will not be able to visit their graves in military cemeteries across the country, as is the usual custom.

At an official state ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem on Monday, which

was held without an audience, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said in remarks addressed to the bereaved, "This year, we can't cry together. This year, we can't look into your eyes."

Nevertheless, he vowed, Israelis would remember the "unfathomable price" paid for the country's ongoing existence.

At the same event, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi said, "Bereaved families, even now, despite the distance, all of Israel is with you, through all kinds of screens. Every person in their home is stopping, sympathizing [and] dedicating time to the memory of your sons and daughters."

"These are complicated times, which bring worry and concern from the lingering danger," he added. "A time of crisis is like a time of war. It pushes aside the trivial and minor and makes the important things, the ethical things and the sanctity of life stand out."

## Recalling San Remo and International Law Regarding the Jewish State, 100 Years Later

BY JOSH HASTEN / JNS.org

Exactly 100 years ago this week, World War I allied powers including the British Empire, Italy, France and Japan, along with the United States serving as an observer nation, met in San Remo, Italy, and ratified the 1917 Balfour Declaration, calling for a national home for the Jewish people in "Palestine."

Known as the "San Remo Conference," Britain was given the mandate to control the areas, which consist of what is now modern-day Israel and Jordan (along with Iraq), that formerly were controlled by the defeated Ottoman Empire.

The mandate was ratified two years later in an unanimous vote by more than 50 member countries of the League of Nations with the explicit goal of overseeing the establishment of a State for the Jews.

In other words, the resolutions passed at San Remo, and subsequently by the League of Nations, codified the Jewish people's rights to a homeland under international law.

To mark the historic, but often times downplayed, event in modern Jewish history,

the Im Tirtzu Israeli NGO, which seeks to strengthen and advance the values of Zionism in Israel, along with the Canadians for Israel's Legal Rights (CILR) Organization, held an online conference this past Sunday. The broadcast featured interviews with top academics, legal experts and other leading Israeli personalities to discuss San Remo at 100.

On the conference, former Deputy Foreign Minister and Knesset member Danny Ayalon, who also served as Israel's Ambassador to the United States, noted that many people, including diplomats, have little knowledge about the legally binding resolutions passed at San Remo.

He said to *JNS* that "I was privy to many diplomatic conversations, including those by heads of state, who call for Israel to carry out territorial evacuations [citing international law]. But this is wrong. This neglects the binding resolutions passed at San Remo, which internationalized Balfour."

Ayalon added that the United Nations "respected all commitments passed by the League of Nations, except when it comes to San Remo. Furthermore, the barrage of

Continued from Page A2  
History

now. With all the strength that's in us, let's go for 'all-out peace.'"

Pursuit of peace rather than war as the big takeaway lesson of World War II is certainly one way to look at it. I have a different view, which is that the decision of the Allies to enter and fight the war was a significant reason the Nazis and the Axis Powers were defeated. Had the Allied leaders, in the face of Axis aggression, decided to go for "all-out peace," the outcome might have been different, and much worse for the Jews and for the cause of freedom.

Similarly, it seems naïve to imagine, at least in pre-messianic times, that war will be entirely "behind us." So, military preparedness, both by Israel and the United States, is crucial, and peace through strength is the best

countless biased and discriminatory anti-Israel UN resolutions, which are the result of an automatic Arab and Palestinian majority, refer to these [UN resolutions] as carrying the weight of international law, but that's not true. Unfortunately, nobody really bothers looking into real international law."

**'Make this your legacy'**

Matan Peleg, CEO of Im Tirtzu, agrees that many are unaware of San Remo's significance including many Israelis. He told *JNS* that while San Remo internationally legitimizes the fact "that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews, the problem today is that a lot of Israelis aren't aware how important that event was."

He explained that while Israelis learn about the Balfour Declaration, that the document "didn't have a map on it. And at the same time, that declaration was only from one country—Great Britain." San Remo he says "legitimized a Jewish state on a world level."

Peleg said that one of the goals of the conference was to educate Jews in communities worldwide and provide them with knowledge to stand up for Israel because "how can you confront anti-Israel propaganda if you don't know Israel's legal right to exist?"

Citing the importance of San Remo, Eugene Kontorovich, director of the Kohelet Policy Forum and a professor at the George Mason University School of Law, told *JNS* that it was a "scandal" that Jerusalem and other cities in Israel name streets "Kaf Tet B'November" (Nov. 29), to celebrate the passing of the UN General Assembly resolution in 1947, calling to partition Israel into a state for the Arabs and the Jews, while there are no streets named for San Remo.

He believes that the partition plan is the more celebrated anniversary because it was "a one-time dramatic event, with the vote aired on the radio, with seven times more Jews living in Israel in 1947 [when compared to 1920], while San Remo was part of a set of long and drawn out set of conferences. It wasn't a single moment."

Kontorovich said that while the League of Nations Mandate is, in fact, mentioned in Israel's Declaration of Independence, it is "often downplayed for political reasons." He explains that "those who are opposed to Israel's legal rights in Judea and Samaria use the partition plan to bolster their arguments," while failing to cite San Remo.

Ultimately though, he said that Israel exists today not because of the mandate or the United Nations, but because Israel won its war of Independence in 1948. Even with sound legal claims, he adds, "If we had lost the war, we would have been one crocodile tear under the bottom of the [UN] Secretary General's ink blotter on his desk."

**'A state established by King David'**

Prominent attorney, human-rights activist and founder of Shurat HaDin—The

approach. The Dutch haven't been much of a military power anytime recently, so their strategic advice may be worth discounting. In the US, the lessons of World War II were widely recognized and articulated by, among others, John F. Kennedy in his book *Why England Slept* and Roberta Wohlstetter in her book *Pearl Harbor: Warning and Decision*. Or, memorably, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu put it in a 2018 speech in Munich, "The leaders who met in Munich chose to appease Hitler's regime rather than confront it. Those leaders were noble men. They thought they were fulfilling their highest responsibility to keep the peace. But the price of their action would soon become apparent."

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



Delegates at the San Remo conference in 1920. Photo: YouTube.

Israel Law Center Nitsana Darshan-Leitner explained to the conference that the decision by the world powers to call for the establishment of a Jewish state wasn't done out of a sense of Zionism, but rather was part of the allies strategy in maintaining world order following World War I. She said that Britain's Mandate was in fact one of 12 League of Nations' mandates.

Regardless of motive, she told *JNS* that what made the San Remo decision legally binding was the fact that "it was written under the agreement of the League of Nations, and therefore, it has legal validity."

She explained that as opposed to UN General Assembly Resolutions, which are just suggestions, or even UN Security Council Resolutions which carry more weight, for something to become binding in international law, "you need a bilateral signed treaty by parties." And not only this, but it requires "major world consensus," which she said took place at San Remo.

Nevertheless, Darshan-Leitner argued that "relying on San Remo is not the best strategy Israel should adopt [to justify its existence] because people don't really care about the legal argument. Maybe it's good in court, but you can't really bring it up in the public arena or diplomatic world."

Instead, she suggested that "Israel has to base its rights to the Land of Israel on our historical, religious and moral rights to be here, and not on signed documents."

Mordechai Kedar, an Arab-affairs expert and a professor at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, seemed to agree with Darshan-Leitner about focusing on Israel's ancient connection to the land for public diplomacy purposes.

When asked during the conference to share his thoughts as Israel prepares to celebrate its 72nd birthday, he responded that "the State of Israel made a big mistake when it claimed it was established in 1948. Israel should have said from the beginning that we are a state that was established by King David in Jerusalem more than 3,000 years ago. Sure, there were times when we [the Jews] were on the outside, but we are the renewed State of Israel, and we are a direct extension of the Jewish state which was here. So our real age isn't 72, but rather, over 3,000 years old. That's what we should have said on the first day of our establishment [in 1948], but unfortunately, we didn't, and we only count 72."

U.S. News.

# Bipartisan Group of Senators Call for Increased Funding for State Department Antisemitism Envoy

BY JNS.org

A bipartisan group of 28 senators have called on the Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs to increase funding for the US State Department's office that develops and implements policies and projects to combat global antisemitism.

The letter to the subcommittee, dated April 24, was signed by Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), co-chair of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, along with Sens. Mike Rounds (R-SD), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Jack Reed (D-RI), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio).

"Tragically, 75 years after the end of the Holocaust, antisemitism is on the rise around the world," wrote the senators, who cited a 2019 Anti-Defamation League survey that found that about one in four Europeans polled hold adverse sentiments towards Jews.

The senators also cited a study by Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry that found that violent antisemitic attacks globally increased 18 percent in 2019. The study also indicated that the coronavirus pandemic has led to an increase in antisemitic incitement scapegoating Jews for spreading the disease, in addition to the economic downturn caused by it.

# 'US Prepared to Recognize Application of Israeli Law to Areas of the West Bank'

BY JNS.org

A US State Department spokesperson said on Monday that the United States remains ready to recognize Israel's annexation of territory in the West Bank, but expects Israel to continue negotiations with the Palestinians.

"As we have made consistently clear, we are prepared to recognize Israeli actions to extend Israeli sovereignty and the application of Israeli law to areas of the West Bank that the vision [US President Donald Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan] foresees as being part of the State of Israel," the AFP quoted the spokesperson as saying. The spokesperson added however that this support would be "in the context of the government of Israel agreeing to negotiate with the Palestinians along the lines set forth in President Trump's vision."

According to the terms of the unity agreement reached by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main rival Benny Gantz of the Blue and White Party, the issue of extending Israeli sovereignty can be brought to the Knesset for a vote on July 1 at the earliest.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last week that it was up to Israel whether or not to annex territory in Judea and Samaria and the Jordan Valley, and that discussions on the issue are taking place through private channels with the Israeli government.

The Palestinians have refused to negotiate with the Trump administration.

The Arab League will convene an urgent virtual meeting this week to discuss Israel's annexation plans, according to the AFP.

"Providing additional funds in FY2021 will ensure the State Department has the resources needed to track and respond to this growing scourge and that the United States remains a leader in combating anti-Semitism internationally," wrote the senators. "Specifically, these funds would support the Special Envoy's efforts to improve the safety and security of at-risk Jewish communities, combat online radicalization, ensure public officials and faith leaders condemn antisemitic discourse, and strengthen judicial systems in their prosecution of antisemitic incidents."

The letter did not specifically state how much more funding should be allocated for the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. The 2020 spending bill Congress passed in December 2019, which was signed by US President Donald Trump, included \$500,000 for that office.



US State Department Truman Building. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

The letter was endorsed by the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Federations of North America, American Jewish Committee, Hadassah, National Council Supporting Eurasian Jewry, B'nai B'rith International, Union for Reform Judaism, Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Christians United for Israel Action Fund, Agudath Israel of America and Human Rights First.

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## Opinion.

# Tzur Goldin: My Brother's Body Can't Be Left Behind — or Exchanged for Terrorists



**TZUR GOLDIN**  
JERUSALEM

In 2014, a UN-US brokered ceasefire brought a pause to the fighting in Operation Protective Edge. During that ceasefire, my twin brother, Hadar Goldin, of blessed memory, a lieutenant operating inside Gaza at that time, was ambushed, killed, and kidnapped by Hamas terrorists.

His body has yet to be returned to Israel for burial.

Hamas also still holds the body of Oron Shaul, another soldier from the same operation, along with living Israeli citizens who are held captive by this terror organization.

Those realities shape what Israeli Remembrance Day means to me.

Israeli Remembrance Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism has always been the most powerful day of the year for me. This is the day that marks our national honor, and the day in which the basic values that unite Israeli society take center stage. It is a day of national solidarity and pride in our liberal, democratic, and Jewish character, and that which is laid down in order to preserve it.

On this day, our country stops and thinks of our fallen. We think of those who went into battle, never to return. We think of the wounded veterans. And we think of the civilians who fell victim to terror attacks.

I never imagined becoming one of the community of bereaved families; a community made up of members who never sought to become part of it. The years since Hadar was killed and kidnapped have been characterized by pain for me.

Yet, as a family, we are not only bereaved. We are also captives — captives of a dreadful

limbo as we wait for Hadar to be returned home.

We will forever be bereaved. Our mission is to cease to be captives.

The experience of these past six years has brought unimaginable pain and responsibility to me and to my family, and yet our mission is far from over.

The outcome of our battle to bring my brother home is one that goes to the very core of our national values. On this day, the value we must recall above all others is that of our common duty to fight for the return of every soldier and civilian in captivity, whether they are dead or alive.

I too fought in Operation Protective Edge. Hadar and I were operating a mere 500 meters from one another during the fighting. I know the mindset of a soldier.

Soldiers go into battle knowingly endangering their lives — and they think of their families at home and wonder how they would cope if something were to happen. Yet soldiers also derive strength from the knowledge that their brothers in arms — and their country — will do all that is needed in order to bring them back to Israel if they are injured, or if the worst should happen.

It matters not if such soldiers are serving in the Gaza districts of Rafah and Shajiah, or inside Lebanon or elsewhere; the notion that Israel will retrieve her soldiers, come what may, is invaluable to the members of the IDF.

That value must never be forgotten. And its importance must never be reduced, or Israeli society as a whole would be harmed. That is the value that my family is fighting for today. We want to see that value acted upon, not merely spoken about.

We must find the resolve to do everything in our power to bring back our soldiers.

In Gaza in 2014, I evacuated dozens of wounded and killed soldiers from the battlefield. Included within that number were my

friends and soldiers serving under my direct command. Not for a moment did I imagine that the day would come when I would be away from the physical battlefield, but fully engaged inside the political, security, and diplomatic battlefield, fighting for this very value to be upheld, albeit by different means, with the fate of my own brother hanging in the balance.

Since the storied Entebbe raid of 1976, Israel has been in a fight against the terrorism of kidnapping. Terror organizations have created an equation; they kidnap soldiers and civilians and exploit them as an asset — and Israel pays a high price, time and again, in order to gain their release.

They also force Israel to choose between two types of moral injustice: leave soldiers on the battlefield — effectively the case for Hadar — or release thousands of terrorists in exchange for the return of our soldiers.

My family and I believe in a third way.

In consultation with leading experts in Israel and the US, we have begun the work needed to bring about the change that is needed.

Terror organizations must be made to realize that the kidnapping of soldiers or civilians is a liability for them, not an asset. We must make them understand that it is they who will pay a price, not us.

In order to shift the paradigm, measures to improve the humanitarian situation inside Gaza must not be undertaken until our captives are returned.

Implementing this standard will bring the Gazan people to the understanding that when Israel's soldiers are kidnapped, it is not just Israel's soldiers who are held captive, but the Gazan people themselves — two million in number, who are being held hostage by 30,000 terrorists, whose barbaric actions result in the continued denial of a better humanitarian situation inside Gaza.



The late Hadar Goldin (left) with his father, Simcha. Photo: Courtesy of the Goldin family.

As an international community of nations, we must broadcast the message that terrorism will not win.

We must stand firmly behind the idea that while Gaza can certainly be rebuilt and rehabilitated, and can become economically prosperous, no long-term solution that might result in the opening of border crossings or the enactment of confidence-building measures can come about while Hamas continues to hold Israelis — dead or alive.

Terror organizations like Hamas must not be allowed to extort a sovereign state.

Together with Professor Irwin Cotler, we have succeeded in the adoption by the UN Security Council of Resolution 2474, which states that no regional conflict or permanent humanitarian agreement can be settled before MIAs and captives are returned. Our efforts are not only for the good of Israel, but the good of all that is decent and right.

My brother Hadar and Oron Shaul, and all other captives, must come home, and no terrorists must be exchanged for their release. Achieving that goal, which is possible, will save a great many lives in the future.

Hamas cannot have it both ways. It cannot be the beneficiary of humanitarian solutions while simultaneously engaging in acts of terrorism.

This year, I think about my brother Hadar and all the other captives. May the memories of Israel's fallen be a blessing.

*Tzur Goldin is the fraternal twin brother of Hadar Goldin. Tzur and Hadar were operating as officers in elite units in Gaza in 2014 during Operation Protective Edge. During a UN-US brokered ceasefire, Hadar was ambushed, killed, and kidnapped by Hamas. Hamas is still holding Hadar's body for ransom to this day.*

*Tzur is a publishing adjunct at The MirYam Institute.*

## Palestinian Lies Never Die; Wikipedia and Google Keep Them Alive



**PHYLLIS CHESLER**  
NEW YORK

“Occupation” is a word that dominates most debate about Israel, but the truth is that pro-Palestinian propagandists are occupying Google and Wikipedia to keep debunked narratives alive.

This was recently confirmed when I attended a webinar featuring a physician who worked in Israel's undercover “Duvdevan” unit, which is the basis for the popular series *Fauda*. She talked about her work in Gaza and in the West Bank during Operation Protective Edge.

“I thought nothing would surprise me. But many things did,” she said. The physician told the story of trying to save the life of a two-and-a-half-

year-old West Bank boy accidentally run over by his father. They rushed the boy to an Israeli hospital, providing treatment along the way.

“Despite all our efforts,” she remembered, “the boy died. When I asked this father if he would donate any of his son's organs to another child, he said: ‘Only to an Arab Palestinian child, not to an Israeli Jewish child.’”

This was a father who had just seen the enormous effort that Israeli Jews had undertaken to save his son's life; it was a very dramatic and emotional moment. Old prejudices could have died on the spot, at least momentarily. Instead, this man's Jew-and-Israel-hatred kicked in immediately. The doctor was stunned by the sudden appearance of such “political realities.”

This is the kind of psychological enemy Israel is up against.

And then there are the Palestinian terrorist leaders, who indoctrinate their own people and

use them to carry out terrorist attacks against civilian Israelis. This fact is minimized by the Western media and global leaders.

Given the world's diabolical double standards, Israeli soldiers stand accused of atrocities they did not commit, while Palestinian terrorists — Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — who torture, kidnap, hijack, and use human shields, including children, are viewed as innocent victims.

Contrary to public opinion, the IDF is exceptionally ethical — and military leaders from other countries have attested to it. Israeli soldiers are haunted by any accidental civilian deaths, and grief-stricken by the deaths of their own comrades. Unlike the Palestinian terrorist leaders, they do not glorify death and they mourn each life lost in necessary battle.

This must be said, not once, but over and over again to counter the monstrous propaganda against Israel.

Yet, poisoned anti-Israel propaganda continues to overwhelm all online platforms. For example, remember Israel's alleged 2002 massacre of civilians in Jenin? It generated international headlines.

But it never happened.

For nearly two years, Arab Palestinian terrorists had been attacking Israeli civilians



Palestinian police officers loyal to Hamas march during a graduation ceremony in Gaza City, April 29, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Ibraheem Abu Mustafa.

non-stop. The death toll and the numbers wounded were very high. In March 2002, terrorists murdered 100 Israeli civilians. On March 27, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Park Hotel in Netanya, just as Jews were seated for a Passover seder. Thirty people were killed, mostly elderly. Another 140 people were injured.

This was a final straw. Reservists voluntarily flew home to Israel from all over the world. Many of the suicide bombers attacking Israeli civilians had come from Jenin.

The IDF sent soldiers into Jenin. They went from one booby-trapped house to another, all while under fire, just so that Israel would not be accused of bombing civilians from the air or committing a massacre.

Reports from the Palestinian side

*Continued on Page A7*

## Opinion.

# Arab Groups Still Pushing the 'Israel Is Not Protecting Palestinians From COVID-19' Lie



ELDER OF ZIYON  
NEW YORK

A webinar on Thursday is as predictable as it is false. From The Arab Center Washington DC:

COVID-19 under Apartheid  
Speakers  
Diana Buttu

Yara Hawari  
Yousef Munayyer – Moderator  
Additional speakers to be announced  
About the Event  
Arab Center Washington DC's upcoming webinar focuses on the threat of the coronavirus pandemic in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip as well as for the Palestinian citizens of Israel. As Israel's policies of occupation and settler colonialism continue in the midst of this global health crisis, what additional challenges are Palestinians facing under military occupation, apartheid, siege, and discriminatory policies?

Well, let's see.

The West Bank has less than 300 COVID-19 cases and two deaths. Gaza has 17 cases and zero deaths. Palestinians in Israeli prisons have zero cases, zero deaths. Israel

has over 15,000 cases and 204 deaths, with 93 people on ventilators.

Where should the bulk of ventilators, PPEs, and efforts go? What evidence is there that Israel is not doing everything it can to keep the virus from spreading in the territories and prisons?

For two months now, Israel haters have been warning about an impending epidemic of the virus in the territories.

As is the case with wars, some want to see Palestinians die so they can have ammunition to attack Israel.

As is the case with wars, Israel cares more about the lives of Palestinians than the entire "pro-Palestinian" community in the US and Europe together.

Elder of Ziyon has been blogging about Israel and the Arab world for a really long time now. He also controls the world, but deep down, you already knew that.

Continued from Page A6  
Never Die

described a wanton Israeli killing fest, leaving hundreds of innocents dead. Some said thousands were killed. The entire town, they claimed, was destroyed.

In truth, 56 Palestinians died, most of whom were armed. Israel lost 23 soldiers. Despite that, if someone wanted to look into it now and Googled "Jenin," here is what they'd find:

The first five pages about "Jenin" feature 27 anti-Israeli articles promoting a false history — and only seven articles that tell the truth about what really happened.

Search Google for "How many Palestinians died in Jenin, 2002," and here's the first thing you see today:



It was a lie then. It's a lie today.

News coverage, two excellent films — Pierre Rehov's *The Road to Jenin* and Gil Mezumen's *Jenin Diary: The Inside Story* — and a very moving book, Brett Goldberg's *A Psalm in Jenin*, easily rebut Google's pernicious history-by-algorithm, and remind us what really happened.

Here's what's important: The propaganda about the non-massacre in Jenin is not confined to 2002-2003. The falsehoods continued throughout the 21st century.

As of 2017-2018, propagandists Yvonne Ridley and Ilan Pappé continued to engage in this blood libel.

Just this month, Ridley referred to the Jenin massacre-that-wasn't as one of its "biggest war crimes of this century."

There are more than half a million dead Syrians that might take issue with that.

But propaganda like Ridley's inevitably leads to real massacres — of Jews and Israelis.

Part of the problem is Google's linkage to Wikipedia, which is fully dedicated to an anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian position.

For example, when you search the phrase "Palestinian terrorist groups" — the first thing you see is a Wikipedia summary of "Palestinian political violence."

*Palestinian political violence refers to acts of violence or terror motivated by Palestinian nationalism. These political objectives include self-determination in and sovereignty over Palestine, the "liberation of Palestine" and recognition of a Palestinian state, either in place of both Israel and the Palestinian territories, or solely in the Palestinian territories. Periodically directed toward more limited goals such as the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, another key aim is to advance the Palestinian right of return.*

Another topic where we see these lies spread is the "al-Dura Affair."

Continued on Page A9



## Seventy-one years after Israel fought for its independence, Magen David Adom is helping the country battle a different enemy.

The coronavirus pandemic is indeed a war. Even if Israel can keep mortality rates for those infected to 1 percent, it will still mean the death of more than 30,000 people — more than all of Israel's wars combined.

Magen David Adom has been on the front lines against the coronavirus, but the fight has taken an extraordinary toll on MDA's resources.

We need your support to keep saving lives. Observe Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's independence day, by keeping the people of Israel strong.

Give today to our Coronavirus Emergency Campaign  
at [afmda.org/corona-campaign](https://afmda.org/corona-campaign)



Saving lives. It's in our blood.

[afmda.org/corona-campaign](https://afmda.org/corona-campaign)

## Impressions.

### Mourning all Victims Is Right; Moral Equivalence Is Not

BY JONATHAN S. TOBIN  
/ JNS.org

Outside of Israel, it was the alternative ceremony that got the most coverage. The official commemoration of Yom Hazikaron—the country's Memorial Day that occurs the day before celebrating the Jewish state's Independence Day—began with a one-minute siren that sounded throughout the country and continued at the Western Wall, where President Reuven Rivlin and Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi led a small ceremony that, due to the coronavirus pandemic, had no audience.

Most Israelis, all too many of whom have lost a loved one or friend who was killed during the country's wars or as a result of terrorism, will deal with the pain of this day of remembrance each in their own way though they will not be able to go to cemeteries, which are closed this year because of the ongoing lockdown.

But outside of Israel, most of the attention was neither on official efforts to remember the fallen nor the private grief of the families. Instead, much of the press was reporting about the efforts of peace activists to essentially hijack the nation's day of mourning and turn it into a day devoted to promoting coexistence and mutual recognition of the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians.

This "Joint Memorial Day" event, which was



A "Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day" ceremony held by the group *Combatants for Peace*.  
Photo: Screenshot.

started in 2006 by Israeli parents of fallen soldiers, is organized by two groups with both Israeli and Palestinian members: *Combatants for Peace* and *Parents Circle Families Forum*. But this year, it received an outpouring of support from American Jewish groups, including the Reform movement's *Union of Reform Judaism*, *J Street*, the *New Israel Fund*, *Peace Now*, as well as the openly anti-Zionist *IfNotNow* and *Churches for Middle East Peace*, an interfaith Christian group that is also deeply hostile to the Jewish state.

Indeed, it is likely that this foreign support helped boost the Internet audience for the ceremony this year—increasing from a reported 20,000 tuning into the Internet to the 170,000 who are supposed to have watched it online via Facebook. That allowed organizers to claim to *The New York Times* that it had been "the biggest joint Israeli-Palestinian event in history."

According to the organizers, the point of the event is to introduce people to the suffering that occurs on both sides of the conflict. On the surface, that seems hard to criticize. It ought to be possible to empathize

Continued on Page A9

### An Unusually Painful Memorial Day

BY BENNY GANTZ/JNS.org

As of Monday, Israel has a list of 23,816 fallen. Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism is the most personal of all national days. In tens of thousands of Israeli homes, families spend time with the memories of their loved ones, and Israel Defense Forces soldiers and commanders, past and present, salute their brothers who fell in battle.

or cannot live with each other, we won't be strong enough to survive. When I decided to enter politics, I called the party I led "Israel Resilience." Alongside our tanks and aircraft, Memorial Day is a reminder that our internal resilience is measured in our education, our defense of democracy, our tolerance of others, and our love for our homeland.

All these are equally important to Israel's security. Memorial Day in the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic will be one of the hardest we as a



The funeral of fallen IDF soldier Ronen Lubarsky, at the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem, May 27, 2018. Photo: Yonatan Sindel / Flash90.

I served the State of Israel for 38 years; I lost comrades in arms both at my side and under my command, and what pains me most is that I will never be able to comfort their families.

On Memorial Day, we go back to the foundations of our existence, to the Zionism in the name of which we established the country and for the sake of which many were killed in the War of Independence and after it.

When we remember the nation's first dead, we realize what would have happened if there hadn't been a Jewish state — if there hadn't been a fairly small group of pioneers who fought for our right to be here only a few years after the horrors of the Holocaust.

The State of Israel's existence is ensured through its strength, and through our willingness to fight. On the battlefield, in the technological and logistics divisions, at the front and the home front, IDF soldiers and the other branches of the security apparatus protect Israel and give their blood so we can have a Jewish, democratic state. If we are not stronger than our enemies, we will not survive.

On Memorial Day, we sanctify the resilience of Israeli society, which continues to send its sons to the front. If we do not look out for one another,

nation have experienced. For the sake of Zionism, for the sake of a strong Israel, and especially for the sake of unity in society, we will use the tools at our disposal to ensure that the day is marked without ceremonies attended by an audience and without visits to grave sites.

I will be holding Zoom meetings with the families I meet with every year as part of an important project founded by Eliasaf Peretz, the brother of fallen soldiers Uriel and Eliraz Peretz. I'll also be reaching out to many other families. I urge all of you to find a way of fulfilling that duty. Call them, text them, meet with them outside on balconies or in parks, in accordance with social distancing rules. Do everything possible so that the bereaved families won't be on their own.

This Memorial Day is a test for Israeli society — its strength and its ability to uphold the legacy of the fallen. This time, too, Israeli unity will win — with your help, and if we all pitch in.

May the memory of the fallen be a blessing.

*Benny Gantz is the leader of Israel's Blue and White Party and a former IDF Chief of General Staff.*

## Legals.

## LEGAL NOTICE



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*Continued from Page A8*  
*Equivalence*

with all those who've suffered losses. Demonstrating a common humanity and a kinship with suffering shouldn't be criticized.

But even in some of the heart-rending stories told by both sides, it was possible to discern the problem with the event. Many Israelis denounced it as more of an attempt to create a false moral equivalency between those who died that Israel might live and those who died as a result of an ongoing Palestinian war aimed at the destruction of the only Jewish state on the planet. By asserting that there is no difference between efforts to defend and eradicate Israel, organizers are likely encouraging those who want to continue the conflict, rather than those who want to end it.

The most prominently featured Palestinian speaker was Yaquab al-Rabi, whose wife, Aisha, was killed as a result of his car being stoned by an Israeli teenager. The al-Rabi family suffered a terrible tragedy, and the perpetrator deserved to be severely punished. But the irony of highlighting a Palestinian victim of a stoning was lost in most press accounts of the ceremony. Though even one such incident was too many, examples of Israelis attacking Arabs in this manner are rare. By contrast, Arab stoning attacks on Israelis cars—with often similarly terrible results—are commonplace.

While civilians have died on both sides of the conflict, the notion that the two sides are morally equivalent fails to take into account the fact that Palestinians who attack Israelis target civilians, while the Israel Defense Forces try hard to avoid civilian casualties that are generated because terrorists use human shields.

The "both sides are to blame" narrative also ignores the way that the two societies regard those who commit acts of terrorism. The teenager held responsible for Aisha al-Rabi's death was prosecuted. The same is true of three Israelis (serving long prison sentences for their crime and held in contempt by the country) who murdered a Palestinian boy in July 2014 in revenge for the gruesome murder of three Israeli teenage boys several weeks beforehand, who were kidnapped by Palestinians while walking home from school.

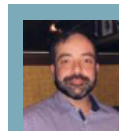
By contrast, the Palestinian Authority continues to honor terrorists. Just last week, its leader, Mahmoud Abbas, and his Fatah movement honored the perpetrators of the Munich Olympic massacre on the anniversaries of their deaths. Similarly, those Palestinians who maim and kill Israelis in terror attacks continue to receive pensions and salaries from the P.A. as a reward for their crimes.

No one has the right to tell any Israeli family how to honor its loved ones, and if some reach out to bereaved Palestinian families in the hope of promoting peace, we must all hope they succeed.

But the contrast between the large Israeli peace movement and the almost non-existent Palestinian

## Opinion.

## Real Life Lessons That Fauda Can Teach Us

EDWARD MANOR  
New York

Netflix's hit show *Fauda* has put Israel on the map in a new way. Despite being highly stylized for Hollywood and the Israeli film industry, never before have we been privy to life as an undercover Israeli counter-terror operative quite like this.

While we should never assume that art completely imitates life, we can and should draw real conclusions from this fantastically entertaining show.

Written by Lior Raz, a former undercover operative in Israel's elite Duvdevan counter-terrorism unit, and Avi Issacharoff, a former IDF soldier and journalist, the show gives us a unique window into a world we can't fathom as Westerners.

Here are two of my biggest takeaways. First, the obvious and inescapable conclusion: The Israeli

*Continued from Page A2*  
*Sovereignty*

was not (Abba Eban did not call them "Auschwitz Borders" for nothing).

That is not only the position of the Trump administration. It was specifically understood by the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations that Jewish population centers east of the line would be part of Israel — the only question was when. The presumption was that it would happen after an agreement

*Continued from Page A7*  
*Never Die*

Like the so-called "massacre" at Jenin, the al-Dura Affair concerns the alleged cold-blooded murder in 2000 of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy by Israeli soldiers at the Netzarim junction. The Muslim world embraced al-Dura as a martyr, and ran his photo over and over again in the media, on t-shirts, mugs, posters, etc. They still do.

Journalist Nidra Poller describes the al-Dura matter as a "long range ballistic myth." For many years, the entire world believed Israeli soldiers deliberately murdered a child. Even the IDF quickly ventured an apology, which it later retracted — all due to the heroic and persistent work undertaken by Poller and Richard Landes, Esther Schapira, Philippe Karsenty, and Nahum Shahaf, an Israeli physicist.

peace movement is telling. Palestinians consider their compatriots who support dialogue with Israel as "traitors" working to "normalize" the Jewish state (and terrorists are "martyrs" dying for the cause). The Gaza resident who organized a cooperative Zoom meeting between Palestinians and Israelis earlier this month was arrested by

Jew is tough — often much tougher than the typical American Jew that you or I know. This is a testament not only to the safety of modern-day life in America, but also to the way that Israel empowers Jews.

The creation of Israel provided the downtrodden Jew with renewed hope, with something to fight and die for — which was arguably missing for generations. Second, and quite important, the ongoing genocidal Arab assault on the Jewish state since 1948 has condensed into a few short decades what by all means should have taken centuries — namely, the reawakening of the dormant Jewish warrior spirit.

Our exile following the destruction of the Second Temple did not result in the death of the warrior spirit within us. For centuries after, Jews were still known as fierce warriors. We were not instantly transformed into the helpless, desperate Jews that the world eventually liberated from Hitler's death camps. Anyone familiar with Israelis will agree that

with the Palestinians. But that left the timing up to the Palestinians; if they didn't agree, then it wouldn't happen.

It was simply a recipe for pushing the conflict on indefinitely, and this is where the new peace plan represents a break with prior US policy.

Trump didn't change the "what," but the "when." No longer was Israel required to wait for Palestinian agreement. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated to

Over time, it became clear that if al-Dura was shot at all, it was not by Israelis.

Although Google continues to automatically link to Wikipedia, it eventually included the fact that a controversy about what happened to al-Dura actually exists. However, the controversy section appears at the very end of the Wikipedia entry, long after the false narrative has had its way with most readers.

The 2019 Gaza protests on the Israeli border provide the latest example of Palestinians instigating violence, only to grossly exaggerate the Israeli response.

The anti-Israel group Jewish Voice for Peace joined a chorus of voices claiming that Israel was gunning down peaceful protesters. "Israeli snipers," it claimed, were deliberately targeting "children and persons with disabilities," among others.

Hamas and hasn't been seen alive since then. The fact that he was turned in by a Palestinian journalist who has worked for Amnesty International makes it all the more obvious that there is no comparison between the way the two societies think about peace.

We should mourn all victims of senseless violence, be they Jews,



Israeli actor Lior Raz in the trailer for "Fauda" season 3. Photo: Screenshot.

the Jewish warrior lives again, and it lives in Israel.

My second, and less obvious conclusion: The Jew is not only white. Many of us come or descend from Jews that lived in Arab lands, at times centuries before the rise of Islam or Christianity. Up until the 1960s, many Jews lived in the Arab world, speaking the Arabic language, and were intimately familiar Arab culture and customs. And what's more, many of the lessons learned about Arab culture from Israeli Jews have been used to help America deal with the Arab world.

This is something to consider next time we choose to thumb our noses at the "aid" Israel receives or, as our leaders begrudgingly admit behind closed doors, the crucial role that Israel plays in American security.

*Edward Manor is an Israeli-born American lawyer and political commentator (Twitter: @Shomer\_Israel).*

reporters this week that Israel is no longer required to wait for an agreement the Palestinians have thwarted since Oslo, telling reporters, "The Israelis will ultimately make those decisions. That's an Israeli decision. And we will work closely with them to share with them our views of this in (a) private setting."

European Union or not.  
*Shoshana Bryen is senior director of the Jewish Policy Center and editor of inFOCUS Quarterly.*

It turns out that the overwhelming majority of casualties were members or affiliates of terrorist organizations. About half of those killed were Hamas members and affiliates.

And we learned this from Hamas officials.

But search "Gaza border protests," and these facts are nowhere to be seen.

It is clear that this deadly disinformation campaign will never end, but those who direct traffic on the internet should not aid and abet this crime.

*Dr. Phyllis Chesler is the author of 18 books, including A Politically Incorrect Feminist, Islamic Gender Apartheid, and A Family Conspiracy: Honor Killing and 'An American Bride in Kabul.' She is a Fellow at the Middle East Forum.*

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

Arabs or any other people. But we should be wary of efforts to establish a false analogy between those who died to save Jewish lives and those whose purpose was to spill Jewish blood.

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

## Tradition.

## The Ethic of Holiness



JONATHAN SACKS  
LONDON

Kedoshim contains the two great love commands of the Torah. The first is, “Love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord” (Lev. 19:18). Rabbi Akiva called this “the great principle of the Torah.” The second is no less challenging: “The stranger living among you must be treated as your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were strangers in Egypt. I am the Lord your God” (Lev. 19:34).



These are extraordinary commands. Many civilisations contain variants of the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do to you,” or in the negative form attributed to Hillel (sometimes called the Silver Rule), “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. That is the whole Torah. The rest is commentary; go and learn.” But these are rules of reciprocity, not love. We observe them because bad things will happen to us if we don’t. They are the basic ground-rules of life in a group.

Love is something altogether different and more demanding. That makes these two commandments a revolution in the moral life. Judaism was the first civilisation to put love at the heart of morality. As Harry Redner puts it in *Ethical Life*, “Morality is the ethic of love. The initial and most basic principle of morality is clearly stated in the Torah: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” He adds: “The biblical ‘love of one’s neighbour’ is a very special form of love, a unique development of the Judaic religion and unlike any to be encountered outside it.”

Much has been written about these commands. Who exactly is meant by “your neighbour”? Who by “the stranger”? And what is it to love someone else as oneself? I want to ask a different question. *Why is it specifically here, in Kedoshim, in a chapter dedicated to the concept of holiness, that the command appears?*

Nowhere else in all Tanach are we commanded to love our

neighbour. And only in one other place (Deut. 10:19) are we commanded to love the stranger. (The Sages famously said that the Torah commands us thirty-six times to love the stranger, but that is not quite accurate. Thirty-four of those commands have to do with not oppressing or afflicting the stranger and making sure that he or she has the same legal rights as the native born. These are commands of justice rather than love).

And why does the command to love your neighbour as yourself appear in a chapter containing such laws as, “Do not mate

different kinds of animals. Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material”? These are *chukim*, decrees, usually thought of as commands that have no reason, at any rate none that we can understand. What have they to do with the self-evident moral commands of the love of neighbour and stranger? Is the chapter simply an assemblage of disconnected commands, or is there a single unifying strand to it?

The answer goes deep. Almost every ethical system ever devised has sought to reduce the moral life to a single principle or perspective. Some connect it to reason, others to emotion, yet others to consequences: do whatever creates the greatest happiness for the greatest number. Judaism is different. It is more complex and subtle. It contains not one perspective but three. There is the prophetic understanding of morality, the priestly perspective and the wisdom point of view.

Prophetic morality looks at the quality of relationships within a society, between us and God and between us and our fellow humans. Here are some of the key texts that define this morality. God says about Abraham, “For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right [*tzedakah*] and just [*mishpat*].” God tells Hosea, “I will betroth you to Me in righteousness [*tzedek*] and justice

[*mishpat*], in kindness [*chesed*] and compassion [*rachamim*].” He tells Jeremiah, “I am the Lord, who exercises kindness [*chesed*], justice [*mishpat*] and righteousness [*tzedakah*] on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord.” Those are the key prophetic words: righteousness, justice, kindness and compassion – not love.

When the Prophets talk about love it is about God’s love for Israel and the love we should show for God. With only three exceptions, they do not speak about love in a moral context, that is, vis-à-vis our relationships with one another. The exceptions are Amos’ remark, “Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts” (Amos 5:15); Micah’s famous statement, “Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God” (Mic. 6:8) and Zechariah’s “Therefore love truth and peace” (Zech. 8:19). Note that all three are about loving abstractions – good, mercy and truth. They are not about people.

The prophetic voice is about how people conduct themselves in society. Are they faithful to God and to one another? Are they acting honestly, justly, and with due concern for the vulnerable in society? Do the political and religious leaders have integrity? Does society have the high morale that comes from people feeling that it treats its citizens well and calls forth the best in them? A moral society will succeed; an immoral or amoral one will fail. That is the key prophetic insight. The Prophets did not make the demand that people love one another. That was beyond their remit. Society requires justice, not love.

The wisdom voice in Torah and Tanach looks at character and consequence. If you live virtuously, then by and large things will go well for you. A good example is Psalm 1. The person occupied with Torah will be “like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.” That is the wisdom voice. Those who do well, fare well. They find happiness (*ashrei*). Good people love God, family, friends and virtue. But the wisdom literature does not speak of loving your neighbour or the stranger.

The moral vision of the Priest that makes him different from the Prophet and Sage lies in the key word *kadosh*, “holy.” Someone or something that is holy is set apart, distinctive, different. The Priests were set apart from the rest of the nation. They had no share in the land. They did not work as labourers in the field. Their sphere was the Tabernacle or Temple. They lived at the epicentre of the Divine Presence. As God’s ministers they had to keep themselves pure and avoid any form of defilement. They were holy.

Until now, holiness has been seen as a special attribute of the Priest. But there was a hint at the Giving of the Torah that it concerned not just the children of

Aaron but the people as a whole: “You shall be to Me a Kingdom of Priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6). Our chapter now spells this out for the first time. “The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Lev. 19:1-2). This tells us that the ethic of holiness applies not just to Priests but to the entire nation. We, too, must be distinctive, set apart, held to a higher standard.

What in practice does this mean? A decisive clue is provided by another key word used throughout Tanach in relation to the Kohen, namely the verb *b-d-l*: to divide, set apart, separate, distinguish. That is what a Priest does. His task is “to distinguish between the sacred and the secular” (Lev. 10:10), and “to distinguish between the unclean and the clean” (Lev. 11:47). This is what God does for His people: “You shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and I have distinguished you [*va-avdil*] from other peoples to be Mine.” (Lev. 20:26).

There is one other place in which *b-d-l* is a key word, namely the story of creation in Genesis 1, where it occurs five times. God separates light and dark, day and night, upper and lower waters. For three days God demarcates different domains, then for the next three days He places in each its appropriate objects or life-forms. God fashions order out of the *tohu va-vohu* of chaos. As His last act of creation, He makes man after His “image and likeness.” This was clearly an act of love. “Beloved is man,” said Rabbi Akiva, “because he was created in [God’s] image.”

Genesis 1 defines the priestly moral imagination. Unlike the Prophet, the Priest is not looking at society. He is not, like the wisdom figure, looking for happiness. He is looking at creation as the work of God. He knows that everything has its place: sacred and profane, permitted and forbidden. It is his task to make these distinctions and teach them to others. He knows that different life forms have their own niche in the environment. That is why the ethic of holiness includes rules like: Don’t mate with different kinds of animals, don’t plant a field with different kinds of seed, and don’t wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.

Above all the ethic of holiness tells us that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. God made each of us in love. *Therefore, if we seek to imitate God* – “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” – *we too must love humanity*, and not in the abstract but in the concrete form of the neighbour and the stranger. The ethic of holiness is based on the vision of creation-as-God’s-work-of-love. This vision sees all human beings – ourselves, our neighbour and the stranger – as in the image of God, and that is why we are to love our neighbour and the stranger as ourself.

I believe that there is

*Continued from Page A3*  
**Travel Tech**

outbreak and have not yet had to resort to cutback or layoffs, though Haslavsky said he couldn’t rule out such measures completely.

Dor Krubiner, CEO and founder of Hotelmize, more than anyone has his finger on the pulse of global hotel occupancy rates. According to their data, which helps travel agents, hotel resellers, and major online booking platforms like Expedia identify and take advantage of price volatility, hotel reservations have decreased by an astounding 90-95% compared to the same time last year. In an interview with *CTech*, he added that those bookings that were in the system were for months in advance and not the usual days or weeks.

Fortunately for Hotelmize, the company had just completed a Series B financing round led by Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund and Israel’s Brilliance Ventures, so they are in relatively good shape. “We were also lean going into this and our incomes are positively impacted by fluctuations, so we aren’t going anywhere, despite the uncertainty,” he said.

Krubiner said that travel tech startups who hadn’t secured funding were most at risk at the moment because while the major companies have shareholders to bail them out, small companies don’t.

On the other hand, he said, “companies that offer solutions that are well suited to the new demands of the moment and would have flown under the radar in normal circumstances now have the chance to shine.” To which Haslavsky added, “Some big companies will prefer to go into ‘buy mode’ rather than ‘build mode,’ leaving the door open to investment in forward-thinking solutions.”

Krubiner, who attended the OTC conference, said he was impressed by the quantity and quality of the participants, positing that it may have been even more effective than going to a traditional, in-person conference.

“We saw that several hundred people attended the session I gave at the conference. That’s hundreds of potential partners that we can track and follow up with,” he said.

Among the other attendees of the conference were senior representatives from companies like Turkish Airlines, Transavia Ventures, TripActions, SmartAir, and organizations like the UNWTO and Travolution.

For those who couldn’t attend, all the speeches and panels were broadcast on Facebook Live.

something unique and contemporary about the ethic of holiness. It tells us that morality and ecology are closely related. They are both about creation: about the world as God’s work and humanity as God’s image. The integrity of humanity and the natural environment go together. The natural universe and humanity were both created by God, and we are charged to protect the first and love the second.

Shabbat Shalom

## Social.



Saudi actor Abdulmohsin Al Nimir (L), Kuwaiti actress Farah al Saraf (C) and Iraqi actor Nawaf Al Najam (R) are seen at a shooting set during filming of MBC's Ramadan Arabic series 'Umm Haroun,' in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Dec. 7, 2019. Photo: Al Fahad Establishment for Art Production & Distribution / Handout via Reuters.

## Ramadan Period Drama With Jewish Characters Stirs Debate in Middle East

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

A period drama about the trials of a Jewish midwife airing on Saudi-controlled MBC for Ramadan has drawn both criticism as an attempt to promote Arab "normalization" with Israel and praise for a rare exploration of the Gulf's social history.

"Umm Haroun," a fictional series about a multi-religious community in an unspecified Gulf Arab state in the 1930s to 1950s, began airing on Friday as part of MBC's lineup for the Muslim holy month, when viewership typically spikes.

It comes at a time when several Gulf states have broken with the recent past and made overtures to Israel, with which they have found common ground in confronting Iran.

Some, including Saudi Arabia, have also backed a US Middle East peace plan to move on from a conflict they say holds back the Arab world. Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab states that have peace deals with Israel.

An official from the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, Basim Naeem, condemned the series before it aired and told Reuters that portraying Jewish people in a sympathetic light was "cultural aggression and brain washing."

Hamas, like other Palestinian groups, is vehemently opposed to the peace plan laid out by US President Donald Trump's administration.

A group of regional organizations against normalizing ties with Israel circulated a poster on social media urging viewers to boycott "the wicked drama," which was produced by Kuwait- and United Arab Emirates-based companies.

The show's writers, Bahraini brothers Muhammad and Ali Abdel Halim Shams, told Reuters that it had no political message.

"People have spoken and judged before seeing it," said Muhammad. "The message focuses on the ways of Muslims centered on showing love, good intention and peace to non-Muslims."

MBC, the Arab world's largest private broadcaster, said that according to its data the show is the top-rated Gulf drama in Saudi Arabia for Ramadan and among the

top five dramas across genres.

MBC spokesman Mazen Hayek said Umm Haroun's main message was a human one — a nurse who heals people "irrespective of any consideration."

"It also focuses on tolerance, moderation and openness, showcasing that the Middle East was once a region where acceptance of one another was the norm versus the twisted interpretation and stereotyping of the region by hardliners and extremists, over the last decades."

Saudi authorities took a controlling stake in MBC Group in 2018 as they seized assets from those detained in an anti-corruption drive launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

MBC, which plans to move its headquarters from Dubai to Riyadh, has courted controversy before. Past shows dealt with sensitive issues like domestic violence and Islamist militancy.

Untold history

The writers said the main character, Umm Haroun, after whom the show is named, was loosely inspired by real-life Jewish midwife Umm Jan, who arrived in Bahrain from Iraq in the 1930s. A disclaimer during the first episode said the characters and events were imaginary.

Some people in Bahrain, which still has a small Jewish community, took to social media to share pictures of and a 1977 TV interview with Umm Jan, who is widely regarded as a symbol of public service in Bahrain.

In Kuwait, Twitter user Abdulaziz al-Seif said the show should not be seen as pro-Israeli.

"We should also differentiate between the Jewish religion and Zionism ... This show has nothing to do with normalizing ties with Israel," he said in a video post after the show aired its first episode.

Veteran Kuwaiti actress Hayat Al-Fahad, who plays the midwife, told local daily *Al Anbaa* that young generations should know about "a people that were and still are in our world."

She recently stirred debate by publicly calling for the expulsion of migrant workers amid the coronavirus pandemic.

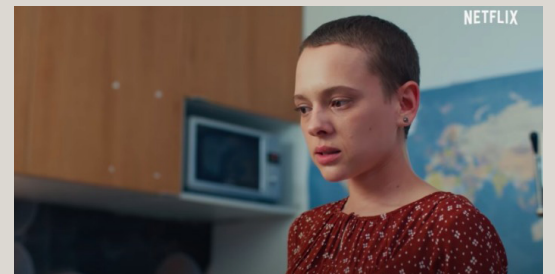
Palestinian Nadia Ali, 48, told Reuters she was no longer a fan of the actress for "getting the Jewish twisted tale into every Arab house."

## Israeli Actress Shira Haas Says She's Amazed by Popularity of Netflix's 'Unorthodox'

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Israeli actress and star of Netflix's "Unorthodox" Shira Haas was shocked by how much the new mini-series was resonating with people around the world, she told *Vogue* magazine in an interview for its April 2020 issue.

In "Unorthodox," which is based on Deborah Feldman's memoir "*Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots*," Haas stars as Esty Shapiro, who grows up in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, in the ultra-Orthodox Satmar community, but has a curiosity for the world outside of her closed-off, strict upbringing. Feeling more and more suffocated as things evolve and after she gets married, she runs away from Williamsburg, her husband and her life to Berlin.



Shira Haas in 'Unorthodox.' Photo: YouTube screenshot.

Haas explained to *Vogue*, "It is really amazing and it was a surprise...I can't take it for granted that so many people all around the world, no matter what their religion is, not necessarily Jewish, or secular, connected to the show and to Esty. The fact that it is has touched so many people and that it is universal is such an amazing thing. It is everything you could ask for as an artist."

The 24-year-old actress, who speaks Yiddish in the mini-series, added, "The highest form of connecting is art. If you just heard about the show or a story about someone like Esty on the news, maybe some people would say, 'Oh, those people,' but once you see the show you're like, 'She is like me' — not only Esty but also different people as well."

*Vogue* explained the show's impact saying, "The show's popularity is not necessarily based on examining the extremes of another culture, but rather tells a universal story about someone discovering themselves, a tale about coming of age. At one point or another in our lives, we have all been Esty, trying to find our footing and figure ourselves out."

Haas also talked about Netflix providing people an opportunity to see "so many different languages and cultures" and learn about those who are not like them.

She said, "Over the past few years, people have become way more open to it and people want to see someone who is different from them and realize, 'Yes, it is a specific story, but I can relate to it,' or 'He is different from me, but he is a human being and I understand.' I think young people — at least I do — want to see that and not necessarily themselves all the time."

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