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Netanyahu Hails 'Historic' First Israeli Commercial Flight to UAE



An El Al plane is seen on the ground in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Aug. 31, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Nir Elias / Pool.

BY BENJAMIN
KERSTEIN

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to the media on Monday after the first commercial Israeli flight landed in the United Arab Emirates, calling it a "historic day."

The El Al flight, the first of its kind to the Gulf state, touched down in Abu Dhabi on Monday,

carrying a delegation of senior US and Israeli officials, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who brokered the recently-announced Israel-UAE peace agreement.

"This is a historic day, a happy day for all Israeli citizens," Netanyahu told the press. "A day of victory for the doctrine of peace for peace."

"I have instructed the head of the National Security Council, Meir Ben-Shabbat, to invite an

Emirati delegation to Israel," he announced.

"We will receive the Emirati delegation with a red carpet, as they received us," Netanyahu added.

The prime minister also hinted at further peace agreements to come, saying, "There are things I cannot tell you, but I believe they will come to light over time. You have been able to see the changes, some of them, on the tip of the

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Kushner Hopes Another Arab State Normalizes Israel Ties Within 'Months'

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

White House adviser Jared Kushner hopes another Arab country normalizes ties with Israel within months, he said, after arriving in the United Arab Emirates accompanied by Israeli officials on the first commercial flight between the countries.

No other Arab state has said so far it is considering



Senior White House adviser Jared Kushner speaks upon arriving at Abu Dhabi International Airport, in the UAE, Aug. 31, 2020. Photo: Ministry of Presidential Affairs / WAM / Handout via Reuters.

following the UAE, which agreed to normalize ties with Israel in a US-brokered deal announced on Aug. 13. Several have ruled out normalization under current conditions.

Israel's neighbors Egypt and Jordan reached peace deals with it decades ago, but other Arab states have long held the position that Israel must agree to give more land to the Palestinians for a state before ties can be normalized.

Israel and the United States have said they are pushing more Arab countries to follow the UAE's path. Israel's intelligence minister has mentioned Bahrain and Oman. Kushner

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat KI TAVO
פרשת כי תבוא



Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:04pm | Shabbat Ends: 8:02pm



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Opinion.

New Sharansky Book Discloses Strains Between Netanyahu, US Jews



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

“Liberal American Jews really don’t like Israel,” a frustrated Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told then-Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky in 2015, according to an account in Sharansky’s new book.

When Sharansky disputed the claim, Netanyahu explained: “They love an Israel that exists in their imaginations. But the real Israel, which can exist only if we defend ourselves, makes them uncomfortable, because it makes them unpopular with their president.”

As Netanyahu felt American Jewish liberals “betrayed Israel in blindly supporting Barack Obama’s Iran treaty,” he backed away from a deal to accommodate liberal American Jews who wanted upgraded separate prayer space at the Western Wall, Sharansky writes.

Sharansky introduces his latest book, *Never Alone: Prison, Politics, and My People*, written with Gil Troy, by explaining to readers that it is “not exactly a memoir,” but rather “the story of the most important conversation of my life: the ongoing dialogue between Israel and the Jewish people.”

Sharansky spent nine years as a dissident in Soviet prison, nine years in Israeli politics

as a minister and member of parliament and nine years as chairman of the Jewish Agency, prompting his joke that he’s the rare politician who went to prison *before* holding office. His book is organized in this three-part structure.

The Soviet prisoner period was covered well in Sharansky’s 1988 book *Fear No Evil*, but the new telling adds important details on the horrors and absurdities of communism.

After his arrest in 1977, Sharansky endured more than 100 interrogations at the hands of an interrogation team of 17 officers.

Also new in this book is Sharansky’s telling of the tension between him and the Israeli government in 1976. The Israeli government wanted Sharansky to back off from participating in the Moscow Helsinki Group that was pressing the Kremlin for progress on a broad human rights agenda that went beyond emigration of Soviet Jews.

Sharansky’s tale intersects with many American Jewish leaders and philanthropists. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Rabbi Avi Weiss, Alan Dershowitz, Jack Lew, David Harris, George Klein, Charles Bronfman, Mort Zuckerman, Sheldon and Miriam Adelson, Lynn Schusterman, Michael Steinhardt and Ronald Lauder all make appearances in the story.

The book includes a devastating account of S. Daniel Abraham, “a self-made and generous billionaire who founded SlimFast,” urging Sharansky to fly secretly to Paris to meet “Syria’s future leader...He wants

to bring democracy to the Arab world, quickly. He believes in human rights. He’s modern, sophisticated.” That was Bashar al-Assad, who Sharansky notes is today “known as the butcher of Syria, who mass murdered and even gassed his own people.”

Sharansky was a favorite of President George W. Bush, who awarded him the Medal of Freedom and took up Sharansky’s agenda of promoting freedom and democracy. This book is harsher on Bush’s successors. Donald Trump “followed Obama by abandoning dissidents,” taking “America’s human-rights-free foreign policy to absurd new depths,” Sharansky writes.

“Trump’s shocking refusal to confront President Vladimir Putin over Russia’s blatant interference in the 2016 US presidential election highlights his mysterious unwillingness to protect Americans’ democratic rights, let alone Russians’ human rights or others’ democratic aspirations,” Sharansky says.

He does praise Trump for moving the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem,



Natan Sharansky. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

recognizing Israeli rule over the Golan Heights and exiting the Iran nuclear deal under which the Obama administration flew “\$1.7 billion in pallets of untraceable, non-US currency” to Tehran.

“Israelis appreciate wherever Trump helped,” Sharansky notes.

The book covers Israeli as well as American politics. Sharansky explains his opposition to Ariel Sharon’s unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

“In 2005, the prospect of expelling 8,500 fellow Israelis from the homes the state had encouraged them to build, so that Palestinian leaders could establish the world’s largest missile launching pad there, was too much,” he writes.

As chairman of the Jewish Agency for

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Selling F-35s to the UAE Is an Amazingly Bad Idea



MOSHE PHILLIPS
PHILADELPHIA

Is it safe to put sophisticated American weapons — such as F-35 fighter-bombers — in the hands of an Arab monarchy, such as the United Arab Emirates? The historical record points to three dangers that raise questions about the wisdom of the current proposal to provide these jets to the UAE.

The first danger is that the UAE’s current monarch could be overthrown, and replaced by someone who is hostile to America and Israel. The Islamic-Arab world is legendary for its revolutions and violent coups.

There were coups in Egypt in 1952, 1954, and 2013; and in Syria in 1949, 1951, 1954, 1961, 1963, 1968, and 1970. Don’t forget Algeria in 1962, 1992, and 1995. Or Libya in 1969. Or Tunisia in 1957 and 1987. In the Persian Gulf region, where the UAE is located, there were coups in Oman in 1970, and Yemen in 1962, 1974, and 2018. What guarantee is there that the UAE will defy these historical trends and remain under the same government indefinitely?

Providing weapons to a stable democracy is generally safe because they have built-in safeguards that ensure continuity. Even if a new party comes to power, free nations traditionally honor the treaty obligations of their predecessors. There are exceptions, of course, but generally that’s how it works — because

otherwise, nobody would ever sign a treaty with another country. But deals with dictators and monarchs are inherently very risky. And when the deal involves the world’s most advanced fighter aircraft, then the risk is all the greater, because the consequences would be devastating.

The second danger is that the UAE will, for whatever reason, decide to transfer some of those planes to another country. Recall this news report in *The New York Times* on July 11, 1982, during the Lebanon War:

Israel has given United States intelligence officials documents and other information obtained in Lebanon ... [concerning] what they considered the surprisingly large stores of weapons seized by Israeli troops in Lebanon. Among those weapons, the Israelis said, were American M-16 rifles that had been sold to Saudi Arabia. Copies of the documents, most of which were given to President Reagan late last month by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, were made available here by Israeli officials.

How, one may wonder, did those American combat rifles end up in the hands of the PLO



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

terrorist army in Lebanon? Did the PLO steal them from Saudi Arabia? Did the Saudis give them as a gift? Who knows? The point is that weapons which were given to an American “ally,” a regime that was supposedly “moderate,” ended up in the hands of anti-American, anti-Israel terrorists in a country far away.

Obviously, transferring rifles is much easier than transferring an F-35. But the principle is the same. Once the planes are in the hands of an unscrupulous regime, there is no way to guarantee they will stay there.

The third danger is that the UAE itself will turn against Israel. The precedent is Jordan. In the 1960s, the Kennedy and Johnson administrations insisted that King Hussein was “moderate” and should be given advanced American weapons. They provided him with M-47 and M-48 Patton tanks and other weapons.

Then the “moderate” decided to join the Arab war against Israel in 1967. Lenny Ben-David, a former senior Israeli diplomat in Washington, describes what happened next in a recent study for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs:

The Jordanian army moved US-supplied M-47 and M-48 Patton tanks, long-range “Long-Tom” artillery, and mechanized infantry (M-113 APCs) into the West Bank to face Israel. ... According to Yitzhak Rabin’s memoirs, Israel had dropped its objections to the US provision of offensive weapons to Jordan after King Hussein pledged that the US-supplied tanks to Jordan would not cross the Jordan River to threaten Israel.

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World News.

German Jews Condemn Far-Right Coronavirus Protest Outside Reichstag in Berlin

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Germany's Jewish community reacted with dismay over the weekend as hundreds of far-right demonstrators attempted to storm the historic building in Berlin that houses the country's federal parliament.

As nearly 40,000 activists descended on the German capital on Saturday for a protest that decried coronavirus restrictions as a globalist plot, violence broke out at several junctures during the demonstration, with police making over 300 arrests.

Some demonstrators wore yellow Star of David symbols marked with the word "Corona" — a deliberate appropriation of the Nazi persecution of the Jews that has been widely denounced as antisemitic.

Toward the end of the day, hundreds of right-wing extremists charged onto the steps of the Reichstag, where the German parliament, the Bundestag, hold its sessions. Many brandished the discarded red, white and black flag of Imperial Germany — a symbol favored by the far right because of post-war Germany's ban on the swastika and other Nazi symbols.

"We are dismayed and deeply concerned about yesterday's images in front of the Reichstag building," the Central Council of Jews in Germany declared on Twitter, in a post that included the hashtag "#Nazisraus" — "Nazis Out."

Wir sind bestürzt und zutiefst besorgt über die gestrigen Bilder vor dem Reichstags-



Protesters demonstrate in front of the Reichstag, in Berlin, Germany, Aug. 29, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Christian Mang.

gebäude. #nazisraus #Berlin2908 <https://t.co/nXXDhU7wKQ>

— Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (@ZentralratJuden) August 30, 2020

Speaking to the German Jewish news outlet *Juedische Allgemeine*, Josef Schuster — president of the Central Council — said it was "unbearable" to see "people with the symbols of right-wing extremists on the steps of the Reichstag building."

Schuster added: "Unfortunately, the right-wing extremists succeeded in achieving what they wanted to achieve, namely to produce provocative images that are now being widely distributed."

Felix Klein — the German federal government's antisemitism commissioner — asserted that the far-right extremists had crossed a "red line" in their display at the Reichstag building.

The imperial flags evoked "the worst memories," Klein said.

"This is an attack on the heart of democracy," he added.

where King Hussein was building a palace to overlook Jerusalem. The elite Jordanian armored unit was commanded by King Hussein's cousin, Brig. Sharif Zayd bin Shaker, a graduate of the US Army Staff College. Israeli ground and air forces destroyed many of the Patton tanks that were advancing from the Jordan Valley, and the Jordanian forces withdrew.

Whether as a result of a coup, a malicious arms transfer, or a change in attitude in the UAE, Israel could find itself one day fighting American F-35 aircraft just as it found itself fighting American Patton tanks. Giving the UAE the fighter-bombers is an amazingly bad idea.

Moshe Phillips is national director of Herut North America's US division. Herut is an international movement for Zionist pride and education and is dedicated to the ideals of pre-World War II Zionist leader Ze'ev Jabotinsky. Herut's website is www.herutna.org.

is also going to receive investments from the Middle East," he noted. "This is a huge change. It is a peace that creates jobs, encourages entrepreneurship and expands our economy."

Earlier, Netanyahu spoke with the captain of the Israel-UAE flight, Tal Becker, saying, "You are now about to open the door to a different kind of peace -- peace with investments, peace with tourism, peace with very many fruits of peace that will be shared here with our two peoples and with all the peoples of the region."

"This is a gigantic and historic blessing," he declared.

Fugitive Wife of Islamist Killer Still at Large on Eve of Terror Trial in France



Preparations in the Paris courtroom where the suspects in the January 2015 terrorist attacks in the French capital are going on trial. Photo: Reuters / Christian Hartmann.

BY BEN COHEN

As France prepares for Wednesday's opening of the landmark trial of the 14 suspects in the January 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, three of those charged will not be in the courtroom.

Two are presumed dead, while the third, Hayat Boumeddiene, remains on the run, according to French intelligence.

The trial will begin more than five years after three days of Islamist terrorist mayhem in the French capital left 16 civilians dead — 12 of them at the headquarters of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* on Jan. 7 and another four at a kosher supermarket in eastern Paris on Jan. 9.

Said and Chérif Kouachi, the two armed brothers who stormed the *Charlie Hebdo* offices, and their friend Amedy Coulibaly, the gunman who seized the Hyper Cacher market in the Porte de Vincennes neighborhood two days later, were all killed by police during the attacks.

However, absent from the trial will be the terror suspect dubbed "France's most-wanted woman" — Hayat Boumeddiene, Coulibaly's wife, who flew to Turkey a few days prior to the attacks before crossing into Syrian territory controlled at that time by the ISIS terrorist organization.

The 32-year-old Boumeddiene surfaced less than a month after the attacks when she gave an interview to an ISIS propaganda outlet.

Asked about her husband — who murdered a policewoman followed by four Jewish shoppers at the Hyper Cacher — she said that Coulibaly had dreamed of fighting for the so-called "caliphate" created by ISIS.

"His heart burned with the desire to join his brothers and fight the enemies of Allah on the caliphate's land," Boumeddiene said. "His eyes gleamed each time he saw [ISIS]

videos and he would say, 'Don't show me that,' because he wanted to leave immediately."

Boumeddiene is alleged to have played a central role in planning both attacks. Traces of her DNA were found on weapons being stored by Coulibaly at a house near Paris, while prosecutors also discovered that she had made more than 500 phone calls to Izzana Hamyd, the wife of Chérif Kouachi.

Also absent from the trial are the brothers Mohamed and Mehdi Belhoucine, who followed Boumeddiene to Syria. Mohamed Belhoucine was alleged to have been Coulibaly's mentor and the author an "oath of allegiance" to ISIS that was adopted by the impromptu terrorist cell.

While the Belhoucine brothers are believed to have been killed in Syria in 2016, the most recent reports suggest that Hayat Boumeddiene is still alive.

Boumeddiene was reportedly last seen in October 2019 at the Al Hol refugee camp after being taken captive by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The unidentified woman who spotted her told French intelligence that Boumeddiene escaped undetected from Al Hol soon after, in the company of other female jihadists.

The remaining defendants who will be present in the courtroom on Wednesday include Ali Riza Polat 35, a French citizen of Turkish origin, who has been described as Coulibaly's "right-hand man," and Willy Prévost, who helped Coulibaly obtain the vehicle he drove to the Hyper Cacher market.

The other defendants -- Nezar Mickaël Pastor Alwatik, Amar Ramdani, Saïd Makhoul, Mohamed-Amine Fares, Michel Catino, Abdelaziz Abbad, Miguel Martinez and Metin Karasular -- are accused of providing varying degrees of support to the Kouachi brothers and Coulibaly.

The trial will run until Nov. 10.

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F-35

When the war broke out, Jordanian artillery and tanks blasted the Jewish side of Jerusalem and the Ramat David military airbase in Israel's north. Jordanian Hunter aircraft bombed Kfar Sirkin, Netanya, and Kfar Saba. On the evening of June 5, 1967, Jordan dispatched its crack 40th Armored Brigade with 90 M-48 tanks from the Jericho area north along the east bank of the Jordan Valley to the Damya (Adam) Bridge. After traveling all night, the Jordanian force crossed into the West Bank toward Nablus (Shechem). A major tank battle ensued in the Dothan Valley. The IDF lost 33 soldiers; its tank brigades were equipped with inferior Sherman tanks.

Meanwhile, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, an Israeli unit "encountered Jordanian infantry and some 30 Jordanian Patton tanks at the strategic high point of Tel el-Ful (Hill of Beans),

Continued from Page A1
'Historic'

iceberg, over the last few years."

Netanyahu added that he had held a conference call with Trump and the UAE's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and an official signing of the normalization deal in Washington, DC, was being planned.

The prime minister said the Israel-UAE accord would bring a "warm peace" based on "economic cooperation with an entrepreneurial economy similar to ours."

"For the first time, Israel, which has received investments from all over the world,

Continued from Page A1
Israel Ties

will next visit Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar on his Gulf tour.

Asked by UAE state news agency WAM when the next Arab state could normalize

ties, Kushner, son-in-law to President Donald Trump, was quoted as saying: "Let's hope it's months."

The Israel-UAE deal was welcomed by some Gulf countries, but has been met by overwhelming Palestinian opposition.

World News.



US flags are seen near a TikTok logo in this illustration picture taken July 16, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Florence Lo

TikTok Announces 'Zero Tolerance' for Antisemitism, Hate Speech, Bigotry

BY JACKSON RICHMAN/
JNS.org

The video-sharing social network service TikTok has expressed that it has "a zero tolerance stance" on accounts linked to antisemitism and other forms of bigotry.

"We have a zero tolerance stance on organized hate groups and those associated with them, like accounts that spread or are linked to white supremacy or nationalism, male supremacy, antisemitism and other hate-based ideologies," said the company in an Aug. 20 blog post on its website.

"In addition, we remove race-based harassment and the denial of violent tragedies, such as the Holocaust and slavery," continued TikTok. "We may also take off-platform behavior into consideration as we establish our policies, such as an account belonging to the leader of a known hate group, to protect people against harm."

The blog post was published six days before the museum at the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz called a trend on TikTok in which young people portray themselves as victims of the Holocaust as "hurtful and offensive."

In a statement to JNS on Thursday, a TikTok spokesperson said that the platform "blocked the #holocaustchallenge earlier this week to discourage people from participating. We do not condone content like this and are redirecting searches for it to our Community Guidelines to further educate users about our policies and the supportive, inclusive community we are working to foster on TikTok."

On Monday, a TikTok video surfaced of US Army Second Lt. Nathan Frehofer, an influencer on the video-sharing service with almost 3 million followers, making a Holocaust joke.

"What's a Jewish person's favorite Pokémon character?" asked Frehofer, followed by a laugh.

"Ash," he answers, referring to Ash Ketchum, the protagonist in the anime, and the remains of Jews who were gassed and cremated during the Holocaust in death and concentration camps.

"If you get offended, get the f*** out because it's a joke," added Frehofer.

The US Army is investigating the matter, saying the "statement made in the video is completely inconsistent" with its values.

Counter Extremism Project senior research analyst Josh Lipowsky told JNS that while social media companies such as TikTok have been taking steps to combat bigotry, more needs to be done.

He said that TikTok's "comprehensive and specific hate-speech policies ... are a step in the right direction for social media," as "Twitter, Facebook, and other platforms have also instituted policies forbidding hate speech and symbols based on race, religion, sex, and other protected criteria."

"These policies are all great on paper, but we need to see the tech companies proactively enforcing [them] to protect their users," he stressed. "TikTok and other social media companies have to do more than just pay lip service to fighting extremism on their platforms. They need to quickly and uniformly enforce their policies to protect against the abuse of their platforms. These are private platforms and the companies that own them have a responsibility to the public to ensure that extremists are not abusing their sites."

Lipowsky said "some may argue that this is an infringement of free speech, but the fact is these are private companies that have every legal right to limit how their services are used."

Furthermore, he added, "they have the moral responsibility to ensure that their platforms are not being subverted for the promulgation of hate speech. If extremists manipulate these services into platforms for hate and recruitment to extremist ideologies, then the tech companies are ultimately responsible for those consequences."

Stabbing of Local Rabbi in Petah Tikva Was Terror Attack, Shin Bet Confirms

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The stabbing that killed a rabbi in the

central Israeli city of Petah Tikva last week was a terrorist attack, the Shin Bet internal security agency confirmed on Monday.

UAE Airline Begins Selling Tickets to Israeli Passengers

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

The second-largest airline in the United Arab Emirates began selling tickets to Israeli passengers on Tuesday, in another step in the normalization process between the two countries.

Israel's Channel 13 reported that Etihad Airways was conducting the sales through the Tel Aviv-based company TAL Aviation. It is offering a number of routes with destinations in countries in the Middle East and Asia.

Nissim Sagis, commercial director at TAL, said, "In recent weeks, we have witnessed an increase in demand from the Israeli market and a desire to return to flying," referring to the drop-off in commercial aviation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We are excited to collaborate with our



An Etihad Airways Airbus A320-200 plane is seen at the National Airport Minsk, Belarus, April 19, 2018. Photo: Reuters / Vasily Fedosenko / File.

new partners, and offer passengers from Israel the opportunity to experience Etihad's famous service to Abu Dhabi and additional destinations on its global flight network," he added.

The news came a day after the first commercial flight from Israel to the UAE, carrying a delegation of top US and Israeli officials, landed in Abu Dhabi.

More Academics Announce Support for Jewish USC Student Leader Who Quit Over Anti-Zionist Harassment

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A group of faculty at the University of Southern California (USC) has lined up in support of a Jewish student whose experience of antisemitism led to her resignation as University of Southern California student vice president earlier this month.

In an "open letter to the USC community on supporting Zionist students" that was posted on Monday, the scholars emphasized that Rose Ritch was "subjected to vicious online harassment, and her qualification to hold elected office was questioned on the basis of her professed Zionism."

The letter, signed by nearly 40 academics at USC, followed a similar communication last week from a group of progressive American scholars who sprang to Ritch's defense.

The USC letter identified its signers as "supporters of the Zionist idea -- the right of the Jewish people to a homeland and self-determination" who "stand by the rights of all people, including Israelis and Palestinians, to



The University of Southern California campus. Photo: Padsquad19 via Wikimedia Commons.

freedom, dignity and peaceful coexistence, and to advocate for their causes with fairness and respect on our campus and in the world."

"As dedicated members of the USC faculty, we are concerned about the long-term impact of Rose Ritch's resignation on the morale and well-being of supporters, or presumed supporters, of the State of Israel," the letter noted. "We call on our university's leadership to uphold the values of open and civilized debate, so that USC can continue its mission of fostering excellence in education and advancing knowledge in a civil and respectful manner."

The Israeli news site Walla reported that the Shin Bet had ascertained that Rabbi Shai Ohayon, 39, was walking on a sidewalk at Segula Junction when the assailant, Khalil Abd al-Khaliq Dweikat, stabbed him several times with a large knife.

Ohayon was fatally wounded and Dweikat quickly arrested by police near the scene.

Dweikat, 46, confessed to the crime under interrogation by the Shin Bet and the Israel Police, and admitted that he committed the crime out of nationalist motives.

The investigation also found that Dweikat, who is from the West Bank village of Rujeeb, near Nablus, possessed a permit that allowed him to work in Israel and return to the West Bank on a daily basis.

However, Dweikat had violated the terms of the permit by staying in Israel for several days before committing his attack.

Khalil's brother Khaled, who claimed his brother was framed by the Shin Bet, stated that

Khalil was married and the father of six daughters, with the youngest being nine months old.

Ohayon was described by his father-in-law as a "good father to his children and a good husband to his wife."

"He was like a son to me," Ohayon's father-in-law added. "He taught Torah lessons."

Ohayon's wife was said to be "in shock" over his death.

"It's inconceivable," his father-in-law said. "It's a great loss."



The late Shai Ohayon, who was killed in a stabbing attack in Petah Tikva, Israel, Aug. 26, 2020.

U.S. News.

California Governor Praises 'Beautiful Example' Set by Israeli Firefighters Who Came to Help in Ongoing Wildfire Battle

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

California's governor has offered a fulsome tribute to a group of Israeli firefighters who rushed to the state to help their colleagues combat the nearly two dozen wildfires raging there.

The ten Israelis landed in California over the weekend and will spend the coming weeks assisting the state's emergency response to the blazes.

Tweeting in response to a post that included a photo of the Israeli firefighters, California Governor Gavin Newsom said, "Mutual aid is a beautiful example of people from all backgrounds and communities coming together to help one another."

"Grateful for the strong partnership between California and Israel, and for this crew of Israeli firefighters who came to CA to help battle these historic fires," he added.

The fires have burned more than 750,000 acres and forced hundreds of thousands of evacuations.

Steady progress in extinguishing the fires was being reported on Tuesday, but more than 60,000 people remained under mandatory evacuation orders throughout California.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg tweeted on Sunday, "Today we welcomed a delegation of firefighters from Israel who arrived yesterday. Tomorrow they will report to the CA Office of Emergency Services and be dispatched to fires around the state. As a Jewish mayor, I'm particularly proud and happy to see them come to our aid."

US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said on Monday, "Thanks to our important ally #Israel for sending a team of firefighters to help battle the #CaliforniaWildFire."

They will join nearly 16,000 heroic firefighters working to keep Californians safe."



The group of Israeli firefighters who traveled to California to assist the battle against the multiple wildfires raging there. Photo: Twitter.

NYPD Investigating Brooklyn Hit-and-Run in Which Two Jewish Men Were Struck by Speeding Car

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

"On Sunday, August 30, 2020 at approximately 0252 hours police responded to a 911 call of a motor vehicle collision in the vicinity Lee Avenue and Roebling Street within the confines the 90 Precinct," a statement provided by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to The Algemeiner on Monday said.

"Preliminary investigation reveals a dark colored sedan was traveling southbound on Taylor Street in reckless manner, mounted a curb at Taylor Street and Lee Avenue and collided with a 23-year-old male and a 47-year-old male pedestrians," the NYPD noted.

"The victims refused medical attention on scene," the statement added. "There are no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing."

Police are investigating a hit-and-run incident that took place in Brooklyn early Sunday morning and has drawn some attention as a potential hate crime due to the visibly Jewish identities of the victims.



The moment after impact is seen in a Brooklyn hit-and-run incident, Aug. 30, 2020. Photo: Screenshot.

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Opinion.

Aliyah During COVID-19

SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

To see Israel today is to witness prophecies come true: the Jews are back in the mix, on their land, and at the helm of their destiny — precisely the way God promised. But we must also recognize the armies of men and women bringing these prophecies to fruition.

God told Ezekiel, “The towns shall be resettled and the ruined sites rebuilt,” and Israel’s brave pioneers and immigrants made good on that promise. The Irgun, Haganah, and the IDF were honoring another pledge: “They shall no longer be a spoil for the nations, they shall dwell secure and untroubled” (Ez. 34:28). Today, Israel’s agricultural workers help the “land to yield its produce and the tree to yield its fruit” (Lev. 26:4), while those in the bustling high-tech sector vindicate Moses’ prediction that Israel would be celebrated worldwide as “a wise and insightful people” (Deut. 4:6). Equally awe-inspiring — though lesser known — is that prophecies are being confirmed by Jews in the Diaspora too. Right here in North America, there’s a small but

specialized force bringing another beautiful promise to life: that God will bring His scattered people home.

From the online application through the touchdown at Ben Gurion airport and beyond, Nefesh B’Nefesh guides returning Jews through bureaucracies on both sides of the ocean, helping them navigate healthcare, banking, and the hunt for jobs, homes, and friends.

“Even if your exiles are at the end of the heavens,” Moses assured us some 3,300 years ago, “the Lord your God will gather you from there, and from there He will take you.”

Over the past few months, I’ve seen these words rise like a tide — up close, firsthand, and inside my own home.

About a year ago, my 19-year-old son Yosef informed my wife and I that he’d be moving to Israel and joining the IDF. I knew it wouldn’t be easy; when the pandemic hit, I was sure he’d have to make peace with a dream delayed. What I didn’t know was that the global pandemic had only sent Nefesh B’Nefesh and the Jewish Agency, under the inspired leadership of Isaac Herzog, into overdrive.

In June, it was announced that they had received a record number of applications — 1,350 in a single month — and logged more than 25,000 calls from people still on the

fence. The surge reflects Israel’s immigration estimates: In 2019, 35,000 Jews moved to Israel; over the next three to five years, Israel expects that figure to rise to an astounding 250,000.

With all of that going on, they still got Yosef in. Last week, he arrived in Israel, got an Israeli ID, and went off to his pre-military academy in the deserts of the south. He is the fourth of my children to become a citizen of the Jewish state. All of this was made possible through the ongoing assistance from volunteers and organizers at Nefesh B’Nefesh, the professionals at the Jewish Agency, and the amazing staff at the Israeli embassy in Washington.

Nefesh B’Nefesh brings Jews back to Israel in the way G-d would; amid unbridled kindness and compassion, and providing attention and dignity for every person in their care.

We’ve got a lot more prophecies to see through. God’s ultimate promise is a world without hunger, poverty, or war — certainly without pandemics. We eagerly await that day of complete redemption. Until then, we continue to endure painful reminders that our exile hasn’t wholly ended. But the same prophecies that kindled Jews with a hope strong enough to endure nearly 20 centuries of suffering can keep us looking forward still.



Children land at Ben-Gurion Airport and are greeted by Nefesh B’Nefesh. Photo: Shahar Azran.

The great sage Rabbi Akiva famously comforted a group of rabbis crying as they watched foxes frolic on the Temple Mount. Far from a sad sight, he insisted, they were witnessing the fruition of the prophet’s words, “Zion shall be plowed as a field.” He then told them of another passage, which predicted Jerusalem being reborn: “Old men and women shall yet sit in her streets.”

Isaiah predicted precisely how his predictions would be proven true: “All the nations assemble as one, The peoples gather. Who among them declared this and foretold to us things that have happened? Let them produce their witnesses and be vindicated! That men, hearing them, may say, ‘It is true!’” (43:9).

The prophets spoke three millennia ago, but today we can all say, “It is true!”

Thanks to organizations like the Jewish Agency and Nefesh B’Nefesh, there’s barely a need for faith or imagination — the accuracy speaks for itself.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach is a writer, author, and commentator.

US Isolationism Leads to Globalization of Conflicts and Endless Wars

IRINA TSUKERMAN
NEW YORK

Localized conflicts are being globalized following a similar pattern of weakened or divided central government, factionalism, and proliferation of security and humanitarian issues. This trend may have started with Syria, where foreign fighters and terrorist recruits flowed in from all over the world before Iran, Russia, and then Turkey intervened, adding to the ongoing sectarianism.

Syria, which is still smoldering, has been joined by two other local-turned-international conflicts in Libya and Yemen, and there is increasing cross-pollination among other Middle Eastern conflicts.

Turkey is now importing approximately 200 al-Islah (Muslim Brotherhood) fighters from Yemen to Libya, where they will join forces with the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA), Syrian and other mercenaries, local urban militias, and terrorists. Turkey also established al-Islah training camps in Taiz and other strategic areas that are increasingly falling under Islamist control.

The best known such camp hosts approximately 400 fighters, most of whom are to remain in Yemen and assist Turkey-backed forces, not so much against Tehran’s proxy Houthi militia (despite al-Islah’s having joined the Arab Coalition in that battle and being nominally part of the Hadi government) as against the effort to liberate areas

under Islamist control by the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC). Reportedly, this camp is partially financed by Qatar. Lesser known camps are popping up on the outskirts of Taiz; some are former schools that have been converted into training facilities by al-Islah fighters.

Why would Erdogan need to import such a small number of Yemeni fighters to Libya? He has no shortage of Syrian and other mercenaries; the many thousands of foreign fighters flocking to Libya either directly from Turkey or through Tunisia in recent months completely overwhelmed Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar’s Libyan National Army (LNA). After all, bringing these fighters splits the forces available for Turkish-backed operations in Yemen, rendering the task much more difficult, and attracts unwanted attention from the international community.

There are several reasons for this action. First, Erdogan is showing the legitimacy of his own international Islamist leadership spurred by the neo-Ottoman dreams of grandeur he is selling to his base around the world. Even a symbolic show of diversity points to Turkey as a force to be reckoned with that will not be easily dislodged from any of its mushrooming international fronts and combat zones.

Second, international experience in an active combat zone is for the benefit of the fighters themselves, as it gives them an opportunity to cut their teeth, network with other fighters, and receive a global perspective that they can share with their brothers in arms.

Third, this is laying the foundations for the creation of an integrated and globalized network of proxies, where mercenaries of different backgrounds are interchange-

able and can facilitate each other’s operations anywhere in the world with equal ease.

If al-Islah fighters can join the fight in Libya, then maybe one day Libyans, who have benefited from Erdogan’s assistance, can reciprocate by going to Yemen. In other words, Erdogan is building a version of the Iranian model. However, rather than create permanent militias and organized proxy groups that may be expensive to maintain, at least at the outset, Erdogan is focusing on the integration of the fighters themselves. For that reason, in Libya, he is creating brigades where mercenaries of different backgrounds have some level of exposure to others.

Finally, this move is a message to Erdogan’s opponents that he can operate with impunity and import whomever he wants wherever he wants at any time. This is yet another step toward his vision of restoring Ottoman borders and building an Islamic caliphate.

Just as important is an informal announcement, one of many in recent weeks, that the next operation for Turkey is going to be in Yemen, where for now, its role is limited to training, ideological outreach, and humanitarian aid. Shortly after that announcement, Erdogan declared the conversion into a mosque of the former church Hagia Sophia, one of the wonders of the Christian world and a museum under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

The first services held at the mosque were Islamist in form and substance, and featured a sword-wielding imam. While most of the international community was busy debating and expressing outrage, a related event passed under the radar: the publication of a Turkish magazine calling for the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, a supra-nationalist concept, most recently associated with ISIS.

Erdogan has been accused of welcoming



US President Donald Trump wears a mask while visiting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, US, July 11, 2020. Photo: REUTERS/Tasos Katopodis

fleeing ISIS fighters and recruiting them for some of his militias in Syria and elsewhere. He was previously accused of engaging in oil trading with ISIS while the terrorist organization still had territorial control in Iraq and Syria. The flow of international mercenaries to Libya and elsewhere is not only a great way to save money and avoid the humiliation of a defeat of Turkish troops by the Egyptian military, but a step toward establishing the caliphate, an ideological premise that unites Islamists of all backgrounds.

There is a reason why ISIS’s reemergence in Libya has become so closely associated with local Turkey-backed militias. ISIS is neither a contradiction nor a challenge to Erdogan’s vision. Indeed, there is no ideological or constructive daylight between ISIS’s idea of the caliphate and Erdogan’s.

Erdogan has co-opted the remnants of the organization to serve as the vanguard of some of Turkey’s more brazen operations to weaken and undermine the very idea of statehood in the countries bordering Libya. His goal is a free flow of mercenaries from all directions who are prepared to disrupt, overwhelm, and interfere with a symmetrical Egyptian response in asymmetrical and unpredictable ways. Erdogan spent years cultivating loyalties around Africa through humanitarian investments, political involvement, and ideological outreach. Now the chickens are coming home to roost as thousands of Somalis are joining

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Opinion.

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US Isolationism

Tunisians, Sudanese, and other Islamists in Libya, all bankrolled by Qatar.

What of the Russian mercenaries? They are not in Libya for ideological reasons and may end up playing both sides (if they are not doing so already) depending on which way the wind blows. There are already signs that Moscow is flexible in another globalized theater of war, Syria, where it has accommodated some level of Turkish involvement and demonstrated its ability to maneuver among different factions, tribes, and jihadists, not to mention the long Israel-Iran confrontation. In Yemen too, there is a visible shift in Russian priorities, where it has gone from playing both sides of the conflict in an attempt to be seen as a neutral and respectable power broker to visibly supporting the Houthis through propaganda and information warfare tactics meant to demoralize the Arab Coalition. Moscow made that shift because it perceives the Coalition as having either lost or largely given up, and as the international community increasingly sees the Houthis as a legitimate governing authority in the absence of the Hadi government on the ground.

The Arab Coalition, in response to these developments, has concluded the negotiations that would fully implement a unifying Riyadh agreement, integrate the STC into the Hadi government, and finally reappoint a governor of Aden, which means the STC

is putting aside separatism for the sake of combating the Houthis. The legitimate government is finally seen as making a physical claim to dominion and control in Yemen as a first step toward retaking military and political control of the country.

Despite these positive moves, it will be an uphill battle for the Hadi government and the Coalition to regain full legitimacy. None of these conflicts is likely to be resolved anytime soon, and they will all become costlier, more messy, and more lethal.

A significant reason for that is the belated, limited, or passive role of the United States in line with President Trump's promises to his isolationist base of bringing an end to US involvement in "endless wars" abroad. The absence of the US as the "global policeman" or at least a power-broker that is willing and able to put pressure on aggressors and wrongdoers to negotiate is taking its toll. Far from making the world a less dangerous place, America's withdrawal from the international scene has given a green light to Turkey, Qatar, Iran, Russia, and their proxies and fellow travelers to expand and intensify conflicts.

Irina Tsukerman is a human rights and national security attorney based in New York. She has written extensively on geopolitics and US foreign policy for a variety of American, Israeli, and other international publications.

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UAE-Israel Peace Deal Challenges Iranian, Muslim Brotherhood Camps

YAAKOV LAPPIN/
JNS.org

The peace agreement between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel is an important boost to the formation of a strategic Middle Eastern alliance between Israel and moderate Sunni states. The pact takes Israel's central role in cooperating with Sunni Arab states out of the shadows. A boost to regional stability, the peace agreement will enable expanded cooperation on defense and intelligence issues, trade, investment, joint technological development, and could foster a positive religious-cultural dialogue.

No less importantly, it also deals a blow to two radical Islamist forces that are determined to destabilize the region, threatening Israel and Sunni-Arab countries alike. The deal threatens these forces' ability to control the region's dialogue about Israel's presence and Islam, and challenges to some extent their ability to promote a dark vision for future.

The Iranian-Shiite axis is first of those radical forces that stands to lose from the agreement. Iran and its armed proxies — militant, well-armed Shiite militias deployed across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen — have reacted vehemently against the pact, reflecting deep concern over its implications.

The second force concerned about the agreement is the Muslim Brotherhood camp, which is led by Turkey, and includes Hamas, Qatar, and hard-line Sunni political Islamists across the region.



Students gather in front of the UAE Embassy to protest the normalization of relations with Israel, in Tehran, Iran August 15, 2020. Photo: Majid Asgarpour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERS.

"The [Iranian] regime fears the emergence of a new international alliance that will have greater power to contain its hegemonic regional aspirations, and there is a new urgency to the need to prove to the Iranian people that the government's imperialist foreign policy works to their benefit," said Doron Itzhakov, an Iran specialist from the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

Itzhakov explained that the Iranian regime's leadership is "covering its embarrassment and apprehension with a stream of defamation and threats," including a statement by Iranian Parliament Speaker Muhammad Bakr Qalibaf, who called the agreement "despicable and a betrayal of human and Islamic values," and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who warned the UAE's leaders "not to open their gates" to Israel.

Israel and several Sunni Arab states share a vision of the threat that the Iranian axis poses, a fact that has helped to push the Gulf states closer to Israel.

Cities and strategic sites in Saudi Arabia have come under missile fire from the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen, who, like Hezbollah, are armed by the Iranian Quds

It's Time to Recognize the Contribution of the Jewish Resistance to the Rescue of the Jews of France



TSILLA HERSHCO
TEL AVIV

Although the Jewish Resistance Organization in France carried out one of the Holocaust's most extraordinary rescue operations, the story is not well known in either France or Israel, and is often distorted for political reasons. During his historic recognition in July 1995 of France's responsibility for the extermination of its Jews, President Jacques Chirac claimed that the French Righteous Among the Nations had saved three-quarters of the Jews of France — completely ignoring the central part played by the Jewish Resistance in the rescue. This version was then adopted by his successors.

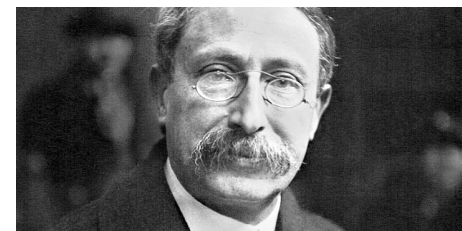
There is no doubt that the French Righteous Among the Nations deserve a place of honor in the history of the Holocaust, but it was the Jewish Resistance that made the crucial contribution to the rescue of some 230,000 Jews — about three-quarters of French Jewry.

Members of the Jewish Resistance were the main ones who initiated contact with the French rescuers, and who — often at the risk of their lives — issued good-quality forged certificates and food stamps, without which it would have been impossible to obtain groceries. They even maintained regular contact with hidden children in order to boost their morale and prevent their loss to the Jewish people. They assisted detainees in the camps and smuggled them away; they moved convoys of children and adults to hiding places in France, Switzerland, and Spain; and they set up guerrilla groups and transferred funds for the sake of the struggle against the Nazi occupier.

Despite the existence of extensive documentation regarding the independent activities of the Jewish resistance movement, the French media and politicians continue to adhere to the erroneous story that the movement operated within the framework of the general French Resistance. In practice, not only did the general French Resistance not engrave on its banner the rescue of the Jews as part of its struggle for the liberation of the French homeland, but the first nucleus of the Jewish Resistance was established as early as June 1940, after the Nazi occupation, while the general French Resistance movement formed more slowly. The gap between historical facts and the public memory led, among other things, to false theories, such as the claim of French-Jewish writer and publicist Éric Zemmour that it must have been the Vichy government that enabled the rescue of

Force. The Houthis claimed to have fired a cruise missile at the UAE's nuclear power plant in 2017 (though the UAE said no missile targeted its plant). Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been engaged in a bloody war with the Houthis, though the UAE withdrew its forces from southern Yemen last year.

Several ships docked at UAE ports



Léon Blum, the Jewish socialist politician who served as Prime Minister of France. Photo: Gallica Digital Library via Wikipedia.

three-quarters of French Jews, since the small number of Righteous Among the Nations could not explain it. Zemmour, who was probably unaware of the efforts of the Jewish Resistance, claimed that the Vichy regime did not want to harm the Jewish citizens of France and therefore made a "deal with the devil" to rescue them.

It is not only the French media who are ignorant of the contribution of the Jewish Resistance to the rescue of the Jews of France. For example, a film was recently released that presents the well-known mime Marcel Marceau as the savior of hundreds of Jews during the French resistance, a theory supported by a blog post on the Jerusalem National Library website. Marceau did, in fact, help transfer Jewish children to Switzerland, but he did so within the framework of the Jewish Resistance and the vital infrastructure it had established, including forged certificates, money supply, connections with border smugglers and heads of local authorities, and more.

The French authorities have created the misconception that it was the Righteous Among the Nations who saved three-quarters of French Jewry as a counterweight of sorts to their accepting national responsibility for the fate of French Jews during the Holocaust. But it is historically and morally wrong to erase from the collective memory the crucial contribution of the Jewish Resistance in this rescue operation, for which many of them paid with their lives. It is time for the State of Israel, which is so sensitive to the memory of the Holocaust, to honor the contribution of this unique Jewish resistance movement in a national project alongside the French Righteous Among the Nations project, and oppose the growing trend of erasing heroic chapters from Holocaust history or even rewriting history for political or ideological ends.

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were sabotaged last year in attacks widely attributed to Iranian forces, and the Islamic Republic has repeatedly threatened the Gulf states' ability to export oil, in retaliation for sanctions on Iran's own oil exports.

The Gulf states clearly recognize that the threat posed by Iran's quest for hegemony

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Impressions.

Scrutinizing Israel and the Ivory Tower

BY OZ & TAMAR ALMOG

Academia: All the Lies — What Went Wrong in the University Model and What Will Come in Its Place by Oz and Tamar Almog (2020, Kindle-Amazon), is an examination of the academic ivory tower, and exposes the culture of lying, denial, and fixation that has taken over institutions of higher education across the world.

The book contains an extensive chapter on the decline of the Humanities, including a reference to the disease of antisemitism that has grown within them. An excerpt is below:

In 2017, a scandal erupted in Israeli academia. Then-Minister of Education Naftali Bennett, a member of the national-religious Jewish Home party, requested that Prof. Asa Kasher prepare a code of ethics for Israeli academia. The request was made in light of tension following the call by a number of scientific associations and universities around the world to boycott Israeli institutions of higher education, echoed by a number of radical Israeli lecturers. Prof. Kasher, a world-renowned expert on the philosophy of morals, a winner of the Israel Prize, and the writer of the IDF's ethical code at the time, was up for the challenge. Apparently, though, he did not realize that he was stepping into a minefield. He developed an ethical code that was careful and apolitical in spirit, and focused on the general checks and balances of academic discourse.

But the response to the initiative was, predictably, sharp and sweeping. Israel's Association of University Heads announced that "the proposal denies institutions of higher education the freedom to determine rules of conduct and behavior for members of academic faculties," and the chairmen of the senior faculty organizations put out their own communiqué, which included the following: "The proposed code threatens to negatively alter the working conditions of faculty members, to terrorize them, and to send them day and night before a thought police."

Obviously, the protests and manifestos didn't exactly detail what exactly was so illegitimate about the proposal made by Prof. Kasher, and offered no changes or improvements to the version he came up with, used in countless countries and institutions around the world. Due to the timing (increased tension in Israel between the right and left), the rightist image and identity of Minister Bennett (who as part of his job served also as head of the Council of Higher Education, and had already found himself butting political heads with academia), and the political objective Bennett did not conceal (restricting the exploitation of academic freedom for political propaganda, especially anti-Israel propaganda), the real debate went unnoticed: What are the boundaries of discourse within the framework of academic freedom on campus, if there are any?

One prominent Israeli intellectual who has been asked about this fascinating and touchy subject is Prof. Amnon Rubinstein — a legal scholar, publicist, author, philosopher, and politician. In his book *Cracks in the Academy*, written with Yitzhak Pasha, the authors emphasize that despite the fact that boundaries on expression on campus must be as free of restriction as possible, both in conferences and classes, they are not entirely lawless — for moral reasons and especially for reasons of proper conduct, sensitivity, and consideration of the other (in their eyes, these restrictions apply only to lectures heard in public places, and not to academic publications).

One of the (many) examples brought by the duo is an event from 2007, when Columbia University in New York, known for its radical progressive approach, invited the president of Iran to give a guest lecture on campus. It defended itself from criticism for giving a platform to an individual calling for the destruction of a sovereign state — Israel — with the claim that the invitation was part of the academic freedom it enjoyed. "In our opinion," write Rubinstein and Pasha, "this is a false claim, since academic freedom does not require a university to invite and respect everyone who is eligible for freedom of expression."

An event similar in nature occurred the same

distinctly academic and use the auspices of the university to promote political views. It's true that it's important to challenge society and raise every question and disagreement without fear, but there is no requirement to initiate pointless provocations, which stilt conversation more than they expand knowledge. There is no requirement not to respect your audience, no requirement to offend your students' demographic groups, and no requirement to slander your country and incite against it — and by the same token, not to incite against those who legitimately criticize it. More than a question of content, this is a question of pluralism, tolerance, dosage, and style.



The University of Haifa campus. Photo: Zvi Roger - Haifa Municipality.

year at Tel Aviv University. A conference organized by the Faculty of Law under the name "Security for Political Prisoners" invited a Palestinian terrorist, sentenced to 27 years in prison for throwing Molotov cocktails at buses, to lecture (in an additional irony, he gave his talk in the Hall of Justice). Rubinstein and Pasha comment on this: "Anyone who defends academic liberty in this case must answer the following question: Would he have given an academic platform to Yigal Amir, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, as part of a conference titled 'Criminal or Political Prisoner'?"

No doubt restrictions on the contents of lectures and conferences, not to mention classes, are a slippery slope. Rubinstein and Pasha note in this regard: "If we start rummaging through their views and trying to distinguish between a professional statement and a political one, we will open the door for censorship on statements by academics. Such censorship will do harm to the required variety of opinions, and may lead to a 'cooling effect' (a fear of voicing opinions that are not a part of the heart of the consensus)." And still, in their opinion, one should remember that academic liberties do not grant a free ride to political propaganda, because that would abuse the mandate and authority given to a professor. The classroom space — and actually the entire course — grant an advantage to the professor over his or her students. Therefore, even if monitoring lecturers is not desirable, they themselves must be extra careful to avoid preaching, preferring certain views in classroom discussion, directing students towards a particular stance, and a one-sided presentation of controversial social issues as much as possible.

In order to prevent undesired political bias, Rubinstein and Pasha suggest avoiding as much as possible the production of events which are not

The progressive trend undoubtedly stretches tolerance levels in academia to a maximum, and even beyond. No doubt many lecturers, especially in the liberal arts, cross red ethical lines and make improper use of their classes to promote political agendas. That's why an ethical code which defines boundaries of responsibility (it's exactly as it sounds: a code only, and as Kasher defines it, "an educational document without any legal or disciplinary standing") is desirable, and not necessarily an expression of compulsion, establishment supervision, or silencing your opposition. It is actually those who scream bloody murder at the ethical code prepared by Prof. Kasher who, in their hysterics and aggressiveness, as in the political emphasis they gave to their protest, indicate that they approach the debate with unclean hands.

And after all that, it's doubtful whether the solution is the implementation of regulations or the wording of ethical codes. In our opinion, the discussion revolving around freedom of expression in teaching is practically anachronistic. When the education market is completely open, and any institution or center stands on its own (privately or subsidized by interested public organizations), the question of political legitimacy will no longer apply. No longer will there be a captive audience of students, and all will choose for themselves where and with whom they want to acquire knowledge. Lecturers will be able to slander whomever they want and make a living off it — or not.

Prof. Oz Almog is a sociologist and historian of Israeli society, and Dr. Tamar Almog specializes in alternative instruction, educational systems, and youth culture. Both are faculty members at the University of Haifa, Israel.

Legals.

Opinion.

LEGAL NOTICE



Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: MISS YOU LOVE YOU MEDIA LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 07/02/2020 . 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: Paula Berkenstadt 683 Union St.#2L Brooklyn, NY 11215.purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 7/31; 8/7/14/21/28; 9/4

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC) Name: ESF COUTURE, LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 06/12/2020 . 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: Emmanuela Saint Fleur 188 Sterling Street Brooklyn, NY 11225. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 8/7/14/21/28; 9/4/11

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AJ; 8/14/21/28; 9/4/11/18

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AJ; 8/14/21/28; 9/4/11/18

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Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: Mad FOCUSED CONSULTING LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/08/2020 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: Mad Focused Consulting LLC 163 Milton St., Apt.3 E Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 8/21/28; 9/4/11/18/25

File No.: 2018-445/B AMENDED CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: Sidney Trubowitz, Julius Trubowitz, Estate of Lawrence Kreshin, Patricia Alison Kreshin, Rosalind Sarkees, Alice Friedman, James Breslow, Neal Resnikoff, Don Resnikoff, Roy Resnikoff, Brooke Breslow, Robert Cervoni, Esq. Bennet Wernick, Esq. Attorney General of the State of New York The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of DANIEL FRIEDMAN, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, Vivian Joseph, Esq. Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of DANIEL FRIEDMAN, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 5901 Palisades Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10471 but was domiciled at 153-70 58th Road, Flushing, NY, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of DANIEL FRIEDMAN, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 17th day of September, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$4,690.88 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies

received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the petitioner should not be authorized to retain the sum of \$15,000.00 to satisfy the contingent and possible claim of Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. for a period of 6 months from the date of the decree to be settled hereon; and why, upon service on the petitioner of an Order from the New York Supreme Court fixing the legal fees and commissions Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. for services rendered to the decedent, petitioner should not be further authorized to pay Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. said amount not to exceed \$15,000.00; and why if Don Resnikoff, Esq., Robert Cervoni, Esq., and the Court Examiner Bennet Wernick, Esq. should fail to obtain an order from the New York Supreme Court within six months from the Notice of Entry of the Decree to be settled hereon fixing legal fees and commissions for services rendered to the decedent, the amount retained by the petitioner shall be distributed as set forth in the petition; and why each of you claiming to be a distributee of the decedent should not establish proof of your kinship; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to said alleged distributees upon proof of kinship, or deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York should said alleged distributees default herein, or fail to establish proof of kinship. Dated, Attested and Sealed 6th day of August, 2020 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County JAMES LIM BECKER Clerk of the Surrogate's Court GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. AS A RESULT OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COURT TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT THE COURTHOUSE ON THE RETURN DATE IS NOT POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE RELIEF REQUESTED, YOU, OR AN ATTORNEY ON YOUR BEHALF, MUST CONTACT THE COURT PRIOR TO THIS DATE IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED NOTICE. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT AS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE IT WILL BE FOUND YOU CONSENT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. Accounting Citation
AJ; 8/21/28; 9/4/1

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: BAKRS HOLDINGS LLC . Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 08/24/2020. 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: BAKRS Holdings LLC 6 Cranford St. staten Island, NY 10308. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 9/4/11/18/25; 10/2/9

File No.: 2014-3073/C CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD, FREE AND INDEPENDENT To: Estate of Gary Calleo, Randee Levine, Anthony J. Calleo, Estate of Richard Calleo, Cheri Freville, Christian Calleo, if living and if dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose

names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A copy of this citation and the accounting, as well as all amendments to it, if any, shall be served on the Guardian Ad Litem, for Christian Calleo, Louis Cannazzaro, Esq. Being the persons interested, as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of Frances Calleo, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 22-04 169th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357, in the County of Queens, State of New York. SEND GREETING: Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of Frances Calleo, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 29th day of October, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$18,100.23 less \$245.75 previously paid, for a total due of \$17,854.48 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(3); and why the balance of said funds should not be paid as follows: 50% to the Fiduciary of the Estate of Gary Calleo, and if none appointed within 90 days of the Decree to be signed, then to the Commissioner of Finance 50% to the Fiduciary of the Estate of Richard Calleo, and if none appointed within 90 days of the Decree to be signed, then to the Commissioner of Finance Dated, Attested and Sealed 24th day of August, 2020 HON. PETER J. KELLY Surrogate, Queens County James Lim Becker Clerk of the Surrogate's Court GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ. (718) 459-9000 1981 Marcus Avenue, Suite 200 Lake Success, New York 11042 NOTICE: THIS CITATION IS SERVED UPON YOU AS REQUIRED BY LAW. AS A RESULT OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE COURT TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19, PHYSICAL PRESENCE AT THE COURTHOUSE ON THE RETURN DATE IS NOT POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, IF YOU WISH TO CONTEST THE RELIEF REQUESTED, YOU, OR AN ATTORNEY ON YOUR BEHALF, MUST CONTACT THE COURT PRIOR TO THIS DATE IN THE MANNER SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED NOTICE. IF

Continued from Page A2
Book Discloses

Israel, Sharansky was a key player in the Birthright Israel program that has brought more than 750,000 young Jewish adults to Israel.

Sharansky describes it as "the biggest and most successful project uniting the diaspora and Israel."

Perhaps as a result of that work, Sharansky has a special interest in what is happening on college campuses. Returning from one visit to America, he told Sharon that "the North American campuses had become the most important battlefield outside of Israel for the future of the Jewish people."

He writes, on the basis of a 2010 focus group convened by pollster Frank Luntz, "Harvard and MIT Jews acted like Soviet Jews in so many ways...on these elite campuses were the early warnings of a hyper-judgmental, suffocating, campus-based fear society, rife with anti-Zionism, the New Anti-Semitism, where people who thought they were the freest Jews in history didn't feel fully free."

Even some American rabbinical students were turning against Israel, Sharansky says, citing Daniel Gordis reporting on how one such student "shopped for a tallit that was not made in Israel," while "another added the creation of the state of Israel to a list of Jewish moments to mourn."

The book concludes with a proposal for a global Jewish council to help unite Jews inside and outside Israel. And it includes Sharansky's tips for coping with isolation, learned in prison but transferable to the coronavirus pandemic.

Among the pieces of advice: "always remember that you are part of something bigger than yourself."

Sharansky writes that after Israel's victory in the 1967 war, he read a covertly-circulated Russian translation of Leon Uris's Zionist novel, *Exodus*. The book, Sharansky writes, "was a revelation. It drew me into Jewish history, and Israel's history....It helped me see myself as part of the story."

Perhaps Sharansky's new book will have a similar, much-needed, effect on some of today's readers.

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

YOU DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT AS SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE IT WILL BE FOUND YOU CONSENT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. Accounting Citation
AJ; 9/4/11/18/25;

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: 171 MELVIN MK LLC. Articles of organization filed with the secretary of state of New York(SSNY) on 07/30/2020. 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: The Limited Liability Company 171 Melvin Avenue staten Island, NY 10314 purpose: All lawful activity
AJ; 9/4/11/18/25; 10/2/9

Tradition.

Be Silent and Listen



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

During our first Corona-virus lockdown, there was one question I was asked more than any other: What about prayer? Just when we needed it the most, we found ourselves unable to participate in tefillah be-tzibbur, public communal prayer. Our most sacred prayers, *devarim she-bi-kedushah*, are communal. They require a minyan. There was an argument

our praying in isolation. Tefillah be-tzibbur involves going at the speed of the congregation. It is hard to slow the pace so as to be able to meditate at length on any of the prayers themselves – their meaning, music, rhythm and structure. Prayer is essentially a kind of counterpoint between speaking and listening. But communal prayer often involves more speaking than listening. The lockdown meant that we could listen more to the poetry and passion of the prayers themselves. And prayer is about listening, not just speaking.

In one of his essays in Beit



between Rambam and Ramban as to whether, originally and essentially, the command of prayer was directed to individuals or to the community as a whole. But there was no disagreement between them as to the importance and value of praying as part of a community. That is supremely how we, as Jews, come before God, not primarily as “I” but as “We.” How then were we to find spiritual strength without this communal dimension?

My answer was, this is indeed a terrible privation. There is no point in minimising the loss. As Yehuda ha-Levi said in the Kuzari, individual prayer is like protecting yourself by building a wall around your house. Collective prayer is like joining with others to maintain the wall around the city. The wall around the city protects everyone, not just me.[1] Besides which, when I pray for myself, I may pray selfishly, asking for something that may directly benefit me but might also be harmful for others. If I sell ice-cream, I want the sun to shine, but if I sell umbrellas, I want the rain to fall. Praying together, we seek, not private good but the common good.

Communal prayer is not just an expression of community. It is also a builder of community. Hence the psychological cost of the pandemic lockdown. We are social, not solitary beings. We long, most of us, for company. And even the marvels of Zoom, Skype, YouTube, Facebook Live, WhatsApp and Facetime cannot compensate for the loss of the real thing: face-to-face encounter.

But there was one gain to

Yaakov, Rabbi Yaakov Leiner, son of the Ishbitzer Rebbe (Rabbi Mordechai Leiner), makes a fascinating comment on a phrase in this week’s parsha, *hasket u-shema Yisrael*, “Be silent and listen, Israel. You have now become the people of the Lord your God (Deut. 27:9). There is, he says, a fundamental difference between seeing and listening as to what they communicate. Seeing tells us about the surfaces, the externalities, of things. Listening tells us about internalities, depths (*omek kol davar*).[2]

His comments are echoed by one of the great 20th Century scholars of technologies of communication, Walter J Ong, who spoke about “the unique relationship of sound to interiority when sound is compared to the rest of the senses.” He adds, “This relationship is important because of the interiority of human consciousness and of human communication itself.”[3] In other words, it is through sound, especially through speaking and listening, that we are present to one another as subjects rather than objects. By listening, we encounter the depth-dimension of reality.

When we listen, we are personally engaged far beyond the way we participate when we simply watch. Ong regards this as one of the special features of the Hebrew Bible. God creates the universe through words. He reveals Himself to His people in words. He makes a covenant with them in words. The last and culminating book of the Torah is *Devarim*, “words.” Ong notes that the Hebrew for “word,” *davar*, also means an event, a

happening, something that generates momentum in history. If the greatest thing God does is speak, then the greatest thing we can do is listen.

There is also a difference, as I pointed out in my translation and commentary on the Siddur, between hearing and listening, often concealed by the fact that the Hebrew verb *Shema* means both. But they are very different. Hearing is passive, listening is active. Hearing needs no special concentration, but listening does. It involves attention, focus, and openness to the other. One of the greatest gifts we can be given is to meet someone who really listens to us. Sadly, it happens all too rarely. We are often so focused on what we are going to say next, that we don’t really listen in depth to what the other person is saying.

And so it is with prayer. Someone once defined prayer as listening to God listening to us.

There are some profound stories about listening in the Torah and Tanach. Take for instance the fraught episode in which Jacob takes his father’s blessing, intended for Esau. The story eliminates sight as a dimension: Isaac is old and cannot see. Yet he has persistent doubts as to whether the son in front of him is indeed Esau. He goes through the various senses. He tastes the food his son has brought. He smells his clothes. He touches his hands. He concludes: “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau” (Gen. 27:22). How much anguish might have been spared had he followed the evidence of his hearing rather than his taste, smell and touch.

The names of Jacob’s first three sons were all cries for attention on the part of their mother Leah. She called the first, Reuben, saying, “It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now.” The second she called Simon, saying, “Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, He gave me this one too.” She called the third Levi, saying, “Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Was Jacob listening to her cries? We don’t know. But the plain sense of the text is that he was not. And we know from Jacob’s deathbed blessings that his relationship with these three sons was fractured.

Then there is the strange choice of Moses as the man selected to be the voice of God’s word to Israel for all time. Moses kept reminding God that he was not a man of words, he could not speak, he had “uncircumcised lips.” The Torah is surely telling us several things, but might one of them have been that, finding it hard to speak, Moses had learned to listen? Certainly Moses heard God better than anyone in history.

Then there was the drama on Mount Horeb where Elijah went after his spectacular victory over the prophets of Baal, having called down fire from heaven at Mount Carmel. God showed him a powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire, but God was in none of these things. Instead He was in the *kol demamah dakah*, the “still, small voice” that I have

argued means “a sound you can only hear if you are listening.”

There are the stunningly beautiful lines of Psalm 19, that we say on Shabbat mornings that tell us that “the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands,” despite the fact that “There is no speech, there are no words.” Creation sings a song to its Creator, which we might hear if we listen attentively enough. I was reminded of this throughout the pandemic, when there was little noise from traffic and none from aeroplanes overhead, and we could hear the birdsong and other sounds of nature more vividly than ever I remember.

Listening is a primary theme of Moses’ speeches in *Devarim*. The root *sh-m-a* appears no fewer than 92 times in the book, an astonishing number. That is what I hope we gained from this distressing time of isolation: the ability to slow down our prayers and listen to them, letting their poetry penetrate more deeply than at other times.

Rabbi Yaakov Leiner, whose reflections on listening started us on this journey, said about the tragic month of Av that it is a time when it is hard to see the presence of God. We lost two Temples. It seemed to the nations of the world as if God had abandoned His people. But precisely when it is hard to see the Divine presence, we can focus on listening.[4] I believe that listening is one of the greatest arts. It opens us to God, our fellow humans, and the beauties of nature. For me one of the gifts of this strange, difficult time has been the ability to slow down the prayers so that I am able to listen to them speaking to me. Praying is as much about listening as speaking. And faith itself is the ability to hear the music beneath the noise.

Shabbat Shalom

**Continued from Page A7
Deal Challenges**

is the same threat that is seeking to turn Syria into a network of missile bases that target Israeli cities. They see that the Iranian axis has already turned Lebanon into a frontline Iranian military attack post that threatens Israel with 130,000 projectiles, and is active throughout the region to subvert and threaten countries in its way. Iran has repeatedly sought to destabilize and set up terror networks in Bahrain.

This recognition of these common interests led the foreign minister of the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to state in 2019 that Israel was justified in attacking Iranian targets in Syria. “Every nation has the right to defend itself when it’s challenged by another nation, yes,” he said, when asked about Israeli strikes.

The formation of a Middle East coalition of states that views radical Islamist actors as severe threats could mean enhanced coordination and the sharing of intelligence, as well as defense technology.

Israel is a world leader in the

development and deployment of drones and cyber defense systems, while its intelligence-gathering capabilities on Iranian activities are well known throughout the region. Such assets could be shared with the UAE – a fact that nearby Iran will surely be displeased about. The possibility that a succession of other Gulf states, such as Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, eventually will follow the UAE’s path will also disturb the ayatollah’s regime and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Iranian regime appears to be fighting a losing domestic battle to convince its population that allocating resources to attacking Israel and supporting Hezbollah and Hamas are vital Iranian national priorities. Iranian protesters have openly questioned this rationale.

The Muslim Brotherhood camp, for its part, is also vehemently opposed to the agreement because it weakens its regional position. Sunni Islamists have long accused Arab governments of seeking normalization with Israel, and instead of denying the claim, the UAE has emerged to own it, in a bold maneuver that pushes back against the radical rhetoric.

Hamas Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh condemned not only the pact, but also Egypt’s support for it, describing the agreement as “a violation of Arab and Islamic consensus as well as a stab in the backs of the Palestinian people.”

The UAE and Turkey are rival states, and Turkey, which has become increasingly hostile to Israel, and hosts Hamas operatives on its soil, has threatened to suspend ties with the Gulf states. The UAE and other Gulf countries view Turkey as part of the Muslim Brotherhood club that rejects their moderate interpretation of Islam and their drive to create prosperity and stability in the Middle East.

Qatar, which is sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood, but also hedges its bets and maintains low profile and unofficial ties with Israel, has been involved in a two-year diplomatic crisis with the UAE and Saudi Arabia, both of which accused Doha of supporting terrorism.

According to the Saudi-owned *Al Arabiya* news agency, Qatar has in recent days launched a massive campaign to influence Arab public opinion via media channels it funds, primarily *Al Jazeera*, against the landmark UAE-Israel agreement.

Ultimately, the UAE’s decision to normalize ties with Israel has alarmed Islamists, and put them on the defensive.

Yaakov Lappin is a military and strategic affairs correspondent. He also conducts research and analysis for defense think tanks, and is the military correspondent for JNS. His book The Virtual Caliphate explores the online jihadist presence.

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

Social.



Roger Waters. Photo: Jethro via Wikimedia Commons.

Anti-Israel Firebrand Roger Waters Claims He Has ‘Never Spoken a Single Antisemitic Word’

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Ex-Pink Floyd frontman Roger Waters claimed in a recent interview with *Al Jazeera* that he was not antisemitic, despite his vehement activism against the Jewish state.

“Quite clearly, I’m not antisemitic,” Waters -- a vocal BDS supporter -- asserted in a video interview published on Saturday. “I’ve never done or spoken a single antisemitic word or act in my entire life, or had an antisemitic thought in my head in my entire life.” Later in the interview, Waters slammed Israel for what he called a “70-year-old occupation of Palestine.”

The British musician also accused Israel of practicing “apartheid,” and said it committed “vile war crimes every single day against the people of Palestine.”

While discussing UK politics, he denied that former Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn had promoted antisemitism, charging that such accusations were a “conspiracy” started by Israel’s Strategic Affairs Ministry.

“[Israel] used the antisemitic smear campaign to destroy Jeremy Corbyn’s chances” of electoral success, he stated, before criticizing Labour for not dismissing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

In the past, Waters has publicly condemned other artists, such as Madonna, for performing in Israel.

A concert he held in 2013 featured an inflatable pig marked with a Star of David, and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has blasted Waters for “using imagery long associated with stereotypes about Jews and money.”

Acclaimed Israeli Jazz Player Avishai Cohen Told Boycott Movement Representatives to ‘Go F*** Yourself’

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Acclaimed Israeli jazz player Avishai Cohen had a short and sweet response when asked to boycott Israel: “Go f*** yourself.”

Cohen told Israeli news website *Walla* on Sunday that he was approached by representatives of the BDS movement due to a song on his 2017 album *Cross My Palm With Silver* about Israel’s presence in the West Bank. They asked him not to play a concert in Israel.

“I never paid attention to them,” Cohen said. “And



Israeli jazz musician Avishai Cohen playing with Jazz Collective at Jazz Standard in 2015. Photo: Steven Pisano via Wikimedia Commons.

when they came to me, I told them ‘Go f*** yourself.’”

“It’s not your business to tell me where to play and where not to play,” he said he told them.

Cohen, who was born in Tel Aviv, has recorded 10 albums as a bandleader and collaborated with some of the biggest names in jazz. He has been voted Rising Star-Trumpet by the famed jazz magazine *Down Beat* for four years in a row.

‘Unorthodox’ Star Shira Haas Shares Plans for Celebrating Emmys Awards in Tel Aviv

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

Israeli actress Shira Haas will be celebrating her first Emmy Awards in Tel Aviv, hopefully surrounded by some important people in her life, the “Unorthodox” star told *Elle* magazine last week.

The 25-year-old received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a limited series for her portrayal of Esther “Esty” Shapiro in the four-part series on Netflix, which is about a young woman growing up in an ultra-Orthodox Hasidic Satmar community

in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. The show picked up eight Emmy nominations in total, including Outstanding Limited Series.

This year’s Emmy Awards will be held virtually on Sept. 20, and nominees will participate remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Haas, who is currently filming the third season of the Israeli show “Shtisel,” told *Elle* she hoped to still make the night special.

“As far as I know, I’m going to do it from here, from Tel Aviv,” she said. “I would love to have, of course from



Israeli actress Shira Haas in 2018. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

kind of a distance, my parents and a friend with me, and my agent, if she’s here in Israel. To be honest, I feel like I’m still processing it. Everything is happening, and it’s happening in the middle of a pandemic, and it’s going to be virtual. So I’m still taking it in.”

She added, “I definitely know that I’m going to wear something nice and I’m going to be surrounded by people that I love. These two things I know for sure.”

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