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Facebook Decision to Ban Holocaust Denial Welcomed by Jewish Groups



Photo: Flickr.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

In a major reversal of existing policy, social media giant Facebook announced on Monday that it was banning posts that deny or distort the Holocaust, adding that users would be directed to authoritative sources if they search for information about the Nazi genocide.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the shift in a blog post on Monday.

"I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust," he wrote. "My own thinking has evolved as I've seen data showing an increase in antisemitic violence, as have our wider policies on hate speech."

Jewish groups welcomed the

Facebook announcement.

"Today's announcement sends a strong message that Facebook will not allow its platform to be misused to promote hate," the World Jewish Congress (WJC) said in a statement. "By taking the critical step to remove Holocaust denial content, Facebook is showing that it recognizes Holocaust denial for what it truly is — a form of antisemitism

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Israel Sees Commercial Aviation Deal With UAE Within Days

BY REUTERS & ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israel and the United Arab Emirates will sign a commercial aviation deal imminently, an Israeli official said on Tuesday, as the countries cemented newly-normalized relations ahead of reciprocal delegation visits expected next week.

Direct air traffic between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi or Dubai would be a tourism and business boon for Israel and the Gulf power, while also easing Israelis' travel to Asia.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to expedite such flights by letting them pass over its territory. But Riyadh has indicated



An El Al plane is seen in the background landing at Abu Dhabi International Airport, in the United Arab Emirates, Aug. 31, 2020. Photo: Ministry of Presidential Affairs / WAM / Handout via Reuters.

it is not ready to establish formal ties with Israel, as the UAE and Bahrain did at a Sept. 15 ceremony in Washington.

Ofer Malka, director-general of Israel's Transportation Ministry, said in an interview the UAE aviation deal is "more or less ready, and we will sign it in the coming days."

Israel has also agreed to UAE commercial flights over its soil to westward destinations and back, Malka told *Army Radio*.

An Israeli delegation accompanied by senior US

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Adolph Ochs' Legacy

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Shabbat Calendar

Parshat BERESHIT פְּרַשְׁת בְּרֵאשִׁית Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting Shabbat Begins: 5:55pm | Shabbat Ends: 6:53pm



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Opinion.

Facebook Bans Holocaust Denial as It Gains Traction on Social Networking Platforms



AVI BENLOLO
MONTREAL

Holocaust denial is growing at an accelerated rate. For anyone who hasn't read through the outrageous beliefs of deniers, it is an eye-opening experience. Whereas once deniers kept their beliefs to themselves, today there is little shame in posting their antisemitic views online. In fact, it is now almost commonplace for me to receive absurd antisemitic messages asking if I am still promoting the "Holahoax" or gaining "sympathy for Jews" by teaching about the Holocaust.

A big milestone in the fight against Holocaust denial was reached this week when Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg decided to ban it. He explained, "With rising antisemitism, we're expanding our policy to prohibit any content that denies or distorts the Holocaust." He added, "I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust."

I'm glad to see Zuckerberg has finally listened to what we have been telling him for many years, which is that there is a direct link between antisemitism and violence. How could there not be given the spate of violent antisemitic attacks around the world? The

Holocaust itself first began with a process of dehumanization of the Jewish population, and was easily followed up with mass murder.

Holocaust denial is essentially based on four absurd principles: First, conspiracy theorist antisemites argue that the Holocaust was faked by the victors of World War II to weave their own story for their own agenda. Second, Holocaust deniers argue simply that the Holocaust did not happen; it was not a genocide. At worst, they say, it was a series of labor camps. Third, deniers argue that the Holocaust was exaggerated and the evidence proves a much smaller number of people were murdered. Finally, and most disturbingly, Holocaust deniers say that Jews brought the genocide upon themselves and therefore deserved it.

It is one thing to receive antisemitic messages if you are operating in the Jewish world. It's another if you are a young Instagram influencer with some 50,000 followers and trying to genuinely educate them. Recently, one influencer who posts under the name, "the savvy truth" was forced to shut down her comments section because of an onslaught of Holocaust denying antisemitism posted by some followers.

She posted Holocaust-related pictures as evidence of the genocide, alongside the following text: "Jews, Gypsies, [LGBTQ], political enemies, mentally ill ... and anyone deemed inferior to the Aryan race were rounded up, stuffed into trains and were sent to concentration camps. When arriving at these

death camps, you were either gassed right away and killed, sent to work hard labor for the rest of your life, forced to walk death marches, or sent to be used as test subjects for eugenics."

In reply, she received many sympathetic comments, including ones from grandchildren of survivors. But the disparaging comments ultimately led her to disable the comments section "to respect the victims from being disrespected by you idiots." She asked, "How can you say that the #holocaust was fake? How can you tell Holocaust victims that their horrendous torture didn't happen?"

Holocaust denial may be on the fringes of society at the moment, but Facebook has identified it as a serious problem. In fact, 11% of US Millennials and Gen Zs believe that Jews are responsible for the Holocaust according to a survey conducted by the Claims Conference. The problem is that while the survey found that Holocaust ignorance is quite high — with some 63% not knowing that six million Jews were murdered — the more troubling part is that some 49% have seen what is now called Holocaust distortion.

That "distortion" is being disseminated online in chat rooms and in response to Holocaust postings like the one mentioned above. Whereas in the past, fringe neo-Nazis reached only a handful of people through face-to-face recruitment and flyers, the Internet can reach billions of people, picking up those who are susceptible to conspiracy theories

and hatred for Jews and minority groups.

These outrageous sentiments are becoming more perceptible online and on the street. Holocaust deniers contradict themselves by promoting Nazi ideology. After all, if there was no Holocaust, could there have been a Nazi ideology in the first place? We can visibly see this contradiction on a daily basis when swastikas are graffitied on synagogues, Jewish businesses, and on streets, as they were in Paris this past weekend. We also see it through state-sponsored antisemitism, as in the case of Iran — a hostile nation that is coincidentally launching its fifth annual Holocaust cartoon contest.

As Jews, we face denial of our history and existence every day. There are those who attempt to deny the historical fact that Israel is our homeland. They try and explain away archeology that shows we are indigenous to that land. And for more than 2,000 years, many have attempted to deny our faith by trying to convert us through religious inquisitions. And now, once again, deniers are trying to rewrite history by erasing the memory of the six million.

We cannot let them continue spreading their falsehoods. Now more than ever, we must double our energy to educate and advocate about the Holocaust — particularly in Europe and America. If not now, when?

Avi Benlolo is a Canadian human rights activist, and the former president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center.

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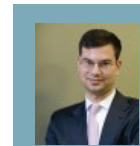
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Trump Promises Quick Post-Election 'Great Deal With Iran'



IRA STOLL
BOSTON

President Trump says that if he wins the presidential election, "we'll have a great deal with Iran within one month."

The comment, made in an October 9 interview with conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, has attracted little attention so far. Headlines about the Iran comments the president made in the interview focused on Trump's use of an obscenity in warning Iran that the US would retaliate against Tehran if the Iranian regime acted against America. "You do something bad to us, we are going to do things to you that have never been done before," Trump warned.

Trump's touting of a new, post-election Iran deal, though, undercut the comments Vice President Pence made days earlier in his debate with Senator Kamala Harris. In that debate, Harris faulted Trump for leaving the Iran nuclear deal that had been reached by the Obama administration. The government of Israel vehemently opposed the Obama-era Iran nuclear deal.

Harris, the 2020 Democratic vice presidential candidate, said Trump "has walked away from agreements. You can look at the Iran nuclear deal, which now has put us in a position where we are less safe because they are building up what might end up being a significant nuclear arsenal. We were in that

deal guys. We were in the Iran nuclear deal with friends, with allies around the country. And because of Donald Trump's unilateral approach to foreign policy, coupled with his isolationism, he pulled us out and has made America less safe."

Pence countered, "You talk about reentering the Iran nuclear deal. I mean the last administration transferred \$1.8 billion to the leading state sponsor of terrorism. President Donald Trump got us out of the deal."

In his August 2020 speech accepting the Republican Party's nomination to run for reelection, Trump had boasted to voters, "I withdrew from the terrible one-sided Iran nuclear deal."

During the October 9 radio interview, Limbaugh followed up by asking Trump, "A great deal on what?"

Trump responded, "On no nuclear weapons."

That in itself is a major concession to the Iranian regime. A deal that focuses only on nuclear weapons neglects the other non-nuclear issues that have rightfully made Iran a pariah — its support for terrorism, its missile testing, its proliferation of conventional and nonconventional weapons to other enemy countries, its undermining of the Middle East peace process, and its abuses against democracy, against human rights, and against the rule of law.

The Biden-Harris campaign is already subtly depicting Trump as soft on Iran. Harris herself made the point in the vice-presidential debate that after Trump took out Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander Qassem

Soleimani, "there was a counter strike on our troops in Iraq, and they suffered serious brain injuries, and do you know what Donald Trump dismissed them as? Headaches."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in 2000, said of Iran, "It's important for us to see some changes in terms of the policies on proliferation, their desire to acquire weapons of mass destruction, their support for terrorism, and their lack of support for the Middle East Peace Process."

By contrast, the Obama-Biden approach, also championed by Secretary of State John Kerry, had been to pick off the nuclear issue separately, figuring that the US was in a stronger position on the other issues if Iran did not have an atom bomb. The problem with that approach, though, is that Iran took the billions of dollars in cash and sanctions relief that it got from the nuclear deal and spent it on invigorating its missile program and supporting terrorism. The idea that the nuclear file can be divorced from the other issues is wishful thinking.

This is a point Trump himself made back in 2018, in announcing America's plans to withdraw from the deal, which he described as "disastrous."

"Not only does the deal fail to halt Iran's nuclear ambitions, but it also fails to address the regime's development of ballistic missiles that could deliver nuclear warheads," Trump said then. "Finally, the deal does nothing to constrain Iran's destabilizing activities, including its support for terrorism."

There are a lot of voters, including Jewish

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World News.

Poll: Ahead of US Elections, 63% of Israelis Say 'Trump Better for Israel'

BY i24 News

A clear majority of Israelis favor the reelection of US President Donald Trump come November's presidential elections, a new poll conducted for i24NEWS showed Monday night.

Answering the question, "which US presidential candidate do you think will be better for Israel?" 63.3% of respondents chose the Republican leader.

In contrast, Democrat candidate and former vice president Joe Biden came up with a mere 18.8%.

Moreover, 53.2% said they thought the Israeli right would be significantly harmed if Trump was not reelected. A little over 21% replied that "Israel acts independently," and therefore won't be influenced by a change in the White House.

Almost half of Israelis (48.2%) thought that US Jews are "mistaken" to support the Democratic Party, versus 35.5% who thought they were "correct" in doing so.

On the question of whether a rift has grown between American Jewry and the State of Israel in recent years, 47% replied that it could be mended, 35.3% said there's "no rift,



US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem on May 23, 2017. Photo: US Embassy in Israel.

only debate," and 12.4% answered the rift could not be mended.

Some 48% of Israelis said they were "extremely interested" in the events leading up to the US presidential elections, with close to 40% saying they were "somewhat interested."

In addition, a little over half of respondents (50.9%) said they believe that US-Israel ties will be harmed if Biden is elected, versus 43.5% who said that relations won't be affected.

The survey, conducted by Shlomo Filber and Tzuriel Sharon of Direct Polls, was held digitally on October 6, among 519 adults (aged 18 and over), representing a cross-section of Israeli society.

planning was not final.

Israeli and UAE officials have yet to confirm those trips.

Malka said security at UAE airports was being worked on to enable Israelis to travel through them. He did not elaborate.

Israel generally requires that its carriers be provided with extra security abroad. In some instances, measures have included separate terminals and Israeli guards at foreign airports.

Holocaust to reliable sources online, which will educate them to the truth."

Zuckerberg had angered US Jewish organizations in a 2018 interview in which he said that that posts on Facebook denying the Holocaust would not necessarily be removed. After an outcry, Zuckerberg, who is Jewish himself, clarified that while he personally found "Holocaust denial deeply offensive," he believed that "the best way to fight offensive bad speech is with good speech."

Chairman Arthur Stark, CEO William Daroff, and Vice Chair Malcolm Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, commented, "This decision is a significant blow to the those who traffic in antisemitism, and it will reduce the proliferation of harmful and inciting lies on the world's largest social media platform."

"At a time when there is an alarming rise in antisemitism in America and around the globe, voices promoting it through denial and distortion of the Holocaust must not be given the opportunity to disseminate their hateful messages," they asserted. "There should be no place for any form of racism or bigotry on social media."

"We thank Facebook for taking this critical step, and we hope to see decision makers at other platforms follow its example by banning content that denies or distorts the Holocaust," they said.

Guatemala to Enforce Ban on Hezbollah With Anti-Terrorism Financing Legislation



Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah addresses supporters through a screen during a rally in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Feb. 16, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Aziz Taher.

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

The Guatemalan government on Tuesday reaffirmed its commitment to a ban on Hezbollah — Iran's Shi'a proxy in Lebanon — by announcing new legislation to prevent the financing of terrorism.

Speaking at a press conference, Alejandro Giammattei — Guatemala's president — argued that a "regulatory framework" to crack down on Hezbollah's ability to transfer laundered funds was imperative for the ban on the organization to have teeth.

"We have declared Hezbollah to be a terrorist group, but we need more than this designation to be applied to this organization, which already has a presence in Latin America," Giammattei said. "We need the regulatory framework to ensure that there are no funds from this country which are financing the harming of other countries. Consequently, prevention and repression are justified."

The government's proposed bill for the "Prevention and Repression of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism" has

been designed to impose tighter controls on banks and other financial institutions that are used by Hezbollah to process and move its funds.

Passage of the legislation would enable Guatemala to present itself to the international community "as a state that seeks to combat corruption, money laundering and other illicit activities, and the financing of terrorism, head-on," Giammattei said.

Guatemalan Jews warmly welcomed Giammattei's announcement.

"As Guatemalans, as Jews, and as citizens of the world, we are grateful to the government of Guatemala for having taken this brave decision, which places our country on the right side of history by joining in a global fight against terrorism and building a safer world," Rebeca Permuth de Sabbagh — the president of the Guatemalan Jewish community — told Giammattei in a letter.

Along with Colombia and Honduras, Guatemala confirmed in January of this year that it was designating Hezbollah as a terrorist group, in a move applauded by the US and Israel.

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Great Deal

voters and evangelical Christian voters in places like Florida and Pennsylvania and North Carolina, who are preparing to cast a vote to reelect President Trump in part on the basis of his strong support for Israel. If Trump is going to strike a post-election deal with the murderous mullahs, the voting public deserves to know the terms of the deal now, before the election. Will Trump promise to make the full text of any such agreement, including any side letters, public? Will Trump submit it to the Senate for ratification as a treaty, as envisioned by the Constitution's Treaty clause: "He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur"?

The prospect of a new Iran deal doesn't come entirely from nowhere. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his speech to Congress in 2015, insisted, "The alternative to this bad deal is a much better deal." In June 2020, after Iran released an American captive, Trump tweeted, "Thank you to Iran. Don't wait until after US Election to make the Big deal. I'm going to win. You'll make a better deal now!"

Unless Trump provides clarity on these matters rapidly, he risks eroding a key point of differentiation between himself and the Democrats. It was the Democrats, after all, who originally championed a nuclear deal with Iran.

Beyond the political risk to Trump is the geostrategic risk to the US and Israel — that a new deal would wind up propping up and enriching a corrupt and hostile Iranian regime on the verge of collapse. What's the rush? The Iranian regime and its European enablers need this deal a lot more than the US does. Perhaps the threat of such a deal may be useful for pushing the Saudis, rivals of Iran, into a peace deal with Israel. And perhaps a genuinely big deal with Iran will come someday that includes not only the nuclear program but peace with Israel, democracy, human rights, rule of law, counterterrorism, and limits on Iran's conventional weapons.

I hope that it does. Rushing back into an Obama-style Iran nuclear deal after the American election, though, would be a big mistake, whether the president doing it is Obama or Trump.

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

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Aviation Deal

officials is due to fly out to Manama and Abu Dhabi on Oct. 18-19, returning to Tel Aviv on Oct. 20 with UAE delegates aboard making a first official visit to Israel, a source told *Reuters*.

El Al Israel Airlines would likely be used for the initial legs of the trip and Etihad Airways for the last, marking the first direct flight to Israel by a UAE airliner, said the source, who requested anonymity as the

Continued from Page A1
Facebook

and therefore hate speech."

The American Jewish Committee (AJC) observed in its own statement that with "knowledge of the systematic Nazi murder of six million Jews waning in the United States and around the world, particularly among young people, the power and credibility of Facebook are vital to preserving the facts of the most documented genocide in history, and helping maintain the guardrails against any possible recurrence."

Continued the AJC: "There shouldn't be a sliver of doubt about what the Nazi German regime did, nor should such a mega-platform as Facebook be used by antisemites to peddle their grotesque manipulation of history."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) pointed to the wider context of Facebook's announcement.

"Just recently, the Iranian regime doubled down on its Jew-hatred by launching its third annual Holocaust Denial Cartoon contest; a principal in Florida who refuses to acknowledge the Holocaust as historic fact was rehired by a school board; and a poll indicates that most young Americans know virtually nothing about history's worst crime," its statement said. "The SWC therefore commends Facebook for redirecting anyone seeking to question or deny the Nazi

World News.



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Photo: Wikimedia Commons/David Saranga, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UN Space Agency to Establish Regional Support Office at Ben-Gurion University

BY JNS.org

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the creation of a regional support office for UNOOSA's UN-SPIDER program, the United Nations announced in a statement on Monday.

The program, the full name of which is "United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response," is, as its name suggests, geared towards leveraging space for disaster management and risk reduction. Regional support offices (RSOs) for the program collaborate with UN-SPIDER on "technical advisory support, capacity building and outreach," according to the statement.

The new RSO, bringing the total number to 25, is to be located in BGU's Earth and Planetary Image Facility, which conducts research on advancing satellite and airborne remote sensing applications for a variety of uses. The RSO at BGU "adds precious expertise on satellite technology to the network," the statement said.

According to the MoU, UNOOSA and

BGU will collaborate, among other things, on emergency-response management, capacity-building on space-based technologies for disaster management and the dissemination of methods and results from Earth observation.

UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo said, "I am delighted to see the UN-SPIDER's network of RSOs continuously growing, adding diverse, top-class expertise to its resources and allowing the sharing of knowledge on a global scale. Through the RSOs, our work to help countries leverage space tools to counteract disasters is scaled up to improve the lives of more people worldwide."

Professor Dan G. Blumberg, vice president of Ben-Gurion University for regional and industrial development, said: "This is an exciting moment where we will be making our long-term research scientific knowledge available to support relief efforts when needed. Our ability to observe Earth from space and rapidly analyze complex imagery is being put to good use worldwide, mitigating disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, drought and others. We wish our university and UNOOSA a fruitful collaboration on capacity building and training in this very important field."

Human Chain Formed Around German Synagogue in Message of Solidarity to Jewish Community

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Residents of the German town of Bad Neuheim formed a human chain around their local synagogue on Friday night in a gesture of solidarity with the Jewish community.

Around 80 people participated in the event, which took place as Jews worshipping inside the synagogue marked the arrival of both the Sabbath and the final days of the Sukkot holiday.

Initiated by the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation Wetterau (GCJZ), the chain included local politicians and church representatives.

Those present were addressed by the Mayor of Bad Neuheim — a town of 30,000 people north of the city of Frankfurt — Karl Kress, who warned against the "shadow of antisemitism."

"We stand together against antisemitism

and discrimination," the mayor declared. "Above all we stand together for our values of tolerance and openness, freedom of opinion and belief."

Volkhard Guth, dean of the Protestant Church in Bad Neuheim, referred to the first anniversary of the attack on a synagogue in the city of Halle by a neo-Nazi gunman in which two people were killed.

"As Christians we have to say: 'Antisemitism is a sin against God!'" Guth told the crowd. "The Halle victims remind us that antisemitism is always a crime against humanity."

The crowd was also addressed by Manfred De Vries of the Jewish community in Bad Neuheim, who praised the turnout.

"What would have happened in 1938 if a similar action had taken place in front of the synagogues? I think it would have made a difference," De Vries remarked. "These are different times. Today's Germany is a democratic country and that is worth fighting for."

Israel Urges World's Democracies to Quit 'Shameful and Antisemitic' UN Human Rights Council

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF & AGENCIES

China and Russia were elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council on Tuesday, but support for Beijing dropped by more than 20 percent compared with a 2016 vote and Saudi Arabia failed in its bid to win a seat on the Geneva-based body.

The 193-member UN General Assembly also elected Ivory Coast, Gabon, Malawi, Cuba, Bolivia, Uzbekistan, France and Britain to the 47-member council. Senegal, Nepal, Pakistan, Ukraine and Mexico were re-elected for a second three-year term. Council members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Candidates are elected by secret ballot in geographical groups to ensure even representation. The Asia-Pacific group, which included Saudi Arabia, was the only competitive race on Tuesday with five candidates vying for four seats. The new members will begin their term on Jan. 1, 2021.

Saudi Arabia received 152 votes when it was last elected in 2016 to be a council member from 2017 to 2019, but on Tuesday only 90 states voted for Riyadh — a 40 percent drop. While China was elected on Tuesday with 139 votes, its support fell more than 20 percent compared to the last time it won a seat in 2016.

Both countries have been criticized internationally for their human rights records. Most recently, China has been condemned by Western countries for its treatment of Uighur Muslims in the country's Xinjiang region and handling of pro-democracy protests in Chinese-ruled Hong Kong.

US President Donald Trump's administration quit the Human Rights Council in

2018 — halfway through its term — over what it called chronic bias against Israel and a lack of reform.

Israeli UN Ambassador Gilad Erdan said on Tuesday, "Today's Human Rights Council elections prove once again that this council has nothing to do with protecting human rights and everything to do with violating them."

"Since 2006, the council has adopted 90 resolutions condemning Israel, more than all the resolutions against Syria, North Korea and Iran, combined," he noted. "The obsessive focus on Israel, along with its protection of oppressive, dictatorial regimes, shows that the Human Rights Council is in the business of white-washing the crimes of these countries. I call on all democracies that are still members of the council to immediately resign from this shameful and antisemitic body."

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated, "In 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council due to its well-established pattern of anti-Israel bias and membership rules that allow the election of the world's worst human rights abusers to seats on the Council. Prior to making this decision, and after our exit, the United States has urged UN member states to take immediate action to reform the Council before it became irreparable. Unfortunately, those calls went unheeded, and today the UN General Assembly once again elected countries with abhorrent human rights records, including China, Russia, and Cuba. Venezuela was elected in 2019."

He added, "These elections only further validate the US decision to withdraw and use other venues and opportunities to protect and promote universal human rights."

Far-Left Spanish Politician Claims 'Jews' Are Accountable for Israeli Government Actions

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A politician from Spain's leading far-left political party has courted accusations of antisemitism by declaring that Jews should be held accountable for the actions of the State of Israel toward the Palestinians.

Sonia Vivas — a member of the leftist Podemos party and a city councilor in Palma, the capital of the eastern island of Mallorca — told a council meeting that "Jews" were voting for a government that abuses Palestinian rights. She also compared support for Israel with "institutionalized homophobia." "I haven't spoken to all the Jews, but their government is elected and they're voting for a government that constantly violates fundamental rights of Palestinians," Vivas charged.

Asked by a journalist at last Wednesday's meeting to clarify whether she meant Jews in general or Israelis specifically, Vivas curtly responded: "You didn't understand me because you don't want to understand me. My explanation was clear and comprehensive."

Vivas' remarks were made at city council meeting on international aid where a grant of 80,000 euros for Palestinian organizations in the West Bank was discussed.

When Vivas compared "Jews" voting for the Israeli government with Spanish citizens voting for a political party whose aim was "institutionalize homophobia," her fellow councilor Fulgencio Coll accused her of "insulting Israel."

Noted Coll: "If you want to compare what you call the Palestinian conflict with homophobia, the best you could do is take an interest in the situation of gay and transgender people in Gaza and the West Bank. I cannot imagine a Pride Day parade in Palestine."

Podemos has a long record of hostility toward Jews and Israel that it is cultivated by the party's leadership.

Pablo Iglesias Turrión — the party's leader who was appointed as second deputy prime minister in the Spanish cabinet last January — has denounced Israel as an "illegal country" and actively backed the international boycott campaign against the Jewish state.

U.S. News.

Petition Against Rehiring of Holocaust-Denying High School Principal in Florida Passes 20,000 Signatures

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

More than 20,000 people have signed a petition demanding that the Palm Beach County School Board in Florida desist from plans to rehire William Latson — a former high school principal who was terminated after he told a parent who enquired about Holocaust education that “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened.”

Last Wednesday, the School Board voted 4-3 in favor of rehiring Latson, who was the principal of Spanish River High School when he was removed from his post in Nov. 2019.

“This is a slap in the face to all Holocaust victims,” declared the online petition, which was launched by parents opposed to Latson’s continued presence as an official in the Florida education system.

“We cannot allow antisemitism and discrimination to take hold in the school system,” the petition stated.

The controversy involving Latson dates back to April 2018, when he told the mother of a student who sought to ensure that Holocaust education was “a priority” that “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened” in an email.

“And you have your thoughts, but we are a public school, and not all of our parents have the same beliefs,” he scolded.

Latson added that educators had “the role to be politically neutral, but support all groups in the school.”

“I can’t say the Holocaust is a factual, historical event because I am not in a position to do so as a school-district employee,” he wrote.

In an interview last Friday with the *Palm Beach Post*, Latson’s attorney, Thomas Elfers, revealed that his client would have been compelled to confront Holocaust-denying parents at Spanish River had he acknowledged the fact of the Nazi genocide.

“Two or three parents were Holocaust deniers; Dr. Latson was pressured by one mother to confront them, and

he declined,” Elfers said. “Confronting parents about their beliefs was outside the scope of his duties.”

Elfers then suggested that Latson’s stance on the Holocaust was in keeping with the need for educators to remain “neutral.”

“After a century of contention between creationists and evolutionists, most educators have learned to teach the curriculum and to stay neutral,” Elfers said.

However, Elfers’ version of events was disputed by the parent who first complained about Latson.

“In her emails to Latson, the stunned parent only wanted him to clarify his unprompted claim about the Holocaust being a ‘belief,’ email records show,” the *Palm Beach Post* reported. “She made no request in the messages that he address other parents.”

One member of the School Board who



William Latson, the Florida High School principal Photo: Screenshot.

voted in favor of Latson said that he should be required to publicly apologize.

“I think that is the least he can do,” Debra Robinson said.

Robinson’s fellow School Board member, Karen Brill — who voted against Latson — told the *Palm Beach Post* that the chances of an apology were negligible in her opinion.

“Good luck with that, though,” Brill said, “because I think that there is a level of arrogance that will prohibit that ever happening.”

Palestinian PM: ‘God Help Us if There Are Four More Years of Trump’

BY i24 News

Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh expressed Monday his utmost concern in the case that US President Donald Trump was re-elected into office in November.

“The election is very important. God help us, the EU and the whole world if there are four more years of Trump,” he told the European Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee, according to the Jerusalem Post.

“Trump has wasted four years of everyone’s time,” as he continued his harsh criticism, referring to the US administration’s long-touted Middle East peace plan.

“The ultimate deal was not delivered. [Trump’s plan] was rejected by the Palestinians, the Arabs and Europe... The US is just too biased,” Shtayyeh asserted as quoted by The Jerusalem Post.

On the back of the landmark peace agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, the PA prime minister decried the “unilateral measures” taken by the Trump administration.

He further urged Europe to recognize a Palestinian state and pressured Israel to accept the 2002 Saudi-sponsored Arab Peace Initiative, which calls for normalization in exchange for Israeli renunciation of territories it conquered in the Six-Day War in 1967.

In regard to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s remarks that “peace for peace” agreements with the Arab world is the way to move forward, Shtayyeh stressed that “the answer is land for peace, not peace for peace. You cannot impose peace; it is only by compromise and agreement.”

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Opinion.

The Palestinians Are Losing the Arab World's Support

EYAL ZISSER/
ISRAEL HAYOM/JNS.org

The recent wave of rapprochement between Arab countries and Israel — and the Palestinian Authority's glaring inability to prevent more nations from pursuing normalization with the Jewish state — have left Ramallah stunned.

The Palestinians' efforts to prevent the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain from signing peace treaties with Israel fell flat after the Arab League refused to back them, despite

a routine statement condemning the Gulf states for "abandoning" the Palestinian cause.

The days when Palestinian bullying intimidated the Emirates are over. The new generation of Gulf rulers is made from sturdier stuff.

Last week, Saudi Arabia's former intelligence chief Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz mounted an unprecedented assault against the Palestinian leadership, saying, "There is something that successive Palestinian leaderships historically share in common: they always bet on the losing side, and that comes at a price."

The shock felt in Ramallah was palpable. So much so that even chief PLO Executive Committee Secretary-General Saeb Erekat

reluctantly agreed that Arab countries seeking to normalize relations with Israel "can do so," asking only that they refrain from attacking the Palestinian leadership as the Saudi prince had.

It seems that Gulf rulers are not the only ones that have had enough of the Palestinians. Both Lebanon and Syria have recently said that they no longer dismiss the notion of negotiating a peace deal with Israel. Even for Beirut and Damascus, potential normalization with Israel is no longer inextricably linked to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

There is no doubt that the Palestinians have rightfully earned such treatment. For decades they have taken Arab countries' support for granted, demanding their every whim be met, no matter the price. The Arab



Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas takes part in a virtual meeting with Palestinian faction heads, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sept. 3, 2020. Photo: Alaa Badarneh / Pool via Reuters.

countries agreed — lest they be branded "traitors" to the Palestinian cause. But those days are gone. Arab rules now put their own interests ahead of the Palestinians, and this has ushered in a new era — one of normalization and peace with Israel.

Eyal Zisser is a lecturer in the Middle East History Department at Tel Aviv University. This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

AOC's Rejection of Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Crosses the Line From Extremism to Intolerance



ALAN DERSHOWITZ
BOSTON

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., the young folk hero commonly known as AOC, has crossed the line from radicalism to anti-Americanism and anti-decency.

Tellingly, she now operates through an organization called *Jacobin*, named after French revolutionaries who descended into barbarity and mass murder.

Indeed, the word terrorism arises from the "reign of terror" of which they were an important part.

By identifying with such violent radicals, AOC sounds a dog whistle to violent organizations such as Antifa and others on the hard-Left who want revolution not evolution.

AOC's most recent manifestation of support for violence is her campaign to "defund the police." This is what her most recent ad "From: Ocasio Cortez via *Jacobin*" says: "Right now major cities in America are channeling huge war chests of money into police departments..."

That is a blatant falsehood.

Police men and women around the country suffer from extremely low pay. They are working people who put their lives at risk every day to defend the most vulnerable among us.

Law enforcement needs more funding, not *defunding*.

More funding would pay for better police training, better non-lethal weapons, better community policing and better protection for vulnerable victims, many of whom live in minority communities.

AOC and her fellow revolutionaries believe that today's world is "based on racist, violent policing..."

This paints with far too broad a brush. I know many police officers, FBI, secret service,

and other members of law enforcement. I am generally on the opposite side of them in the courtroom.

But the vast, vast majority of them are honest, decent, hardworking people who have devoted their lives to protecting the rest of us and most especially those most subject to victimization in high crime areas.

The last thing they ever want to do is fire their service revolvers at anyone, most especially anyone innocent.

They are not murderers as AOC characterizes them, calling the tragic death of Breonna Taylor a "murder," despite evidence that the police fired in response to a shot from her boyfriend that hit and nearly killed an officer.

Such bigotry against police officers and such generalizations about racism, are to be condemned by all decent people.

AOC's indecency was also recently manifested when she was invited by a pro-peace left wing Jewish organization to commemorate the death of Israel's great peace maker, Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin was assassinated by a hard-Right extremist who opposed Rabin's efforts to make peace with the Palestinians and to recognize a Palestinian state. AOC originally accepted an invitation to appear at the event but after being pressured by virulent anti-Zionists who believe that Israel has no right to exist as the nation state of the Jewish people, she backed out.

AOC's cowardly decision not to stand up to antisemitic, anti-Israel bigotry is being applauded by fellow bigots on the hard-Left.

When AOC was first elected, I urged leaders of the Jewish community to reach out to her in order to educate her about Israel's history and its enormous contribution to the well-being of the planet.

No country in history has ever done so much good for humanity in so short a period of time as in the 72 years since Israel has come into existence. Efforts were made to reach out to her to invite her to visit Israel to meet with

Jewish leaders on the Left, and most recently to join in honoring Israel's peace martyr Yitzhak Rabin.

She has rebuffed all efforts to build bridges to the pro-Israel community — even its most left wing members.

Although she has been deliberately vague about her position with regard to Israel, it now seems evidently clear that she does not recognize Israel's right to exist and to live in peace as the nation state of the Jewish people.

If she did, she would not have refused to attend the pro-peace memorial to Rabin.

AOC has now crossed the line from radicalism to bigotry, from extremism to intolerance and from ignorance to willful mendacity. AOC is no longer a friend of liberalism, of mainstream Judaism or of basic decency. She is an enemy whose bigotry must be confronted at every turn and whose lies must be responded to with truth.

Follow Alan Dershowitz on Twitter: @AlanDersh. Follow Alan Dershowitz on



Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) questions Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, during a House Financial Services Committee hearing on 'Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy,' in Washington, DC, July 10, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Erin Scott.

Facebook: @AlanMDershowitz. Alan M. Dershowitz is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard Law School and author of "Guilt by Accusation" and "The Case Against the Democratic House Impeaching Trump."

This article was originally published by Newsmax.

Europe, Finally, Tells the Palestinians That Enough's Enough



ELDER OF ZIYON
NEW YORK

For six months, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has refused to accept tax revenues that Israel owes them under existing agreements, ever since Israel said it would extend sovereignty over areas of Judea and Samaria. The amount being held by Israel is now up to \$750 million.

Since then, the PA has been under severe financial pressure, paying workers a percentage of their salaries. But Mahmoud Abbas has been insisting that he doesn't want to cooperate with Israel — even to accept money owed.

In order to make ends meet, Abbas has been asking the EU for loans to fund his budget.

Finally, after doing everything the PA has demanded of them for years, the EU has had enough.

From Axios:

The EU, France, Germany, the U.K. and Norway made clear that they consider annexation to now be off the table, and thus the Palestinians should accept the \$750 million in revenues now held by the Israeli Ministry of Finance.

After lower-level pressure on the Palestinians didn't bear fruit, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called Abbas last Wednesday.

He repeated the same message in the call, European diplomats say: Until the Palestinians resume the acceptance of tax revenues from Israel, the EU will not provide new loans or other financial assistance.

Borrell also urged Abbas to relaunch security and civilian coordination with Israel, but Abbas was noncommittal, the diplomats say.

Some Palestinian officials around Abbas think his decision to suspend all ties with Israel and the U.S. is self-defeating.

But Abbas has so far fended off that

Continued on Page A7

Opinion.

Return to Iraq of Ba'ath Archives Raises Fears for Jewish Archives

LYN JULIUS/
JNS.org

On Aug. 31, 2020, a stash of documents belonging to the era of dictator Saddam Hussein was quietly returned to Iraq. They were the Ba'ath party archives, comprising up to eight million documents and weighing 48 tons.

The stash was first discovered shortly after the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The documents contained the highly sensitive list of names of thousands of officials of the Ba'ath party, the ultra-nationalists governing Iraq since the 1960s; party apparatchiks who were responsible for oiling the wheels of Iraq's ruthless regime and "disappearing" dissidents.

Soon after their discovery the documents were stored in the Baghdad home of opposition figure Kanan Makiya. But security threats made it so difficult to ensure their preservation that in 2005 Makiya persuaded the Americans to ship the archive to the United States. The files were stored at the Hoover Institute, the conservative think tank housed at Stanford University. They were digitized and made available to US researchers.

The return of the Ba'ath party archives has raised fears among US Jewish groups that it sets a bad precedent for the Iraqi Jewish Archive (IJA). This collection of thousands of Jewish documents, religious books and Torah scrolls, together with random communal and personal correspondence, was seized by Saddam's henchmen from a Baghdad synagogue in the 1980s. It was miraculously rediscovered in 2003 and sent for restoration to the United States. But the US government signed an agreement at the time promising its return to Iraq, without stopping to inquire to whom the archive belonged or how it came to be languishing in the flooded basement of the secret police headquarters. Following a series of postponements and extensions — the latest till 2021 — the US State Department appears determined to return the IJA to Iraq, come what may.

The whereabouts of the Ba'ath party archives have not been disclosed, as there is a risk that access to the files might result in attacks or ugly personal vendettas. Nevertheless, there is a general consensus that the Ba'ath documents constitute Iraq's national heritage and belong in Iraq, where they might be consulted by Iraqi researchers. A first batch was returned to Iraq in 2013.

In contrast, the Iraqi-Jewish archive is of primary interest to Iraqi Jews. It is the stolen property of a community that was persecuted and driven into exile. Indeed only four Iraqi Jews remain in the country. With most Iraqi Jews and their descendants now living in Israel, Iraq's sworn enemy, the archive would be inaccessible to Israeli visitors or researchers. Neither, despite official assurances, would Iraq be able to guarantee the archive's proper preservation and security.

Not all the thousands of documents and fragments have been digitized, and it is doubtful, had they been shipped to Iraq, that

recently-deciphered handwritten notes of famous 19th century rabbi the Ben Ish Hai would have been found, transcribed, and printed in two volumes of sermons or drashot.

The difference between the Ba'ath papers and the Jewish archives is well noted by Gina Waldman, president of the California-based organization Jews Indigenously to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA): "We, the Iraqi Jews, are glad to see that the archives of the Ba'ath party have been returned to their rightful owners: The people of Iraq. They are an essential part of their heritage and history, even the darkest chapters — this is why the Iraqi Jewish archives need to also be returned to their rightful owners: the Jews of Iraq, who no longer live in Iraq."

The Hague Convention of 1954 protects the cultural property of peoples rather than states or territories, but nonetheless, the zeitgeist treats postcolonial states as the custodians of their cultural heritage, without paying much heed to the rights of persecuted minorities. Indeed the US State Department has been signing dozens of Memoranda of



Iraqi Jews leaving Lod airport in Israel on their way to the Ma'abara transit camp, 1951. Photo: Israel Government Press Office.

Understanding (MOUs) with Arab states, legitimizing the seizure of cultural property from exiled Jews and others — a trend which JIMENA is fighting with vigor.

Jewish groups have gained the bilateral support of congressmen in their campaign to keep the Iraqi Jewish archive in the United States. Nonetheless, their options are limited. The US government's credibility could be undermined if the claimants went to law. That's why Carole Basri, whose family has a private claim to hundreds of IJA documents, prefers a more subtle approach: she has recently made a film explaining why the archive matters to Iraqi Jews personally, and to their children and grandchildren.

If the archive is shipped back to Iraq, she declares, "There will be little hard evidence for the community to prove they ever existed in Iraq and certainly nothing to cling to for future generations."

Moreover, Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that no individual or community should be arbitrarily deprived of their property.

It would be a travesty indeed if the injustice of the Jewish community's ethnic cleansing from Iraq were compounded by a second injustice, dispossessing it of what rightfully belongs to it.

Lyn Julius is the author of Uprooted: How 3,000 Years of Jewish Civilization in the Arab World Vanished Overnight (Valentine Mitchell, 2018).

in November and bring with him a much different set of policies toward the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

*Continued from Page A6
Enough's Enough
pressure. He's betting that Joe Biden will win*

Hopeful Signs as Israel-Lebanon Maritime Boundary Negotiations Are About to Begin

ALAN BAKER/
JERUSALEM

After a rift of more than 30 years since any meaningful negotiations took place between Lebanon and Israel, the two countries have now agreed to conduct discussions on their mutual maritime border.

On October 1, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the agreement by the two states to a "common framework for maritime discussions," with a view to negotiations to solve a disputed common maritime boundary in the Mediterranean Sea. It was also agreed that the United States would participate as mediator and facilitator, and that the talks would be held in Naqoura, Lebanon, under the UN flag and hosted by the staff from the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon.

The negotiations are intended to cover a disputed 330-square-mile area straddling the maritime border area in the Eastern Mediterranean, rich with natural-gas fields. Both states claim that the area concerned is within their own respective "exclusive economic zone" and "continental shelf," theoretical 200-nautical-mile zones off their respective coasts within which, pursuant to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), coastal states enjoy exclusive rights to exploit and benefit from their natural resources. Such resources include fish, gas, and oil, as well as other mineral deposits in the seabed and body of water adjacent to its coast.

While Lebanon is a party to UNCLOS, Israel, despite its active involvement in its negotiation and drafting, never actually ratified or acceded to it. However, Israel has acknowledged that the provisions of the convention are considered to reflect accepted and customary international sea law, and as such, bind Israel.

On the face of things, the anticipated maritime border negotiation would appear to be a standard and routine method of settling any maritime border dispute between two neighboring countries, and many such disputes are still open, especially among the states bordering the South China Sea. Such disputes are generally resolved by reference to the relevant customary and conventional international law rules of delimitation of mutual maritime borders, as set out in UNCLOS, as well as in a long series of precedents established over the years and covered in the jurisprudence of international border tribunals and the International Court of Justice.

However, unlike standard and routine border negotiations between neighboring states at peace with each other, and as in most

issues involving the Middle East, a prevailing atmosphere of hostility, suspicion, lack of trust, and a long history of armed conflict and terror renders this particular dispute, as simple as it may appear to be, unique.

This is especially the case inasmuch as it involves a process that opens possibilities of peaceful settlement of disputes with potentially wide regional ramifications, and comes on the heels of the Abraham Accords signed in Washington, DC, in which the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain declared their recognition of Israel's sovereignty and willingness to enter into normal relations with Israel.

Several factors contribute to this unique aspect:

First and foremost, given the sad history and present realities in the area, the most crucial factor in pushing both states towards negotiations is perhaps the potential economic benefits of cooperation in the extraction and marketing of natural gas and other natural resources. Clearly, such substantive regional benefits cannot materialize in an atmosphere of hostility. This is all the more evident where international companies involved in investing in fuel extraction and production have indicated hesitancy to risk financial resources in an area of potential conflict and political and military instability.

By the same token, wider benefits of cooperation among the regional states involved — Israel, Lebanon, Cyprus, Egypt, and even Syria and Turkey — could accrue from cooperation in furthering regional projects such as gas transportation to Europe and further afield; utilization, management and conservation of living resources such as fishing; joint counter-pollution efforts and marine environmental monitoring; and of course, tourism connecting the Eastern Mediterranean to Europe.

Given the delicate economic, political, and security interests involved in these anticipated negotiations, and in the hope and assumption that it will indeed be bona fide, it is likely that the parties will seek to compromise on a specific, substantive arrangement that would take into consideration the wider bilateral and regional concerns, assuming that any peaceful arrangement between them will enable ongoing bilateral and regional coordination and cooperation.

Disputed methods of border delineation An additional but vital factor contributing to the uniqueness of the Lebanon-Israel maritime border issue is a technical but substantive difference between the two states regarding their methods for demarcating their maritime border. Each country seeks to achieve a maximal area of seabed resources,

Continued on Page A8

This is another game changer. After the Arab world has shown willingness to criticize the Palestinian leadership publicly, the EU is starting to move in the same direction.

Mahmoud Abbas is acting like he always has. He's demanding money he doesn't deserve, and he is waiting for a more palatable political environment to help him out.

Meanwhile, the PLO is getting chummy

with terrorists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the interests of "unity." Abbas, missing the way the wind is blowing, remains tone deaf and making the wrong decisions.

For the first time, Europe is telling the Palestinians that they have to take responsibility for their decisions.

This is absolutely amazing to see.

Impressions.

Adolph Ochs' Legacy at The New York Times

BY JEROLD AUERBACH

The New York Times' Jewish problem is more than a century old. It dates to 1896, when Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of *The Chattanooga Times*, purchased the failing New York newspaper. A proud Reform Jew, Ochs insisted that Judaism was a religion, not a national identity that might compromise the patriotic allegiance of American Jews and prompt the dreaded charge of dual loyalty.

Constant criticism of Israel in *The New York Times* — usually focused on Jewish settlements or its failure to reach a peace agreement with the unmovably resistant Palestinian Authority — is not random. It reflects an enduring, by now embedded, discomfort with the very idea, let alone the reality, of a Jewish state in the Biblical homeland of the Jewish people.

It began with Joseph Levy, the *Times'* first Jerusalem-based correspondent. He became a partisan advocate during the 1929 Arab riots in Palestine when hundreds of Jews were murdered and the centuries-old Hebron Jewish community destroyed. Levy's primary sources were the Grand Mufti (who incited rioting with the lie that Jews intended to endanger Muslim holy sites on the Temple Mount) and Hebrew University Chancellor Judah Magnes (formerly a New York Reform rabbi) who advocated a bi-national state of Jews and Arabs.

The *Times'* nadir came during the Holocaust. By then Arthur Hays Sulzberger, Ochs's son-in-law, was the publisher. When the slaughter of six million Jews was even noticed, it was buried in the inside pages lest the *Times* be portrayed as a "Jewish" newspaper. Instead, the *Times* became the sounding board for the vehemently anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism. The subsequent birth of the State of Israel could not be evaded, but it took the *Times* five years to finally recognize it as "an outpost of democracy in the Middle East."

Its belated embrace was short-lived. The *Times* condemned the trial of Nazi war-criminal Adolph Eichmann in Israel, lest the Jewish state be perceived as representative of the Jewish people. After the Six-Day War editors focused on the plight of Palestinian refugees, while ignoring Jewish refugees from the Middle East and Africa who found a home in Israel. The Jewish state was depicted as a malevolent occupying power.

In 1984, Thomas Friedman was appointed Jerusalem Bureau Chief.

Editor A.M. Rosenthal (unaware of Joseph Levy's reporting) believed that he was the first Jew to report from Jerusalem for the *Times*. Friedman fit the Levy mold. As a Brandeis undergraduate he had belonged to a Middle East Peace Group that discounted Palestinian terrorist attacks as not representative of the Palestinian people. Co-steered by Friedman, it joined Breira, a pro-Palestinian organization of left-wing rabbis and Jewish intellectuals.

Hired by the *Times* in 1981, Friedman covered the massacre of Palestinian civilians by Christian Philangists in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut. Lacerating Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Prime Minister Menachem Begin for their supposed indifference to Palestinian victims, he conceded that

In 2012, in pursuit of gender equality (and political correctness), the *Times* hired Jodi Rudoren as the first female Jerusalem Bureau Chief. The main theme of her reporting was Palestinian suffering from the cruelties of Israeli occupation. Gaza and Ramallah received more attention than Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The evil of Israeli settlers and right-wing Orthodox Jews, and female victims of gender discrimination (in Israel, but not in the Palestinian West Bank), were prominently reported. *Times* coverage of Israel was indistinguishable from criticism of Israel.

Given its enduring anti-Israel bias, it is hardly surprising that the *Times* recently hired Peter Beinert as an Opinion page columnist. Frustrated in his desire to support Israel while remaining a committed liberal,



A taxi passes by in front of The New York Times head office, Feb. 7, 2013. Photo: Reuters / Carlo Allegri / File.

"an 'objective' journalist is not supposed to have such emotions." But he fancifully asserted, "They made me a better reporter." Once again, the *Times* had a Jewish reporter whose criticism of Zionism — and now the Jewish state — was relentless.

Relocating to Jerusalem as *Times* Bureau Chief, and guided by a trio of Israeli leftists, Friedman focused on Palestinian suffering under Israeli occupation. Returning to Washington as a *Times* columnist, his repetitive critiques of Israel became (and remain) a staple of the Op-Ed page. His colleagues Roger Cohen and Anthony Lewis completed a *Times* chorus that blamed Israel for the absence of peace with the Palestinians, who showed no signs of wanting it.

he believed that it was "time to imagine a Jewish home that is not a Jewish state." Specifically: one state, to be known as "Israel-Palestine," comprising Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. In translation, the end of Jewish statehood.

So, the *Times'* century-old tradition of hiring Jewish journalists who are unrelenting in their criticism of Zionism and Israel is secured. Surely Adolph Ochs would be pleased with his enduring legacy.

Jerold S. Auerbach is the author of Print to Fit: The New York Times, Zionism and Israel, 1896-2016, chosen for Mosaic by Ruth Wisse and Martin Kramer as a Best Book for 2019.

Continued from Page A7 **Boundary Negotiations**

and the concomitant economic benefits therefrom, at the expense of the other. Israel favors plotting the border by means of a simple 90-degree angle adjacent to the land border, while Lebanon prefers to draw the border line as a straight continuation of the land border.

According to a statement, "This U.S. proposal gives Israel 350 kilometers out of the additional 850 kilometers it claims, the rest returns to Lebanon (500 kilometers). If Lebanon agrees, it will have retreated 350 kilometers after having previously agreed to decline at least 200 kilometers from the limits to which it is entitled."

In the absence of agreement between adjacent

states, UNCLOS provides that in situations of overlapping claims in respect of the Continental Shelf or EEZ between states with "adjacent or opposite coasts," the delimitation is to be "effected by agreement on the basis of international law ... in order to achieve an equitable solution." In the absence of an agreement, delimitation should take place based on the median line or the equidistance line from the baselines.

Similarly, the convention calls for a conflict to be resolved "on the basis of equity and in the light of all the relevant circumstances, taking into account the respective importance of the interests involved to the parties as well as to the international community as a whole."

In addition to these accepted modes of dispute

settlement, UNCLOS, in its provisions regarding the territorial sea, also provides a clear geographical and mathematical formula for an exact and accurate delimitation and delineation of maritime areas, taking into account the respective coastlines of each party.

This formula is based on plotting a "median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of each of the two States is measured."

The formula has been adopted in the maritime border disputes between the states surrounding the South China Sea.

Continued on Page A9

Legals.

Opinion.

LEGAL NOTICE



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AJ; 9/25;10/2/9/16/23/30

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RT Trucking & Transportation LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 9/16/2020. Off. Loc.: Richmond Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 7 post lane Staten Island, NY 10303. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity
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AJ; 10/2/9/16/23/30; 11/6

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ALL AMERICAN SOLUTIONS,LLC Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 08/19/2019 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: All American Solutions,LLC 82 Nassau Street #985 New York, NY 10038. Purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 16/23/30; 11/6/13/20

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AJ; 16/23/30; 11/6/13/20

Notice of formation of limited liability company(LLC) Name: ELEV8 3D ORGANICS LLC. Articles of organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York(SSNY) on 07/20/2020. 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: ELEV8 3D ORGANICS 1221 E. 98th St., Brooklyn NY 11236. purpose: all lawful activity
AJ; 10/9/16/23/30; 11/6/13

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Boundary Negotiations

Maritime boundary disputes in the South China Sea

In the negotiations on the Sino-Vietnamese Agreement on Maritime Boundary Delimitation in the Gulf of Tonkin, completed in the year 2000, the parties failed at the beginning to reach an agreement due to strained relations between them.

As noted in a research paper by Zou Keyuan of the East Asia Institute at the National University of Singapore:

The first two stages were fruitless primarily because the relationship between the two countries was poor. Only after the normalization of bilateral relations in 1991 did the negotiations enter into a productive stage. In 1993, the two sides reached a general agreement on the basic principles to be applied to settling the disputes relating to the land border and the delimitation of the Gulf of Tonkin.

"The agreed-upon principles were those of "applying the International Law of the Sea and referring international practices to carry out negotiations on the delimitation of the Tonkin Gulf" and "in line with the principle of equality, taking into consideration all circumstances concerned in the Gulf to reach an equal solution."

On Dec. 25, 2000, the two sides signed the "Agreement on the Delimitation of the Territorial Seas, Exclusive Economic Zones and Continental Shelves in the Beibu Gulf and the Agreement on Fishery Cooperation."

Additional disputes presently abound in other areas of the South China Sea between China and its neighbors Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines, all entertaining competing claims. In fact, China claims more than 80% of the South China Sea, approximately 1.4 million square miles, based on what it describes as "historical claims."

However, in a 2016 arbitration award given by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, instituted against China by the Philippines, a panel of five experts in maritime law ruled that there was no legal basis to China's claim to sovereignty over much of the South China Sea. China has consistently refused to honor this ruling.



A view shows damage at the site of a massive explosion in Beirut's port area, Lebanon, Aug. 12, 2020.
Photo: Reuters / Alkis Konstantinidis.

Diplomatic attempts to resolve the Lebanon-Israel maritime border dispute

Regrettably, Lebanon's refusal until now to enter into direct negotiations with Israel has prevented any possibility of resolving the issue by such peaceful means, despite the fact that individual, bilateral maritime border delimitation agreements in the Mediterranean Sea have been signed between Cyprus and Lebanon in 2007 and between Cyprus and Israel dated Dec. 17, 2010, and despite a series of attempts to solve the dispute through indirect talks between Israel and Lebanon in 2011-2012.

The dispute has been compounded by a spate of complaints in diplomatic notes forwarded by Lebanon to the UN secretary-general following the signing of Israel's agreement with Cyprus in 2010.

In a note dated June 20, 2011, Lebanon's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Adnan Mansour complained that: "The Republic of Cyprus and Israel, the occupying Power, signed an agreement in which they delimited their respective exclusive economic zones."

Clearly, the use of such offensive terminology to describe Israel's sovereign territory along its northern border with Lebanon, in effect denying the legitimacy of Israel's existence and presence as a sovereign state, is indicative of the substantive political difficulty that has plagued attempts to resolve what should be, by any definition, a standard maritime border dispute.

The exchange of diplomatic notes regarding the respective claims of the two sides to utilize the seabed continued between 2011-2018. In its notes to the secretary-general, Israel reiterated "its openness to dialogue and cooperation with the relevant neighboring states regarding the limit of Israel's Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone, in accordance with the principles of international maritime law."

Lebanon also voiced a similar commitment, "reiterating its commitment to International Law and in particular to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea regarding the delimitation of its maritime borders."

The political relationship between Lebanon and Israel

Clearly, the issue of the relationship between Lebanon and Israel constitutes a major, additional factor in the uniqueness of any bilateral maritime border negotiation between them.

Many commentators, including those within Lebanon's political leadership, such as President of the Lebanese National Assembly Nabih Berry, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Adnan Mansour, as well as international media generally, have up to the present represented the two countries as being in an ongoing state of armed conflict.

However, the complex history of the relations between the two countries would appear to cast an element of doubt on whether, indeed, a formal state of war, with all that implies, exists and is relevant.

This complex history includes the following stages in the bilateral interaction between the two countries: On May 15, 1948, Lebanon, together with six other Arab League members — Iraq, Syria, Transjordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen — declared the opening of offensive action against the newly established State of Israel, thereby opening Israel's War of Independence. This is documented by a detailed declaration sent by the secretary-general of the Arab League to the UN secretary-general on May 15, 1948.

However, following the 1948 war, less than a year later, on March 23, 1949, Lebanon and Israel (as well as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria) entered into a bilateral armistice agreement "with a view to promoting the return of permanent peace ... as an indispensable step toward the liquidation of armed conflict and the restoration of peace in Palestine." Lebanon was, in fact, the first country to sign such an agreement with Israel.

This agreement determined that "the Armistice Demarcation Line between the two states should follow the international boundary between Lebanon and Palestine." The reference to the "international boundary" referred to a 1923 line agreed between the British and French governments regarding the position and nature of the boundary between the mandates of Palestine and Iraq, attributed to Great Britain, and the Mandate of Syria and Lebanon, attributed to France. This agreement was known as the "Paulet-Newcombe Agreement."

It made no reference to any maritime continuation of the boundary.

Subsequently, between 1982-83, following armed confrontations between Israeli forces and PLO terror groups functioning from Lebanese territory against Israel, including an Israeli armed incursion

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Tradition.

Taking Responsibility



JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

If leadership is the solution, what is the problem? On this, the Torah could not be more specific. The problem is a failure of responsibility.

The early chapters of Genesis focus on two stories: the first is Adam and Eve; the second, Cain and Abel.



Both are about a specific kind of failure. First Adam and Eve. As we know, they sin. Embarrassed and ashamed, they hide, only to discover that one cannot hide from God:

The Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Gen. 3:9-12)

Both insist that it was not their fault. Adam blames the woman. The woman blames the serpent. The result is paradise lost: they are both punished and exiled from the garden of Eden. Why? Because Adam and Eve deny personal responsibility. They say, in effect, "It wasn't me."

The second story is tragic. The first instance of sibling rivalry in the Torah leads to the first murder:

While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." (Gen. 4:8-10)

Cain does not deny personal responsibility. He does not say, "It was not me," or "It was not my fault." He denies *moral responsibility*. In effect he asks why he should be

concerned with the welfare of anyone but himself. Why should we not do what we want if we have the power to do it? In Plato's *Republic*, Glaucon argues that justice is whatever is in the interest of the stronger party. Might makes right. If life is a Darwinian struggle to survive, why should we restrain ourselves for the sake of others if we are more powerful than they are? If there is no morality in nature, then I am responsible only to myself. That is the voice of Cain

throughout the ages.

These two stories are not *just stories*. They are an account, at the beginning of the Torah's narrative history of humankind, of a failure, first personal then moral, to *take responsibility* – and it is this for which leadership is the answer.

There is a fascinating phrase in the story of Moses' early years. He grows up, goes out to his people, the Israelites, and sees them suffering, doing slave labour. He witnesses an Egyptian officer beating one of them. The text then says: "He looked this way and that and saw no one" (*vayar ki ein ish* Ex. 2:12, or more literally, 'he saw that there was no man').

It is difficult to read this literally. A building site is not a closed location. There must have been many people present. A mere two verses later we discover that there were Israelites who knew exactly what had happened. Therefore, the phrase almost certainly means, "He looked this way and that and saw that there was no one else willing to intervene."

If this is so, then we have here the first instance of what came to be known as the "Genovese syndrome" or "the bystander effect," so-called after a case in which a woman was attacked in New York in the presence of a large number of people who all knew that she was being assaulted but failed to come to her rescue.

Social scientists have undertaken many experiments to try to determine what happens in situations like this. Some argue that the presence of other bystanders affects an individual's interpretation of what is happening. Since no one

else is coming to the rescue, they conclude that what is happening is not an emergency.

Others, though, argue that the key factor is diffusion of responsibility. People assume that since there are many people present someone else will step forward and act. That seems to be the correct interpretation of what was happening in the case of Moses. No one else was prepared to come to the rescue. Who, in any case, was likely to do so? The Egyptians were slave-masters. Why should they bother to take a risk to save an Israelite? And the Israelites were slaves. How could they come to the aid of one of their fellows when, by doing so, they would put their own life at risk?

It took a Moses to act. But that is what makes a leader. A leader is one who takes responsibility. Leadership is born when we become active not passive, when we do not wait for someone else to act because perhaps there is no one else – at least not here, not now. When bad things happen, some avert their eyes. Some wait for others to act. Some blame others for failing to act. Some simply complain. But there are some people who say, "If something is wrong let me try to put it right." They are the leaders. They are the ones who make a difference in their lifetimes. They are the ones who make ours a better world.

Many of the great religions and civilisations are based on acceptance. If there is violence, suffering, poverty and pain in the world, they accept that this is simply the way of the world. Or, the will of God. Or, that it is the nature of nature itself. They shrug their shoulders, for all will be well in the World to Come.

Judaism was and remains the world's great religion of protest. The heroes of faith did not accept; they protested. They were willing to confront God Himself. Abraham said, "Shall the Judge of all the earth not do justice?" (Gen. 18:25). Moses said, "Why have You done evil to this people?" (Ex. 5:22). Jeremiah said, "Why are the wicked at ease?" (Jer. 12:1). That is how God wants us to respond. Judaism is God's call to human responsibility. The highest achievement is to become God's partner in the work of creation.

When Adam and Eve sinned, God called out "Where are you?" As Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the first Lubavitcher Rebbe, pointed out, this call was not directed only to the first humans. It echoes in every generation. God gave us freedom, but with freedom comes responsibility. God teaches us what we ought to do but He does not do it for us. With rare exceptions, God does not intervene in history. He acts through us, not to us. His is the voice that tells us, as He told Cain, that we can resist the evil within us as well as the evil that surrounds us.

The responsible life is a life that responds. The Hebrew for responsibility, *achrayut*, comes from the word *acher*, meaning "other." Our great Other is God Himself, calling us to use the freedom He gave us, to make the world that is more like the world that ought to be. The great

question, the question that the life we lead answers, is: which voice will we listen to? Will we heed the voice of desire, as in the case of Adam and Eve? Will we listen to the voice of anger, as in the case of Cain? Or will we follow the voice of God calling on us to make this a more just and gracious world?

Shabbat Shalom

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Boundary Negotiations

into Lebanon to quell terror activity against Israel, direct bilateral negotiations took place between the two countries in the Lebanese town of Halde and the Israeli city of Herzliya. These negotiations were mediated by the United States.

On May 17, 1983, these negotiations were successfully concluded with an agreement signed by the parties formally ending the state of war between them and granting mutual recognition of each country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The agreement contained provisions for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, establishment of a security zone in southern Lebanon, and security cooperation between the two countries. Regrettably, and due to Syrian pressure, this agreement was never allowed to be ratified by the Lebanese parliament and was formally shelved on March 5, 1984. In the context of the 1991 Madrid Conference peace initiative sponsored by then-President George H.W. Bush and the then-USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, to which Israel and its neighbors were invited, direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, including Lebanon, were held in Washington between 1991-3 in Washington, DC.

According to the invitation to the Madrid Conference: "The co-sponsors will chair the conference which will be held at the ministerial level. Governments to be invited include Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Palestinians will be invited and attend as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

More than a dozen rounds of bilateral talks were held between Israel and Lebanon in the framework of the Washington talks. During these negotiations, a draft of a peace treaty was exchanged between the parties that included all the components of peace, recognition of sovereignty, good neighborly relations, diplomatic relations, security coordination, and normalization. This was facilitated by the fact that there was no territorial issue between the two parties.

Despite the friendly and good-neighborly ambiance in the negotiations and the considerable substantive progress made towards peace, Syria, regrettably, again prevented any advance towards a separate peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon.

On April 26, 1996, following a further bout of military action in Lebanon by Israel in response to terrorist infiltration and the firing of Katyusha rockets from southern Lebanon into Israel by Hezbollah terrorists, an "Israel-Lebanon Cease-

fire Understanding" was reached in consultation with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, with US mediation. In addition to achieving an end to hostilities, the document stated:

It is recognized that the understanding to bring the current crisis between Lebanon and Israel to an end cannot substitute for a permanent solution. The United States understands the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace in the region.

Toward this end, the United States proposes the resumption of negotiations between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel at a time to be agreed upon, with the objective of reaching comprehensive peace.

Abraham Accords

A further significant factor rendering the upcoming negotiation with Lebanon unique is the fact that it comes on the heels of the Abraham Accords signed in Washington by Israel, the UAE, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Trump administration. The signing of these accords, in and of itself, heralds a new era of acceptance, recognition, and developing normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab world, which cannot go unnoticed by Lebanon as it enters into a new, and hopefully more successful negotiation process with Israel on their joint maritime border.

By the same token, this factor cannot go unnoticed by the other Arab and Muslim states in the region that also yearn for a normal, peaceful regional environment that would enable all the states to benefit from each other and the resources available in the sea and elsewhere.

Conclusion

In light of these factors in the evolution of relations between Lebanon and Israel, it is undeniable that mutual acknowledgment and recognition have, in fact, taken place between them long after any formal and active instances of armed conflict between the two countries.

It is hoped that other countries presently attempting to resolve bilateral and regional maritime border disputes in other parts of the world will be observing with interest the anticipated talks between Israel and Lebanon. This is especially so in those situations where the parties may not necessarily be experiencing situations of hostility, armed conflict, and terror, but entertain vital economic and strategic interests in their respective maritime border areas.

Alan Baker is director of the Institute for Contemporary Affairs at the Jerusalem Center and the head of the Global Law Forum. He participated in the negotiation and drafting of the Oslo Accords with the Palestinians, as well as agreements and peace treaties with Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. He served as legal adviser and deputy director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry and as Israel's ambassador to Canada.

This article was first published by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

Social.



The Twitter App loads on an iPhone in this illustration photograph taken in Los Angeles, California, US, July 22, 2019.
Photo: REUTERS/Mike Blake/File Photo.

European Fashion Magazine Grazia Fires Editor Responsible for Championing Diversity Over Antisemitic Tweets

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

European fashion magazine *Grazia* ousted a contributing editor over the weekend after it was discovered that she has a history of posting antisemitic messages on Twitter.

"Following an internal review, Stephanie Yeboah will no longer be writing as a contributing editor," *Grazia* announced on Friday. "*Grazia* continues to champion diversity and inclusion in all kinds and stands firmly against anti-Semitism."

Private Eye magazine published Yeboah's past antisemitic tweets in its Oct. 7 issue, including one comment in which she joked, "Every Jew has an attic, but not every attic has Jews." The 31-year-old author — who was in charge of championing diversity for *Grazia* — also reportedly tweeted, "AUSCHWITZ Gas Chamber Music LMAO SMH [laughing my arse off, shaking my head]."

In January, during the 75th anniversary commemorations of the liberation of Auschwitz, after the president of the UN General Assembly noted that "The Holocaust remains the most horrific genocide in human history," Yeboah reportedly tweeted: "There have been bigger and more horrific genocides. They happened to brown

people though, so I guess it doesn't matter, huh?"

She further commented on the Holocaust by telling another Twitter user sarcastically, "Lol of course it matters when Jews are killed...It's *THREE* most important thing" before adding, "But it also discounts the other absolutely despicable things that have happened. So please don't play the oppression card here."

Yeboah apologized for her "ignorant and antisemitic comments" the same day the *Private Eye* issue came out, saying, "I was incredibly wrong and am sincerely sorry for my actions."

"To plead ignorance is no excuse, I should have known better than to make these kinds of comments about events which remain a source of imaginable trauma for the Jewish community," she said. She added that she has spoken with the Board of Deputies of British Jews about educating herself more about the Holocaust.

The Board of Deputies said on Twitter that it has spoken with Yeboah about "why her tweets about the Holocaust + other issues were so hurtful to the Jewish community" and noted that "the call was very positive."

"Stephanie has now deleted all the tweets, has assured us she is currently working to address all the concerns in full, and we will meet her soon to discuss all these issues further," the group said.

Israeli Pop Star Omer Adam Celebrates Simchat Torah in Dubai

BY ISRAEL HAYOM/JNS.org

Popular Israeli singer Omar Adam was just in Dubai celebrating the Simchat Torah holiday, Israel Hayom has learned.

The American-Israeli superstar, whose music fuses elements of eastern and Western pop instrumentation, was hosted at the home of Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, and celebrated the holiday with the local Jewish community.

Taking to social media, Adam wrote, "This is a challenging time in which each of us makes a mental calculation between himself and others and between him and the Creator of the world. I chose to be in this



Israeli singer Omer Adam. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

dream place and meet wonderful people who love the Israeli people. I'm proud to be an ambassador of music and art in the Emirates, a place where there's hope for a better world, without wars, and without terror in a magical place that has only joy, and human love."

He went on to say, "A few months ago, I had the opportunity to congratulate Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Nahyan and president of the Jewish community, Solly Wolf, who welcomed me and invited me here to visit. I've always known that songs, music and joy bring people closer, and I feel like I represent each and every one of you here when I say to my hosts, 'Shalom and Salam Aleikum.'"

In another sign of the warming ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, following the Sept. 15 signing of the Abraham Accords, singers from both countries came together for a first-of-its-kind duet.

Appropriately titled "Hello, friend," the duet—featuring Israel's Elkana Martziano and the UAE's Walid Aljassim—was the brainchild of the two singers' musical managers and was released on Wednesday.

Martziano is the winner of the third season of the Israeli version of "The Voice." Aljassim has a huge following in the UAE, where he sings many of the country's most beloved musical numbers.

The song, written by Israeli hit-makers Doron Medalie and Henree, includes Hebrew, Arabic and English lyrics, and seeks to convey a message of peace between the two countries.

The video, directed by Uzi George, was filmed partially in Israel and partially in Dubai.

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