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# OUTPOST

December 2012—Issue #260

PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

42<sup>st</sup> Year of Publication

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## Bete Noire

William Mehlman

Famously erratic, Israel's opinion polls, eight weeks before the election of its 20th Knesset and early into an anticipated flood of televised campaign advertisements, are less than a definitive indication of the nation's electoral mood. The most recent Smith Research sampling of the latter found the joint-ticket engagement of the Likud and Israel Beiteynu parties of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman harvesting 38 of the Knesset's 120 seats on January 22nd. That's four fewer than they currently command as separate entities and 10 fewer than U.S. political pr guru Arthur Finkelstein said they might get running together.

While short of its slam-bang advance notices, the 38 seats projected for the Likud-Beiteynu partnership is still a formidable 16 seats ahead of the 22 the poll shows for its nearest competitor, Shelly Yacimovich's socialist-leaning Labor party. Moreover, even if the former TV interviewer were to forge an alliance with fellow ex-journalist Yair Lapid and his new "Yesh Atid" party, currently projected for 12 seats, neither of the two is seriously regarded as having prime ministerial credentials. It will take heavier hitters than that pair to unseat Netanyahu.

Adding further uncertainty to the pre-election mix is the ceasefire in the ground war with Hamas. A successfully promulgated war normally benefits the government in power, but the Israeli electorate has a record of discarding governments that don't win. Israel's only clear "victory" over the last 40 years was in the war it waged in 2005 against 25 Jewish communities of Gush Katif and northern Samaria and their 9,000 inhabitants. The rest, to put it charitably, were draws.

However the January 22nd electoral figures shake out, one thing is certain – a key focus of the Center-Left's battle to dispossess Netanyahu of the premiership will be the threat Avigdor Lieberman purportedly poses to the future of Israeli democracy. For sheer toxicity, there has been nothing to compare with the invective directed at this Moldovan-born "Dybbuk" -- most of it by Jews -- since the latter days of Rabbi Meir Kahane. "Outrageous, abominable, hate-filled, brimming with incitement that could lead Israel to the gates of hell," bellows the Union for Reform Judaism's Rabbi Eric Yoffie. "Perhaps the most dangerous politician in the history of the State of Israel," warns Hebrew University post-Zionist professorial icon Ze'ev Sternhell. "A fascist...a certified gangster," chimes in former *New Republic* editor Martin Peretz.

The word "thug" has been associated with Lieberman in print often enough to be regarded as his middle name. Dubbing it "an alliance of thugs" –Netanyahu, included–Ari Shavit shed his mantle as the most sober of *Ha'aretz's* stable of columnists to lament of the Netanyahu-Lieberman partnership that "It turns Israel's Center-Right prime minister into a prime minister held captive by dark forces."

It surpasses mere irony that the object of all this purple prose fails in almost every respect to live up to his billings. Avigdor Lieberman, his occasional undiplomatic manner to the contrary, is in fact, as mixed a bag as Israeli politics has ever produced. Confounding the "ultra-extremist" tag hung around his neck, the foreign minister has been in the forefront of the fight for civil marriage, humane divorce laws, the reform of a draconian Haredi-controlled conversion system that has left 300,000 Israelis (the bulk of them his Russian constituents) in legal and spiritual limbo and a termination of the open-ended military service deferments accorded an estimated 60,000 yeshiva students. Albeit in a formula that would shift all-Arab towns in Israel like Umm al Faham to Palestinian control in exchange for territory in Judea and Samaria, Lieberman has even embraced a version the "two-state solution." He is also a contrarian in his opposition to a unilateral Israeli strike against Iran, terming it a "nightmare that would draw in countries from around the world, leaving no one unscathed."

Lieberman's meetings with Vladimir Putin have been denounced by the media, Israeli and foreign, as virtual criminal acts, a charge never leveled against any other foreign minister or head of

state hosted by the Russian president, including Barack Obama. It is worth noting, moreover, that in contrast to the fawning behavior of most other emissaries toward the autocratic Muscovite, Israel's foreign minister had the guts to stand up to Putin, demanding and getting at least a limited curb on the anti-Israel, often anti-Semitic fulminations of its *Russia Today* English language broadcasts.

His occasional tough-guy demeanor aside, Lieberman's problems with the Israeli Left and its global echo chamber have little to do with his ideas or performance as foreign minister. They have everything to do with his persona. As Seth Mandel described it in a *Commentary Magazine* piece last summer, "Lieberman's political career represents a new paradigm in Israeli politics; he is a heterodox political figure for the 21st Century in Israel, a secular nationalist-immigrant. His base is within the homogeneous Russian community, but unlike previous ethnic politicians, he has interests and goals far more ambitious than bringing home the kosher bacon to his constituents."

The fury of the Israeli Left with this "new paradigm" has been intensified by his infliction of the icy waters of reality upon the parallel universe it inhabits. To its repeated charge that he is the uncompromising foe of peace with the Palestinians, he cites a trinity of "false assumptions" upon which the "peace process" is based -- that the Arab-Israeli conflict is the main source of Middle East instability; that it is essentially territorial, and that the creation of a Palestinian state would bring it to an end. "There will be no end to the conflict," he told Brian Lilley in a *Bylines TV* interview, "until there's a change in the nature of Arab society, a society buried in poverty and misery. You can't impose democracy on such a structure because democracy depends on a strong, enlightened middle class and that doesn't exist in the Arab world. Mahmoud Abbas, who avoids direct talks with us, says that's not his responsibility."

Unremarked on by the ideological posse ever on his trail has been Lieberman's signature diplomatic achievement as foreign minister -- his rearmament of what *Jerusalem Post* columnist Michael Freund calls the "periphery doctrine." In brief, he has leveraged Israel's knowledge and expertise in agri-science, engineering, biotechnology, water purification and AIDS treatment, inter alia, to strengthen Israel's ties with more than a dozen second and third-world countries in eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America, some of which are being visited by an Israeli foreign minister for the first time in 40 years. "Say what you will about Lieberman's politics," Freund submits, "but in laying the groundwork for a more sophisticated and global approach to Israeli foreign policy, he has greatly enhanced the Jewish state's status throughout the world."

*Bill Mehlman leads AFSI in Israel.*

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## From the Editor

### Christians and Jews Fund Bnei Menashe Aliya

In the *New York Sun* Israeli columnist Michael Freund--who has worked hard in Israel on their behalf-- reports that 275 members of the Bnei Menashe community will be coming to Israel thanks to a unanimous decision (after five years of delay) by the Israeli government to permit their aliya. This means, writes Freund, that people like Avraham Kaokip, an information technology specialist, his wife and two small sons, will be united with Mr. Haokip's parents and brother who came to Israel years ago.

Freund notes that the government will not be covering the costs. It is being covered by some Jewish leaders in the U.S. and Europe and by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem which will cover most of the cost of the first flight of immigrants. Bridges for Peace, another Christian organization which in the past has made major contributions to the aliya of Soviet immigrants, has committed itself to assisting in the integration of the Bnei Menashe in Israel.

## Veteran Generals Address Jewish Day School Students

*The Los Angeles Jewish Journal* reports that retired Lt. Gen. David Fridovich and retired Maj.



Sidney Shachnow

Gen. Sidney Shachnow spoke to 350 fourth through eighth graders from Sinai Akiba and the Brawerman Elementary school in Los Angeles, introducing them to Jewish American heroes and spotlighting American patriotism and the armed forces. Shachnow, now 78, has an amazing background: born in Lithuania, imprisoned in a Nazi slave labor camp during World War II, he immigrated to the United States in 1950. Despite missing so many years of education, he rose in the army to become Commanding General of Army Special Forces (including the famed Green Berets). But Shachnow told the students that for him the highlight of his career was serving as a commanding general in Berlin, the Nazi capital. "I don't think it ever occurred to them [the Nazis] that a Jew would be there doing that."

Fridovich, who served as a Green Beret, commanded Special Forces units and counterterrorism forces throughout the world. These tough commands had clearly not extinguished his sense of humor: Fridovich said the scariest thing he had done lately was speaking in front of a crowd of 13 and 14 year olds.

Jewish day school students rarely are exposed to military role models; perhaps some of them will now be inspired to consider a career in the armed forces.

## Senseless Shimon

Peres at 89 years old is as shameless and imbecilic as ever. The notion has been bruited about that as a potential huge vote-getter, he should head a new list in the coming elections. This is absurd but reflects something even more ridiculous: the high regard in which he is held by the Israeli public.

Three of his recent remarks show why he is unfit for any role that allows him to serve as an official mouthpiece.

1) When Abbas for a fleeting moment seemed to suggest he wobbled on the right to return, Peres hastened to praise his "courage" and declare that he "proves with his words and his actions that Israel has a true partner for peace." Of course Abbas promptly reneged (speaking in Arabic) but that didn't stop Peres from declaring that Abbas "has condemned terror" and "understands very well that the solution to the Palestinian refugee problem cannot be within Israeli territory." Condemned terror? When terrorists are the role models within the Palestinian Authority from kindergarten on up?

2) Speaking in Moscow on November 8 at the opening of the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow, Peres declared: "I came here to say thank you. Thank you for a thousand years of hospitality. A thousand years that the great country of Russia gave to my small nation. It is a historical thank you that remains fresh today." This was too much for ex prisoner of Zion Natan Sharansky who told Israel Radio: "For several hundred years, the Jews weren't allowed to enter Russia, and after that there were 300 years during which a thousand anti-Jews laws were published. I have a book of a thousand laws against the Jews that were passed in Russia. And I am not even talking about pogroms. Why did world Jewry have to fight to liberate the Jews from the Soviet Union, if there was such great hospitality?" Seeking to defend Peres, the best Hebrew University's Jonathan Dekel-Chen, an expert on Eastern European Jewry, could come up with was that it was more "complicated" than what Sharansky said: "There wasn't a pogrom every single day."

3) During a visit to Sderot, Israel Radio reported that Peres was asked by a woman if he would apologize for saying in the past that "flying tubes" hitting Sderot were of no significance or for his part in advocating the retreat from Gaza that led to the present situation. Peres replied that there is terror everywhere in the world.

A sane population would not revere Peres as a wise elder statesman, but recognize him for what he is: a Mephistophelian back-stabber and excruciating embarrassment to the Jewish people.

### **The Yogurt's Expiry Date Has Come**

Jewish community leader and writer/editor Michel Gurfinkiel reports from Paris that French President Francis Hollande departs from the left wing agenda in some respects, one of them being genuine sympathy and concern for French Jews--and Israel.

Nonetheless he writes, it is probably too little, too late. Gurfinkiel quotes what an elderly gentleman of Moroccan-Jewish descent said to him a week earlier: "The yogurt's expiry date is now." The man explained that in Morocco his father had been a close friend of King Mohammed V, holding important positions and with access to everybody in government. Then one day his father told his stunned family they were leaving for France, leaving behind most of their money and belongings. He and his siblings were aghast, asking "What is going on?" And their father told them: "The yogurt's expiry date is now. From now on, we have no future anymore in Morocco. We must go, as long as we can go." The man added that he never thought anything like that could happen to him again, and in France of all countries. "But here we are. The expiry date has been reached again. We must go. My children and grandchildren must go. And I, an old man, must go too."

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## **Ceasefire?**

Daniel Greenfield

The ceasefire began the way that the war did; with a flight of rockets falling from the sky over Israel's battered south where working class families wait to learn if they will have to spend the night in safe rooms and shelters.



There is no ceasefire, despite declarations from the international community to the contrary, just as there has been no peace for the past twenty years despite peace accords being signed.

In the language of diplomacy, ceasefire does not mean that the rockets will stop falling and peace does not mean an end to the violence. They mean only that Israel is not allowed to fight back when the rockets fall and the bombs go off. Peace does not mean an absence of killing; what it means is that the terrorists are the only ones allowed to kill.

The ceasefire means that diplomacy has succeeded and the goal of diplomacy in the Middle East is not to make it possible for Israeli children to sleep safely at night, but to pull back Israel from finishing a war.

Diplomacy salvaged Cairo and Damascus after their Arab Socialist regimes began and lost two wars. It saved Arafat in Lebanon and plenty of times afterward. Diplomacy has protected Hamas nearly as many times as it saved the greasy thug of Ramallah. And that same onslaught of diplomacy has made Israel's existence perilous and unstable, as its armed forces gather to reply to an attack only to be pulled back when there is any danger of them actually winning.

Middle Eastern diplomacy is the pro leagues of international diplomacy. There are almost as many diplomats in the region as there are camels and both of them do nothing all day except waddle around consuming large quantities of water and spitting at everyone they don't like. To be appointed a special mediator or titled peacemaker of some kind is the ultimate dove feather in the cap of every

diplomat, professional or amateur, who then flies off on a first class ticket to find a way to convince the Israelis to stop shooting back when they are shot at. And the diplomats usually get their way.

The diplomats got their way with the ceasefire, as they got their way in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982 and 1991; and countless other dates since that great triumph of diplomacy filled Israel to the brim with terrorists in the name of a peace that has never been a peace.

On September 13, 1993, Rabin and Arafat shook hands in the Rose Garden under the beaming gaze of Bill Clinton, eager to inaugurate a new era of peace. Eleven days after the onset of peace, terrorists murdered their first Israeli. He was not the last to die in the era of the peace that was not a peace.

Like Clinton before him, Obama has dragged Israel into signing a peace agreement that will tie its hands, while encouraging its attackers to go on about their bloody work. The fiction of this latest round of peace will be preserved until such a time as enough Israelis have been killed that Israel is forced to retaliate. And then the headlines will blare of war, editorials writers will condemn Israel for breaking the peace and the flocks of diplomats will fly from Cairo to Jerusalem to Amman to talk the Jewish State out of defending itself one more time.

What Israel wants is not to be shot at. What the terrorists want is to shoot at Israel. And the peace negotiations always conclude with the terrorists getting what they want, while the Israelis get bullet holes in their cars, stab wounds in their necks and blast debris in their ceilings.



Israelis accepted Oslo because it was supposed to mean an end to the violence. Instead the violence became permanent. And now peace isn't even on the table anymore, only temporary ceasefires that mean the enemy has taken enough damage that it would like an opportunity to rearm and regroup. After giving up its security, Israel has traded in the promise of permanent peace for the offer of a temporary ceasefire that does not even pretend to do anything except benefit the enemies who are determined to destroy it.

Any ceasefire with Hamas, even in the best of all possible worlds, is only a temporary affair, a lull in the fighting, not an ideal to strive for, and even the lull part will be missing here. Ceasefires do not bring peace; they only unnecessarily prolong the war. Israel has signed on to peace accords to show that it wants peace. Now it signs on to ceasefires in order to show that it would rather not fight.

The international community, a diffuse entity consisting of packs of roving diplomats, does not particularly care what Israel wants or does not want. The world wants peace and expects the Jewish State to deliver it.

When Jewish farmers are stabbed and rural families shot to death in their sleep, when rockets rain down on Sderot, then there is peace. But when Israeli planes take out a Hamas commander, then the great behemoth of the international community bestirs itself from the deep and demands to know who is disturbing the peace.

Now that Israeli planes are no longer bombing terrorist hideouts, but terrorist rockets still continue falling on Israel, the behemoth may take on water and sink once again into the depths of the sea where the cries of Jewish children cannot be heard, but the roars of Hamas commanders can, enjoying the quiet sounds of peace.

Obama has played his game well, saying one thing, while doing another, mouthing his support while driving Israel back into the bloody peace of the ceasefire. And so there is peace again. The peace of the rocket aimed at a school and the peace of the bus bombing. The peace of television programs teaching children to kill Jews and the peace of rockets being smuggled through tunnels. The peace of knives in the dark and bullets fired at cars on lonely roads. The peace of mosques that cry, "Death to the Jews" and the peace of terrorists going about their industry of death.

This is the peace that Obama has given Israel with his ceasefire. The peace of victimhood. The peace of death.

There is no ceasefire in Israel tonight or tomorrow night or every night. Only peace.

*Daniel Greenfield blogs at <http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/>. This article appeared on [frontpagemag.com](http://frontpagemag.com) on November 22*

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## Israeli Politics: Back to Normal

Rael Jean Isaac

Recent polls suggest that in the coming January elections the Kadima Party will go from being the largest party in the Knesset (with 28 seats out of a total of 120) to what may well be the smallest, with a mere 2 seats. While this may seem like a revolutionary change in Israeli politics, it actually marks a return to "normal," i.e. to the pattern familiar from Israel's independence when three parties (or groups of parties) defined alternatives concerning the meaning and goals of the state. These parties, rooted in the pre-state period, included the Labor parties (for decades dominated by the Mapai Party), the Revisionist parties (first represented by Herut, now chiefly by the Likud) and the religious parties (with the National Religious Party initially the largest, now Shas, ethnically oriented to the Eastern community). Arab parties, challenging the very existence of Israel as a Jewish state, have in recent decades provided a fourth ideological alternative to voters.

The vision of the Labor parties was described by David Ben Gurion. "My goal, long before I became Prime Minister, was the creation of a model society which could become, in the language of the Bible, 'a light unto the nations.'" This vision involved a synthesis of Jewish nationalism with the socialist blueprints for a perfect society in vogue in nineteenth century Eastern and Central Europe. The Revisionist vision was of the Jewish state as a refuge for the Jews of the world. This was more revolutionary than it might appear for it required a transformation of traditional Jewish values. Jews had developed an aversion to power, transforming their own powerlessness into a moral principle. For the most part Revisionists hoped to create a state modeled on the pattern of the more advanced industrial and liberal Western democracies of the period. For the religious parties the ultimate goal was a Jewish community whose people lived in keeping with religious law, a State of Israel whose law was the Torah of Israel.



Tzipi Livni, former head of Kadima party

For the first three decades Labor was easily in the ascendant. In the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War, with its heavy casualties and ambiguous outcome, the Likud, led by Menachem Begin (who had earlier been at the helm of Herut) came to power and thereafter power moved back and forth between Labor and Likud, with one or more of the religious parties consistently serving as coalition partners--as they have from the first Knesset.

Given this pattern, Kadima is an anomaly in Israeli politics. It is a personal party that, in an astonishing departure from the Israeli political norm, became for eight years Israel's largest party. To be sure, there is nothing unusual about personal parties winning Knesset seats given Israel's system of proportional representation, and its low threshold for winning a single seat. Individuals disaffected with existing parties or individuals with something distinctive to say or something particular to gain have shown a consistent ability to be elected. But generally they win at best a handful of seats and last for at

most two Knessets. Ariel Sharon created Kadima in 2005 as his personal platform when, as Prime Minister leading the Likud Party, he ran into trouble within his own party in implementing the "disengagement" from Gaza (which many in the Likud rightly predicted would be the disaster it has of course turned out to be). Kadima was extraordinary in surviving Sharon's stroke and remaining the largest party in two successive elections, that of 2006 and 2009. But now it is running true to form in showing signs of all but vanishing in the next elections. (A new personal party, that of TV celebrity Yair Lapid, is likely to win a sizable number of seats--and will almost certainly disappear or be absorbed into another party before too long.)

There has been another party, not a personal party but also without roots in traditional ideologies, that briefly defied the odds, the Democratic Movement for Change. In 1977, in its first electoral contest, it became the third largest party, with fifteen Knesset seats. An outgrowth of the protest movements that arose in Israel following the Yom Kippur War, its premise was that changing the electoral system would produce new leaders who would be capable of leading the nation wisely and competently (in contrast to the old leaders who had been caught unprepared for the Yom Kippur War). The Democratic Movement for Change was not going to presume to preempt the wisdom of those leaders, and so apart from electoral reform, which would give new leaders their chance, it merely advocated such scarcely controversial purposes as improving the quality of life and closing the ethnic gap. In short order the party's leaders fell victim to the very ideological divisions they thought to subordinate to other targets; the party split and its remnants were incorporated into the older parties.

To say that Israel's chief parties remain ideologically based is not to say that the parties have maintained their ideologies intact. Under stress of governing Labor's socialism has worn down. Likud, heir to the Revisionists, has moved even further from traditional positions. It's a far cry from "Israel on both sides of the Jordan," Herut's slogan until 1977, to Netanyahu's lip service to a "two state solution." The religious parties, as perpetual junior partners in coalition governments, have never actively pressed for more than funding for their institutions and in some cases special privileges for their followers.

With the spectacular collapse of Kadima approaching, how is the next Knesset, judging from polls, likely to differ from the first Knesset in 1949? While parties representing the three major ideological visions will be back in control, Labor and the Likud will have changed places. In 1949 the two Labor parties, Mapai and the farther left Mapam, between them had 53 seats while the parties that would eventually form the Likud (with Herut the largest of them) had 26. In the next Knesset Labor is estimated to win 25 seats while the Likud, having now combined with Israel Beiteinu, another nationalist party with an ethnic Russian base, was expected to have 39. (In combining forces, Likud and Israel Beiteinu have fallen victim to Israel's electoral "law" that "unity means weakness, divisions bring strength." If the two parties maintained their strength in the last elections they would together have 42 seats.) While the Likud may well garner fewer seats (one poll now puts the number at 37, another as low as 33) as a result of the unpopularity of the ceasefire, the chief change between 1949 and the coming 2013 elections is likely to be in the voting clout of the religious parties. Divided as ever--there are currently four of them--they are estimated to have 32 seats in the next Knesset, more than double the 15 they had in the first Knesset. Religious Israelis have long had higher fertility rates than secular Israelis and it seems this is now being reflected in voting patterns.

Putting the votes for the three ideological blocs together, there will probably be little change between 1949 and 2013: they had 94 seats in 1949 and are likely to hover around 96 in 2013. Religious parties will once more serve as coalition partners, lifting the dominant party over the 61 Knesset votes essential to govern. In 1949 few would have dreamed that the religious parties would one day have more mandates than the ruling Labor party. But otherwise, plus ça change...

## A Symphony of Courage

Rita Kramer

How few and far between they are, real heroes. In these dismal days it is a gift to be reminded of what some of our fellow human beings are capable of and be cheered and inspired by the lives they lived.



A new film titled *Orchestra of Exiles* is about such a man and the difference he made in his world and ours. Bronislaw Huberman, all but forgotten today, was one of the great musicians of his day, a peerless violinist recognized worldwide. With just a touch of irony, filmmaker Josh Aronson, who produced, wrote and directed *Orchestra of Exiles*, has called Huberman a Jewish Schindler because of the nearly thousand Jews he saved from extinction at the hands of the Nazis.

Huberman was born in the Polish town of Czestochowa in 1882. A violin prodigy, he toured throughout Europe as a child but received no schooling other than in music. At the height of his fame he was shattered by the carnage of the First World War. He cancelled his lucrative concert schedule and enrolled at the Sorbonne, where he studied political science. Throughout the 1920s he devoted his time and energies to the Pan Europe Movement, an organization meant to prevent future wars which attracted such other notables as Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, and Sigmund Freud.

Huberman was among the few public figures whose prescience measured the threat that Hitler and the rise of the Nazi Party posed to the Jews of Germany and to the culture of the entire civilized world. And when Jewish musicians began being fired by the orchestras of Hitler's Europe, an idea occurred to Huberman which was to dominate the remaining years of his life, rescue many leading musicians from extinction at the hands of the Nazis, and create one of the world's great orchestras. It is the realization of that idea that is portrayed in Aronson's fascinating and moving film.

*Orchestra of Exiles* shows Huberman's search for potential members of what would become the Palestine Philharmonic and later the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He traveled tirelessly throughout Europe to audition leading musicians, overcoming the odds against bringing them to Palestine, and using his influence to secure the permits necessary for them to stay. Along the way there are surprising--who knew?--moments and eminent historical figures portrayed in a seamless blend of documentary footage and the enactments that reproduce the characters and their milieux, faithful to their natures and their times. The actors chosen to represent Huberman and his various associates look much like their photographs, and their actions, for the most part voiceless, are filmed with a slightly veiled effect, with the result that one is drawn into the story with little awareness of where archival footage gives way to narrative film.

Because the story is true, because the unique gathering of musical talent that became first the Palestine and eventually the Israel Symphony Orchestra can be traced from its beginnings under Arturo Toscanini to the present, and because one man's sacrifice of fame and fortune in order to realize his mission of rescue and his vision of a great musical heritage resonates with us today, *Orchestra of Exiles* is a must-see for anyone interested in music, in history, or in how both came together in the Yishuv. The film is an artistic as well as an emotional experience.

*Rita Kramer's books include Flames in the Field and When Morning Comes. The schedule of showings of the film is at [www.firstrunfeatures.com/orchestraofexiles\\_playdates.html](http://www.firstrunfeatures.com/orchestraofexiles_playdates.html)*

## Show Trial

Sarah Honig

The justly infamous term “show trial” was first coined back in the dark 1930s, when stage-managed pseudo-trials became a favorite ploy of Stalin’s purges in the USSR.

But this perversion of legal due process appears alive and thriving in Turkey, where the authorities opted to “try” four former IDF commanders, headlined by ex-Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi, for the 2010 deaths of nine Turks on the Mavi Marmara, a vessel sent to Gaza in a provocative move to break Israel’s blockade of the Hamas stronghold.

The Turks thereby succeeded in combining two legal parodies in one courtroom sham – the aforementioned show trial along with the equally problem-fraught trial in absentia, where the defendant is not present to answer charges.

If any further underscoring of the circus-like atmosphere were needed, it was furnished by Muslim demonstrators, many wearing the iconic keffiyeh headscarf, outside the Istanbul courthouse. They hoisted Turkish and Palestinian flags, chanted invective against Israel and cheered the prosecution’s inventory of trumped-up charges, topped by “incitement to kill monstrously and by torture.”

The crowd’s mantra was: “Assassin Israel, get out of Palestine!” The banners equated Israel and Nazi Germany. Other slogans warned Israel that “the day of retribution is coming” and that “Israel will die.”

The roll call of absent Israeli defendants included, apart from Ashkenazi, former OC Navy Eliezer Marom, former OC Air Force Amos Yadlin and former head of Air Force Intelligence Avishay Levi.

Heaping absurdity on the farce, the prosecution proceeded to demand prison sentences amounting to an excess of 18,000 years per each defendant.

In the spirit of the Stalinist precedent, the Istanbul version too left little doubt that the culpability of the vilified defendants had been predetermined, that guilty verdicts are not only foregone conclusions but that they are the *raison d’être* of the entire elaborate production.

The list of 490 witnesses is mostly composed of the provocative flotilla’s participants and of journalists who say they covered the clashes with IDF commandos boarding the Mavi Marmara. In strictly legal terms, it is more than doubtful that any of these witnesses can cogently connect the four calculatingly chosen defendants with whatever happened on the ship.

Equally doubtful is that this chorus of prejudiced witnesses would admit that the Mavi Marmara was not bound on a peaceful mission, that it carried weapons and that its passengers were in fact the aggressive assailants. There is no chance that any summoned so-called witness would dare spoil the much ballyhooed pageant by noting that the Israeli troopers had to desperately defend their lives.

There is plainly no point to expect anything remotely objective of this bizarre Turkish extravaganza. Indeed abusive bias in the extreme is what this entire contrived exercise in crude propaganda is all about.

This first of all ought to dispatch a message to those Israeli public figures who still stubbornly aver that a rapprochement with our erstwhile ally in this region is possible and that the onus is on Israel to effect reconciliation.

With this mock trial, Ankara appears to have signaled loudly and with insolent finality that it is not interested. Its concurrent return, with much attendant publicity, of three Israeli-made tactical Aerostar drones – on account of “poor performance” – offers supplementary emphasis to the trial’s grand populist rebuff.

The Jerusalem-Ankara partnership, for as long as it flourished, incontrovertibly served the interests of both sides. Turkey did Israel no favors. Hence, by adopting its strikingly confrontational anti-Israel agenda, Turkey cuts off its nose to spite its face.

*Sarah Honig is an Israeli columnist. This appeared on Nov 13 at <http://sarahhonig.com>.*

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## Converting Denmark into a Muslim Country

Soeren Kern

Muslim immigrants in a town near Copenhagen have forced the cancellation of traditional Christmas displays this year even while spending lavishly on the Islamic Eid celebration marking the end of Ramadan.



The controversy has escalated into an angry nationwide debate over the role of Islam in post-Christian Denmark, where a burgeoning Muslim population is becoming increasingly assertive in imposing its will on a wide range of social and civic issues.

The latest dust-up involves the Egedalsvænget housing complex in Kokkedal, a town situated some 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Copenhagen where Arab and Turkish immigrants now comprise more than half the total population.

At a recent meeting of the Egedalsvænget tenants' association, the Muslim majority on the Board of Directors refused to authorize spending 7,000 Danish kroner (\$1,200) for the community's annual Christmas event.

The vote came shortly after the same Board of Directors authorized spending 60,000 kroner (\$10,000) on a large communal celebration of the Muslim holiday Eid. Five out of nine of the board members are Muslims.

A Muslim member of the board, Ismail Mestasi, defended the decision to cancel the Christmas tree and party, arguing that no one had offered to organize the celebration. "No one wanted to take on the responsibility. A vote was taken and it ended as it ended. I don't celebrate Christmas, but I was asked to get the tree. And I didn't want to." But a non-Muslim board member, Karin Leegaard Hansen, refuted him, saying that she herself had offered to take on the responsibility, but that she was overruled by the Muslim board members.

The dispute, which is the latest in an ever-growing list of Muslim-related controversies in Denmark, was first reported by the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) on November 7. Since then, the issue has snowballed into a national scandal and has become a key topic for public debate in the Danish media as well as in political circles.

A spokesman for the Danish Conservative Party, Tom Behnke, says he fears there are people who want to convert Denmark into a Muslim country. In an interview with *DR News*, Behnke said: "I think it is deeply alarming that our integration efforts are so ineffective that the moment there is a Muslim majority, we do away with good-old Danish traditions and introduce Muslim traditions instead. We are living in Denmark, and people have to adapt to the situation that applies here."

When asked whether housing associations with a Muslim minority should sponsor an Eid party, Behnke replied: "We have to remember that in the past, an Eid festival was the Muslims' victory celebration after they had slaughtered the Christians, so I don't know how much there is to celebrate in

Denmark. Still, people should be allowed to celebrate whatever festivals they want to, but they also must respect the festivals in the country they have come to."

Behnke added: "There is no point in wanting to convert Denmark into a Muslim country because you yourself have a Muslim background. That must never happen. On the contrary, we must have mutual respect for one another. This is a lack of respect for Danish traditions and culture. We must not have a Denmark where Danish traditions disappear as soon as there is a Muslim majority."

The Christmas tree controversy took an ominous new twist on November 12, when a van carrying two journalists from TV2 News was attacked by 25 masked hoodlums. The journalists had gone to the Egedalsvænget housing complex to film a report about the story, but immediately upon their arrival their van was bombarded with bricks and cobblestones. The attackers destroyed the van and chased the hapless journalists out of the area.

According to TV2, the perpetrators were Muslim youths who were seeking to silence media coverage of the Christmas tree dispute.

Local police have sided with the Muslim attackers by blaming the journalists for sending a television truck into the area in the first place. Dan Houtved of the North Zealand Police told *BT News* that he would not have gone there had he been a journalist with TV2. "You choose to enter a tense area. One can argue about whether it is wise. I probably would not have done it."

Houtved is referring to the growing number of no-go zones in suburbs of Copenhagen and other Danish cities that are increasingly becoming autonomous enclaves ruled by Muslim youth gangs. They are areas where Danish police fear to tread.

In March, for example, more than 140 Muslim gang members raided a courthouse where two fellow Muslims were being tried for attempted murder.

The Muslims -- all members of criminal street gangs that have taken over large parts of Danish towns and cities -- were wearing masks and bullet-proof vests and throwing rocks and bottles as they tried to force their way into the district courthouse in Glostrup, a heavily Islamized suburb of Copenhagen, on March 6.

Police used batons and pepper spray to fend off the gang members, who were armed with an arsenal of 20 different types of weapons, including crowbars, darts, hammers, knives, screwdrivers and wooden clubs.

Danish authorities estimate that each year more than 700 immigrants between the ages of 18 and 25 are choosing crime as a permanent career by joining gangs such as Black Cobra, the Black Scorpions, the Bandidos, the Bloodz, the International Club, or any other of the more than 100 gangs that are now operating in Denmark.

In August, more than 80 Muslim gang members raided a hospital in Odense, the third-largest city in Denmark, in a failed attempt to kidnap a 26-year-old rival gang member who had previously been shot and stabbed at a shopping center in the Vollsmose district. Hospital police had to use weapons to

prevent the angry mob from getting their hands on the shooting victim. An ambulance and four police cars were destroyed in the violence.

More recently, Muslim gangs have been extorting shops and bars in the Nørrebro district of Copenhagen, threatening local business owners with violence if they refuse to pay protection money for operating in "Muslim territory."

But some non-Muslims have refused to give in to the threats. Consider 67-year-old Jane Pedersen, the courageous owner of the Café Viking, a bar that has been the focus of repeated attacks by Muslim



Jane Pedersen with stones thrown thru window.

gangs because of her refusal to pay. Pedersen has set up a Facebook page called "No to Bullies, Yes to Beer," which has drawn national and international attention to her plight. (A video produced by the politically correct BBC managed to report on Pedersen and Copenhagen's gang problem without once using the word "Muslim".)

In an interview with the *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper, Pedersen said: "Some guys came in here and told me that I have to pay to be in their area. I refused. I could be their grandmother, and it simply cannot be justified."

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## **Humanitarian Hypocrisy**

Raymond Ibrahim

Muslim Turks care about American Indians, and U.S. Protestants care about Muslim Palestinians—but no one cares about persecuted Christians

The world's double standards concerning which peoples qualify as oppressed and deserving of help are staggering. Two recent stories illustrate this point:

First, a report exposed, in the words of the Turkish Coalition of America, "Turkey's continued interest in expanding business and cultural ties with the American Indian community" and "Turkey's interest in building bridges to Native American communities across the U.S." Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., even introduced a bill that would give Turks special rights and privileges in Native American tribal areas, arguing that "[t]his bill is about helping American Indians," and about "helping the original inhabitants of the new world, which is exactly what this legislation would do."

The very idea that Turkey's Islamist government is interested in "helping American Indians" is preposterous, both from a historical and contemporary point of view. In the 15th century, when Christian Europeans were discovering the Americas, Muslim Turks were conquering and killing Christians in Europe (which, of course, is why Europeans started sailing west in the first place). If early European settlers fought and killed natives, only recently Turkey committed a mass genocide against Armenian Christians. And while the U.S. has made many reparations to its indigenous natives, Turkey not only denies the Armenian holocaust, but still abuses and persecutes its indigenous Christians.

In short, if Turkey is looking to help the marginalized and oppressed, it should start at home.

But of course, Turkey is only looking to help itself; the American Indians are mere tools of infiltration. One need not elaborate on the dangers involved in thousands of Muslim Turks settling in semi-autonomous areas in America and working closely with a minority group that holds a grudge against the United States.

Yet if one can understand Turkey's machinations, what does one make of another recent report? Fifteen leaders from U.S. Christian denominations—mostly Protestant, including the Lutheran, Methodist, and UCC Churches—are asking Congress to reevaluate U.S. military aid to Israel, since "military aid will only serve to sustain the status quo and Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian territories."

These are the same church leaders who utter nary a word concerning the rampant persecution of millions of Christians from one end of the Muslim world to the other—a persecution that makes the Palestinians' situation insignificant in comparison.

If Muslims are subjugated on Israeli land, at least one can argue that, historically, the Jews were there first—millennia before Muslims conquered Jerusalem in the 7th century. On the other hand,

millions of Christians—at least 10 million in Egypt alone, the indigenous Copts—have been suffering in their own homelands for 14 centuries, since Islam burst in with the sword.

Nor is this limited to history: from Nigeria in the west, to Pakistan in the east, Christians at this very moment are being imprisoned for apostasy and blasphemy; their churches are being bombed and burned down; their women and children are being kidnapped, enslaved, and raped. For an idea see my monthly "Muslim Persecution of Christians" series, where I collate dozens of anecdotes of persecution every month—any of which, if Palestinians experienced, would make headlines around the world; but as it is only "unfashionable" Christians who are experiencing these atrocities, they are regularly overlooked.

Nor are Palestinian Christians immune from this phenomenon: a pastor recently noted that "animosity towards the Christian minority in areas controlled by the PA continues to get increasingly worse. People are always telling [Christians], Convert to Islam. Convert to Islam."

Indeed, the American Jewish Committee, which was "outraged by the Christian leaders' call," got it right by saying: "When religious liberty and safety of Christians across the Middle East are threatened by the repercussions of the Arab Spring, these Christian leaders have chosen to initiate a polemic against Israel, a country that protects religious freedom and expression for Christians, Muslims and others."

By any objective measure, the atrocities currently being committed against Christians around the Muslim world are far more outrageous and deserving of attention and remedy than the so-called "Palestinian Question." Incidentally, Israeli treatment of the Palestinians—some of whom, like Hamas, openly declare their intent to eradicate the Jewish state—is largely predicated on the aforementioned: Israel knows Islam's innate animus for non-Muslims and does not wish to be on its receiving end, hence the measures it takes to exist.

There is a final important point of irony concerning the differences between Turkey's Muslims and America's liberal Christians: the former engage in hypocrisy to empower Islam; the latter engage in hypocrisy to disempower Christianity, even if unwittingly. Just like secular/liberal Americans who strive to disassociate themselves from their European heritage—seeing it as the root of all evil and championing the rights of non-whites like American Indians—liberal American Christians strive to disassociate themselves from their Christian heritage and champion the rights of non-Christians, hence their keen interest for Muslim Palestinians.

And all the while, the one religious group truly persecuted from one end of the Islamic world to the other—Christians—are devoutly ignored by the humanitarian hypocrites.

*Raymond Ibrahim is a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center and an Associate Fellow at the Middle East Forum this appeared on Oct. 26 on <http://www.investigativeproject.org>.*

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## **Israel's Institutions of Lowly Education**

Ruth King

It is alarming enough to witness the outright libel against Israel so prevalent in American media and academia. It is even more appalling when tenured academics in Israel are the genesis of these canards. Hebrew University is considered one of the world's great institutions. How is it then that its administration and its thousands of generous supporters throughout the world sanction tenured professors who libel Israel and abet the goals of its enemies?

Exhibit A: Amiram Goldblum, tenured professor of pharmaceutical studies at Hebrew University.

It would be better to say his sub-specialty is pharmaceutical studies, since his primary agenda is demonizing Israel as an "apartheid regime" and filing "lawfare" harassment suits against those who criticize him and the far Left.

Goldblum set up and leads Peace Now's "Tattletale" SWAT team, which feeds "information" to hostile foreign groups about Israel's settlement activities, in order to trigger international pressures against Israel. He claims to have been present on the day in 1983 that Emil Grunzweig became a martyr, when a lone lunatic tossed a grenade into a Peace Now demonstration. Goldblum today claims that Grunzweig was in fact murdered by Likud leaders. This smear comes from the loudest whiner in the Israeli Left about how he himself is supposedly being targeted by a "smear" campaign.

Goldblum was behind the recent "Apartheid Survey" campaign against Israel. He himself had commissioned a blatantly manipulative "survey" of attitudes among Israeli Jews towards Arabs. It was financed by the "Yisraela Goldblum Foundation," a far-leftist fund set up by Goldblum in memory of his dead wife, who had been a senior apparatchik in the New Israel Fund (on whose board Amiram continues to serve.) The "Foundation" commissioned a handful of far-leftists, including Alon Liel (a radical ex-diplomat who calls for boycotts against Israel) and Michael Sfard (an ultra-leftist lawyer-agitator) to write "survey questions" designed to elicit responses that Goldblum and his friends could misrepresent as indications that Israelis favor "apartheid." (Naturally Goldblum and his cadre never bothered to solicit measures of Israeli Arab hatred towards Jews.)

As part of "surveygate", Goldblum and his hit team insisted that if Israeli Jews favor separate roads in the West Bank for Jews and Arabs, because of the daily attempts by Arabs there to murder Jews, it shows that Jews are racists who favor an apartheid regime. The survey evidently used the term "hafrada" in Hebrew, meaning separation, a word that can also mean apartheid. So when many Israeli Jews indicated that they favor *hafrada*, Goldblum and his Smartroopers had their headline: Israelis favor apartheid.

Other indicators of "Jewish support for apartheid" were found by the Goldblum team when many Israeli Jews favored affirmative action preferences in hiring in favor of Jews. Never mind that the entire Left in Israel has long lobbied for racist quotas in favor of Arabs!

Even the predominantly leftist Israeli press including *Ha'aretz* denounced Goldblum and his smear campaign, some comparing it to the lies and distortions of the UN's "Goldstone Commission." On October 26, 2012, the deputy editor of *Maariv*, Ben Dror Yemini, called Goldblum an anti-Israel anti-democratic fanatic. The pseudo-survey was so ridiculous that even the New Israel Fund, with which the Yisraela Goldblum Foundation is tied, repudiated the entire "survey" and its "findings."

But Goldblum also has another rap. He was involved in violations of Israeli campaign financing laws in the election of 1998, when he surreptitiously placed illegal media ads in favor of leftist contender Ehud Barak. When Goldblum got nailed for this, a criminal indictment was filed against him. But in Israel, far-leftists are never really prosecuted by the politically-biased Attorney General's office. So after Goldblum signed a statement in which he confessed his guilt, criminal prosecution against him was "postponed," meaning it was indefinitely frozen. Goldblum likes to tell people that this "postponement" means he was cleared of his legal woes. It does not but The Hebrew University Friends offices in New York ignores the fact that this scoundrel remains in the faculty and donations keep pouring in.

Goldblum was also involved in another disgrace, when it turned out that a convicted PLO terrorist was being employed in Goldblum's own laboratory at the Hebrew University, a lab in which dangerous chemicals are kept. An Israeli Channel Two TV news broadcast accused Goldblum of personally intervening on behalf of the terrorist and hiring him out of ideological solidarity with terrorists. Goldblum denies he himself made the decision to hire the terrorist, and then badgered Hebrew University spokespeople into issuing a statement saying that some other mysterious nameless campus officials were in fact the ones who had made the decision to hire the terrorist, not Goldblum himself. Channel Two then issued a partial retraction of that part of its story. Except we do not know of

a single case in the entire world where someone gets hired to work in a professor's university lab without that same professor's approval and confirmation. But again, these inconvenient truths are airbrushed by the administrators of the university and those who solicit funds.

Goldblum's anti-Israel agitation did not start yesterday. He has proclaimed that "messianic" Judaism is a worse threat to Israel than Iran or Hamas.

As far back as October 23, 1990 the *Los Angeles Times* reported that outraged residents of Jerusalem protested his support for Palestinian terrorism and Iraqi missile aggression against Israel. What is new is his open hostility toward democracy, freedom of speech, and the rule of law. At a convocation of Israel's far Left this past spring, Goldblum called for Israeli democracy and sovereignty to be suppressed and for the world to impose upon Israel the Left's (Palestinian) agenda by force. Never mind that 95% of Israelis reject that agenda. Goldblum, who loves to whine that the Right "smears" him, is active in the "Stop Moscovitz" smear campaign directed at vilifying industrialist Irving Moscovitz, run by anti-Israel pseudo-rabbi Haim Dov Beliak (known in the Jewish community as "Rabbi Bellyache"). The same Goldblum, whose delicate sensitivities are so injured whenever anyone dares to disagree with his political opinions likes to libel critics of the radical Left as "Kahanists" and "Fascists." He published on Wikipedia a subliterate attack against his critics in English, calling them "nose pickers."

But the very worst part of Goldblum's misbehavior is his serial harassment of critics of leftist extremism. Goldblum has discovered the delights of political "lawfare," using the courts for ideological warfare to suppress freedom of speech, a harassment tactic developed by Islamofascists and other anti-democratic extremists. He has filed endless frivolous SLAPP nuisance suits against conservative professors, NGOs, web sites, a radio personality, and others, all designed to force them into silence and bear the costs of fighting off his SLAPP suits. Israel has no penalties against SLAPP suit harassment. Goldblum never wins any of these but misuses the courts as a "lawfare" weapon to "punish" his ideological opponents, seeking to convert the courts into bludgeons of censorship.

It is tempting to dismiss Goldblum as a self-hating Jew. On the contrary, like many of his ilk, he thinks immensely highly of himself as an Olympian resting on the moral heights. No, Goldblum does not hate himself, he hates Israel.

As concerned American supporters of Israel and its many academic institutions, we must make it clear to the Mt. Scopus officials that our support for their university is contingent upon their dismissal of Amiram Goldblum for his misbehavior, and his outrageous assaults against freedom of speech.

## **Outpost**

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Outpost is distributed free to Members  
of Americans For a Safe Israel

Annual membership: \$50.

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