
OUTPOST



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A Legacy Stripped Bare

William Mehlman

Barring a thunder clap from the vicinity of Mount Sinai, the Israeli government's release of 26 incarcerated Arab murderers and accomplices to the murder of scores of its Jewish citizens will have been consummated by the time these words are read. Thus will the first concentric circle of Jewish abandonment of domain over the Land of Israel have been closed four years after being drawn by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a speech at Bar-Ilan University.

"Palestinian peace" should not be construed as a sudden reversal of policy, however intense the pressure for its realization from the Obama White House. Its incremental ingredients have been collecting over the political landscape ever since Mr. Netanyahu told his Bar-Ilan audience that he was nulling and voiding a lifetime commitment to the territorial integrity of the Land of Israel in favor of a "Palestinian State" carved out of the Jewish state's Judean and Samarian heartland. Those who glibly contended that he never really meant it or that his public trashing of the national Zionist legacy would not come back to haunt us have now been given good cause to think otherwise.

If many of us failed to "think otherwise" sooner, it was because in our propensity for "romancing" the truth – the *yihiyeh tov* ("all will be well") syndrome -- we never believed a national Zionist government would bring us to this pass. But the evidence, subtle and not-so-subtle was out there – the shift in emphasis from the Jordan Valley to the Jordan River as Israel's inviolable line of defense against invasion from the east; the near disappearance of obeisance to an indivisible Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the half hearted attempts to discourage illegal Palestinian construction (widely viewed as a left-handed green light) in Area C of Judea and Samaria, home to 350,000 Israelis, the area to which Israeli law must soon be extended if the Jewish state has any hope of holding off a Fatah-Hamas takeover of 22 percent of its patrimony.

More recently, in advance of negotiations in Washington over the "modalities" (order of importance) in which the "core" issues were to be addressed in the opening round of discussions in Jerusalem, we had U.S. General John Allen already on the ground, under orders from Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to hammer out a "security plan" for an anticipated Israeli territorial withdrawal. The State Department wasn't letting any grass grow under its feet either. Though the U.S. is still to define the "parameters" of the peace talks, an unnamed "senior State Department official" let it be known that America is standing firm on President Obama's May 2011 speech calling for a Palestinian state based on the pre-June 1967 cease-fire lines with "mutually agreed-upon land swaps." That was the speech that so "infuriated" Netanyahu when he caught it in a jet over the Atlantic, en route to a Washington meeting with Obama in which those parameters were to be decided on. If any of that fury is still extant, the prime minister is keeping it inordinately well hidden, given his silence in the face of the State Department's spokesman's assertion that "we remain absolutely committed to our position."

Arguably even more disturbing than Netanyahu's lock-jawed response to the State Department's heckling is the praise being lavished on him by his "chief peace negotiator" and one time most implacable critic, Justice Minister Tsipi Livni, head of the six-(Knesset) member, left leaning "Tnua" junior partner in the Likud-Yisrael Beitenu ruling coalition. "Everyone said [to me] 'why are you joining this government? It won't work with him [Netanyahu]. And even if you meet with the Palestinians, the moment you go into the room and open maps it will blow up,' Livni related to a *Jerusalem Post* reporter, "now see that this not the case."

What is indisputably the "case" is that in issuing graduation certificates to 26 Arab murderers – first alumni of a targeted class of 104 – in payment for the privilege of sharing a table with Mahmoud Abbas, Netanyahu not only pinned a price tag on all future Israeli diplomatic efforts, he, albeit unwillingly, undermined Israel's sovereignty by allowing Abbas to dictate the release of more than a

dozen of the 104 butchers who are not Palestinians, but Israeli-Arab citizens, thus subcontracting Israel's authority over its own nationals to an enemy power.

Israel's prisoner exchanges with the Arabs over the years have come as close as the history of diplomacy can offer in defining "something for nothing." But Israel has always managed to salvage something from the enormous inequities inherent in dealing with a culture that has made murder and suffering a way of life and life a way station to martyrdom. Even if it was only the remains of its dead, even if it was a lone corporal, bailed out of a Hamas dungeon at the price of a thousand terrorists, in making good on an IDF promise to Israel's mothers and fathers to "leave no soldier behind," Israel always managed to come home with something from these encounters. There is no shield for the release of the 104. It is unconditional, unrequited surrender to an enemy that hasn't the slightest intention of living in peaceful coexistence with a Jewish state, brokered by an American administration committed to the appeasement of that enemy, in seeming disregard of the risk to its most important ally.

The very fact that the White House refused, flat-out, to mitigate the burden imposed on Netanyahu in setting free 104 murderers of his fellow citizens, to grant him so much as a fig leaf of political cover by calling a halt, after 28 years, to the further incarceration of Jonathan Pollard, speaks shabbily of the value it assigns to its relations with the Jewish state and its people. It is not an encouraging message.

William Mehlman represents AFSI in Israel.

From the Editor

Who Are Muslim Brothers?

Egypt's National Salvation Front, which bills itself as "a coalition of pro-democratic and secular parties in Egypt" has set out to educate President Obama on the nature of the Muslim Brotherhood. Ironically, the Front's statement could have been written by Andrew McCarthy or Robert Spencer or any of the (alas) small minority who have tried to educate the public here about the Brotherhood--and been labeled paranoid Islamophobic crazies for their pains. Here are a few excerpts from the Front's statement:

"Let us first inform you about who the Muslim brothers are....Their aim is to rule the world through a so-called Islamic Caliphate as they believe in their absolute supremacy. They pretend they are God's emissaries and they will not rest until they have forced the whole world into submission....They have used deceit, soft speeches, international funds and whenever required, violence, to impose their will."

The Front complains of media bias (unlike Israel, with its pathetic public relations in the face of systematic media distortions, the Front minces no words): "Since July 3, 2013, the day deposed President Morsi was ousted by popular demand of millions of Egyptians, the Western media and prominent emissaries from the U.S. and Europe have consistently decried the sit-ins that paralyzed a large part of Cairo as 'peaceful demonstration.' ...Peaceful demonstrators do not threaten Christians with genocide....While the Western media was focusing yesterday on the clearing of the sit-ins, more than 45 attacks were made on Christian installations across Egypt resulting in the torching of 19 churches and cathedrals, some built in the 6th Century. "

While U.S. media (mainly has-been) stars are stampeding into *Al Jazeera*, Egypt's current government is "assessing its legal status" (i.e. thinking of shutting it down) for "threatening stability and security."

Advice for Netanyahu

Martin Sherman offers the best counsel for Netanyahu: "Resign, just resign!" Although he doesn't put it that way, in effect what he says is "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen." And Netanyahu clearly can't stand the heat.

Virtually all the publicity has focused on the disgraceful release of over a hundred murderers of Israelis, but Sherman points out that the text of the invitation accepted by Israel states that the goal of the negotiations is to implement the two-state solution on the basis of the '67 lines with minor land swaps. In other words, Israel agrees in advance to the indefensible pre-1967 lines as its borders--unless mutually agreed otherwise. Sherman says this "sends an unequivocal message to the Palestinians, the Arabs and the international community that no position articulated by Israel need be taken seriously. For Israel has proved that no matter how outlandish, outrageous, macabre or scandalous the demands of its adversaries, the Jews will eventually submit--irrespective of how resolutely they feign opposition to them initially."

Sherman rightly observes that "no matter what fork-tongued, fallacious flattery it might reap in the short run for its 'flexibility,' Israel has made itself a laughing stock, unable to adhere to any principle, no matter how crucial, for any length of time."

As Sherman sums up, "Netanyahu has embraced a policy he spent decades berating, resisting and mobilizing publics at home and abroad to oppose. He thus has either failed to implement a policy he believes in, or is implementing a policy he does not believe in. Whichever is true, this is an untenable situation which cannot continue. Accordingly the only act of true leadership left for Netanyahu is to resign, and to resign without delay."

Swooning over Peres

Jeffrey Goldberg, frequent writer for *The Atlantic*, recently fawned over Peres in that publication. Given that Peres is a fool of Gargantuan proportions, this says little for Goldberg's mental capacity. Goldberg offers inadvertent proof that Peres's grasp of reality has not improved (it could scarcely deteriorate) as he turns 89, for he quotes Peres as saying of Obama "My God is he smart" and declaring that he has no doubt of Obama's commitment to Israel.

Goldberg's focus is on the ceremony at which Obama bestowed on Peres the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He treats the award as sending a message to Netanyahu: "Try a bit harder to bring about peace, and you, too, will be welcomed to the White House the way we welcomed Peres."



The Presidential Medal of Honor is chicken feed to what Netanyahu can expect if he gets with the program. There's a Nobel for sure, the umpteenth waste of Alfred's money on a peace prize for "solving" the Arab Israel conflict--that's a gift that keeps on giving because peace remains as far away as ever.

Looks like Tzipi Livni, whom Netanyahu has put in charge of the negotiations, wants to get in the Nobel line as well. She positions herself as heiress to the Peres mantle of biggest-idiot-in-Israel by dismissing history as an irrelevance: "In these negotiations, it's not our intention to argue about the past, but to create solutions and make decisions about the future." Edmund Burke can't be improved upon in his response to those who would put "experience" aside. In his famous "Speech on American Taxation" he said: "Lord North asserts, that retrospect is not wise; and the proper, the only proper subject of

inquiry, is 'not how we got into this difficulty, but how we are to get out of it.' In other words, we are according to him, to consult our invention and reject our experience. The mode of deliberation he recommends is diametrically opposite to every rule of reason and every principle of good sense established amongst mankind."

Educating for Peace

The U.S., which has poured money into Afghan higher education, is getting a taste of what Israel experienced when it stupidly poured money into higher education for Arabs in Judea and Samaria in the aftermath of the Six Day War. You foster an intelligentsia that hates you. *The Wall Street Journal* (July 30) describes the extent to which students at Nangarhar University, Afghanistan's second largest, back the Taliban, organize demonstrations against the U.S. and the Karzai government, and on occasion fly the black flag of Al Qaeda.

The Al Dura Case: White Hats, Black Hats, and Dunce Caps

Rael Jean Isaac

Editor's note: Last month Outpost ran Guy Milliere's "France's Blood Libel Against Israel" which described the background of the Al Dura case and the French establishment's dogged defense of the fraud despite overwhelming evidence that it was a staged non-event. Here I offer some reflections on what the case tells us of the French literary and political establishment, the Israeli government's notion of public relations, French Jewry--and, more encouraging, of the staunch few who stand up for the truth and, in some cases, sacrifice a great deal in their determination to make it triumph.



The supposed death of 12 year old Mohammed Al Dura on September 30, 2000, captured in the famous video that showed him clinging to his father in terror at the Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip as Israeli soldiers shot them both, has become the enduring image of the Second Intifada launched by Arafat--which was in part justified by that image in the world's media.

Unlike many of the gray area incidents that propel world events, this one has the clarity of an old-fashioned Western: there are white hats, black hats and--an addition to the standard formula--dunce caps.

Black hats.

First in line are the Arabs who staged the fake atrocity and the Arab cameraman working for France 2 who took the video and vouched for its accuracy. It's hard to get too worked up about them--this is what Arabs do. It's up to those to whom they feed this material to be wary and if they are taken in, to correct their mistake as soon as they discover it--and fire those who mislead them.

Much more serious is the behavior of Charles Enderlin, the "respected" journalist who was bureau chief for France 2 in Israel, and that of France 2 itself, one of the three stations constituting publicly owned France Television, meaning that the government bears ultimate responsibility for what it broadcasts. Born in France, Enderlin moved to Israel at the age of 22, served in the Israeli army, later taking Israeli citizenship. He is one of those quondam Israelis whose attachment to Israel is supposedly

attested by the vigor of his criticism of it. (His 2003 book *Shattered Dreams* blamed Israel for Oslo's failure.) Enderlin, who provided the dramatic narration for the video clip, may have been initially taken in by his cameraman--Enderlin was in Ramallah, not on the scene--but soon enough had to realize he was dealing with phony footage and dug in, misrepresenting the footage and clinging to the story.



Philippe Karsenty

The struggle to bring out the truth has become identified with the name of Philippe Karsenty who has been engaged in a court battle over the story for the last nine years. But it should be remembered that in 2005 Nidra Poller wrote an article about the case in *Commentary* which didn't even mention Karsenty, yet was already able to document major holes in the story. Poller herself had not then seen the France 2 cameraman's raw rushes, but she had seen the outtakes of Reuters and AP cameramen who had been filming at the same place at the same time.

Poller writes: "Palestinian stringers sporting prestigious logos on their vests and cameras are seen filming battle scenes staged behind the abandoned factory, well out of range of Israeli gunfire. The 'wounded' sail through the air like modern dancers and then suddenly collapse. Cameramen jockey with hysterical youths who pounce on the 'casualties,' pushing and shoving, howling *Allahu akbar*, clumsily grabbing the 'injured'....Split seconds of

these ludicrous vignettes would later appear in newscasts and special reports; the raw footage that would reveal the fakery had been removed."

In the same article Poller wrote that France 2 had permitted three high-power journalists to review their raw rushes, 27 minutes of them. Two of them wrote an op-ed in *Le Figaro* revealing that Enderlin was caught out in a bald-faced lie (they put it more delicately). On October 25, 2000 Enderlin had given an interview to the French magazine *Telerama* in which he said: "I cut the images of the child's agony [death throes], they were unbearable." The op ed pointed out the agony had not been edited out, "it simply did not exist."

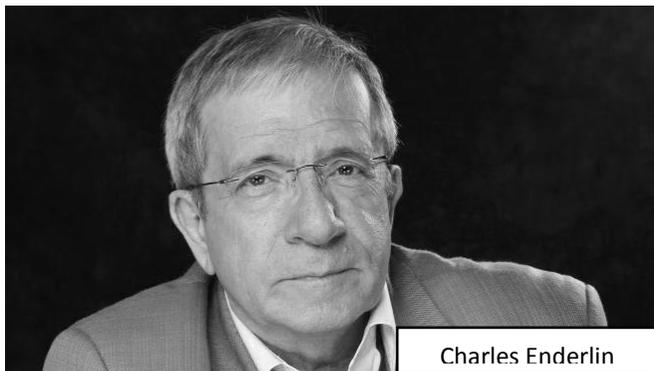
Nothing existed to bear out the France 2 story. Enderlin's description of the raw rushes was as much a fantasy as the staged footage for which his cameraman would reap a slew of international awards.

But instead of acknowledging error, France 2 circled the wagons. Indeed, in the name of "French honor," the entire French media and political establishment circled the wagons. While the al Dura case is customarily referred to by its critics as a blood libel, the parallels to the Dreyfus case are equally compelling. Then it was French military honor, now French media honor that was at stake. The parallel to the second trial of Dreyfus, five years after the first, is especially striking. By that time it took the most determined willful blindness not to know that Dreyfus had been blamed for the crimes of Esterhazy, yet Dreyfus was again condemned. This time, with Israel in the dock, French behavior is in some ways even worse. At least in the Dreyfus case the French intellectual and political class split, with large numbers rallying around Dreyfus. In the al Dura case, the establishment has rallied so solidly behind Enderlin that most of the small minority of Frenchmen well-informed enough to be familiar with the controversy relegate it to a few "nutcases."

The reaction to the 2008 court decision in Karsenty's favor is instructive. The Paris Court of Appeal--which to France 2's dismay had demanded to see the original raw footage--ruled that Karsenty was within his rights to call the al Dura video a hoax, overturning a 2006 decision that had found him guilty of defaming the network and Enderlin. The footage was key. The only shot in it relating to the al Dura tale that had not been aired showed the boy, after being pronounced dead, lifting his head, looking around, moving his leg and shielding his eyes from the sun. Even without the footage, the

video's absurdities were obvious--supposedly blasted with high velocity bullets, the bodies of father and son showed no trace of blood. (It should be noted that the supposed "hard" evidence of al Dura's death, the body of a boy brought that day to Shifa Hospital in Gaza, was "soft" to put it mildly. One doctor at the hospital said he was brought in at eleven in the morning, another at one in the afternoon. The al Dura incident occurred at 3 p.m. Moreover photos showed this was clearly a different boy.)

In less than a week, French journalist Anne Elisabeth Moutet reports, *Le Nouvel Observateur*,



Charles Enderlin

France's chief left-wing newsweekly, had whipped up a petition going all out for Enderlin and France 2. The petition called Karsenty's solidly documented case a "seven year hate filled smear campaign" and expressed shock at a legal ruling "granting equal credibility to a journalist renowned for his rigorous work and to willful deniers ignorant of the local realities and with no journalistic experience." Three hundred of France's leading journalists signed on followed by six hundred assorted "celebrity

intellectuals."

Moutet, who was friendly with a number of those listed on the petition, called them up to ask why they had signed. Most were quick to hang up on her, but of those willing to talk, none gave as their reason belief in the validity of the al Dura video. The dominant response was a version of "I was asked to. It was to support Charles." In other words, the guild calls, the truth be damned. Perhaps the most remarkable answer came from a former head of CRIF, the official umbrella representative body of French Jews. (The current head has been supportive of Karsenty.) Pressed as to why he signed he replied: "I haven't read this petition. I have macular retinal degeneration. I can no longer read."

As for the French government, clearly to signify support for the al Dura story, in 2009 Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner awarded Enderlin France's highest award, the Legion of Honor.

The most recent court decision, earlier this year, has gone against Karsenty. France 2 appealed the 2008 decision to the Supreme Court which ruled the Paris Court of Appeals should not have demanded to see the raw rushes. To get at the truth was apparently not the sort of thing the Supreme Court thought a judge was supposed to do. Nor was truth a defense. The Supreme Court sent the case back to be heard by a new panel of judges where Karsenty (without benefit of the footage) would not only have to show Enderlin and France 2 had perpetrated fraud but also that he had the evidence to prove it when he first denounced the video (i.e. before he had seen the raw footage which made the fraud incontrovertible). In the ensuing trial, the Avocate Generale, an independent figure in the French judicial system, reminded the judges that the truth of the al Dura story was not the issue. Mr. Bumble's remark in *Oliver Twist*, "The law is a ass" is tailor made for French libel rules. And indeed the new panel found Karsenty lacked sufficient evidence for his charge of fraud at the time he first made it and so was guilty of defamation. The court fined him 8000 euros (\$14,000).

No one reads the Paris court's (absurd) justification for its decision. What matters is that France 2 and Enderlin can claim vindication since Karsenty was found guilty of defamation. Karsenty plans to appeal, and the case can go on indefinitely, bouncing yo-yo like from court to court as did Jarndyce versus Jarndyce in *Bleak House*, a case that had gone on for so many generations Dickens tells us, that no man alive knew what it meant.

Dunce Caps.

The tallest dunce cap sits squarely on the head of the Israeli government.

The al Dura video quickly went round the world, immensely damaging Israel's reputation. For forty five minutes according to the cameraman's story, Israeli soldiers had shot at the terrified cowering boy and his father. Yet Israel, rather than immediately investigate this unlikely tale, apologized, in effect authenticating it. Israeli physicist Nahum Shahaf smelled a rat and approached Major General Yom Tov Sarnia, the commanding officer in the Netzarim area, who was convinced his soldiers had not shot the boy. Sarnia put Shahaf in charge of an investigation which reconstructed the incident and concluded that given where the two were crouching, the bullets could not have come from the Israeli position.



After this, incredibly, Israel not only remained silent as the al Dura story became the impetus for terror against Jews and Israel worldwide but also undercut the efforts of Karsenty to bring the truth to light. Al Dura's death scene was on posters, murals, even postage stamps. The killers who beheaded Daniel Pearl on video had the image of al Dura and his father displayed behind them. Streets and schools were named after him. Bin Laden cited al Dura in a recruitment video. Palestinian TV carried endless spots urging children to follow him to Paradise as jihad martyrs. The story, endorsed as fact by Amnesty

International and Human Rights Watch (both of which have rarely, if ever, encountered an anti-Israel story they did not believe), was influential in the international campaign to delegitimize the state, starting with the UN's Durban race conference in 2001. Post al Dura, comparison of Israel to Nazi Germany became routine. French journalist Catherine Nay proclaimed: "The death of Muhammad cancels out, erases that of the Jewish child, his hands in the air from the SS in the Warsaw Ghetto."

Yet far from supporting Karsenty's efforts, the Israel establishment blamed him for keeping the story alive. After Karsenty's 2008 victory, one disgusted *Wall Street Journal* reader complained that Israel's main Foreign ministry site had only a few scattered references and there was nothing on its English and French sites on the story. Karsenty reports that following his victory the spokesman for Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared in an interview that no one had asked Karsenty to take on the issue, it was an internal French affair and his work was counterproductive. In fact, the strongest argument France 2 had for the validity of its story was Israeli government silence. Enderlin kept stressing that no Israeli authority had ever questioned the authenticity of France 2's September 30, 2000 broadcast. And his argument was persuasive even to many of Israel's supporters--if the story was a hoax surely Israel would be the first to vigorously press the case.

Shmuel Katz used to rant about the failures of Israeli information policy (he had wanted to take it over in a special ministry, but Begin backtracked on his promise, instead turning information policy over to Moshe Dayan's hopeless Foreign Ministry). Israel's handling of the al Dura case reveals all the worst traits--ignorance, arrogance, stupidity--that Katz pinpointed in those supposed to present Israel's case to the world.

Prime Minister Netanyahu finally set up a panel to investigate the al Dura case in September 2012. The findings of the so-called Kupperwasser Report were published in May 2013. Karsenty believes what made Israel act (twelve years after the fact) was the Toulouse massacre in March of 2012 in which Mohamed Merah, seeking, so he said, to avenge the death of "Palestinian children" at Israel's hands, murdered three children and a rabbi (the father of two of them) at a Jewish day school. No surprise, the Kupperwasser Report concluded the video was a hoax and the boy was not harmed. What was interesting was the reaction of France 2 and Enderlin who demonstrated their chutzpah--and contempt for Israel--by threatening to sue both Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and Strategic and Intelligence Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz (who had overseen the investigation) if they were not given all

documents pertaining to it. France 2 and Enderlin claimed the panel had "disregarded all basic rules of justice" in giving them no opportunity to present their version of events.

No doubt to the surprise of the "injured party" --as Enderlin and France 2 styled themselves-- Israel, rather than roll over, struck back. The legal advisor to Netanyahu's office listed six requests by Israel for input on the case from France 2, all of which had been ignored. She wrote: "There emerges a pattern of repeatedly complaining that your positions are not heard, while ignoring all requests made to you to receive the materials that you say your clients are not getting the opportunity to display."

Dunce caps also go to the American Jewish Committee and many leading French Jews. The American Jewish Committee, which has offices in France, and, Karsenty says, a great deal of credibility there, seriously damaged his efforts by supporting France 2. Jews have a prominent role in French media and many of those "news professionals" who signed *Le Nouvel Observateur's* 2008 pro-Enderlin petition were Jews. Silence was a form of complicity. It was understandable if many high profile French Jewish intellectuals (Alain Finkielkraut was an honorable exception) did not want to bring the wrath of the media and political establishment upon themselves, but their silence made it easier to isolate those who took up cudgels against the al Dura hoax, to portray them as equivalent to Holocaust deniers and "truthers" who claim the U.S. government was behind the destruction of the Twin Towers.

White Hats

Karsenty is Gary Cooper in this *High Noon*, riding out against the black hats while most of those who benefit from his doing so scurry for cover, and only a very few give him support. Professor Richard



Landes, an expert on millennial movements, and one of those supportive few, says Enderlin and France 2 made their big mistake when they took on Karsenty. As we noted earlier, he was not among the first to publicize problems with the Dura video. We mentioned Nahum Shahaf. German television producer Esther Schapira made a documentary on the al Dura affair in 2002. Both Shahaf and Schapira confined themselves to showing that Israel could not have been responsible for the boy's death; whatever their suspicions, they had not charged al Dura's death was made up of

whole cloth. Karsenty also learned from the experience of French film maker Pierre Rehov. Rehov brought suit against France 2 for defamation and the suit was dismissed within weeks. Realizing he had no "standing" to sue France 2 under French law, Karsenty decided to make France 2 sue him. He wrote several articles on his internet site calling the al Dura video a "media hoax" and demanding that Enderlin and Arlette Chabot, then director of information at France 2, be fired. They rose to the bait and sued.

To their chagrin, when Karsenty lost the first suit in 2006, he did not go away. He appealed. Without his dogged pursuit of the case there is little question that Enderlin and France 2's blood libel would have stood as fact. The case (Karsenty says he naively thought the truth would be established in court in a matter of months) has taken over his life. His goal is to make the French government acknowledge the fraud. It took 12 years for Dreyfus to be rehabilitated, his rank restored. It is already 13 years that France has stubbornly hung on to the al Dura fraud so justice in this case will clearly take longer. But Karsenty is sure the day will come, the truth will out.

What are the broader lessons of al Dura?

1. Respond, don't duck for cover. The Kuperwasser report implicitly criticizes the Israeli government's behavior in the case. It urges that in future inflammatory claims be investigated immediately and the results made public.

2. Media executives must be held to account to enforce their own (disregarded) ethical rules to prevent dissemination of disinformation by their journalists. Richard Landes (whose website *Second Draft* provides a complete archive of the al Dura case) describes being appalled when he first watched the raw footage of al Dura at France 2's studio in Jerusalem in company with Enderlin in 2003. (Enderlin had assumed Landes was on his side because he had been recommended to him by a mutual friend). When Landes said "Everything seems staged," Enderlin replied "Oh they do that all the time." Landes says: "Walking out of his office that Friday afternoon, I was in a state of shock. 'Oh my God,' I thought, 'they do it all the time...and the Western journalists just use the most believable seconds to run as news. It's a national industry!'" Landes coined the term Pallywood to describe the national Palestinian film industry that produces staged news footage for complicit journalists.

The media will not reform without significant outside pressure. Landes says he went to ABC, PBS, the Boston Globe, and got nowhere. He was told "they couldn't just do a program on this, they'd have to balance it with something the Israelis staged." When Landes responded "And if you can't find a case of Israeli staging?" the reply was "Then we wouldn't do it." One person at ABC told Landes "I don't know how much appetite there is for this." Given the extensive use of Pallywood material, which is edited by supposedly reputable journalists to look more plausible and then shoveled out to unknowing international audiences on world media, the appetite within the media is small indeed.

3. There must be moral reform of intellectual elites. It is hard to disagree with the assessment of the *Allgemeiner* that the French intelligentsia is in complete cognitive (and moral) disarray. For it must be remembered that at the same time that it buries the truth about al Dura, it celebrates some of the ugliest *ihadis* on the planet as heroes and martyrs, with the famed *Jeu de Paume* museum, to take but one example, showcasing a photographic exhibition portraying the murderers of Jewish children as heroic martyrs.

The moral disarray of elites is by no means confined to France. And obviously it's a lot harder to achieve moral regeneration than to implement the other recommendations. But if it does not occur, no other reforms will help.

The Brave and the Blow-Hards

Rita Kramer

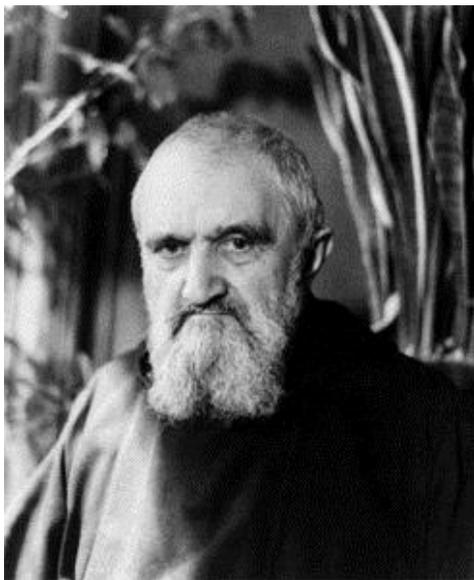
What does it mean to be brave? In what does courage consist? These are questions that come to mind thinking about men and women who have stood up against tyranny, put their freedom and even their lives at risk by taking a stand and comparing them with activists and protestors in our country today. Movie stars, film makers, and other celebrities famous for being famous preen and pose and pretend that they are standing up against powerful forces when they make political statements in public. The only real threat they face is exposing their ignorance of complicated issues.

The left-leading media loves them and headlines the names and faces and pronouncements of such as Michael Moore and Oliver Stone, Barbra Streisand and Jane Fonda, Alec Baldwin and Susan Sarandon, Matt Damon and Harry Belafonte--directors, actors, entertainers all drawn from the world of Hollywood where fantasy substitutes for knowledge and the uneducated pass as gurus, hailed for their presumed willingness to stand up against threatening conspiratorial powers.

How little these Hollywood celebrities risk, how little they stand to lose becomes glaringly clear when they are compared with men and women of undeniable courage whose words--and actions--put them at real risk of losing their freedom and finally their lives. From time to time we are reminded of such figures and of what it means to take a stand against real tyranny, to enter the fight against undeniable evil.

A recent book tells the story of one such man, a Capuchin priest who repeatedly risked his life to help rescue thousands of Jews in France and Italy during the dark days of Nazi occupation. His story is told by Susan Zuccotti in *Pere Marie-Benoit and Jewish Rescue*. Zuccotti is the author of earlier books on France and Italy during the Holocaust and brings impressive background knowledge and practiced research skills to this latest account.

A Catholic priest in a time and place when the Vatican offered no word of support for those innocents who were hunted down or any word of encouragement for those who were moved to help them, Pere Marie-Benoit's mission among the Jews began with a single request for help. A visitor to his Franciscan monastery in Marseilles appealed to him to help a Jewish girl. From protecting one he became the protector of others and soon he became known among members of Jewish underground groups as someone who could be counted on for help. He persuaded local officials to provide him with blank forms which could be filled out to provide false papers--passports and baptismal certificates--and he hid the persecuted until they could be smuggled on to other monasteries and schools and eventually over borders to neutral countries. When the Germans moved into Southern France he was transferred to Rome, where other like-minded priests, nuns and ordinary people were enlisted in joining escape networks of Christians and Jews working together. Their efforts rescued some four thousand who would otherwise have faced deportation and death. They continued operating up until the Allied liberators reached Rome.



One of the remarkable aspects of Pere Marie-Benoit's work saving Jews was that, unlike many others who undertook similar efforts, he never tried to convert them to his faith but encouraged them to remain Jewish. And after the war he continued to advocate for Jewish/Christian reconciliation, a cause which the Church would not recognize until the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960's. He is remembered at Yad Vashem in Israel as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Zuccotti was able to interview Pere Marie-Benoit himself before he died, as well as some of the members of his rescue networks and some of those who survived the Nazi terrors only because of the willingness of their rescuers to put their lives on the line for a moral purpose.

How puny, when we hear the stories of real courage in the face of brutal dictatorships, are the bleatings of the Hollywood political protesters. Up against no threats, either to their livelihood or their lives, they want to be seen as heroic figures. Not bothering to study the issues and learn enough to make coherent statements, they deal in slogans and use their celebrity in the cause of issues they don't even seem to understand. They might gain some perspective about life, about what it means to be courageous, what it takes to be heroic, by reading accounts of lives like that of Pere Marie-Benoit.

*Rita Kramer is a member of the Outpost Editorial Board. Her books include *Flames in The Field and When Morning Comes*.*

Jewish Response to Nazism and Fundamentalist Islam

Jerrold L. Sobel

Times change, players are substituted, but like fashion, history has a tendency to repeat itself. However, unlike shoes or dresses, reiterated history can be disastrous. Case in point is the reaction of Jews at the dawn of the Holocaust and today regarding “peace” talks between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs.

Everyone agrees that Hitler's rise to the Chancellorship of Germany was a pivotal moment in Jewish history. However, not many are aware that a united effort might have nipped Hitler in the bud.

Under Hitler, persecution of Germany's Jews began immediately. As the outrages multiplied, a storm of protest echoed across Europe and the United States. Ordinary Jews and their Christian supporters began boycotting German goods in an attempt to sink a Depression era, fragile German economy. But then, as today, a schism soon arose between Jewish leadership seeking a tempered response to the Nazis and those, mainly the rank and file, which wanted to confront the nascent German leader head on.

Rabbi Stephen Wise was President of the American Jewish Congress. On the one hand Wise wished to placate his outraged membership which called for marches, boycotts, and demonstrations; on the other he was fearful of such action. Seeking a way out of his dilemma, he signed a joint letter of protest with other Jewish leaders and took the advice of his friend Justice Brandeis not to bother Roosevelt about a boycott.

In defiance of Wise, the members of the AJC engaged in protests and marches culminating in a massive demonstration at Madison Square Garden on March 27, 1933. Soon afterward, the leadership of the other mainstream Jewish groups disassociated themselves from this grass roots movement and ended any effective, organized American protest against Hitler.

Is something similar not happening today? Faced with a genocidal foe, most mainstream Jewish leadership remains insouciant to the danger a Palestinian state holds for the Jews of Israel. Just this past June, Abraham Foxman, Rabbi Rick Jacobs, and David Harris condemned recent statements by senior Israeli officials about the impossibility of a two state solution, calling them irresponsible and claiming they undermine the credibility of the government.

Yet Muslim manifestos are as candid as Mein Kampf. Hitler declared: “The Jew uses every possible means to undermine the racial foundations of a subjugated people...The personification of the devil as the symbol of all evil assumes the living shape of the Jew. “ And on and on.

The resurgent Muslim world's animus towards Jews has its underpinnings in their foundational scriptures which contain passages such as (of the Jews): "Be ye apes, despised and rejected."

Fatah repeats the refrain. “Our war with the descendants of the apes and pigs [i.e., Jews] is a war of religion and faith. Long Live Fatah!” So said the moderator at a Fatah event on January 12, 2012. During a march in Gaza earlier this year, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas called Haj Amin Husseini, the infamous mufti of Jerusalem who allied with Hitler, "a great man whose ways should be emulated by all Palestinian Arabs."

Fatah defines the conflict with Israel as an uncompromising religious war mandated by Islam. It may not be what certain Jews and their supporters on the left wish to hear. It may not be what Prime Minister Netanyahu wishes to hear, but it's what the PA government and its supporters are saying. Lest we forget, these are supposedly the “moderates.”

There doesn't seem to be too much wiggle room here, particularly since a 2011 poll taken by Project Israel reports 73% of Palestinian Arabs surveyed believe the Islamic Hadith that preaches it is Islamic destiny to kill Jews wherever they are. A further 68% said they justify suicide bombings and the murdering of civilians to defend Islam.

Joel Fishman, an historian and fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, observes: "The intensity of Palestinian incitement and hatred of Israel is pervasive. It includes the naming of public buildings, sports facilities, and streets after Palestinian terrorists who have murdered Israeli civilians. The public discourse, which encompasses the educational system, teaching materials such as textbooks and maps, television, billboards, and the media of popular culture (such as websites and crossword puzzles), conveys a message of hatred. It honors Palestinian 'martyrs,' killed while perpetrating terror attacks against Israeli civilians and exhorts the youth to emulate such 'exemplary role models.'"

Fearful of strong action, elitist Jewish leadership in America failed millions of their coreligionists in Europe by not organizing and demanding support and concrete action from the Roosevelt Administration. Today a Jewish leadership eager to curry favor with a hostile administration presses for a Palestinian state mortally dangerous to the Jews of Israel.

Jewish leadership, as in the past, is fragmented and seeks the path of least resistance; appeasement and acquiescence. Here it succumbs to the pressure of the administration and "progressive opinion" to urge Israel to create a lethal Palestinian Arab state from the body of Israel. In Israel itself Benjamin Netanyahu pursues a policy of unrequited concessions. Acquiescence to American demands that he release 104 convicted killers as a "good will gesture" is a dreadful starting point for negotiations.

Finally, there is Obama. Armed with loyalty from his left wing base and an insensate 70% plurality of the Jewish vote, he is free to pursue his obsession of a "two state (dis)solution" of Israel.

Jerrold Sobel has been writing articles on Israel and Jewish concerns for forty years.

Message of the Bereaved Families and Terror Victims in Almagor

27 July 2013

Editors note: This statement by the families of Israeli terror victims, translated from the Hebrew by IMRA (Independent Media Review and Analysis) underscores the underhanded way in which the release of the killers of Israelis was handled by the government. Fearful that the association of terror victims might spark a public outcry against its disgraceful action, the government lied to the families until the last possible moment.

To the Israeli public

In the last hours, Prime Minister Mr. Netanyahu addressed a letter to the public which tries to explain his surrender to terror and his alarming willingness to carry out an additional release of murderers with blood on their hands. These are the most heinous killers, including the murderers of *Leil Hakilshonim*, the murderers of the soldiers Tamam and Blumberg in Wadi Ara and others.

Again it seems that the Prime Minister falls apart and doesn't stand up to pressure at the hard moment. It appears that the Nobel Peace Prize that winks at Obama and Kerry overshadows any moral and reasonable consideration and Israel is pressed again into failed negotiations with the resulting disappointment possibly hitting us with an additional round of violence.

Please note that the publishing of the Prime Minister's letter comes after the bereaved families of terror victims were deceived by repeated assurances that there is no possibility that the release of terrorists would be discussed:

1. When we initiated a parliamentary question in the Knesset on the release of terrorists, a close associate of Prime Minister, Ophir Akonis, was sent to announce that the release of terrorists was not being discussed. Now it seems that Akonis was sent to deceive and lull the bereaved families and the injured to stop the fight we started.

2. In the meantime, it turns out from things said at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign and Defense that Tzipi Livni, who is in charge of the negotiations, demanded and received from her office the files of the list of terrorists whose release is required by the PA.

3. We requested meetings with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Livni and were put off with various evasions. It turns out that those who have the courage to release murderers do not have the personal and public courage to face us and answer the questions of those who paid and are paying the price for their failures.

4. The Prime Minister's appeal in a letter to the public comes against the background that over 85% of the public oppose the release of murderers without any compensation.

5. Once it became clear that there were in fact negotiations with the Palestinians there was an attempt to mislead us again saying "terrorists will not be released as part of negotiations but instead a number of terrorists will be released as a gesture for Ramadan."

6. When it was revealed that this was related to the negotiations the Prime Minister's people said that this was a matter of the release of a few dozen "light" and "old" terrorists and nothing more.

7. Then they tried to soften the release by declaring that the Israeli murderers would not be released.

8. Now, a few hours before the cabinet meeting it turns out that the Prime Minister deceived the bereaved families and those injured by the terrorists and the general public.

There are moments for a nation that it takes its stand in the trenches against its enemies and tells them "You will not force us to carry out immoral acts". The letter of the Prime Minister which is another PR whitewash does not calm us and does not constitute a statement in which people can find solace.

We will come tomorrow to the cabinet meeting and express our opposition and our opinion on the reckless releases and demand that negotiations without preconditions will truly be negotiations without surrender in advance.

We have enough pain and loss. We will not agree that more and more families will be forced to join the ranks of the bereaved families and victims of terrorism.

Losing Israel Peace By Peace

Jack Engelhard

NEW YORK, July 31, 2013 — The latest from John Kerry is that the current "peace process" between the Israelis and the Palestinians will be "difficult" – and so it has been from one secretary of state to another, and from one Israeli prime minister to the next, up to Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israelis always make it "difficult," but in the end – oh in the end they always cave in.

Every secretary of state of recent vintage has tried and succeeded to "bring both sides together" and it is always Israel that finds itself with less yardage than it had before, with nothing but more Palestinian hatred gained in return. First, though, Israel must make "concessions." That is the first trick to rip Israel to shreds peace process by peace process. No concessions are demanded from the other side.

The real goal is to destroy Israel with one punch, but Israel's appeasement-happy leaders are not quite that stupid, so they drag it out, making themselves appear "tough" and "intransigent," and this angers the "international community," which turns to the United States to browbeat Israel into submission.

Releasing prisoners, murderers all of them, is the first requirement that falls on Israel, and as expected, Israel says no, and next day capitulates.

The next demand from all of our secretaries of state is that Israel must stop building in and around Jerusalem, and here we go again, Israel says that it will not do this, absolutely not, and next morning the prime minister – whoever it is at the time – announces a building freeze.

“Hawkish” Menachem Begin swore that he would never give up the Sinai. He did.

Yitzhak Rabin promised his constituencies that he would never shake the homicidal hand of Yasser Arafat. He did.

Ehud Barak declared that he would protect Israel on all fronts. Virtually overnight he vacated Israel’s military presence in South Lebanon. This immediately deprived Israel of valuable strategic depth and opened up a new front, which bloodied Israel in war after war against Hezbollah.

Ariel Sharon, the toughest of them all, vowed that he would never give up Gaza. He did.

Israel is still reeling from the thousands of Hamas rockets coming from that “peace gesture.”

Ehud Olmert likewise came in as a “strong leader” and swiftly offered Yasser Arafat the entire “West Bank” and most of Biblically-sacred Jerusalem, plus the kitchen sink. Olmert forgot that he was only prime minister. He told the Palestinians, “I can be very generous,” as if the Jewish State were his to give.

Onward from Henry Kissinger, nearly every secretary of state has tried to diplomatically shuttle Israel out of existence. Even at this moment, as talks are in progress, Mahmoud Abbas proclaims that once his precious state is achieved, “No Jews will be allowed.” Some call this peace, and never apartheid.

Would it then be fair to expel the million and a half Arabs who live freely in Israel?

No Jews for the Arabs, hence no Arabs for the Jews. This sounds like a fair exchange, no, Mr. Kerry? Why not?

So now indeed it is John Kerry’s turn. Perhaps he can explain what this Palestinian state would look like. Egypt? Syria? That is a sure bet.

Of all the oddities – only Israel is at peace. So let’s keep fixing what ain’t broke.

Why, then, is it that with 100 hot spots around the world, the minute a new secretary of state steps into office, he or she heads immediately to Israel?

Or is it that 22 Arab countries are never enough, and that one Jewish country is simply too much?

This appeared in Washington Times Communities on July 31st. Jack Engelhard's latest novel is Compulsive.

The More Things Change, The Worse They Get

Ruth King

Imagine, if you will, a conversation between Abbas and one of his sidekicks regarding the negotiations forced upon him and Netanyahu by John Kerry.

ABU SIDEKICK: Damn you Mahmoud! Make them a demand they cannot accept. You know we cannot have negotiations. It will bring disaster upon us.

ABBAS: I am desperate. Every single impossible demand that I make, they accept!

ABU SIDEKICK: Tell them that as a precondition they have to understand that we hate Jews and we will only accept a Palestine in all of the West Bank without a single Jew, and that's just for starters before we erase all of Israel. Surely that would be a red line for them.

ABBAS: You don't know what I am up against. I told them that. I repeated it in interviews on PA TV and they don't care. They just move their red line. Don't you remember that they used to say dividing Jerusalem and accepting an Arab state in Judea and Samaria was a red line they would not cross? And then they accepted the division of the city and even extended our sovereignty over the Temple Mount.

ABU SIDEKICK: Tell them that they have to empty their jails of all hard line terrorists who have massacred Jews. No country would do that.

ABBAS: Oh please, don't you read anything? Bibi agreed to that. Al-Ha'aretz even had an editorial praising their release.

ABU SIDEKICK: Then tell them that they have to make the released terrorists members of their Knesset.

ABBAS: They already have treasonous and seditious Arabs in their damn Knesset so that's a silly threat.

ABU SIDEKICK: Then try the good cop routine. Tell them you are looking at it from their point of view. Tell them they'll be banking on American guarantees and those are worthless.

ABBAS: Come on. It was only a few months ago Obama personally twisted Netanyahu's arm to apologize to Turkey and pay compensation for killing those Turks who had attacked Israel's boarding party on the flotilla running its blockade of Gaza. Those Israelis acted in self-defense when they are attacked with iron bars, chains and worse. In their place, I'd have torn those Turks limb from limb, slowly. Obama promised Turkey would restore normal relations in exchange. Five months later, nada, nothing, just more non-negotiable Turkish demands and Obama hasn't even noticed, let alone put pressure on his pal Erdogan to live up to his side of the bargain. If that hasn't put Israel on notice, nothing I say can make a dent.

ABU SIDEKICK: I give up. It is back to the past and all those endless meetings and Danish pastries and rancid coffee and Tsipi's and worse Netanyahu's posturings and lectures. The handwriting is on the wall. We will get a state and Hamas and Hezbollah will move in. End of our rather pleasant existence. We will be just like Arabs everywhere else. Miserable. It will be a Naqba.

Dear reader, do you say this is exaggerated? Remember when during the Entebbe hostage crisis Rabin said "We will never negotiate with terrorists." That red line soon became "We will never negotiate with terrorists that have blood on their hands" and that morphed into "We will never negotiate with terrorists that have both hands covered in blood" and that morphed into "both hands covered with A blood type" and only last week Israel agreed to the release of hardened terrorists with Jewish O blood on their hands and feet and hearts.

Do you remember when the mantra of right and left was that Jerusalem was the red line, "the eternal capital of Israel which will never be surrendered or divided?" Do you remember when Hebron was a red line...the holiest Jewish city, home of Abraham and Sarah and the Patriarchs?

The so called "red line" just keeps getting moved closer and closer to the Mediterranean Sea with what the writer Jack Engelhard calls the dismantling of Israel "peace by peace."

In spite of the promise of Zionism that Israel would be the haven, the port in a storm, and the guarantor of Jewish survival, Israel is in more peril than ever before. The sorrow and the pity is the role of Israel's spineless leaders and gutless world Jewry that watches Israel's demise with indifference--and indeed colludes in it.

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