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Table of Contents		
Turkish Alarm Bells Over Jerusalem	William Mehlman	Page 2
From the Editor		Page 4
The Third Lebanon War: Not <i>If</i> , but <i>When</i>	Ari Lieberman	Page 6
Where is Israel?	Shoshana Bryen	Page 9
Barcelona Attack Was Preventable	Soeren Kern	Page 10
The Censored Film They Do Not Want You to See	Stefan Frank	Page 13
The Foreign Press Association’s Unlimited Bias	Bassam Tawil	Page 16
Once Again!	Ruth King	Page 18

Turkish Alarm Bells Over Jerusalem

William Mehlman

“Democracy is like a train,” Turkey’s idiosyncratic president cum dictator Recep Tyipp Erdogan is noted for having said, “you get off once you have reached your destination.” Precisely how Mr. Erdogan defines that destination remains something of a mystery.

For certain it does not include the reconstruction of the intimate decades-long security relationship Turkey shared with Israel prior to the May 2010 Israeli interdiction of a *Marvi Marmara*-led flotilla out of Istanbul intent on challenging the Jewish state’s embargo on the shipment of military and other strategic materiel to a belligerent Hamas-ruled Gaza. “That relationship is finished, history,” Yesh Atid party chairman MK Yair Lapid asserted in a recent Tel Aviv interview. “It isn’t going to be restored.” Testimony to this fact could not have been more provocatively offered than Erdogan’s incendiary supporting role in the recent Palestinian riots sparked by the emplacement and subsequent humiliating removal of metal detectors at the main Muslim entrance to the Temple Mount following the murder there of two Israeli policemen by Israeli Arabs. “Israeli soldiers were defiling the soil of the al-Aqsa Mosque and damaging its Islamic character with their combat boots,” he declared in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, “using simple issues as an excuse for the spilling of blood there. The reason they are doing that so easily is because we are not doing enough to underscore our claim to Jerusalem.”

Erdogan’s further charge that Israel was using “excessive force” in dealing with the rioters touched off an Ankara-Jerusalem shouting match, with Prime Minister Netanyahu calling Erdogan a “hypocrite” and publicly wondering what the Turkish president might have to say about his nation’s 33-year occupation of northern Cyprus, suppression of Turkey’s 15 million ethnic Kurds and bitter opposition to the Kurdish people’s century-long quest for an independent state in the Middle East.



Two years after a “Reconciliation Agreement” highlighted by a self-deprecating Obama-pressured Netanyahu “apology” to the Turkish autocrat and the payment of \$20 million in compensation to the families of the nine club and knife-wielding thugs who died trying to block a takeover of the rogue *Marvi Marmara* in Israeli territorial waters, Israeli-Turkish relations have never returned to normal. Teetering on the edge of the trash basket is the once robust vision of a multi-billion dollar deal for both countries pivoted on the creation of an “EastMed” natural gas pipeline running from the wells at Israel’s coastal waters through Turkey to Europe’s

Mediterranean markets. “Turkey will not be considered a reliable partner by Israel,” analyst George Tzogopoulos told *Mosaic Magazine* “as long as Recep Tayyip Erdogan dominates the political sphere.”

“The time has come to stop ingratiating ourselves with the Turks, who always come back and kick us harder,” Lapid submits. “We need to do all the things we didn’t when we had good relations with Turkey.” High on the list of things to which Israel will no longer be turning a blind eye is Ankara’s continued support of the recruitment of Palestinian students for terrorist activities, military training and economic aid to a Hamas regime in Gaza pledged to its annihilation. The 2015 Reconciliation Agreement was inter alia predicated on the termination of this alliance. It remains alive and well as Israeli legal NGO *Shurat HaDin* predicted in pleading with Netanyahu not to sign. Israel was tossed a bone with the forced exit from Ankara of Salam al-Aroun, Hamas’ coordinator of operations, but his successors have lost no time picking up the ball. One of them, Muhammed Murtara, director of a Turkish “humanitarian aid organization” based in Gaza was arrested by the Shin Bet for masterminding the transfer of millions

of dollars donated by Ankara for the enhancement of Hamas' "tunnel building enterprise in the Gaza Strip," as reported by Yoav Zitun of *YNetNews*.

Meanwhile, on a trajectory of stunning self-interest seemingly independent of the toxic political atmosphere, Mr. Erdogan has launched a reinforced effort to continue doing business with the Jewish state he abhors. There is no substitute on the horizon for the revenues EastMed would pump into his faltering economy and he doesn't want to stop there. Less than a month prior to declaring that "each day Jerusalem is under occupation is an insult to us," a delegation of members of the Turkish Export Assembly under its chairman Mehmet Buyukeski was sitting in Tel Aviv with representatives of Israel's Federation of Chambers of Commerce mapping a course for increasing Israeli-Turkish trade to \$10 billion from its current \$4 billion over the next five years. Buoyed by first quarter 2017 increases of 20 percent in Turkish exports to Israel and 45 percent in Israeli exports to Turkey, Mr. Buyukeski was looking beyond goods exchanges to Israeli-Turkish joint ventures in third party countries. "We have a huge potential together," he said, "internationally optimized by means of business."

Is Mr. Buyukeski's boss in Ankara cool with all this? Or does the boss think he can have it both ways? One need look no further than Jerusalem to see real-time evidence of Mr. Erdogan's bold attempt to turn that trick. "Alarm bells should be ringing about the nefarious, intensifying involvement of Erdogan's Turkey in Jerusalem's political and social affairs," warns David M. Weinberg, Director of Public Affairs at Bar Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. Weinberg makes pointed reference to a "rare, breathtaking and shocking description of political trends in east Jerusalem" as set forth in the new Hebrew intellectual journal *Hashiloach* by David Koren and Ben Avrahami, advisors on eastern Jerusalem affairs for the Jerusalem Municipality. He urges particular attention to the mounting Jerusalem involvement of Erdogan's Turkey into the vacuum created by the "erosion in the status of the veteran east Jerusalem mukhtars and the [waning] influence of the Palestinian Authority's Fatah political infrastructures and leaders." Turkey, being the chief patron of both, Koren and Avrahami assert, currently enjoys "unprecedented popularity among the Arab residents of east Jerusalem."

The evidence is inescapable. Turkish national flags are flying all over the Old City. Turkish food, Turkish sweets, Turkish culture have become the flavors of the day. The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has invested millions in 63 projects in eastern Jerusalem, most notably the Ottoman Muslim archives on the Temple Mount, the installation of a large water tanker at the site for worshipers, the restoration of Shashelet Street in the Old City's Muslim quarter and the renovation of the Muslim cemetery at the foot of the Mount. TIKA, not coincidentally, also finances the buses that transport the young male and female "morabitun" and "morabitat" Islamic "study groups" to the Temple Mount, where they have become notorious for their harassment of Jewish visitors to the site. Istanbul-based "Our Heritage Foundation," another activist group, has poured \$40 million dollars, primarily into the Old City, over a recent period.

It's rather ironical, as Professor Eyal Zisser, Vice Rector of Tel Aviv University and holder of the Yona and Dina Ettinger Chair in the Contemporary History of the Middle East, observes in *Israel Hayom*, that "the flames on and around the Temple Mount," flames meant to panic Israel into abandoning its security measures, "were fueled by external forces, neither Palestinian nor Arab." Those "external forces" were unquestionably Turkish, with an important assist from Iran. Israel's stand-down on the metal detectors and the cameras gave them a partial victory.

But the biggest loser in this contest was Jordan. Its status since 1967 as Guardian of the Holy Places and Protector of the Arabs of Jerusalem was damaged, possibly beyond repair. In other words, as Michael Rubin, writing in *Mosaic* views it, Erdogan seeking "a collective Islamic administration under Turkey's tutelage [is implying] that Jordan's control has run its course. This has as much to do with Erdogan seeking to restore Turkey's neo-Ottoman claims over Jerusalem a century after the Ottoman Empire lost the city as it does with sincere concern about the Temple Mount itself." If the West truly wishes "to see calm restored to Jerusalem," he further submits, "it is essential that they treat the cause

and not simply the symptoms. The problem at the Temple Mount has nothing to do with metal detectors and little to do with Israel. Rather it is a struggle for custodianship in the Islamic world.”

Rubin believes it’s “essential that Jordan wins.” We would suggest that train has left the station. The only “custodianship” of Jerusalem and its Holy Places that ever had any moral or historical validity is Israel’s, the nation that imprinted holiness upon its being 3,000 years ago. It is time for Israel to reassert its rightful authority over the preservation of that legacy.

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From the Editor

Jewish Eyes Wide Shut

American Jews have gone ballistic over President Trump’s awkward effort to blame both sides equally for Charlottesville. It was a self-inflicted wound. All he needed to have done was include on Sunday what he said on Monday, when he specified the neo-Nazis and assorted white supremacists as “repugnant to everything we hold dear.” The emphasis should clearly have been on excoriating the neo-Nazis; it was one of their number who mowed down demonstrators, killing 32 year old Heather Heyer. Trump could then have added that there were counter-protesters who behaved badly. This, admittedly, would likely have set off paroxysms of rage in mainstream media outlets who viewed the scene as clear black and white, but the opportunities for assaulting Trump would have been limited. In *National Review* John Fund points out that antifa (short for Anti-Fascist Action) counter-protesters showed up armed with pepper spray, bricks and clubs. The *New York Daily News* reported how antifa demonstrators roughed up reporters. A videographer for a Richmond TV station suffered a concussion from blows to his head. Even Sheryl Stolberg of the *New York Times* had tweeted from the scene that the hard left seemed as hate-filled as the alt-right, saying she saw club-wielding “antifas” beating white nationalists.

But clumsy as Trump may be, he is no neo-Nazi and the Jewish reaction is over the top. If Trump suffers from not knowing where to strike a balance, it is nothing compared to the failures of the Jewish community in this regard. There was no comparable expression of outrage sweeping American Jewry when Obama rammed through his Iran nuclear deal, although Netanyahu cashed in his political chips to go directly to Congress to warn of the existential danger it posed to the Jewish state.

If the Jewish community would only open its firmly sealed eyes, it would recognize that anti-Semites on the left are a far greater threat to Jews than the small fringe group of neo-Nazis that marched in Charlottesville. It is the leftist anti-Semites, as former World Jewish Congress leader Isi Leibler rightly observes, who “promote the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement and have transformed campuses into anti-Israel and anti-Semitic platforms.” Antifa—which also is behind the violent protests against conservative speakers on U.S. campuses—is part of a coalition of far-left hate-Israel groups that includes Black Lives Matter, which in its mission statement declares Israel an “apartheid” state carrying out “genocide.”

Antifa is almost certain to take an increasingly prominent role in anti-Israel actions on campus, now that two of its activists have launched a campus Antifa group for faculty, the Campus Antifascist Network (CAN). Its founders Bill Mullen of Purdue and David Palumbo-Liu of Stanford are leading figures in the BDS campaign. In an article on the new group, Rachel Frommer in *Washington Free Beacon* reports that Mullen, in 2014, issued a call to “de-Zionize our campuses.” Don’t bet that CAN makes a distinction between “Jews” and “Zionists.”

And don't bet that most Jews (including their lamentable organizations like the Anti-Defamation League) give up their default position of "no enemies on the left." When forced to confront the reality of such enemies they dismiss them as a "fringe" even when, like Keith Ellison, they are pillars of the Democratic Party. (Typically, the ADL refused to break with the Black Lives Matter movement on the grounds, Leibler reports, that the anti-Israel clauses were inserted by "a small minority.") And that is ultimately the key blindness of the Jews. The neo-Nazis are a true fringe of the Republican Party while the anti-Israel left is increasingly the controlling core of the Democratic Party. Nothing better illustrates this than the recent decision of two Presidential hopefuls, Kristin Gillibrand and Corey Booker, to move away from their traditional pro-Israel stands. Booker, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, voted against the Taylor Force Act, which would make future aid to the PA contingent on their ceasing to reward terrorists and their families (this year \$345 million--one half of aid to the PA from the U.S. and Europe--has been devoted to this), while Gillibrand has announced her opposition to the Israel Anti-Boycott Act.

Reducing Government Waste

One obvious and easy way to cut down on wasteful government spending would be to keep Kushner, Greenblatt and Powell (and their expensive entourage) at home. But no, they took off on a safari through the Middle East, seeking to give a "regional" push to the Trump administration's new go at peace between Israel and Palestinian Arabs. Abbas has zero interest in peace with Israel. His idea of peace is to be left in peace to distribute U.S. aid to PA terrorists and their families. There's only one way this silly charade can end—badly.

Editing Out the Temple Mount

To control words is to control thoughts, something no one demonstrated more brilliantly than Orwell in 1984. By persistently calling Judea and Samaria the West Bank for decades after it ceased to be Jordan's West Bank, the media enforced Jordan's claim. What makes this especially ironic is that Jordan's title to the land, which it annexed in 1950, was recognized only by England and Pakistan. In



any case the territory was Jordan's West Bank for a mere 17 years. It was only after Israel conquered Judea and Samaria (as it has been known throughout history) that suddenly the entire international community endorsed Jordan's title. Even after 1988, when Jordan formally relinquished its claims in favor of the PLO, for the world it remained the West Bank.

Enter "the Noble Sanctuary." As Susan D. Harris points out in *The American Thinker* the media is stealthily eradicating the term "Temple Mount" to make us "think of it primarily as a sacred Islamic Jerusalem shrine that the Jews falsely lay claim to." From the *Drudge Report* to the *Guardian* to *CNN* to *Reuters* to *Fox News* there is a pattern of framing the Temple Mount as first a Muslim site and secondarily a Jewish site. For example, in describing an attack on Jews, CNN says it occurred "next to what Muslims call the Noble Sanctuary and Jews the Temple Mount." As Harris writes: "While the United Nations has been pushing the narrative that the Jerusalem holy site is 'Muslim, not Jewish' for years, it should be troubling to those who support Jewish claims to the site that even the most conservative Western media are now falling in lockstep with UN talking points."

There is no historical basis for this. Harris reports a search on an American/Canadian newspaper archive holding nearly 40 million newspapers dating back to the 1880s returned 1,933 “Temple Mount” results and only 86 “Noble Sanctuary results”—almost all of them post 2000. But don’t be surprised, under Muslim-propelled media Newspeak, if a post-2017 archive shows Israel’s title to its holiest site buried by “the Noble Sanctuary.” To end, as we began, with Orwell “The very concept of objective truth is fading out of the world. Lies will pass into history.”

Solar Panel Waste

Our environmentalist Chicken Littles wax ever more urgent in their cries that the sky is falling. Even Al Gore would find it hard to beat *New York Magazine’s* July cover story “The Doomed Earth Catalog” in the hysteria competition. Its first sentence sets the tone: “It is, I promise, worse than you think.” According to the author people have been so obsessed by the terrors of “swelling seas—and the cities they will drown” that they have ignored the still greater looming dangers—“plague, famine, heat no human can survive.” In the lifetime of their children, the author declares, “parts of the Earth will likely become close to uninhabitable, and other parts horrifically inhospitable.”

Nowhere in the litany of the global warming doomsayers is a genuine threat cited: the problem of disposing of waste from the solar panels that are supposed to rescue us from a fossil fuel Armageddon. The Institute for Energy Research points out that disposing of solar panels—they have a life of only 20-30 years—will soon become a major issue. They contain sulfuric acid and phosphine gas, which make them difficult to recycle, as well as toxic metals like lead, chromium and cadmium. They create about 300 times more toxic waste per unit of electricity generated than nuclear power plants. China operates roughly twice as many solar panels as the United States and is on the way to producing 20 million metric tons of solar panel waste, or 2,000 times the weight of the Eiffel Tower, by 2050. And—this is worthy of Ripley’s Believe It or Not—except for Europe, which puts the onus on solar panel manufacturers, no country has any plans or requirements for collecting or disposing of solar waste. That includes that world leader in environmental virtue, California.

The global warming apocalypse will eventually go the way of all the earlier apocalyptic millennial movements going back to ancient Egypt that are chronicled by Richard Landes in *Heaven on Earth*. Unfortunately, the damage that they do lives after them.

The Third Lebanon War: Not A Matter Of ‘If,’ But ‘When’

Ari Lieberman

In the weeks preceding the Six-Day War, Israel was faced with ever increasing existential challenges which warranted resolute action. Israel’s generals correctly argued to the political echelon that with each passing day, Israel’s strategic position became more compromised. The situation was particularly acute on Israel’s southern border with Egypt where the Egyptian army deployed seven divisions including three armored divisions. Official Arab government pronouncements, with ever increasing shrill and belligerence, made clear that the intention was to wipe Israel off the map.

On June 5th 1967, Israel launched a preemptive strike aimed at destroying the Arab armies before they could launch their own attack (some historians have argued that the Arabs fired the first salvo by closing the Tiran Straits). Codenamed Operation Focus, the Israeli Air Force implemented its well-rehearsed plan of action and struck first, catching most of the Arab air forces on the ground and destroying the bulk of them. Contemporaneous with the air assault, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) sprang into action, quickly routing the Arab armies in a matter of days.

It was a complete and decisive Israeli victory with few parallels in military history. Israel's success in the Six Day War was attributed to many factors but chief among them was the fact that Israel had robbed the enemy of the initiative. Had the Arabs attacked first, Israel would have still emerged triumphant but at a much higher cost in terms of men and material.

The doctrine of preemption is one that is ingrained in Israel's military thinking. Israel is a small country with little strategic depth and a vulnerable civilian population. Preemption, the concept of striking the enemy first when there is a clear, present and imminent danger coupled with intent to injure, is a strategically sound doctrine and this is especially true in Israel's case given its unique vulnerabilities, regional challenges and genocidal enemies.

In addition to exercising its right of military preemption, Israel has also acted in a preventative manner. Conceptually, this doctrine differs slightly from preemption as the threat while real, is not necessarily imminent. In 1981 and 2007, Israel destroyed the nuclear facilities of Iraq and Syria – both implacable foes – after intelligence confirmed that those facilities were capable of manufacturing atomic bombs. Israel has also struck Sudan and Syria dozens of times in efforts to thwart weapons transfers to Hamas and Hezbollah.

Hezbollah is currently mired in Syria's civil war with 1/3 of its forces actively engaged in Syria to prop up Assad. In light of this, most Israeli experts agree that the probability of war breaking out in the near future is low. The last thing Hezbollah needs now is a two-front war. Nevertheless, Hezbollah's *raison d'être* is to serve the Islamic Republic's interests and do battle with Israel. A showdown with the terror group is therefore inevitable. The only question is "when," not "if."



Hezbollah fighter with drone

Confluences of several factors make the probability of war more likely in the intermediate term. First, thanks to Iranian, Russian and Hezbollah assistance, Assad's grip on power is the strongest it's been since the beginning of the civil war while rebel groups opposing Assad are divided and often battle each other. This development will enable Hezbollah to shift its emphasis and resources toward Israel.

Second, though Hezbollah has suffered substantial casualties since it began its military entanglement in Syria – at least 2,000 of its members have been killed – the group has emerged militarily stronger. It has been lavishly equipped by Iran with modern weapons, including T-72 tanks, weaponized drones, Konkurs anti-tank missiles and Yakhont anti-ship cruise missiles, and thanks to the Russians, improved its electronic warfare and special operations capabilities.

Third, in 2006, Hezbollah was believed to have possessed 11,000 rockets and missiles of various calibers and guidance systems. Today, Hezbollah is believed to possess between 100,000 and 150,000 missiles and rockets. To place things in proper perspective, that figure is more than the combined arsenal of all NATO countries, with the exception of the United States. Moreover, with Iran's assistance, the terror group has managed to build subterranean factories buried 50 meters below ground. These factories are capable of producing everything from small arms to Fateh-110/M-600 surface-to-surface missiles, making Hezbollah partially self-sufficient in arms, a capability that it lacked in 2006. If Iranian claims are to be believed, the Fateh-110 has a range of 300km and carries a payload of 500kg. The missile is believed to possess an accuracy level of 100 m CEP, which means that there's a 50/50 chance that the missile will fall within 100 meters of its intended target. Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah has made clear on numerous occasions that his missiles would target a vulnerable ammonia plant in Haifa, Israel's nuclear research facility in Dimona and other critical civilian infrastructure in any war with Israel.

Fourth, in any future conflict with Israel, Hezbollah will be able to mobilize assistance from other Iranian proxies. Thanks to the Iran deal and concomitant cash infusion resulting therefrom, including \$1.7b in ransom payments from the Obama administration, the Islamic Republic has successfully raised additional proxy Shia armies whose members include Pakistani, Afghani, Yemeni, and Iraqi recruits. The largest of these militias is the Iraqi *Hashd al-Shaabi*, an 80,000 strong force that can easily be transported to Lebanon should Iran call upon them to fight.

Fifth, while Hezbollah never felt constrained by UNSC resolution 1701 – which prohibited the group from operating south of the Litani River and called for its disarmament – it exercised some measure of discretion when operating near the Israeli border, alternatively known as the Blue Line. Today, that is no longer the case. Hezbollah terrorists brazenly operate right up to the Blue Line, taking pictures and videotaping Israeli patrols, an ominous development mimicking the situation that existed before the 2006 Second Lebanon War. The IDF has videotaped Hezbollah terrorists erecting observation posts under the guise of a fake NGO called “Green Without Borders.” Repeated Israeli complaints to the United Nations regarding Hezbollah violations of UNSC resolution 1701 and its nefarious activities along the Blue Line have predictably fallen on deaf ears. What’s more, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a military force created by the UN tasked with enforcing UNSC resolution 1701, has become virtually useless and many Israelis actually view it as a hindrance.

Sixth, Hezbollah can no longer be viewed as merely a separate entity operating alongside the government of Lebanon. Hezbollah and by extension Iran, exercises near full control over Lebanese affairs and has fully absorbed Lebanese state institutions. The Lebanese army (LAF) has openly cooperated with Hezbollah in the latter’s efforts to suppress anti-regime forces in Syria and Lebanon’s president, Michel Aoun, who is almost certainly on Iran’s or Hezbollah’s payroll, has expressed open support for the terror group. As such, the LAF has been reduced to a mere auxiliary unit for Hezbollah.

Lastly, Hezbollah has transformed south Lebanon into one large armament storage facility without regard to civilian infrastructure and population centers. Hezbollah is utilizing civilian housing to store its wares often providing homeowners with pecuniary inducements in exchange for storage space. This practice of shielding is a clear violation of the laws of war.

Armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah is inevitable and can unfold in one of two ways. Hezbollah receives its marching orders from the mullahs of the Islamic Republic. If Iran orders its proxy to attack, it will dutifully obey. Iran would almost certainly employ the Hezbollah card if it is attacked by the United States or Israel.

A war could also begin if Hezbollah miscalculates by provoking Israel with a localized attack along the border. This was the case on July 12, 2006 when a Hezbollah border provocation resulted in full scale conflagration.

In either case, Israel must not allow the initiative to rest with the enemy. As such, it must act preemptively or preventively to rob the enemy of this vital strategic asset. Hezbollah and Iran must not be allowed to dictate the war’s timing and location.

During the Second Lebanon War, Israel responded in reflexive fashion but did so in a haphazard and staggered manner. It first employed its air force but after a few days, the air force began running out of targets. Only in the final days of the 34-day battle did Israel commit itself to a more robust ground assault but by that time, the framework for a ceasefire initiative had already been agreed upon.

Many Israelis bitterly viewed the Second Lebanon War as a wasted opportunity. Though Israel inflicted severe devastation on the enemy, established deterrence and obtained real strategic benefits, it failed to inflict a knockout blow against Hezbollah despite being given one month’s time to do so.

In the next war, Israel will likely broaden the theater of operations to include Syria where Hezbollah maintains a significant presence. It will also likely commit itself to boots on the ground in a more expeditious fashion so as to deny the enemy a platform from which it can fire its rockets. More importantly, Israel will commit itself to total war from the outset in shock & awe-like fashion with the

aim of breaking Hezbollah's back. This is a realistic goal that would have wide regional backing, particularly from Sunni states like Saudi Arabia, which views Hezbollah as a malign influence. Israel would also receive considerable political support from the Trump administration, which is far more sympathetic to Israel than the previous administration.

The next Lebanon War will be brutal and devastating but will be fought with the achievable aim of breaking Hezbollah's back and degrading its military capabilities to the point where Lebanon can once again reassert its sovereignty. Hezbollah may have dodged a bullet in 2006 but in the next war, it will not be so lucky.

Ari Lieberman is an attorney and former prosecutor who has written extensively on Middle East geopolitical issues. This appeared on frontpagemag.com on August 3rd.

Where is Israel? Shoshana Bryen

As the president sends his envoys back to Israel and the Palestinian territories, the usual flood of voices has offered advice – do this, do that, say this, say that. Whatever.

Let's try something different.

When people talk about the "two-state solution," their parameters are generally clear – the West Bank and Gaza more or less, give or take, some land swaps, and some arrangement for Eastern Jerusalem. The fact that the Palestinian Authority doesn't control the Gaza Strip appears not to faze the two-staters at all. So, for now, let's go with that. Rather than asking the Palestinians if they are willing to constrict their aspirations to land others have decided might make a good Palestinian State, why not ask the Palestinians where the State of Israel will be when the negotiation is concluded and a Palestinian state emerges?

- Will East Jerusalem be in Israel?
- Will Hebron be in Israel?
- Will Jacob's Tomb or Rachel's Tomb be in Israel?
- Will West Jerusalem be in Israel?
- Will the Galilee or Jaffa be in Israel?
- Will Tel Aviv be in Israel?

Without some understanding of where the Palestinians see Israel, how can anyone hope to understand where the Palestinians see Palestine? Are they looking at acreage or principle?

Yes, it is a trick question. To date, neither Yasser Arafat at or after Oslo nor Mahmoud Abbas of the P.A. has provided a realistic assessment of land to which Israel is entitled for the purpose of exercising Jewish sovereignty – nor can either be expected to. Folded into the question of acreage is the principle of the so-called "right of return," Palestinian insistence that the original refugees of 1948-49 and their descendants should have the right to go to those places in pre-1967 Israel from which they claim to have been displaced.

Although President Clinton at Camp David in 2000 and American presidents following him have talked about the Palestinian refugees, it has been in the nature of compensation, not what they claim as their homes. Pretending Arafat's and Abbas's promises to their people don't matter, or pretending for them that they will take "compensation" instead, is insulting. Who is President Clinton to give up their rights? Who are those Americans who didn't live and die in refugee camps waiting for promises to be fulfilled to say, "Never mind. Israel gets what you claim, and you get something else, or 'compensation'"?

Beating that horse again is...well, beating a dead horse.

Its not that the Palestinians aren't clear. For years, textbooks in Palestinian schools use the map of Palestine "From the River to the Sea" to teach their children that they have a claim to all of it. President Trump's envoys should ask for copies of the books – UNRWA sponsors some, the E.U. sponsors some, so it shouldn't be difficult to find them.

But so what if they make maximalist claims? It's their claim, right? Their "narrative," as they say. Why should the Palestinian Authority offer anything to Israel?

Because Israel has a claim as well, enshrined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. Following the unwillingness of the Arab states to accept any boundaries at all for the Jewish State established in 1948, and following the Arab states' determination to erase Israel in 1948 and 1967, the Security Council voted that Israel was entitled to:

"... [t]ermination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force."

Where the boundaries are is less important than that they are "secure and recognized" and accompanied by the "termination of all claims or states of belligerency." Israel has already made it clear that it is willing to withdraw from territory occupied in 1967 – Sinai constituted 92% of the total.

As heir to the West Bank following its illegal annexation and occupation by Jordan until 1967, the Palestinian Authority is heir to the debt incurred by the Arab states.

The Trump envoys would do well to probe the Palestinians on the question of their aspirations, and also on the question of their understanding of what land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea is available to Israel for Jewish sovereignty. Is it based on acreage or on principle? The answer may dismay them, but it will be the beginning of wisdom.

Shoshana Bryen was director of JINSA from 1981 to 1991 and is currently director at The Jewish Policy Center. This appeared in americanthinker.com on August 15th.

Barcelona Attack Was Preventable

Soeren Kern

As details emerge of the August 17 jihadist attack in Barcelona, the evidence points to one overarching conclusion: the carnage could have been prevented if a series of red flags had not been either missed or ignored.

The failure to heed intelligence warnings, enhance physical security and report suspicious activity are all factors that facilitated the attack, which had been in the planning stage for more than six months.

The attack was also enabled by the idiosyncrasies of Spanish politics, especially the tensions that exist between the central government and the leaders of the independence movement in Catalonia, the autonomous region of which Barcelona is the capital.

The Barcelona attack could have been prevented had municipal officials complied with an order to install bollards, vertical poles designed to prevent car ramming attacks, on the Rambla, the city's main tourist thoroughfare.

On December 20, 2016, one day after a Tunisian jihadist drove a truck into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people and injuring 56, Spanish National Police issued a circular ordering all central, regional and municipal police departments in Spain to "implement physical security measures to protect public spaces" to prevent jihadist attacks "in places with high numbers of people." The circular advised:

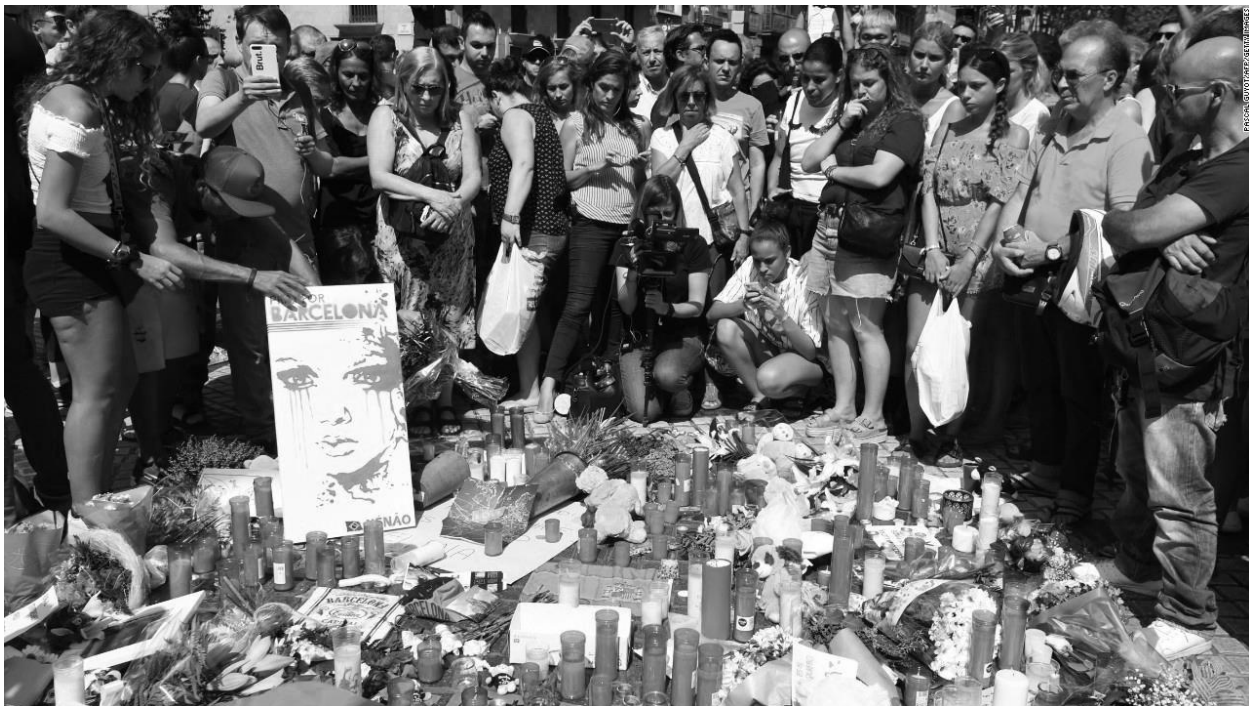
“Municipalities should protect these public spaces by temporarily installing large planters or bollards at access points to hinder or prevent the entry of vehicles.”

The measures were never implemented in Barcelona because the leaders of the Catalan independence movement did not want to be seen as taking orders from the central government in Madrid.

After receiving the directive, Catalan autonomous police, known as the Mossos d’Esquadra, accused the central government of “alarmism” and insisted that it would not order municipalities in Catalonia to implement this “indiscriminate measure.” The Mossos also claimed to have the jihadist threat under control, that local police were trained to “detect symptoms or radicalization,” and that there were “no concrete threats.”

After the Barcelona attack, Deputy Mayor Gerardo Pisarello blamed the absence of bollards on the Catalan Interior Ministry. “The City of Barcelona has never refused to install bollards. Whenever it has been requested, we have done so,” Pisarello said. Ada Colau, Barcelona’s leftwing mayor, however, has repeatedly refused to “fill Barcelona with barriers,” insisting that it must remain “a city of liberty.”

On August 19, hours after the jihadist attack in Barcelona, Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido repeated that it would be “appropriate” for all municipalities to comply with the December circular. His ministry issued a new letter calling on municipalities to install safety measures in the neuralgic points of cities. It remains to be seen if Catalan officials will now implement the recommendations.



In June, the CIA reportedly warned Catalan police that Barcelona was being targeted by jihadists: “Two months ago the Central Intelligence Agency warned Catalan police of a threat to Las Ramblas,” according to *El Periódico*.

Additionally, on June 30, two weeks before the Barcelona attack, a Twitter account associated with the Islamic State warned of an impending attack against al-Ándalus, the Arabic name given to those parts of Spain, Portugal and France occupied by Muslim conquerors from 711 to 1492. Many jihadists believe that territories Muslims lost during the Christian Reconquest of Spain still belong to the realm of Islam and that Islamic law gives them the right to re-establish Muslim rule there.

It remains unclear why Catalan authorities failed to increase security in light of the warnings and threats. *El Periódico* wrote:

“In recent years Barcelona has become a city known all over the planet. Both because of its attraction as a tourist destination and because of the media impact of the Barça football club, the Catalan capital is a world icon. In the eyes of the jihadists, that makes it a priority objective, as they seek to attack sites that generate a great impact at the international level.

However, neither the authorities nor the citizens seems to have realized that their city is on the same list of targets as other major cities such as New York, Paris, London or Madrid.”

The jihadists prepared for the Barcelona attack at a chalet in the beachfront town of Alcanar, situated 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of Barcelona. A year ago, the terror cell “occupied” the property, which was foreclosed and had been vacant. Squatters are protected by Spanish law, so it is common for youth in Catalonia to take over vacant properties. This may explain why neighbors did not contact the police.

Far more difficult to explain is why no one reported suspicious activity at the chalet. During the course of several months, the jihadists collected more than 100 large gas canisters, which investigators believe were to be used as car bombs. An explosion on August 16, the night before the Barcelona attack, leveled the property. Investigators later found traces of the explosive triacetone triperoxide (TATP), also known as the “Mother of Satan,” a substance widely used by members of the Islamic State in Europe.

Police found the remains of at least two people in the rubble of the Alcanar chalet. The head of the Mossos d’Esquadra, Josep Lluís Traperó, confirmed that one of the bodies was that of Abdelbaki Es-Satti, a Muslim cleric who is suspected of organizing the terror cell and radicalizing its members.

Es-Satti, a Moroccan national who lived in the Catalan town of Ripoll, served in a local mosque. He was a convicted drug trafficker who had spent four years at a prison in Valencia, where he is believed to have met Rachid Aglif, known as “The Rabbit,” one of the main plotters of the 2004 Madrid bomb attacks that killed 192 people and wounded 2,000. Police are now looking into whether Es-Satti was involved in the ISIS attacks on the Brussels airport and metro in 2016.

Ali Yassine, the director of the mosque in Ripoll, said that he had reported Es-Satti to local police more than a year ago as part of a security protocol to monitor Muslim preachers. Authorities did not place him on a watch list, however, even though he had been convicted of trafficking drugs and violating Spanish immigration laws.

Catalonia not only has the highest Muslim population in Spain, it is also one of the most Islamized regions of the country. Catalonia has 7.5 million inhabitants, including an estimated 510,000 Muslims, who account for around 7% of the total Catalan population. In some Catalan towns, however, the Muslim population is above 40% of the overall population.

In his book *Jihadism: The Radical Islamic Threat to Catalonia*, Catalan terrorism analyst Jofre Montoto estimates that at least 10% of the Muslims in Catalonia are “radicals” who are hardcore believers in the “doctrine of jihadism.”

A five-page diplomatic cable, dated October 2, 2007, described the link between mass immigration to Catalonia and the rise of radical Islam in the region:

“Heavy immigration—both legal and illegal—from North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria) and Southeast Asia (Pakistan and Bangladesh) has made Catalonia a magnet for terrorist recruiters.... The Spanish National Police estimates that there may be upwards of 60,000 Pakistanis living in Barcelona and the surrounding area; the vast majority are male, unmarried or unaccompanied, and without legal documentation. There are even more such immigrants from North Africa....They live on the edges of Spanish society, they do not speak the language, they are often unemployed, and they have very few places to practice their religion with dignity....Individually, these circumstances would provide fertile ground for terrorist recruitment; taken together, the threat is clear....”

Many of Catalonia's problems with radical Islam are self-inflicted. In an effort to promote Catalan nationalism and the Catalan language, Catalonian pro-independence parties have deliberately promoted immigration from Arabic-speaking Muslim countries for more than three decades, in the belief that these immigrants (unlike those from Latin America) would learn the Catalan language rather than speak Spanish.

Although some Catalans are having second thoughts about the wisdom of promoting Muslim mass immigration as a strategy to achieve Catalan independence, at least 10,000 Catalans with links to the separatist movement have actually converted to Islam in recent years.

It is believed that two out of every ten Catalan radicals who belong to the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC), a far-left political party, are converts to Islam. The ERC, which now governs Catalonia, has vehemently refused to sign a cooperation agreement with the central government in Madrid to fight jihadist terrorism.

Soeren Kern is a Senior Fellow at the New York-based Gatestone Institute. This appeared on gatestoneinstitute.org on August 22.

Europe: The Censored Film They Do Not Want You to See

Stefan Frank

A Franco-German film that no one in Europe is allowed, by law, to see has become the source of a major scandal, and its creators the targets of unprecedented smear and hate campaigns from Germany's public broadcasters.

At the center of the scandal are two of Europe's biggest media companies, the Westdeutsche Rundfunk (WDR)—with 4,500 employees and an annual budget of 1.4 billion euros—and the Franco-German culture channel, ARTE.

The television documentary, "Chosen and Excluded – the Hate for Jews in Europe", [was] shown in the United States for one night only, on August 9. The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles announced that it would screen the film after the German and French networks tried "to bury the documentary, before it could contaminate the viewing public with the truth," according to the Center's Associate Dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, in an interview with Gatestone Institute. "It is a film that needs to be viewed by anyone concerned about anti-Semitism and anyone concerned about the democratic future of Europe. It is a truth-telling, and 'PC'-busting documentary", he said.

The truth is that in today's Europe, it is becoming more and more difficult to tell the truth.

ARTE had commissioned the film with the support of the WDR, but is now seeking to hide it. The film is not about anti-Semitism among neo-Nazis, but about its acceptance by the mainstream mass media, politicians, left wingers, Muslim "Palestine" activists, rappers and church organizations. Initially, it was said that the film was "a provocation", that it "fans the flames", and that "because of the terror situation in France, it cannot be broadcast."

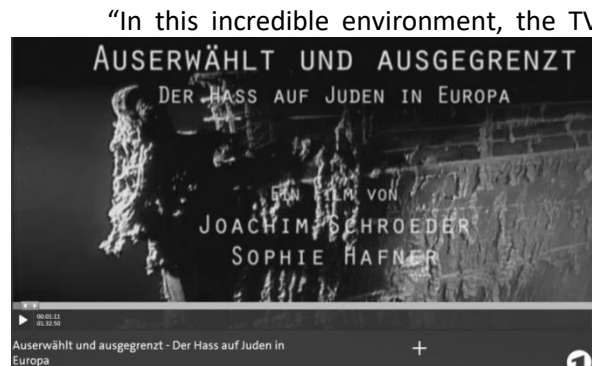
Later, "technical journalistic shortcomings" were cited as the reason why the film could not be released from the hazardous materials closet.

ARTE, as part of its programming, broadcasts films such as "The Little Stone Thrower of Silwan"—a report sympathizing with sweet Arab children in Jerusalem who just want to make their neighborhood "Jew-free".

Would the station ever show a serious film about anti-Semitism?, Gatestone asked the journalist Jean Patrick Grumberg, editor of the French language news site *Dreuz*. Grumberg replied:

“France is a country in which Communist mayors celebrate Palestinian murderers of Jews as honorary citizens. If the directors of ARTE France had even been suspected of harboring pro-Israel or conservative sentiments, they would never have been hired. Being radical, though, is welcomed.”

According to Grumberg, journalists in France are “almost unanimously anti-Israel.” Anyone who is pro-Israel must conceal it, or deal with the threat of repercussions.



“In this incredible environment, the TV channels France Television and ARTE are the worst among the Islamo-liberals. Initially, the French program management team refused even to countenance the production of a documentary about anti-Semitism in Europe because they were well aware that Muslim antisemitism would come up—a subject that is taboo in France, especially among those on the Left and in the media.

“You have to bear in mind that France is the Western country with the highest number of Jews murdered in the 21st century. Fourteen people were killed because they were Jews. All of them were killed by Muslims, not by right-wing extremists. ARTE would never want its viewers to find that out.”

In France, the pressure was too strong to resist. ARTE Germany, however, was prepared to implement the project. But, says Grumberg, ARTE then learned that the filmmakers, Joachim Schroeder and Sophie Hafner, “had taken this farther than merely condemning the hatred of Jews among European Muslims.”

“The filmmakers had conducted research on the anti-Israel agitation by NGOs financed by the European Union, and exposed the fictitious media narrative by investigating whether there were any grounds for the allegations against Israel in the West Bank and Gaza. There were none. They exposed the lies and thereby ARTE’s false narrative.”

As soon as the two broadcasters became aware of the film’s contents, they severed all contact with the filmmakers. Since then, they have been publicly maligning the work. The WDR editor who would have accepted the film was pushed into “early retirement”; that is, she was fired. It was only in the face of great opposition that the film was publicly screened twice—and then only after enormous pressure. Historians and journalists who saw the film published newspaper articles calling for its release. The Central Council of Jews in Germany also backed that call. The premiere of the film, however, on June 13, was actually illegal. Germany’s largest and most popular tabloid, BILD, streamed the original version on its website for 24 hours, without the permission of WDR. Subsequently, the debate on censorship became so heated that the WDR felt it had to broadcast the film.

The way WDR broadcast it, however, was unique: at the beginning of the film and in brief intervals throughout, warning signs were inserted again and again, indirectly urging viewers not to believe what they saw in the film. They were to read the “ostensibly necessary additions and explanations” on the WDR website—a “fact check” consisting of 30 texts. In one example, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas claimed, falsely, in a speech to the European Parliament:

“It was just a week ago that Israeli rabbis issued a clear statement: They demanded that their government poison the water in order to kill Palestinians.”

From this, according to WDR, one should not “deduce the assertion” that “Abbas’s speech was part of a tradition that since the Middle Ages has alleged that Jews were poisoning the wells,” since: “after all, Abbas is not talking about ‘wells’ here.”

The film also accurately shows that several church organizations support trying to destroy Israel through economic means, by boycotting people and products. The WDR claims that this assertion is wrong, and as evidence, cites statements put out by these organizations, rejecting any association with a

boycott movement. However, it is WDR's claim that is the lie. The organization NGO Monitor, which calls for transparency in the Israeli NGO sector, substantiated the lie in a comprehensive response to the "Fact Check": "The NGO farce is finally being unmasked," according to Olga Deutsch, director of the Europe desk at NGO Monitor in a telephone interview.

"Civil society is necessary and crucial, but the NGOs are granted such huge sums of money and so much power to work in one of the most fragile and conflict-ridden regions of the world, with absolutely no requirement for transparency and accountability. Among other things, the film also demonstrates this."

There had already been a similar debate in Germany in early 2015, when Tuvia Tenenbom's book, *Catch the Jew*, was published in German. In this report on his trip to Israel, the author also described the anti-Semitism of many European-funded NGOs in Israel, and exposes, for instance, the chief investigator of the organization B'Tselem, which is financed by the European Union, among others, as a holocaust-denier. In an interview with Gatestone, Tenenbom said:

"The European 'elites' are far more anti-Semitic than the average Muslim. What the Europeans are doing in Israel is nothing but the continuation of the Nazi theology of the past—using the NGOs to finish the job that their grandparents did not get to complete in World War II."

Towards the end of the film, several Jews are interviewed in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles. A boy of about 13 years old says: "I dream of making *aliyah* [moving to Israel] and fighting in the Israeli army." In an interview with Gatestone, one of the film's authors, Joachim Schroeder, recounts:

"We asked the boy if he had any experience with the invading mob of hooligans, and how he feels in everyday life here in Sarcelles. If I had to deal with this day in and day out, I would also say: I want to get out of here."

The original soundtrack from the film documents an attack in Sarcelles, complete with images of demolished cars and store windows, by "pro-Palestinian activists" in July 2014:

"Until the summer of 2014, Sarcelles was considered to be a model of functioning multiculturalism, Jews, Christians and Muslims living side by side and together in city districts with 60,000 inhabitants. Then came Sunday, July 20, 2014. 'Palestine: Come armed with mortars, fire extinguishers and clubs, come in large numbers, we're going to gang up on the Jewish district of Sarcelles,' is what it says in one of many exhortations. More than 3,000 demonstrators show up. Molotov cocktails fly against the synagogue. Policemen prevent the storming of the area. The crowd screams: 'Death to the Jews' and 'Hitler was right.' The violent mob plunders a pharmacy run by Jews and a kosher supermarket. Both are set on fire. The police talk about a 'Parisian Intifada.'"

For Jewish adolescents who had experienced "anti-Semitism from their very birth", it was a form of "redemption to go to Israel", says François Pupponi, the socialist mayor of Sarcelles in an interview in the film:

"French Jews feel that they have no future in France, that they have to leave their country to be able to live safely and in peace. But to tell them that they are wrong is also not the right thing to do. I tell them that they are right. But then I appeal to them to stay. Because if they leave, France is dead. Why? Because if a Jew cannot live by his faith here, then this secular republic, with our world-famous idea of religious freedom, no longer exists."

The scandal surrounding the film shows how things really are in terms of the culture and freedom of expression in Europe. "The WDR ranks among those whom we criticize in this film," says Schroeder. "Up to that point, one could only speculate about this [anti-Semitism], but the way they dealt with this broadcast made it very clear."

Anti-Semitism in Europe does not come from fringe groups. It is primarily left-wing liberals—"intellectuals"—who fuel the hatred. At the end of the film, retired Parisian police commissioner Sammy Ghozlan, a Jew who fled to France from Algeria, says:

“I am convinced that the Arabs in France would never have turned to violence against the Jews if they had not been convinced by others that it was their duty to demonstrate their solidarity with their coreligionists in Palestine. Otherwise, they would never have done that. They were persuaded that this was necessary. And since some of those who hold power, mayors or ministers, took the liberty of doing such a thing, for them, it justified the attacks so they supported them.”

“That is one of the key messages of our film,” Joachim Schroeder said to Gatestone. “Who was it that encouraged them to do this? It was not just their brothers and sisters; it was the French and German mainstream.”

Stefan Frank is a journalist and author based in Germany. This appeared on August 1st at gatestoneinstitute.org.

The Foreign Press Association’s Unlimited Bias

Bassam Tawil

The Foreign Press Association (FPA), an organization representing hundreds of foreign journalists who work for various media outlets in Israel, is upset. What seems to be the problem? In their view, recent Israeli security measures in Jerusalem are preventing reporters from doing their jobs. The FPA’s position, expressed in at least two statements, came in response to Israeli security measures enforced in the city after Muslim terrorists murdered two police officers at the Temple Mount on July 14.

The FPA, which has often served as a platform for airing anti-Israeli sentiments, went further by filing a petition to Israel’s High Court of Justice challenging the actions and behavior of the Israeli security forces toward journalists during Palestinian riots in protest against the installation of metal detectors and cameras at the entrances to the Temple Mount. The petition demanded that the Israeli security forces stop restricting journalists’ entry to the Temple Mount compound. It also complained of verbal and physical abuse against journalists by the police.

The FPA protest should come as no surprise to those familiar with the anti-Israel agenda of its leadership. This organization has a long record of black-and-white thinking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—and somehow, the Israelis always come out in the wrong.

While the FPA is teeming with self-proclaimed “open-minded” journalists, their minds seem closed to facts surrounding Palestinian violence. Funny how enlightened folks—generally ready to side with the underdog—become suspiciously overcome by intellectual darkness when the underdog might be an Israel trying to manage Palestinian terror in the most humane manner possible.

Surprise or no surprise, the latest FPA onslaught against Israel serves as a reminder that many of the foreign journalists have no shame in advancing an anti-Israel agenda.

The journalists so distraught over Israel’s recent security measures are the very ones who refuse to enter Syria out of fear of being beheaded by ISIS. These are the journalists who have stopped traveling to Iraq, fearing for their lives. Many of these journalists, particularly the women among them, will not report in Egypt, lest they be raped, let alone targeted by a terror group.

These journalists, when they travel to most Arab and Islamic countries, are assigned government “minders” who accompany them, openly and covertly, 24/7. They will wait in vain to receive a visa to enter Iran or Saudi Arabia—or be made to wait and beg for months before receiving it.

What does one do, then, when one’s journalistic options in the Middle East are constrained by a rather realistic fear for one’s life? One stays where one feels safe—in Israel.

It is no secret that Middle East correspondents prefer their residences and bureaus in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv than in Ramallah, Amman, Damascus, Baghdad, Tehran and Riyadh. In Israel, no matter what they write today, they will live to write again tomorrow.

Unlike with most of the Arab and Islamic countries, most journalists do not need advance permission to visit Israel. Any journalist—or, more accurately, anyone even claiming to be a journalist—can disembark at Ben Gurion Airport and start reporting.

How is this relevant?

The FPA's stance on the recent Israeli security measures in Jerusalem, which came in response to the murder of two police officers and violent Arab riots, reeks of hypocrisy and a severe misrepresentation of reality.

The first question that comes to mind in this regard: Would foreign journalists based in an Arab or Islamic country dare to go to the High Court of the land to challenge security measures and restrictions by the authorities there? The truth is that in most of those countries, there is no such thing as a "Foreign Press Association." That is because Arab and Islamic dictatorships do not allow such organizations to operate in their countries.

The second question that comes to mind in light of the FPA's opposition to Israel's security measures is: What exactly are the foreign journalists demanding from Israel? That Israeli authorities allow them to run around freely while Palestinian rioters are hurling stones and firebombs at police officers? Are the journalists saying that Israelis have no right to safeguard their own lives? Or that people should allow themselves to be injured by stones and firebombs? Some have indeed been injured during the Palestinian riots.

The third question that begs an answer is: How was it that during the recent riots, the number of journalists covering the events often surpassed the number of rioters? This was the case many times in the Old City of Jerusalem, particularly at the Lion's Gate, where you would find two journalists for each Palestinian rioter.

Where did all these foreign—and Palestinian—journalists come from? Someone must have given them access to the scenes of the clashes between the rioters and security forces. The "someone" is Israeli authorities, who saw no reason to stop the reporters from doing their jobs.

The hypocrisy of the journalists reaches new heights when they are injured as they are covering the riots. You cannot go to the swimming pool and later complain that you do not know how you got wet. A journalist who stands in the line of fire is knowingly putting his or her life at risk.

You cannot stand among the rioters and then complain that you got hit by a rubber bullet or tear gas canister fired by a policeman. What do you expect the policeman to do? Not to defend himself because there is a journalist in the crowd?

Outrageously, the FPA is nearly stone-deaf when it comes to wrongdoing by Palestinians. Where is the outcry of the organization when a Palestinian journalist is arrested or assaulted by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank or Hamas in the Gaza Strip? Where is the outcry over Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's recent decision to block more than 20 news websites?

But perhaps such fair-minded reporting would demand too much of the FPA's time: were it to follow assaults on public freedoms and the freedom of the media in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it would have to issue a statement of condemnation every two hours. Hardly a day passes without a Palestinian journalist or blogger or Facebook user being detained or beaten up for expressing his or her views.

The FPA and its members are well aware that Israel has been and remains a paradise for the foreign media in the Middle East. They also know that, unlike many of its Arab and Islamic neighbors, Israel does not have a policy of targeting journalists. If there were such a policy, most of the foreign journalists would not be in Israel in the first place.

Their rhetorical attacks on Israel are not only a sign of hypocrisy, but should also be seen as a policy of appeasement to Arabs and Muslims—a ticket that gives you access to the Arab and Islamic countries. The more you prove that you are against Israel, the better are your chances of getting a visa to enter Iran or Saudi Arabia.

It is time for the FPA to change its name to the FHA—the Foreign Hypocrites Association. At least in that one respect, then, it would be living up to its name.

Bassam Tawil is an Arab Muslim based in the Middle East. This appeared on August 4 at gatestoneinstitute.org.

Once Again! **Ruth King**

After the Holocaust, “Never Again” emerged as the rallying cry of international Jewry determined to prevent recurrence of the murderous anti-Semitism that had slaughtered one of every three Jews in the world. Israel became the incarnation of Jewish renewal and its existence a guarantee of “never again.”

For a few decades, European nations were shamed by their complicity in the roundup of Jews. But, as writer Conor Cruise O’Brien noted “anti-Semitism is a light sleeper” and what may have started as ignorant criticism of Israel has morphed into international hatred of Jews. By 2017 anti-Semitism and anti-Israel harassment had become a pandemic. Evil, when committed against Jews, especially in Israel, has become banal. Jewish settlers in their beds, babies in cribs, toddlers in diners, soldiers at bus stops, shoppers in a kosher deli in France, are deemed not quite as innocent as other victims of terror. As far back as 1980, when terrorists placed a bomb in the Rue Copernic synagogue in France that injured ten and killed four passersby, Raymond Barre, then Prime Minister of France, lamented “They aimed for Jews but they killed two *innocent* French citizens.”

Today in the most perverse irony Jews are compared to Nazis.

Where did those comparisons originate?

Why in Israel itself where the late unlamented Yeshayahu Leibowitz coined the term “Judeo-Nazis” to describe fellow Israelis. Who praised the scoundrel? The Israeli elite bestowed honors upon him, including the government's highest award, the Israel Prize. (When this caused a public furor, Leibowitz withdrew from taking the prize but never withdrew his slander of the Jewish state.) That didn't stop Israel's rag *Haaretz*, when a year later he slipped his mortal coil, lauding him for his “profound moral seriousness and the great relevance of his thought today.” Herzliya's Mayor eulogized him as “one of the greatest intellectuals of his generation” and named a street after him. Even in Jerusalem a street now bears his name.

Who is mining the bedrock of anti-Semitism in the West? Those unspeakable Jews who undermine, libel, defame Israel and give legitimacy to the avalanche of hatred that is spreading like wildfire.

Jewish-American voters were a powerhouse of political activism on behalf of Israel. Now their short attention span has guided them to policies inimical to Jewish survival. “Never again!” is still their motto but the focus has changed dramatically.

Never again will women be denied the right to end pregnancy even at late stage. Never again will the “settled science” of climate change be disputed. Never again will anyone claim that capitalism and Judeo-Christian principles are superior. Never again will any immigrants be denied entry into America. Never again will any religion be slandered, with the exception of Orthodox Jews and

Evangelical Christians. Never again will any conservative legislators be supported. Never again will any conservative opinions be heard with respect. Never again will anyone vote for a Republican.

Writer Linda Goudsmit sums it up well:

“The liberal Jewish community has lost its way. Liberalism has replaced religion as the community’s organizing principle. The Jewishness of Judaism has been replaced with the secular anti-Semitic anti-American tenets of the radical left-wing liberal Democratic Party in America. It is completely counter-intuitive for Jews to support a platform that is clearly anti-Semitic -- but the inconsistencies and hypocrisy do not seem to get in their way. How is that possible? Because the liberal Jewish community has surrendered its rational critical thinking abilities and embraced the feel-good emotional sloganism of the New Democrat Party. “



When I searched for the words “never again” I found that there were 43,800 lyrics, 25 artists, and 100 albums matching “never again” in popular music. Most of them were about lost love, deception, lost jobs and other subjects dear to pop culture.

However, one was from an album from a band named “Disturbed” formed in 1996 when musicians Dan Donegan, Steve "Fuzz" Kmak, and Mike Wengren hired David Draiman as their singer. They sold over 13 million albums worldwide, making them one of the largest grossing metal/rock bands. They disbanded in 2011.

These are lyrics from a song “Never Again” from their album “Asylum:”

*A generation that was persecuted endlessly
Exterminated by the Nazi war machine
We will remember let the story be told
For the countless souls who died
Their voices fill this night
Sing with me Never again
They aren't lost you see
The truth will live in me
Never again, Believe me
Never Again.*

Fast forward to July 2017: Lyrics from the rap star JAY-Z ‘s song “ The Story of O.J.”:

“You wanna know what’s more important than throwin’ away money at a strip club? You ever wonder why Jewish people own all the property in America? This how they did it.”

Even the ADL which will “never again” support Israel’s settlements was a tad ruffled by that Jewish stereotype.

Charles Krauthammer wrote on the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz:

“.....[M]ourning dead Jews is easy. And, forgive me, cheap. Want to truly honor the dead? Show solidarity with the living—Israel and its 6 million Jews. Make ‘never again’ more than an empty phrase. It took Nazi Germany seven years to kill 6 million Jews. It would take a nuclear Iran one day.”

Sobering words but here we are.

Instead of “never again” it has become “once again.” And this time around with the help of those who would be the first victims.

See the new video in the Zionism-101 series

You can see “Origins of Zionism Part 3: Modern Zionism” via the following link:

<http://zionism101.org/NewestVideoVimeo.aspx> or you can log in at <http://www.zionism101.org> to see all the videos of this historical series including this one.

The latest video chronicles the rise of the political movement that led to the State of Israel and explains why Zionism succeeded when earlier efforts had failed.

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