

ISRAFAK

December 6, 2015

24 Kislev 5776

Volume XXVII, Number 287



FRANCE AND ISRAEL CONFRONT ISLAMIST TERRORISM

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jack Kincler

Dear friends and supporters,

As we are approaching the holiday season, it seems our hopes for a better and more peaceful world are dashed again and again by a string of horrible terrorist events in Israel and around the world. The ongoing “knifing Intifada” in Israel is claiming dozens of innocent victims, and then Paris, Sinai, Beirut, Iraq, Syria, Mali—the list goes on and on. As I write, Brussels, the European capital, is under lock-down for the third day in a row. Where is this going?

Few people in the mainstream media and political circles seem to acknowledge the fact that the West has a lot to learn from the Israeli experience of 24/7 terror alerts and attacks in its terrible Middle East neighborhood.

Christie Blatchford, in her Nov. 15th *National Post/Montreal Gazette* article, points out, based on her personal experience being in Tel Aviv in 1991, during the Gulf War, the following:

“The citizens of that tiny country live 24-7 with the sort of tension and threat now enveloping Paris, and do it with a raucous and tough-as-nails sensibility. And if ever there was a country which has fought terrorism as fairly and carefully as it is possible to do, it is Israel.”

About P.M. Trudeau’s pledge to bring in many thousands of Syrian refugees by year’s end, Mrs. Blatchford suggests:

“Maybe there’s something there that Canadian officials can use in screening prospective refugees: How do you feel about Israel? How would you like to live among Jews? Ever chanted *mort aux juifs*? Jews are the canaries in the coal mine for humankind. If *l’amour est la réponse*, then loving Jews is one of the unshakable conditions.”

At CIJR, our day-long international Conference on “The Jewish Thought” and life of the great 20th century Jewish philosopher, rabbi, and thinker, Prof. Emile Fackenheim (1916-2003) took place on Oct. 25th at Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto. Attended by over 150 people, it featured high-caliber speakers from academia, Jewish and non-Jewish clergy and Emile’s son Joseph Fackenheim. Elie Wiesel sent a moving video, and the Keynote speaker during lunchtime was the internationally-respected Rabbi Irving “Yitz” Greenberg, from New York City.

Many thanks to Prof. Krantz, Yunna at the Montreal office, Alan Herman and Doris Epstein, co-chairs of CIJR’s Toronto Chapter, and the Beth Tikvah Board and Howard Price, Rabbi Grover and staff, who helped make the Conference the great success it was.

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Hanukkah 5776: The Lights That Never Dim

Baruch Cohen

In Loving Memory of Malca z”l

While celebrating *Hanukkah* we remember the heroes and heroines of the Jewish People who never put down their weapons, nor gave up their faith. Let us remember all our beloved sisters and brothers who were murdered at the hands of killers across Jewish history. The lights of *Hanukkah* will forever illuminate their memory for future generations.

We, the Jewish People, must never let history repeat itself. We must and we will go on, one generation after the other, until the end of days. Nothing is more miraculous than the survival, both physical and spiritual, of *Am Israel*, the Jewish People.

The Jewish People live today and forever! Our life is a life lived by and for Jewish values, for our children and grandchildren and all generations to come, and for Judaism itself.

The waves of hatred we are currently witnessing against the State of Israel and the Jewish People are nothing new: they teach us what we must, and we will, remember: Never Again! *Am Israel Chai!* The Jewish People live, today and forever!

Let us never forget the innocent and beloved people who were murdered by Amalek, who our tradition teaches arises in every generation—today, by the hands of heartless Islamic terrorists. Let us remember our brave new Maccabees, our beloved Jewish heroes, the young Israeli soldiers who have given their lives in the ongoing struggle for freedom, independence and security of the Land of Israel, the pride and glory of the Jewish State, the miraculously restored State of Israel.

Ours is a long and resilient history not only of surviving, but of flourishing, and as we defied the thugs, murderers and haters in the past, so shall we defy all our enemies today. We go on, one generation after the other, remembering our roots, and growing stronger today in and through our ancient Homeland.

Hazak, Hazak V’Nithazek! Be strong, be strong, and let us strengthen one another!

Hag Hanukkah Sameach! Have a happy *Hanukkah* holiday!

(Baruch Cohen is CIJR’s Research Chairman and a member of the Holocaust Memorial Center)

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ISSN # 1193-7246

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ISRAFAX is the research publication of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, an independent and non-partisan non-profit educational foundation devoted to the study of Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish world. It provides CIJR members with key data and a digest of international analysis and opinion on relevant issues.

We welcome your letters, comments and materials, which can be faxed or e-mailed (see cover.)

WEEKLY QUOTES

“We have committed to bringing back the CF-18s...But in the broader context we remain absolutely committed to the coalition...We believe we do need to be part of the fight to degrade and destroy ISIL. We only question the way that we should best do that.” — Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau, referring to Prime Minister Trudeau’s pledge to return to Canada the fighter jets conducting anti-I.S. combat missions abroad. (*CBC*, Nov. 15, 2015)

“This is war. And it is just the beginning...We will kill the innocent!...Do you hear their cries, their suffering?...“It’s to make you feel the fear that the people in Syria feel every day.” — Unidentified terrorist, during the attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris on November 13. (*Telegraph*, Nov. 18, 2015)

“The president of the republic announced a state of emergency and temporary border controls, and that’s all well and good...But what about the European Union? It is essential that France takes back control of its national borders.” — The leader of the French National Front party, Marine Le Pen. After the attacks in Paris, Le Pen criticized the measures French President Hollande has taken so far as insufficient and called for a far more drastic stand against the presence of extremist Muslims on French soil. **“France has been made vulnerable. She must rearm,”** said Le Pen, who also called for radical Islam to be

“destroyed...France must forbid Islamic organizations, close radical mosques, exile foreigners who preach hate on our land,” she said. (*New York Times*, Nov. 14, 2015)

“I don’t think we’re at war with Islam...I don’t think we’re at war with all Muslims. I think we’re at war with jihadists...We are at war with people who use their religion for purposes of power and oppression...And, yes, we are at war with those people...But I don’t want us to be painting with too broad a brush.” — Hillary Clinton, Democratic front-runner for U.S. Presidential candidate. Clinton’s refusal to say that the U.S. was at war with **“radical Islam”** led to a lengthy exchange of semantics among the three Democratic candidates during their third debate. Clinton was asked whether she agreed with Republican candidate Marco Rubio’s assertion that U.S. was at war with **“radical Islam.”** (*News-max*, Nov. 14, 2015)

“Lebanon is caught in the nexus of the Sunni and Shia conflict, between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and it’s in the middle of the Syrian refugee crisis...They’re playing chicken, all of the parties, thinking the other guy is going to blink first.” — Nadim Houry, director of the Beirut office of Human Rights Watch. A day before the French attacks, two suicide bombers killed 43 people and wounded 239 more in Beirut in an I.S.-propagated murder. The explosions detonated within 150 meters and five minutes of each other in the Bourj al-Barajneh district in southern Beirut. (*Globe & Mail*, Nov. 13, 2015)

SHORT TAKES

FIVE KILLED IN TELAVIV AND WEST BANK BY PALESTINIAN ATTACKERS

— Five people were killed on Thursday, Nov. 19, in two separate stabbing and shooting attacks carried out by Palestinian assailants in Tel Aviv and the West Bank, according to the Israeli authorities, in a renewal of deadly violence that came after a few days of relative calm. The fatalities included three Israelis, an 18-year-old American yeshiva student and a Palestinian passer-by. The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, wrote on his Facebook page, “Behind these terrorist attacks stands radical Islam, which seeks to destroy us, the same radical Islam that struck in Paris and threatens Europe.” (*New York Times*, Nov. 19, 2015)

ACCUSED MASTERMIND OF PARIS MASSACRE KILLED IN POLICE RAID

(Paris) — The Belgian jihadi suspected of masterminding deadly attacks in Paris was killed in a police raid on a suburban apartment building. 27-year-old Abdelhamid Abaaoud was identified based on skin samples. His body was found in the apartment building targeted in the chaotic and bloody raid in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis. Police launched the operation after receiving information from tapped phone calls, surveillance and tip-offs suggesting that Abaaoud was holed up there. Killed along with Abaaoud was a woman who blew herself up with an explosives vest at the beginning of the raid. Eight people were arrested. (*National Post*, Nov. 19, 2015)



Photo: Nizar Kadir Ibrahim/Anadolu Agency, via Getty

Kurds Retake Sinjar From Islamic State, Nov. 2015

CANADIAN MAY HAVE VOICED I.S. RECORDING ON PARIS ATTACKS: EXPERTS

(Toronto) — An English-language audio recording allegedly produced by I.S. taking responsibility for and celebrating the Paris attacks sounds like it’s voiced by a Canadian, some experts say. The recording was issued in Arabic, French and English. The English version, which runs almost six minutes, features a man’s voice and sounds slickly produced — typical of the I.S. propaganda machine. The reader’s pronunciation of several words “all sound very Canadian,” Charles Boberg, associate professor in McGill University’s linguistics department, said. (*Global*, Nov. 16, 2015)

MASS GRAVES FOUND NEAR SINJAR (Mosul) — Two mass graves believed to contain the remains of members of the Yazidi community have been discovered near Sinjar, in north-west Iraq. One grave was found to contain the remains of more than 70 female Yazidis, while 60 bodies of women and children were identified in a second grave. The graves were found after the retaking of Sinjar from I.S. by Kurdish forces, backed by British and U.S. air strikes. Hundreds of Yazidis were killed in August 2014 following an I.S. onslaught in Sinjar, while thousands remain displaced and some 2,000 women are still in captivity. (*Telegraph*, Nov. 16, 2015)

BOKO HARAM IS SUSPECTED AFTER EXPLOSION IN NIGERIA KILLS 32

(Yola) — A blast in the northeastern Nigerian city of Yola tore through a marketplace, killing 32 people and wounding 80 others. No one claimed responsibility, but officials suspected the Islamist group Boko Haram, which has unleashed years of violence in the region. Nigeria has increased its fight against Boko Haram as part of a pledge from the new president, Muhammadu Buhari, to finish it off by the end of the year. (*New York Times*, Nov. 17, 2015)

Why the Paris Massacre Will Have Limited Impact

Daniel Pipes

The murder of some 127 innocents in Paris by a jihadi gang... has again shocked the French and led to another round of solidarity, soul searching, and anger. In the end, however, Islamist violence against Westerners boils down to two questions: How much will this latest atrocity turn public opinion? And how much will it further spur the Establishment to deny reality?

As these questions suggest, the people and the professionals are moving in opposite directions, the former to the right, the latter to the left. In the end, this clash much reduces the impact of such events on policy. Public opinion moves against Islamists specifically and Islam more generally when the number of deaths are large enough. America's three thousand dead on 9/11 stands out as by far the largest mortality but many other countries have had their equivalent – the Bali bombings for Australia, the railroad bombing for Spain, the Beslan school massacre for Russia, the transportation bombings for Britain.



Sheer numbers are not the only consideration. Other factors can multiply the impact of an assault, making it almost the political equivalent of mass carnage: (1) The renown of those attacked, such as Theo van Gogh in the Netherlands and the *Charlie Hebdo* office in France. (2) The professional status of the victim, such as soldiers or police. (3) High-profile circumstances, such as the Boston Marathon bombing.

In addition to the over 27,000 attacks globally connected to Islam since 9/11, or more than 5 per day (as counted by TheReligionOfPeace.com), a huge increase in illegal immigration from the Middle East recently exacerbated feelings of vulnerability and fear. It's a one-way street, with not a single soul ever heard to announce, "I used to worry about Islamism but I don't anymore."

These cases make more Westerners worried about Islam and related topics from the building of minarets to female infibulation. Overall, a relentless march rightwards is underway. Surveys of European attitudes show 60 to 70 percent of voters expressing these concerns. Populist individuals like Geert Wilders of the Netherlands and parties like the Sweden Democrats are surging in the polls.

But when it comes to the Establishment – politicians, the police, the press, and the professors – the unrelenting violence has a contrary effect. Those charged with interpreting the attacks live

in a bubble of public denial (what they say privately is another matter) in which they feel compelled to pretend that Islam has no role in the violence, out of concern that to recognize it would cause more problems.

These 4-P professionals bald-facedly feign belief in a mysterious "violent extremist" virus that seems to afflict only Muslims, prompting them to engage in random acts of barbaric violence. Of the many preposterous statements by politicians, my all-time favorite is what Howard Dean, the former governor of Vermont, said about the *Charlie Hebdo* jihadis: "They're about as Muslim as I am."

This defiance of common sense has survived each atrocity and I predict that it will also outlast the Paris massacre. Only a truly massive loss of life, perhaps in the hundreds of thousands, will force the professionals to back off their deeply ingrained pattern of denying an Islamic component in the spate of attacks...

(Daniel Pipes is president of the Middle East Forum and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

We Can't All Move To Israel

Paul Merkley

Shimon Samuels, International Relations Director for the Simon Wiesenthal Organization, has studied the record of anti-Jewish terrorism in Europe and the measures taken by the governments of Europe to assure Jews that they at last safe to live in Europe — and he has come to a twofold conclusion: that Jews in Europe are now less safe than ever; and (here is the larger truth) that this is because their real target it is not the Jews but European Civilization, "the delicate fabric of democracy itself." ("What Began with the Jews has crossed a new threshold for Europe," enewsletter@wiesenthal.com, November 17, 2015.)

The world did not give up its anti-Judaism when the United Nations agreed to the Partition of the Palestine Mandate. The need for vigorous defense against mindless Muslim hatred is as old as Israel itself – indeed, it was a daily reality throughout the entire period when the Jewish community lived under the aegis of Great Britain, in the years of the Mandate. But then, living under existential threat from hatred of one's neighbours on account of everything that belongs to you has been the typical experience of the Jewish people for at last three millennia.

With the creation of the State of Israel, the Jews now for the first time acquired the means of self-defense against mindless hatred. The cost has been extremely high. With each passing decade since then, more and more Jews still living within the diaspora have concluded that it is impossible to appease Muslim hatred in parts of the world that have hitherto had no Muslims in them. As this recognition sets in, more and more Jews have concluded that it is only within the Jewish state that Jews can have any hope of providing for their own defense.

All of us who believe that there is such a thing as "civilization" and that we belong to it and that it is up to all of us to defend it in every waking moment, are now in the situation of the Jews of the diaspora prior to 1948. The difference is that the threat of subversion of civilization by Islam is vastly greater today. Islam has acquired an ally for its cause in college-educated intellectuals who treat the very notion of "civilization" with contempt and who today participate openly and gleefully in the campaign for liquidation of the Jews under the banner of "anti-Zionism"

Our governments must take up Israel's example and acquire the means and the will to defend us from further waves of Islamic subversion. This must begin with honest address, at long last, to the absolute incompatibility of the message of the Qur'an with the wisdom that we believe informs our civilization.

(Paul Merkley, retired Professor of History from Carleton University, is a Christian Zionist and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

The Facebook Intifada

Micah Lakin Avni

Three weeks ago, my father was riding on a public bus in Jerusalem's Armon Hanatziv neighborhood when terrorists from East Jerusalem shot him in the head and stabbed him multiple times. Afterward, as he lay unconscious in the intensive care unit of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, fighting for his life, one question was on my mind: What inspired the two young Palestinian men to savagely attack my father and a busload of passengers?

My father, Richard Lakin, dedicated his life to the cause of Israeli-Arab reconciliation. Ever since moving to Israel from Connecticut in the 1980s, he spent his career teaching English to Israeli and Arab children. Inspired by his experience marching with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s, he became a founding member of Israel Loves Iran, a social media initiative designed to bring the citizens of these two nations closer together. When news of his tragedy broke, many of the Christian, Muslim and Jewish residents of Jerusalem who knew my father and admired his work rushed to his bedside to pay their respects and say a prayer for his recovery. Even Ban Ki-moon, the secretary general of the United Nations, stopped by on his recent visit to Israel.

Watching the well-wishers congregating in the intensive care unit, however, I realized that the world leaders who were having the most impact on the situation in the Middle East right now weren't Mr. Ban or Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, Jack Dorsey of Twitter and other young

entrepreneurs who shape the social media platforms most of us use every day.

It may sound strange to talk of Twitter and Facebook as relevant players in the war against terror, but as the recent wave of violence in Israel has proved, that is increasingly the case. The young men who boarded the bus that day intent on murdering my 76-year-old father did not make their decision in a vacuum. One was a regular on Facebook, where he had already posted a "will for any martyr." Very likely, they made use of one of the thousands of posts, manuals and instructional videos circulating in Palestinian society these last few weeks, like the image, shared by thousands on Facebook, showing an anatomical chart of the human body with advice on where to stab for maximal damage.

Sickeningly, my father, too, became a viral hit on Palestinian social media: Hours after he was shot and stabbed, a video re-enactment of the attack was posted online celebrating the gruesome incident, and calling on more young Palestinians to go out and murder Jews. Such images, YouTube videos and comments have become a regular feature on social media after every attack.

My father raised me to cherish and protect free speech, but the very liberty that free speech was designed to protect is at stake when it is used to spread venom and incite violence. Just as it is universally recognized that shouting fire in a crowded theater is dangerous and should be prohibited, so, too, must we now recognize that rampant online incitement is a danger that must be reckoned with immediately, before more innocent people end up as victims...

(New York Times, Nov. 3, 2015)

Murder as Politics

Louis Rene Beres

Even as growing numbers of Palestinian terrorists stab madly at Israeli men, women, and children, much of the world still endorses creation of "Palestine." Such mindless support continues, moreover, despite the fact that the Palestinians themselves reject any sort of two-state solution. Indeed, the latest such poll (September 2015), conducted by Palestinian research organizations, concluded that almost half the resident Arabs strongly favor the use of armed force and generalized violence against Israeli noncombatants.

For the most part, western news reports notwithstanding, knife wielding attackers are not "lone wolves." Rather, they have been conspicuously spurred on by vitriolic PA incitements, and by carefully synchronized calls from the mosques to murder "The Jews." The Palestinian Authority shares with Hamas the irredentist vision of a one-state solution. There is nothing hidden or ambiguous about this true plan for Israel's disappearance. It is plainly codified on the official maps of both factions, where Israel is identified only as "Occupied Palestine."

For virtually all Arab forces in the Middle East, the conflict with Israel is never about land. It is about God, and about always-related promises of personal immortality. It is about power over death. For the Palestinians, their carefully sanitized public rhetoric notwithstanding, the enemy is not the Israelis (that term is just subterfuge, for the media), but "The Jews." The screaming young Palestinian, who strikes indiscriminately with his serrated blade, fully expects to become a "martyr." He only risks "death" in order not to die.

There is more. A Palestinian state — any Palestinian state —

would rapidly be taken over by ISIS, or by related jihadi adversaries. Already, ISIS is operating in parts of Syria that could bring it to the critical borders of Israel's Golan Heights. Significantly, it has also set recognizable operational sights on Jordan and West Bank (Judea/Samaria).

Over the next several months, and even while the Palestinian Authority continues to orchestrate more "Third Intifada" attacks on Israelis, ISIS will commence its fated march westward, across Jordan, ending up at the eastern boundaries of West Bank. These boundaries, of course, would represent the territorial margins of what PA/Fatah both already affirm as the geographic heart of "Palestine." Palestinian forces, primarily Fatah, would then yield to ISIS, and to its local proxies. Fatah would then have to choose between pleading with the Jewish State to become an ally against a now-common foe, or abandoning all its residual military operations to the Israel Defense Forces directly. Arguably, without IDF assistance in such desperate circumstances, "Palestine" wouldn't stand a chance...

From the 17th century onward, the world political system has been anarchic, or, in Hobbesian terms, a "state of nature." In the anarchic Middle East, especially, considerations of raw power routinely trump international law. Here, too, truth may be counter-intuitive. On those endlessly perplexing matters concerning Palestinian statehood, for example, it is finally time to understand that "Palestine's" true enemy in the region is not Israel, but rather a hideously sordid amalgam of Islamist Arab forces. Going forward, any further Palestinian advances toward statehood would likely be solely to the longer-term tactical advantage of ISIS...

(Louis Rene Beres is an expert on nuclear war and nuclear terrorism, and a professor of Political Science at Purdue University. Washington Times, Oct. 22, 2015)

WAVE OF ISLAMIST TERROR: ATTACKS AGA

During October and November there has been a wave of terrorist attacks which began on the Temple Mount and in East Jerusalem. The attacks later spread to Judea and Samaria and even crossed the Green Line into Israel under the battle cry of “Al-Aqsa mosque is in danger.”

According to the IDF, during October and November there were 84 stabbings, 30 shootings and 12 car rammings. According to Magen David Adom, between September 13 and November 30, 2015, 22 Israelis were killed and 215 wounded – 21 of them seriously. During this period almost 100 Palestinian attackers and rioters were killed.

Following is a list of major terror attacks against Israelis up to November 30, 2015:

November 29: Jerusalem: A Border Police officer was stabbed in the Old City. The assailant was shot and killed. A 31-year-old female foreign worker from Nepal was moderately wounded in a stabbing attack.

November 27: Kfar Adumim Junction: Two soldiers were lightly to moderately hurt in a car-ramming attack. Beit Ummar: Six soldiers were lightly to moderately wounded when a Palestinian rammed his car into IDF troops.

November 25: An IDF soldier was stabbed and seriously wounded at the Al-Fawar junction. The assailant, 19, was shot and killed.

November 24: Tapuach Junction (northern West Bank): A Palestinian rammed a car into security forces, wounding three IDF soldiers and a Border Policeman. The assailant was shot and apprehended.

November 23: Jerusalem: Two Palestinians (female, aged 14 & 16) stabbed passersby on Jaffa Road near the Mahane Yehuda market with scissors, wounding an elderly Palestinian man from Bethlehem. The assailants were shot, one killed on site. A security guard was wounded by the gunfire...Highway 443: Israeli man (18) was killed in a stabbing attack at the gas station near Beit Horon...

November 22: Samaria Brigade Junction: A Palestinian (16, female from Nablus) pulled out a knife and charged at a young Israeli woman waiting at a bus stop. The assailant was spotted by a civilian driver, who ran into her with his car. Security forces at the site shot the assailant, who died at the scene... Gush Etzion junction: Hadar Buchris, 21, was fatally stabbed as she waited for a ride at a hitchhiking stop at the junction. IDF soldiers at the site shot and killed the terrorist.

November 21: Kiryat Gat: Four people, including a 13-year-old girl, were wounded in a stabbing attack on King David Street. The stabber was apprehended several hours later.

November 19: Tel Aviv: Two people were killed and one wounded in a stabbing attack during afternoon prayers in a Judaica store located in southern Tel Aviv. The terrorist was apprehended. Hamas “welcomed” the attack. The victims: Rabbi Aharon Yesayev, 32, of Holon and Reuven Aviram, 51, of Ramle. Gush Etzion: Three people were killed when a Palestinian terrorist opened fire with a submachine gun at cars south of Jerusalem. The victims: Ezra Schwartz, 18, of Sharon, Massa-

chusetts, Yaakov Don, 49, of Alon Shvut, and Shadi Arafa, 40, of Hebron...

November 13: Otniel (Route 60): Rabbi Ya’akov Litman, 40, and his son Netanel, 18, were killed in a shooting attack while driving on Route 60 near Otniel, south of Hebron. His wife and four other children in the vehicle were lightly wounded by shrapnel and the resulting crash...

November 10: Jerusalem (Pisgat Zeev neighborhood): Two Palestinian youths (11 & 14) on their way home from school stabbed and moderately wounded a security guard on the Jerusalem light rail...

November 9: Eliyahu checkpoint (northern Samaria): Palestinian woman attempted to stab guards at the checkpoint. She was shot and killed by security forces.

November 8: Tapuah Junction (Samaria): Four Israelis were wounded, two seriously, in a car-ramming terror attack directed at a group of people at a hitch-hiking stop...

November 4: Halhoul junction (north of Hebron): Three Border Policemen were wounded, one critically, in car-ramming attack. The terrorist was shot and killed by security forces. Border Policeman St.-Sgt. Benjamin Yakubovich, 19, of Kiryat Ata, critically wounded in the attack, died of his wounds on November 8.

November 2: Netanya (north of Tel Aviv): A 71-year-old man was seriously wounded in a stabbing attack. The assailant was shot. Rishon Lezion (south of Tel Aviv): Three people were wounded, two seriously - including an 80-year-old woman - in a stabbing attack by a Palestinian from Hebron...

November 1: Hebron: Three Border Policemen wounded in car ramming attack. Earlier, attempted stabbing attack of IDF soldier during a violent riot. Assailant shot on site.

October 31: Gilboa (Jalama) crossing, north of Jenin in the West Bank: Palestinian (17) armed with a knife tried to stab Israeli guards and was killed on site.

October 30: Tapuach Junction (Samaria): Two terrorists, arriving on a motorbike armed with knives, attempted to stab Border Police officers. One killed, second apprehended...

October 28: Gush Etzion Junction: A woman was stabbed in the back, moderately wounded, outside the Rami Levy supermarket. The assailant was apprehended.

October 26: Hebron: IDF soldier stabbed, seriously wounded in the morning north of Hebron. Assailant shot on site. A second attempted stabbing of an IDF soldier outside the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron in the afternoon was thwarted. The assailant (19) was shot.

October 25: Metzad (Gush Etzion bloc): Man (58) moderately wounded in stabbing attack after his car was stoned. Hebron: Female Arab terrorist (17) attempted to stab border policeman with knife. Officer shot the terrorist, who later died of wounds...

October 24: Gilboa (Jalama) crossing, north of Jenin in the West Bank: A young Palestinian (16) posing as a sweets vendor tried to stab a security guard and was shot and killed.

October 23: Gush Etzion: IDF soldier injured in stabbing attack. Assailant shot on site. Beit El (north of Jerusalem): Israeli couple

INST ISRAELIS OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2015



Photo: MEMRI/Screenshots

A cleric from Rafah called on Palestinians to stab and murder Jews during his Friday sermon.

and their three young children wounded in a firebombing attack on their car.

October 22: Bet Shemesh: Yeshiva student (18) moderately injured in stabbing attack at bus stop near a synagogue. Two terrorists (21) from the Hebron area armed with knives tried to board a school bus full of children. They were shot and killed by police.

October 21: Adam junction (north of Jerusalem): Female soldier critically wounded in stabbing attack. Terrorist killed by IDF forces...

October 20: South of Hebron (Al Fawar junction): Avraham Hasno (54) of Kiryat Arba run over and killed by truck after his vehicle was stoned...

October 18: Beer Sheva: IDF soldier Sgt. Omri Levy (19) killed and 10 civilians and police officers wounded when a terrorist armed with a knife and a pistol entered the central bus station, shot the soldier, grabbed his gun and started shooting. Police officers shot and killed the terrorist, an Israeli Arab (21) from the Bedouin town of Hura. An Eritrean asylum seeker, Habtom Zerhom (29), who was mistaken for a second terrorist and shot by a security guard, died of his wounds...

October 16: Nablus: Joseph's tomb, a Jewish holy site, set on fire overnight by Palestinian rioters... Hebron (Zayit junction outside Kiryat Arba): Palestinian terrorist disguised as a photojournalist stabbed and moderately wounded an IDF soldier. A second soldier shot and killed him.

October 14: Jerusalem: Attack foiled by Border Police. Officers who boarded a bus full of passengers discovered a knife hidden under a seat. The owner of the knife had boarded the bus with a young child in his arms to allay suspicion...

October 13: Raanana (northeast of Tel Aviv): Two stabbing attacks in the morning, an hour apart... Jerusalem: Two terrorists boarded an Egged bus in southern Jerusalem, one armed with a gun and the other with a knife. Chaim Haviv, 78, and Alon Govberg, 51, were killed, and 15 wounded, several seriously. One terrorist killed by police, second apprehended. Richard Lakin, 76, who was shot in the head and stabbed in the chest, succumbed to his wounds on October 27. Makor Baruch, a religious neighborhood: Rabbi Yeshayahu Krishevsky, 59, of Jerusalem was killed and five wounded... Hamas praised the at-

tacks, saying they are "a message to anyone who harms our holy places."

October 12: Jerusalem: Stabbing attack foiled at Lion's Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. Terrorist (18, from eastern Jerusalem) was shot and killed...

October 10: Jerusalem (Sabbath morning): Arab (16) stabbed two Jewish men in their 60s near Damascus Gate, leaving them moderately and lightly wounded, respectively. The terrorist then attacked Border Police officers, who shot and killed him...

October 9: Jerusalem (Shmuel HaNavi St.): Jewish boy (16) was beaten and stabbed and lightly injured. Attacker (18, from Hebron in West Bank) was later apprehended by police...

October 8: Tel Aviv: Female soldier and three others stabbed. Terrorist was shot and killed. Jerusalem: A yeshiva student (25) was seriously injured and another man lightly injured in stabbing attack near the light rail. Terrorist (age 19) arrested...

October 7: Petach Tikva: Knife attack at shopping mall wounded one man. The knife broke, preventing further victims. Bystanders apprehended the terrorist. Jerusalem: A Palestinian woman (18) stabbed a 36-year-old Jewish man at Lion's Gate of the Old City. The victim, moderately wounded, shot and wounded the terrorist...

October 4: Jerusalem: Moshe Malka (15) was stabbed and wounded on his way to prayers at the Western Wall. Terrorist was shot dead by security forces.

October 3: Jerusalem: Two killed in stabbing attack near Lion's Gate. Aharon Banita-Bennet (22) was stabbed to death on the way to the Western Wall in the Old City on Saturday evening with his wife and two young children. His wife and two-year-old son were wounded. Rabbi Nehemia Lavi (father of seven), who came to the aid of the Banita-Bennett family, was attacked and stabbed to death. Police shot and killed the attacker.

October 1: Near Nablus in Samaria: Rabbi Eitam Henkin (31) and wife Naama (30) murdered in a drive-by shooting while traveling with their four young children (aged 9, 7, 4, and 9 months). Security forces arrested members of Hamas cell responsible.

(Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nov. 23, 2015)

WALLER – Continued from page 8

in the international system must be comprehended and then countered.

For over a century American presidents have contended with a multitude of challenges in the international arena. Some have met those challenges more effectively than others. By now understanding and then operating successfully in the international system is one of the principal requirements of a successful president. Which of today's many presidential hopefuls is up to that task?

(Harold M. Waller is a Professor of Political Science at McGill University and a CIJR Academic Fellow)

M.E. STABILITY SHOULD BE PRIORITY FOR NEXT U.S. PRESIDENT, NOT "CLIMATE CHANGE"

Foreign Policy Challenges for the Next President

Harold M. Waller

As time progresses it has become more apparent just how much international politics has changed during recent years. Assumptions that citizens of Western countries have held for decades are now being called into question. In particular, ever since the end of World War II the United States has been the undisputed leader of the free world and has accepted the burdens of that role knowing how essential the assumption of responsibility was for the stability and prosperity of like-minded nations. Was it fair to impose such a burden on the U.S.? Perhaps not. But clearly there was no other country that could step up to do the job. And it was a job that needed to be done.

The record of the U.S. during the 70 years since 1945 has not been consistent. Nor has it been problem-free. But on balance the U.S. has played a constructive role in maintaining the kind of international society that free peoples want and value.

Since the turn of the new century observers have begun to raise questions concerning the ability of the U.S. to lead the world's democracies in the never-ending effort to resist tyranny. The reasons are multi-dimensional. They involve assessments of both the will and the capacity of the U.S. to play the leading role, along with the quality and judgment of the country's leadership. The current administration's difficulties in dealing with Islamic terrorism and Middle East problems only accentuates the need for new leadership that has both the intellectual and political tools to mobilize the American people behind the goal of reestablishing American leadership in the struggle against the enemies of modern civilization.

What does that require? One can start with a list while acknowledging that the list is not exhaustive.

For one thing, there is a need to conceptualize the nature of Muslim-inspired terrorism. For many years to come that is likely to be a most formidable challenge. Needless to say that requires identifying the threat accurately so that appropriate strategies can be devised.

The withdrawal of much of the American presence from the core of the international political system has created a vacuum that powers like Russia are trying to fill. It is imperative that the U.S. regain its position as the leading power in international politics

While understanding the fatigue of Americans about military ventures in the Middle East and earlier in Vietnam, the dangers of abandoning the use of military power should be apparent to anyone who studies the Middle East closely.

For a number of reasons, Europe appears to be in a state of decline. If that decline is not reversed the implications will be serious not just for Europeans but for North Americans and others around the world as well. If the U.S. is going to reassert its leadership role it will have to work closely with Europeans to define the meaning of Western civilization for our times and then take steps to protect the values of that civilization.

The Cold War may be only a distant memory, but the attempts by Russia and China to assert potentially hegemonic positions

Continued on page 12

ISIS in Sinai Can Expect More Funds, and More Egyptian Attacks

Yaakov Lappin

The bombing [in October] of a Russian passenger jet that has been attributed to ISIS in Sinai will likely result in the group getting funds from ISIS Central, to pay for more smuggled advanced weaponry, which the organization can use to target both Egypt and Israel.

Wilayat Al-Sinai, previously Ansar Beit Al-Makdes, has been buying arms trafficked into Sinai from Libya using them to launch a series of deadly attacks on Egyptian security forces. Its ability to plant a bomb on board a civilian airliner that took off from Sharm El Sheikh International Airport represents a step up in its terrorist capabilities. The bombing might be rewarded by ISIS Central, in the form of funds sent to Wilayat Al-Sinai to further enhance the group's capabilities.

Following its bombing attack on the Russian airliner, which murdered 224 civilians, the status of Wilayat Al-Sinai can be expected to rise in the eyes of ISIS Central in Syria and Iraq. The terrorist financing could go towards purchasing anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, mortar launchers, assault rifles, and rockets.

On the flip side of the equation, the organization, mostly made up of local Sinai Beduin members mixed with some foreign volunteers, will now face an even more intense Egyptian military campaign to destroy it. Egypt has over the past year carried out two major military assaults on ISIS in Sinai. On the ground, Egyptian commando units, armored vehicles, and special operations units have been battling the group, while in the air, Egypt has deployed F-16 fighter jets and Apache assault helicopters to launch air strikes on the organization.

A new assault by Egypt on Wilayat Al-Sinai now seems a matter of time, after the group caused enormous damage to Egyptian tourism and its economy.

ISIS continues to operate, on a far lower scale, in the Gaza Strip as well, with a small ISIS-affiliated group firing a rocket into southern Israel on Sunday night. According to Israeli intelligence assessments, the rocket was fired in the course of an ongoing dispute with Hamas, which salafist jihadis in Gaza have sought to undermine.

A radical jihadi-Salafi group calling itself the Omar Hadid Brigades is behind the rockets. The group is named after a key figure who helped Abu Musab al-Zarqawi set up and run al-Qaida in Iraq nearly a decade ago, planting the seed for the Islamic State in Iraq, which eventually turned into ISIS when it crossed into Syria.

Earlier this week, Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon said that "Hamas is not happy about rocket and sniper fire from Gaza. It is working to stop this," Ya'alon said. On the other hand, Hamas has in the past been willing to cooperate with ISIS in Sinai, allowing it access to Gazan weapons and training when possible, in exchange for access to the Egyptian side of Rafah tunnels. Egypt has however been highly successful in blocking off the Gaza-Sinai smuggling tunnels.

(Jerusalem Post, Nov. 12, 2015)

Obama's Syrian Illusions

Editorial

So the U.S. government that was surprised by Vladimir Putin's takeover of Crimea, surprised by his invasion of eastern Ukraine, surprised by his plan to sell S-300 missiles to Iran, and surprised by his intervention in Syria now thinks the Russian strongman will sue for peace in Syria on U.S. terms and oust Bashar Assad.

"Russia's intervention is a powerful example of the law of unintended consequences," said Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken... "It will have two primary effects. First, it will increase Russia's leverage over Assad. But second, it will increase the conflict's leverage over Russia. And that in turn creates a compelling incentive for Russia to work for, not against, a political transition."

Secretary of State John Kerry's right-hand man even used a Vietnam War-era word to describe Mr. Putin's supposed predicament: "The quagmire will spread and deepen, drawing Russia further in." Somehow we doubt Mr. Putin feels so beleaguered. So far his intervention in Syria has stabilized Mr. Assad's regime and let the Syrian go on offense principally against rebels who are fighting both him and Islamic State...

It's not as if President Obama lacks military options to make a difference in Syria. Yet he has rejected every serious Pentagon proposal. He won't create a no-fly zone in Syria to protect refugees and anti-Assad rebels because it risks upsetting Russia and his antiwar domestic base. And he won't deploy U.S. Apache attack helicopters to assist coalition ground forces because he doesn't want to too obviously contradict his claim that he ended the Iraq war.

Instead Mr. Obama announced... he will dispatch all of 50 U.S. special forces soldiers to assist Kurdish troops who are fighting Islamic State. It isn't clear what their mission will be or how far they will be deployed into Syria... The deployment sounds more like an attempt by the White House to respond to its Russian humiliation by showing Americans it is at least doing something more against Islamic State. But it doesn't seem to be part of a serious new military strategy.

If Mr. Obama really wants to put pressure on Russia and Iran to negotiate in Syria he would create a Sunni alternative to both Mr. Assad and Islamic State. This would include destroying Mr. Assad's air force, which the U.S. military could easily do, while joining with Syria's neighbors and Europeans to create a no-fly zone for refugees and anti-regime and anti-ISIS forces. The President could also raise the cost of Russia's serial foreign adventures. This would include arming Ukraine so it can defend itself against Russian incursions, and strengthening sanctions to raise domestic political pressure on Mr. Putin...

(Wall Street Journal, Nov. 2, 2015)



Photo: Getty Image

Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (L) meet during the Fourth Caspian Summit on September 29, 2014 in Astrakhan, Russia.

Is It Iran's Middle East Now?

Jonathan Spyer

The Middle East is currently in the midst of widespread instability, civil strife and the collapse or contraction of state authority. Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Turkey, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Tunisia and Egypt have all experienced major instability over the last half decade. The first four of these areas have effectively ceased to exist as unitary states, and are now partitioned de facto between warring entities, organised according to ethnic, sectarian or tribal loyalty. The Palestinian territories too are divided into areas controlled by the Islamist Hamas movement in Gaza and the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank.

In this fractious landscape, powerful regional states are seeking to gain advantage, extend their own power, and diminish that of their rivals. The collapse of states has in turn brought with it the decline of the national identities that supposedly underlay them, and the growth of sectarian identification as a political factor. The result is the emergence of Sunni-Shia conflict as a major overt presence in the Middle East. In Yemen, in Iraq, in Lebanon, and in a more complex way in Syria, Sunni-Shia rivalries form a central dynamic, which are also important in terms of the geo-strategic rivalries among major states competing in the Middle East.

Perhaps the single best organised and most aggressive alliance active currently in the Middle East is the bloc of states and movements gathered around the Islamic Republic of Iran. Motivated by clear strategic goals and by powerful ideological motivations, and with long experience of subversion particularly relevant to the current period of instability in the Middle East, Iran and its allies are powerful players in the regional contest.

Prior to the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme, signed on 14 July 2015, it had appeared that Iran might be approaching a point of overstretch. Tehran was committed to assist a large portfolio of clients engaged in conflict across the region, at a time when Tehran was itself subject to biting economic sanctions. The continued civil war in Syria and the opening of conflicts in Iraq and Yemen – in which the Iranians were heavily committed – seemed to introduce this possibility.

Continued on page 12

We Need a Responsible Timeline for Canada's Refugee Commitment

Catherine Chatterley

Unfortunately, there is a stubborn quality to the Prime Minister's current commitment to meet his election promise of admitting 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by Christmas. Canadians are committed to providing charitable relief and accepting immigrants and refugees from war-torn areas of the planet, regardless of their ethnicity or religious background. Visit any major city in Canada to see the obvious truth of this fact. This, however, really isn't the issue at the moment. Our current dilemma is the result of a coalescence of a number of important factors:

1. The so-called "migrant crisis" that is out of control in Europe, and is threatening to destroy the open-borders policy of the EU (Schengen Plan) and potentially stimulate a serious right-wing backlash across Europe;
2. The recent attacks in Paris and ongoing threats against civilians in European cities, Washington, DC, and Moscow;
3. The promise made by ISIS that they are sending their fighters to infiltrate Western nations by hiding them amongst refugees from the Middle East and North Africa; and,
4. The very real threat posed by hundreds of young people (over a thousand in France) who are citizens of Western nations and have gone to Syria and Iraq to fight for ISIS, who then return to the West to commit attacks against their neighbors.

According to the UN High Commission for Refugees, there are 60 million refugees in the world today, higher than at any time since World War II. Given this catastrophic figure, it seems strange for us to be focused only on Syrians.

There is an easy solution to this current impasse between the facts on the ground today and an election promise made months ago. Set a reasonable timeline and follow the responsible policies of the American government, which takes 18-24 months to evaluate the eligibility of all refugees who are vetted by the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, and the Departments of State, Defense, and Homeland Security...

Like other Canadians, I would ask the government to consider giving priority to orphans, especially girls and young women, who are the most vulnerable to sexual assault and exploitation in refugee camps. Canada could make a significant contribution to rescuing and rehabilitating the victims of ISIS's evil rape culture of sexual slavery...

At the moment, there is growing frustration with Mr. Trudeau's muted reaction to the attacks in Paris and his stubborn reluctance, at least publicly, to re-consider his six-week timeline. Many of us hope the new government will adapt its election promise to accommodate our current complex reality and create a policy that all Canadians can support...

(Catherine Chatterley is a Professor of History at the University of Manitoba, Founding Director of the Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism (CANISA), and a CIJR Academic Fellow. Huffington Post, Nov. 18, 2015)

Why Syrian Refugees Are Not Like Jewish Refugees in WWII

Joel B. Pollak

The argument is that the U.S. should have learned its mistake: by turning away Jewish refugees, America (and other nations) doomed many to death at the hands of the Nazis. In addition, Americans opposed resettling Jewish refugees then—and that was wrong. Conclusion: we must throw open our borders. But there are several reasons the Jewish and Syrian crises have little in common, and why opposition is different in the two cases:

1. Jews were not a terror threat; there is evidence terrorists are hiding among Syrian refugees. Jewish refugees were not a threat to the countries where they sought asylum. In the early 1920s, fears of communist activism among Jewish immigrants had helped drive restrictive immigration laws, but that threat—and the over-reaction to it—had long passed. In contrast, at least one, and as many as three, of the terrorists in the recent Paris attacks allegedly hid among Syrian refugees, prompting legitimate fears.
2. Jews were singled out for persecution by the Nazis, not (initially) fleeing an ongoing war. If anyone has a unique moral claim that parallels the Jews of Europe, it is the Syrian Christians, Iraqi Yazidis, and other minorities being persecuted by radical Islamist forces in the Middle East. But that is not true of the broader wave of Syrian refugees. That is not to blame them for the war, but it does suggest there is a good moral case for distinguishing among refugees, rather than admitting all who wish to come.
3. Jews had nowhere to go; Syrian refugees should have many places to go. When Nazi Germany began persecuting Jews, the Jewish population had few—and dwindling—alternatives. The State of Israel did not exist, and Britain, to appease Arab leaders, tried to keep Jewish refugees out of Palestine. Syrian refugees, however, theoretically have many options. There are 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for example; some, unconscionably, are refusing so far to admit any refugees.
4. Opposition to Jewish refugees was "racial"; opposition to Syrian refugees is based on security concerns. One of the main reasons immigration laws restricted Jewish entry into the U.S. was to promote the racial, i.e. genetic, superiority of the national "stock." (Such eugenicist ideas were widespread, far beyond Nazi Germany.) In contrast, resistance to Syrian refugees has to do with fear of terrorism (see above), and valid concerns about importing radical Islam (a severe problem among Somali refugees).
5. Many of the Syrian "refugees" are neither Syrian, nor refugees. Many of those who have joined the "refugee" wave are from other countries in the Middle East, or even further afield. They pose as Syrian because they know they are likelier to be received sympathetically, given the civil war there. In addition, some—perhaps a majority—are "migrants," not "refugees" as defined by international law. The "migrants" include those who have found shelter elsewhere, but prefer the West's opportunities...

(Breitbart, Nov. 17, 2015)

New Book Offers Global View of Canadian Antisemitism

Janice Arnold

Anti-Semitism persists in Canada despite the efforts of Jews and lawmakers to eradicate it, according to Canadian Jewish studies scholar Ira Robinson. But, Robinson, author of the newly published *A History of Antisemitism in Canada* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press), urges perspective.

In the preface, Robinson quotes writer and lawyer A.M. Klein as having said in 1932: “Anti-Semitism in this country is a mild affair compared with the persistent and malignant forms which it assumes in some countries.”

In 2015, Robinson comes to a similar conclusion: “Anti-Semitism in Canada is a worrying phenomenon, but also a much milder version than in France, for instance.” He writes that, by objective measure, “At the beginning of the 21st century, life has never been better for Canada’s Jews,” yet Jews perceive that anti-Semitism is worsening, and the community devotes ever more discussion and resources to countering it...

There has been much written on anti-Semitism in Canada, particularly in the 1930s and ’40s and notably Irving Abella and Harold Troper’s seminal *None is Too Many*, and considerable scholarly work on the subject since then, Robinson acknowledges, but these are specific to time and place. What he has tried to do is provide a comprehensive study of the country as a whole. What’s more, he agrees that much that has been written about anti-Semitism in Quebec is “superficial and shallow.”



Robinson, who is director of Concordia University’s Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, does not rely solely on archival sources or previously published academic work. An avid consumer of the daily news, he has drawn on journalism, both traditional and digital, especially for recent years.

Robinson, who was previously chair of Concordia’s department of religion, provides an introduction to anti-Semitism, its definition and history, back to pre-modern times, with specific attention to how the English and French – Canada’s founding peoples – regarded Jews from medieval times.

A chapter is devoted to the question of how opposition to Zionism and Israel influences negative attitudes to Jews, or the reverse. “It seems clear that as long as Israel’s conflict with its neighbours remains unresolved, the Jewish community of Canada will remain the target of anti-Semitic accusations and actions related to Israel,” he believes.

Of Concordia, where Robinson has taught since 1979 and where a violent demonstration against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took place in 2002, he observes that Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), a principal opponent to the Israeli politician’s speaking on campus, remains affiliated with the Concordia Student Union (CSU). “Groups of Muslim students and separate groups of students coming from such countries as Egypt, Syria and Lebanon are likewise affiliated with the CSU and likely share large portions of the SPHR agenda.”

As for Quebec generally, where overt expression of negativity toward Jews and Israel continue to be mainstream, Robinson comments: “The intense and sometimes fractious relationship between Jews and French Canadians... that has been ongoing for over a century, and the controversies engendered by this relationship, show no sign of abating in the near future.”

Jews as “others” is likely to remain the prevailing view, he suggests, until Quebec resolves its perennial question of what kind of society it wants to be – inclusive or assimilationist. Robinson dedicates *A History of Antisemitism in Canada* to his grandson, Aaron Mark Epstein: “May you grow up to see a world in which the phenomenon described in this book is of only historical interest.”

(Prof. Ira Robinson is a CIJR Academic Fellow.
Canadian Jewish News, Nov. 11, 2015)

CIJR’s Recently Received Library Books

Alexander, Edward. *Jews Against Themselves*. Piscataway, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2015.

Bush, Andrew. *Jewish Studies : A Theoretical Introduction*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2011.

Fendrick, Susan P. & Jon A. Levisohn. *Turn it and Turn it Again : Studies in the Teaching and Learning of Classical Jewish Texts*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2013.

Las, Nelly. *Jewish Voices in Feminism : Transnational Perspectives*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2015.

Littman, David. *Operation Mural: an Englishman and the Mossad in Casablanca*. New York, NY : RVP Press, 2015.

Revivi, Menahem, & Ezra Kopelowitz. *Jewish Peoplehood:*

Change and Challenge. Brighton, Mass.: Academic Studies Press, 2008.

Shapiro, Harvey. *Educational Theory and Jewish Studies in Conversation: from Volozhin to Buczacz*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2013.

Tauber, Eliezer. *Military Resistance in Late Mandatory Palestine*. Ramat Gan: Bar-Ilan University Press, 2012.

Tinberg, Howard. *Teaching, Learning and the Holocaust: an Integrative Approach*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014.

Zimmerman, Lynn. *Jewish Studies and Holocaust Education in Poland*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2014.

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The first Canadian volunteer to die while fighting alongside Kurdish forces battling the Islamic State.

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EXTRA! EXTRA!

CIJR-TORONTO ACROSS 2015-16

Alan Herman

Since our last *Israfax* update, *CIJR-Toronto* is delighted to report back to Montreal that the *Institute* here has had a number of excellent and important initiatives underway.

Having been actively involved with the *Canadian Jews and Friends for Yazidis* since that coalition was launched a year ago, *CIJR-Toronto* was a proud organizing partner of a rally across from the US Consulate of Toronto on September 9th. This rally highlighted how the threat of ISIS as well as a nuclear Iran are a menace to the entire world and included newly-founded *American Institute for Jewish Research* director Asaf Romirowsky. This rally was followed up with our involvement in the organizing of an event on October 21 at the Toronto Zionist Centre that focused on the urgent need for an autonomous zone for non-Muslims in Iraq.

As well, in mid-August a general Chapter meeting was held in Toronto that led to a fruitful and healthy exchange of ideas, as well as the building of new relationships, with important community partners.

On October 25, the *Canadian Institute for Jewish Research* made history by hosting in Toronto at the Beth Tikvah synagogue the first-ever all-day conference chaired by *CIJR* Director Professor Frederick Krantz, on "The Jewish Thought of Emil L. Fackenheim: Judaism, Zionism, Holocaust, Israel". The panels were rich with experts on Fackenheim's Jewish thought, including Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg and a special video presentation by Elie Wiesel.

And we are proud to announce the return of the *Israel Learning Seminars* to be held at Beth Tikvah. Toronto participants can look forward to presentations on such crucial topics as the "Origins of the Legal Rights of the Jewish People to the Land of Israel" by Salomon Benzimra (co-founder of *Canadians for Israel's Legal Rights*) as well as a Colloquium on January 21, 2016 led by Prof. Mordechai Kedar, on "Israel and its Enemies."

Stay tuned for more!

Continued from page 2

At this time I would like also to wish our beloved Research Chair, Baruch Cohen, 96, and his wife Sonia, good health and

only good news.

As always, I would like to express our gratitude to our dedicated Montreal office staff – Yunna Shapira, Rob Coles, Melina Ghio, Hong Yang and Roberto Lima, who do such a great job. Thanks too, to our Toronto Chapter volunteers, to our fine National Board and Academic Council members, and to all our friends and supporters across Canada, the U.S., Israel and the world, for all their good help and dedication.

Wishing you and your families a Happy *Hanukkah* and a more peaceful Israel and world,

Jack Kincler, National Board Chairman

Continued from page 9

However, the conclusion of the nuclear agreement – and with it the prospect of release of impounded funds as part of sanctions relief – has immediate implications for the related subject of Iranian regional ambitions and outreach. The precise sum likely to become rapidly available to Iran following the signing of the agreement and sanctions relief remains unclear and disputed. Estimates range from \$150 billion (the sum frequently quoted by opponents of the nuclear deal) to \$56 billion (the likely sum according to US Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew).

But even if one assumes the lower estimate, and combines this with additional sums likely to become available to Iran because of renewed economic ties with the outside world as an element of sanctions relief, it may be concluded that the risk of overstretch, and a consequent inability on the part of Iran to sustain its regional commitments, has effectively disappeared as a result of the signing of the JCPOA. As a result, Iran is well placed in the current period to continue its practice of supporting proxy political-military organisations in a variety of regional locations, in pursuit of Iranian strategic goals...

(Fathom, Fall 2015)