

# ISRAEL FAX

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**Universities  
Descend into  
Illiberal,  
Anti-Israel  
Playpens**

PAUL PEZ THE WEEKLY STANDARD  
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## Editorial

# As Campus BDS Inanities Continue Here, Serious Events in the M.E. May Indicate Radical Israel-U.S. Reorientation

Frederick Krantz

This Hanukkah issue of *ISRAFAX* confronts the sad descent of our university campuses into the vicious inanities of antisemitic and anti-Israel BDS campaigns. Sustained by “speech codes” and so-called “diversity” quotas, pro-Palestinian propaganda, in fact, violates core academic values like free speech, free thought, and individual rights.

Insofar as such well-funded campaigns have a practical purpose, it is to delegitimize the Jewish state and so prepare it for destruction. (So far, thankfully, this purpose has been without any practical consequence.)

Yet at this very moment serious events involving real issues and power politics are underway in the Middle East, which may throw the heinous, yet ultimately inconsequential, campus shenanigans into high relief. The outcome of moves currently underway may well result in a marked strengthening of Israel’s regional strength and position.

As we go to press, President Trump is about to make good on campaign promises and recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital (whether the Embassy will actually be moved there at this point remains moot). The fact of an impending move is confirmed by the squeals of protest and ominous threats already issuing from P.A. head Abbas, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Arab League.

This move, in turn, reportedly reflects an improved Saudi Arabian Israel-Palestinian peace plan, issuing from the ascendancy of the reformist Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (“MBS”), First Deputy Prime Minister, president of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs., and the youngest minister of defense in the world.

This plan, while reinforcing Israel’s current, defensible, borders and reportedly recognizing Jerusalem as its capital, would create a Palestinian statelet by combining some West Bank areas, Gaza and, innovatively, territory in northern Sinai

Under MBS, Saudi Arabia has embarked on an aggressive, anti-Iranian foreign policy. Movement on Jerusalem and the Saudi-backed peace process should, therefore, be seen in conjunction with several other recent developments. Saudi-supported Lebanese President Saad Hariri, responding to Saudi pressure, first “resigned”, and then agreed to be recalled to office, calling in the process for an end to Iranian-backed Hezbollah’s domination of Lebanon and its interventionist role in Syria. Simultaneously, Israel—after warning Teheran not to build permanent bases—has attacked several suspected new Iranian military sites in that country with missiles.

Meanwhile, the situation of the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen has deteriorated, after they assassinated their erstwhile ally, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saleh, who aligned with Iran-backed Houthi rebels against Yemeni President Abd-Rabbo Mansour Hadi, had recently called for opening “a new page” with the Saudi-backed Hadi. This earned him the title of “traitor” and led to his recent murder by the Houthis. (Saudi-backed Hadi has now called for unity in the battle against the Houthis and their Iranian backers.)

The common denominator connecting these recent events seems to be U.S.-led and Saudi- and Israeli- (and, indirectly, Egyptian- and Jordanian-) pushback against hitherto unopposed Iranian expansion in the Middle East. Having defeated the IS terrorist caliphate in Iraq (Mosul) and Syria (Raqqa), the U.S.-backed coalition may finally be turning to deal with Iran.

This Israel-supported Sunni political-military force has obvious implications not only for Iran’s Shiite-related imperialism but also for the Iranian nuclear project. Obama’s *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* not only licensed ultimate Iranian nuclear and missile development, it also agreed to, and indirectly funded, Iran’s regional political expansion.

Now, this is under attack, and behind it too lies the deepening North Korean crisis. Here direct action against either Teheran or Pyongyang (who have helped one another in both nuclear and missile development) can have practical, sobering, and reciprocal con-

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## Hanukkah 5778: The Festival of Lights

Baruch Cohen

*In loving memory of Malka ז”l*

Hanukkah celebrates the victory of Hebraism over Hellenism, a mass uprising of the Jewish people against totalitarianism and anti-Semitic bigotry. Hanukkah celebrates the first serious attempt in history to proclaim and assure the principle of religious liberty.

The primary aim of the Maccabees was to preserve their own identity and way of life, which was in danger of extermination, and to safeguard for Israel the possibility of continuing its traditional aim. It was a fight against an enemy seeking to destroy Judaism, and a victory against extinction. It was also a victory for humanism, light, and justice.

*Chag Urim Sameach* to all of CIJR’s friends and supporters, and to the entire House of Israel. Happy Hanukkah! Love and peace for the entire world.

*(Baruch Cohen, who recently turned 98, has been CIJR’s Research Chairman for 30 years)*

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

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## WEEKLY QUOTES

**“It is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. While previous presidents have made this a major campaign promise, they failed to deliver. Today, I am delivering. I’ve judged this course of action to be in the best interests of the United States of America and the pursuit of peace between Israel and the Palestinians. This is a long overdue step to advance the peace process. And to work towards a lasting agreement.”** — President Donald Trump. Trump officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital on Dec. 6 and directed the State Department to move the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv. (*New York Times*, Dec. 6, 2017)

**“Yesterday was a momentous day...President Trump has inscribed himself in the annals of our capital for all time. His name will now be linked to the names of others in the context of the glorious history of Jerusalem and our people...The Jewish people designated Jerusalem as its capital 3,000 years ago. Here our forefathers walked, here our kings ruled, here our prophets preached. Here are our roots...This is, in effect, our identity card.”**— Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. (*Times of Israel*, Dec. 6, 2017)

**“These deplorable and unacceptable measures deliberately undermine all peace efforts.”** — PA President Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas said the decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital **“is tantamount to the United States abdicating its role as a peace mediator.”** Jerusalem, the Palestinian leader added, was the **“eternal capital of the State of Palestine...Trump’s decision will not change the reality in the city of Jerusalem. This is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic city and it is the capital of the Arab Palestine.”** The move, he said, would serve **“the extremist groups which try to turn the conflict in our region into a religious war that will drag the region... into international conflicts and endless wars.”** (*Ynet*, Dec. 6, 2017)

**“For several years now my students have been mostly Millennials. Contrary to stereotype, I have found that the vast majority of them want to learn. But true to stereotype, I increasingly find that most of them cannot think, don’t know very much, and are enslaved to their appetites and feelings. Their minds are held hostage in a prison fashioned by elite culture and their undergraduate professors. They cannot learn until their minds are freed from that prison... For many of you have not yet been educated. You have been diseducated. To put it bluntly, you have been indoctrinated.”** — Adam MacLeod, law professor at Faulkner University in Alabama. (*Daily Wire*, Nov. 27, 2017)



*U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence stands behind as President Trump holds up the proclamation that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and will move its embassy there, Dec. 6, 2017*

## SHORT TAKES

**CZECHS RECOGNIZE JERUSALEM** (Prague) — The Czech Republic followed President Trump and recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. A statement stressed that the Czech Republic “considers Jerusalem to be future capital of both states, meaning the State of Israel and the future State of Palestine.” The Czech Republic is one of Israel’s strongest allies. Its predecessor state, Czechoslovakia was among the first countries to recognize the State of Israel. Relations were cut off during Communist rule, but were re-established after Czechoslovakia’s split into two countries. (*Arutz Sheva*, Dec. 6, 2017)

**TAYLOR FORCE ACT PASSES HOUSE VOTE** (Washington) — The Taylor Force Act passed the US House of Representatives, confronting the PA with the prospect of a massive cut in US aid for as long as it maintains its policy of paying salaries and other benefits to the families of Palestinian terrorists. Named in memory of Taylor Force — the former U.S. army officer stabbed to death during a knifing spree by a Palestinian assailant in Tel Aviv in 2016 — the legislation prevents the transfer of funds “that directly benefit the Palestinian Authority” for a six-year period unless the PA verifiably ends its so-called “martyr payments” policy. (*Algemeiner*, Dec. 5, 2017)

**RUSSIA AND EGYPT MOVE TOWARD DEAL ON AIR BASES** (Cairo) — Egypt, in what appeared to be a snub to the U.S., has reached a preliminary agreement to allow Russian military jets to use its airspace and bases. The agreement would give Russia its deepest presence in Egypt since 1973, when Cairo expelled the military of the Soviet Union and instead became the U.S.’s closest Arab

ally. The U.S. has provided Egypt more than \$70 billion in aid in the four decades since. The cost is often justified in part by the argument that it secures the use of Egypt’s airspace and bases for the U.S. military. (*New York Times*, Nov. 30, 2017)

**PROBE OF CZAR’S DEATH RILES RUSSIAN JEWS** (Moscow) — The head of a Russian Orthodox Church panel looking into the 1918 killing of Russia’s last czar and his family said it is investigating whether it was a ritual murder. Boruch Gorin, a spokesman for the Federation of Jewish Communities, expressed concern about the claims that he described as a “throwback to the darkest ages.” Nicholas II, his wife and their five children were executed by a Bolshevik firing squad on July 17, 1918. The speculation that the czar and his family were killed by the Jews for ritual purposes long has been promoted by antisemitic groups. (*National Post*, Nov. 28, 2017)

**GERMAN TV PULLS SPONSORSHIP OF WATERS CONCERT OVER BDS** (Cologne) — German public broadcaster *Westdeutscher Rundfunk* (WDR) withdrew its sponsorship of a Roger Waters concert in Cologne after local activists objected to the allocation of public funds to the former Pink Floyd frontman known for his support for the anti-Israel BDS campaign. Earlier, a Cologne resident had started a petition calling the broadcaster to sever ties with Waters. (*Legal Insurrection*, Nov. 27, 2017)

# TRUMP'S JERUSALEM RECOGNITION: A BRAVE AND HISTORIC STEP TOWARDS PEACE

## Israel's Eternal Capital Gets Long Overdue Recognition

Nir Barkat

December 6, 2017 is a day that will be remembered in history for decades and centuries to come as the date that the President of the free world stood on the side of the truth – recognizing Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the State of Israel.

For 3,000 years, the center of Jewish life, prayer and history has been the city of Jerusalem. President Trump's historic statement shows the world clearly and unambiguously that the United States stands with the Jewish people and the State of Israel – and that he stands on the side of truth.

Since reuniting Jerusalem 50 years ago, Israel celebrated the rich diversity of the city. And three of the world's major religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – have thrived in Jerusalem during this time. Today, in one square kilometer, more functioning churches, mosques and synagogues exist in the Old City of Jerusalem than anywhere else in the world. And Jerusalemites have respected freedom of religion, freedom of movement, and freedom of expression for all the city's residents.

These values are the core of Israel's democracy – and are what distinguish us from our enemies around the world. These are not just Israeli values - they are values that we share with our strongest ally, the United States. More than anything, our joint commitment to these principles is the basis of our enduring bond and friendship.

President Trump's bold decision brings us one step closer to peace. It provides certainty both to the people of Israel and to the rest of the world that Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel is not up for debate. For too long, some seeking to derail the peace process have promulgated the fantasy that the State of Israel has no claim to Jerusalem. The certainty provided by the United States' official recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel will enhance, not weaken, the peace process.

Some have insinuated that violence will follow this brave step. Make no mistake, in Jerusalem, we take threats of violence and terror with the utmost seriousness, but we do not let threats of terror deter us from doing what is right. If we did, there would be no State of Israel. Continuing to deny Jerusalem its historic and rightful recognition as the capital of Israel would be letting the terrorists who wish to divide and destroy us win.

Today, the world needs brave leaders who are willing to publicly and confidently recognize the long roots of the Jewish people in this land. Leaders who will do what is right in spite of threats and incitement from the region. Israel and the United States cannot and should not ever allow themselves to be blackmailed by the Palestinians and their allies. Put simply, these are people who have done little or nothing to facilitate the cause of peace and the threat of violence should never be allowed to be used to intimidate supporters of democracy and truth.

Nothing could have better underscored the seriousness of purpose the Administration brings to the start of the peace process than this decision. With this historic statement, President Trump has demonstrated that he understands the reality in the Middle East and the need for bold declarations and actions.

This week, Jews across the world are beginning to prepare for

Hanukka – a holiday that celebrates the heroic Jewish fighters, the Maccabees. The Maccabees fought for the city of Jerusalem thousands of years ago - long before Christianity or Islam existed, and 2 millennia before the US or UN existed. This Hanukka, Jews around the world have an even greater reason to celebrate our connection to this city, as we rejoice over President Trump's official recognition of our history as well.

In the Middle East, darkness often prevails in the form of lies, violence and incitement. For many years now, the peace process has been stalled with no hope in sight. With this brave and historic step, President Trump is sharing light and truth with the world, and demonstrating the seriousness of purpose that will hopefully bring about the start of a real and lasting peace.

*(Nir Barkat is the Mayor of Jerusalem,  
Jerusalem Post, Dec. 8, 2017)*

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## KRANTZ – continued from page 2

sequences for both rogue states.

A resumed and more realistic Saudi/Egyptian-backed peace process, conjoined with consistent pushback against, and blockage of, Iran's expansionism, will also negatively affect three of the other major players in the region—Russia and Turkey, and Iraq.

Russia and Turkey have backed Assad and excluded the U.S. from their Syrian “peace talks” in Astana, and both have played ball with Iranian expansionism. And a weak Shiite-dominated Iraq has fallen under Iranian domination. Russia *acts* like, but in fact is no longer, a Great Power, while Turkey—increasingly Islamist and authoritarian (and economically unstable)—has alienated its former ally, the U.S.

A defeat of Iranian expansionism in Syria and Yemen, conjoined with a successful Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative and a clipping of Hezbollah's Lebanese wings, would isolate and weaken both Russia and Turkey, and increase American influence in Iraq.

Although the Middle East is ever unstable and often disappoints projections, it is possible that we are looking at the beginning of a profound re-ordering of the region. If so, events there will throw into high relief the utopian dimensions of the BDSers' dream of playing a role in Israel's destruction. What may work here in ivory towers isolated by student ignorance, faculty hypocrisy, and administrative cowardice has little to do, ultimately, with the power relationships and civilizational values marking the “real” world.

North American society, unlike some of our campus play-pens, is deeply pro-Israel, and temporary Russian and Hezbollah-Iranian gains in the Middle East may well be erased as the U.S. recovers the world and regional leadership role it formerly played during and after World War II and the Cold War.

Insofar as Israel's, and the Jewish people's, enemies are concerned, on campuses as well as in the Middle East, it is well for them to understand that propaganda lies, “safe spaces”, and “magical thinking” are not political facts. And that Jews today, since 1945 and the re-founding of the state of Israel in 1948 are, like their Maccabean forebears who defended Jewish freedom against the Greeks, not powerless.

*(Professor Frederick Krantz [Liberal Arts College,  
Concordia University] is Director of CIJR and Editor of its  
ISRAFAX and Daily Isranet Briefing journals.)*

## Another Jewish Monopoly: Outrage Over Persecution of Christians.

Paul Merkley

The word is out: Christianity is on the way out in our part of the world. When they enter university, the vestibule to a life of influence, young people who want a future in journalism, in politics, or in education, must check at the door any investments that they may have in Christian faith. Among other considerations, they must give no hint of awareness of the circumstance that Christians are today by far the most persecuted people in the world.

Our major media engines have opted to join secular-leftist elites in the campaign of mockery of Christians. Certain secular-radicals declare openly that, since Christianity provides haven exclusively for misfits and failures, it should be declared a criminal conspiracy.

This objective should become easier to accomplish now that we have a Governor General who ponders out loud: “Can you believe that still today in learned society, in houses of government, unfortunately ... we are still debating and still questioning whether life was a divine intervention or whether it was coming out of a natural process let alone, oh my goodness, a random process.”

So far, in Canada, Christians have to deal with nothing more threatening than this mockery from high places. Meanwhile, out-right persecution is the lot of Christians in most parts of the world. Take, for instance, China. A few days ago, President Trump went

to China and came back with a fistful of trade deals; but he did not raise with President Xi the painful matter of the big-league persecution of the Church by his absolutist regime.

My web-server directs me to only one article on this theme – and that is, of course, from an Israeli author and newspaper: “Persecution of Christians in China at Record High,” Ariel Cohen, *Jerusalem Post*, April 27, 2015.

Only a few voices have been raised in the West on this theme of persecution of Christians around the world. The most eminent of these has been that of the former Chief Rabbi in Great Britain, Jonathan Sacks, who told the House of Lords recently that the suffering of Middle East Christians is “one of the crimes against humanity of our time.” He has compared it with Jewish pogroms in Europe and has said that he was “appalled at the lack of protest it has evoked.” *CIJR*, through its Director, has echoed the Rabbi Sacks’ concern.

But why should Jews care? After all, Muslims make it a point of pride that their investment in any public matter follows only from its effects upon Muslims. Those Christians who have access to the mainstream media suppress complaint about adverse treatment of Christians anywhere lest they appear to be “taking sides.” Jews are concerned about the plight of Christians because Jews are haunted by the Holocaust and, unlike most of their neighbours today, they have a hereditary gift for detecting the social and political signs that lead from quiet daily life to the gas-chambers.

*Paul Merkley is a Professor Emeritus of History, Carleton University, and a CIJR Academic Fellow*

### Editorial

## Five Cases of Christian Persecution

1: Andrew Brunson is an American pastor who has lived in Turkey for the past 23 years. He was imprisoned in the sweep of arrests that followed the failed coup against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the summer of 2016. After being held for over a year with no charges, the Turkish government charged him in August of “spying” and “insurgency” against the government and membership in an unnamed armed terrorist organization, demanding he be given four consecutive life sentences. Erdogan recently made clear that Brunson is being held as a negotiating chip to force America’s hand to extradite Fethullah Gulen, a powerful Turkish imam living in Pennsylvania whom Erdogan accuses of being behind the coup...

2: Muslim Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria are waging an ongoing battle against Christians in the Plateau State. In October alone, 21 Christians were massacred...In 2016, the Fulanis, who are militant Islamists, killed over 800 Christians and non-Islamist Muslims and destroyed at least 16 churches. In addition, they burned down 53 villages including 1,422 houses. Thousands of Christians have also been slaughtered by Boko Haram in Nigeria. The brutal Islamist terror group was founded in 2002 and began a violent insurgency in 2009.

3: A menacing 1,000-strong mob gathered outside a newly-renovated Coptic church in Mina, Egypt in late October threatening the worshippers. While the doors were bolted shut, the police were called to disperse the crowd. The Christians were subsequently held responsible for the incident and forced to at-

tend a “peace” meeting with the aggressors. Coptic Christians in Egypt have been subjected to severe abuse by local Islamists including Muslim Brotherhood members and ISIS. Christian girls are routinely kidnapped and forcibly converted to Islam or trafficked; Christians are targeted in extrajudicial killings and churches are bombed and burned.

4: Sixteen-year-old Maryam Khalid, a Christian girl in Pakistan who stepped outside her house to visit a friend, was abducted by a Muslim landlord in the area, forcibly converted and married off to one of the landlord’s friends. No action was taken by the authorities after the victim’s parents appealed to them for help. Unfortunately, stories like these are commonplace, as in the case of another 16-year old, Sonia Nasar, who was kidnapped and raped by her Muslim neighbor as she walked home from choir practice at her church. Even after Sonia ended up in the hospital in critical condition (which forced authorities to register the case), no legal proceedings were commenced against her attacker, who was well connected with the ruling Muslim League Party in the area...

5: ISIS targeted Christians in their recent insurgency against the city of Marawi on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, executing at least 25, taking mass hostages and looting their property. There were also reports that Christians were abused by government forces fighting ISIS, who were suspicious of the fleeing Christians. Refugees detailed how they were detained and tortured by the army and how the soldiers looted their property.

*(Clarion Project, Nov. 28, 2017)*



# BDS AND THE ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN

The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement claims to be “a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality,” that “upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.” BDS urges action in the form of anti-Israel boycotts and economic pressure, and maintains that it is not anti-Semitic. However, BDS’ rhetoric, leadership, and tactics clearly indicate that the movement is anti-Semitic.

BDS’ goal is to destroy Israel by delegitimizing the nation in order to deny the Jewish people the right to self-determination in their historic homeland. BDS, using a forced analogy of South African apartheid, seeks to isolate Israel from the world as an international pariah, calling for the end to investment, trade, cultural and academic ties with the Jewish State. Furthermore, BDS exclusively targets Israel and “international support for Israeli apartheid,” thereby using a double-standard that not only ignores atrocities in other nations, but also Palestinian terrorism and human rights violations.

BDS activists also use symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis as Nazis, fascists, or as part of a global Jewish conspiracy. Boycotts of Israel follow the spirit of Nazi-era boycotts of Jewish-owned businesses. The student parliament at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany recently condemned BDS, saying that “the call by the BDS campaign to boycott products...stands clearly in the tradition of the national socialist Jewish boycott and the slogan ‘Don’t buy from Jews!’” Finally, rather than working to find a peaceful solution, BDS encourages Palestinian “rejectionism” and one-sided anti-Israel campaigns.



*BDS activists in France*

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2001:** The BDS campaign was a product of the NGO Forum held in parallel to the UN World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa. The Forum’s final declaration described Israel as a “racist, apartheid state.” The declaration established a plan promoting “a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state... the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links... between all states and Israel” (article 424). The use of the apartheid accusation drew a false parallel to South Africa.

**APRIL 2004:** The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) was launched in Ramallah in April, 2004 by a group of Palestinian academics. One of the founders was Omar Barghouti, a Qatari-born Palestinian with Israeli permanent residency status. Al-



*Poster for a BDS-sponsored event in South Africa featuring Leila Khaled. Khaled is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP). She came to public attention for her role in a 1969 hijacking of a flight from Rome to Tel Aviv, and one of four simultaneous hijackings the following year.*

though he actively lobbies for anti-Israel boycotts, Barghouti holds a Master’s degree from Tel Aviv University and is pursuing a PhD. In March, 2017, Barghouti was arrested in Israel on suspicion of tax evasion.

Speaking at Ottawa University in 2009, Barghouti said “I do not buy into the two state solution. It is not just pragmatically impossible it was never a moral solution... The first issue would be the right of return but if the refugees were to return you cannot have a two-state solution... you will have a Palestinian state next to a Palestinian state rather than a Palestinian state next to Israel”

**JULY 9, 2005:** Over 170 Palestinian NGOs initiated a BDS campaign against Israel. The campaign urged that various forms of “non-violent punitive measures should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people’s inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law, by:

- Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall
- Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
- Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.”
- Calling for the dismantling of Israel through the ‘right of return,’ BDS’ goal has always been the destruction of Israel.

**MAY, 2006:** The Ontario wing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) voted to pass a resolution to support the BDS campaign against Israel “until that state recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination.” The resolution called for action to develop an education campaign about the “apartheid nature of the Israeli state,” and to conduct research into Canadian involvement in the “occupation.”

**JUNE AND JULY, 2008:** Open letters were issued by BDS groups to Snoop Doggy Dog, Branford Marsalis, and Mercedes Sosa, all of whom were scheduled to perform concerts in Israel.

**SEPTEMBER, 2009:** Iconic Canadian singer Leonard Cohen performed his first show in Israel in 30 years, ignoring BDS calls to cancel the appearance. Cohen responded to the boycott calls by offering to perform in Ramallah, in the West Bank, as well. He said all proceeds from the shows would go to Israeli-Pales-

# TO ISOLATE AND DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL

tinian peace organizations, but a BDS group urged the singer to cancel the shows and launched a protest campaign.

**DECEMBER, 2014:** Concordia University's undergraduate students voted in favour of a boycott of Israel. Concordia's president, Alan Shepard, took issue with the idea of a boycott. "In my view, a boycott barring us from contact with other universities and scholars would be contrary to the value of academic freedom... That freedom — to think the thoughts we want to think, to test ideas however controversial — is the bedrock of university life. Boycotts by definition foreclose all opportunities for such a free exchange of ideas and perspectives," he said.

**AUGUST, 2015:** The United Church of Canada passed a resolution encouraging divestment from Israel. The UCC is Canada's largest Protestant denomination, with more than two million members. In 2012, the organization passed a resolution boycotting settlement-produced goods.

**APRIL, 2017:** The BDS movement and various artists tried to dissuade American rock band Radiohead from performing in Israel. The artists, led by former Pink Floyd front man Roger Waters, had called on Radiohead to cancel the concert and a planned lecture by lead singer Thom Yorke. Yorke criticized the "extremely upsetting" efforts by BDS and Waters to dissuade the band from performing in Israel, and the Tel Aviv concert went ahead as planned.

**APRIL 9, 2017:** The student senate at Tufts University in Massachusetts passed a BDS resolution, drafted by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), just ahead of Passover. California schools have passed a number of divestment resolutions, including Stanford, UCLA and Berkeley. Several elite Eastern schools, such as Wesleyan and Oberlin, have passed them as well. At Princeton, a graduate student group voted for divestment, while the undergraduates defeated a separate measure. Vassar passed and then rescinded a student government resolution.

**JUNE, 2017:** Modern Language Association members voted to reject academic boycotts of Israel. Resolutions calling for an academic boycott of Israeli universities routinely come before the MLA executive and membership and have been voted down. Several other academic groups in the U.S., including the American Studies Association, have passed resolutions calling for an academic boycott of Israel. Last June, the membership of the American Anthropological Association narrowly defeated a BDS resolution.

**JUNE, 2017:** Jewish people at LGBT Pride in Chicago were told not to display Star of David flags because other people found them "offensive." The Star of David flag was banned from the city's annual Dyke March, and several people carrying the flag were removed from the march because their presence "made people feel unsafe." After the Chicago Dyke March incident caused a national scandal, the city's Slut-Walk organization announced that it would prohibit "Zionist symbols" at an upcoming rally.

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2017:** The undergraduate student government at McGill University in Montreal ratified a ruling against the BDS movement for violating its policy against discrimination based on national origin. The Judicial Board of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) initially issued the ruling in June 2016, after anti-Israel activists failed to pass a motion in support of BDS. That vote was the third unsuccessful effort organized by anti-Israel activists at McGill in 18 months. The McGill Daily student newspaper also maintains an editorial policy of not publishing articles "which promote a Zionist world-



*Roger Waters, co-founder of British rock band Pink Floyd. Waters, a leading BDS activist and outspoken critic of Israel, has been accused of anti-Semitism. He came under fire in 2013 for using a pig-shaped balloon with Jewish symbols, including a Star of David, at his concerts.*

view."

**OCTOBER, 2017:** BDS on U.S. campuses in October focused on disrupting pro-Israel events. A group of pro-Israel Israeli Arabs visiting the US had reportedly received threats via social media. The Reservists on Duty organization had scheduled members of six Arab minority groups in Israel to travel to college campuses in the US. Stanford University's Hillel chapter rescinded its invitation to the group for unspecified reasons likely related to safety concerns.

**NOVEMBER 3, 2017:** The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) turned down a motion endorsing BDS. The motion called on the SFUO to include a statement supporting BDS in its policy handbook and to take a "pro-Palestine stance." Attempts by Canadian student unions to pass BDS resolutions have failed at universities including the University of Toronto (twice), McGill, Winnipeg, Waterloo, UBC, and Simon Fraser, but succeeded at York and Concordia.

The Anti-Israel Money Trail: In 2016, Jonathan Schanzer, of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told members of Congress about a network linking Hamas supporters with the leadership of the BDS movement. The research tracked employees of three now-defunct organizations – the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, Kind Hearts Foundation for Humanitarian Development and the Islamic Association for Palestine — all of which were implicated in financing Hamas. Schanzer described it as "troubling" that employees of these organizations were now associated with American Muslims for Palestine, "arguably the leading BDS organization in the US, a key sponsor of the anti-Israel campus network known as Students for Justice in Palestine," he said. The organization, according to Schanzer, provides money, speakers, training and even "apartheid walls" to SJP activists on campus for the annual Israel Apartheid Week events. (Times of Israel, Apr. 20, 2016)

*(Rob Coles is CIJR's Publications Manager)*



## Anti-Semitism Destroys Campaign for Jewish Student at McGill University

Hana Levi Julian

A vote of 160 people opposed Noah Lew as a director of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU), because he is a Jew. The vote took place on the campus of McGill University in Montreal in the society's bi-annual General Assembly following a targeted anti-Semitic smear campaign aimed at Lew, who had served as a director on the SSMU board since June 2017.

Lew voiced his support for a decision to ratify an earlier ruling of the SSMU board that the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions campaign against Israel and similar motions violate the SSMU Constitution because they are discriminatory in nature, and voted in favor for it in September. "Predictably, the backlash from the McGill BDS Action Network was swift," he wrote in a recent Facebook post. Shortly thereafter, the McGill BDS Action Network held public meetings where they outlined their planned response. Their plan was a campaign called 'Democratize SSMU.'

"Democratize SSMU was a campaign to remove all Jewish and anti-BDS students from SSMU's leadership, thinly veiled under the guise of "democracy," "transparency," and "accountability." The description for the Democratize SSMU Facebook event publicly targeted me and two of my fellow Directors simply for being Jewish and having connections to a Jewish organization. My Jewish identity was now public, and a target was placed squarely upon me by the McGill BDS movement."

## Wilfrid Laurier Graduate Student Delivers a Wake-Up Call

Margaret Wente

If you want to understand the intellectual corruption that is eating away at our universities, listen to an audio recording made by a graduate student named Lindsay Shepherd. She is a 22-year-old teaching assistant at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario... (In early November), she was summoned for a reprimand after a student, or students, complained about offensive material she had introduced in class. She decided to record the meeting on her computer instead of taking notes. Afterward, she took her story to the media, where it hit the headlines... Now, the university has a full-blown crisis on its hands...

In the meeting, Ms. Shepherd is confronted by three superiors who bully her, ignore her version of the story and attempt to intimidate her with veiled accusations. At times, she is reduced to tears. The power imbalance is extreme. The resemblance to a Maoist struggle session – where party zealots gang up on a wrong-thinker and try to force her to confess the error of her ways – is painful. During the interrogation, Ms. Shepherd is told repeatedly that she is guilty of spreading transphobia... At one point her supervisor, Nathan Rambukkana, compares her actions to endorsing white supremacy. "This is like neutrally playing a speech by Hitler," he tells her.

What did Ms. Shepherd do? She played a three-minute video clip from a TV program that had been broadcast on TVO. It fea-

Democratize SSMU later removed Lew's name from the description of the campaign, and admitted that it had been "insensitive to anti-Semitic tropes of Jewish people as corrupt and politically powerful." Despite removing names, the description remained almost identical, and students were urged to attend the SSMU General Assembly and take action. "The first 5 directors were ratified with not enough opposition to even warrant counting votes. When my name came up, over 100 students raised their placards in opposition to my ratification, and I was not ratified as a Director," Lew wrote. "I was blocked from participating in student government because of my Jewish identity and my affiliations with Jewish organizations," Lew wrote.

Lew was accused of affiliation with Jewish political organizations such as the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee (CJPAC), according to a report posted on the *National Post* written by senior student David Watson, who said Lew's removal is "just the latest symptom of a much deeper problem" at McGill. Watson, in his final semester, said the student society is "engulged in an endless debate over whether or not to support the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement . . . It's a struggle that consumes the attention of the society and its members. . . ."

"I'm not aware of any legitimate criticisms of Lew, since no one even bothered to speak during the allotted debate period before the vote. But whatever their intentions, what matters most is that their actions have real, damaging consequences for our university's Jewish students," he added. McGill Principal Suzanne Fortier released a statement following the vote, promising an investigation and a task force on "respect and inclusion in campus life." . . .

*(Jewish Press, Nov. 9, 2017)*

ured a debate over transgender pronouns. The role of Hitler was played by Jordan Peterson, the notorious University of Toronto professor who has thrown the entire academic world into conniption fits with his alleged hate thoughts. Among other things, Prof. Peterson argues that Ontario's human-rights code could compel people to use non-gendered artificial pronouns – a position that Ms. Shepherd's superiors at WLU evidently share.

Ms. Shepherd attempted to explain that she doesn't even agree with Prof. Peterson. She simply used the clip to help frame a class discussion – an explanation that her interrogators ignored. . . . When she pointed out that the pronoun controversy has already been widely aired in public, she was told that some ideas are too "problematic" to be introduced into the classroom. When she voiced her opinion that universities should be places for debate, she was told that she's created a toxic environment for students. . . .

Ms. Shepherd didn't set out to be a whistle-blower. She simply believes in calling bullshit when she sees it. And what she sees are students and faculty who are shut down or censored if they don't toe the party line. What she sees are burgeoning enforcement apparatuses for speech and conduct that, in the name of "diversity" and "equity," sometimes make genuine academic inquiry all but impossible. What she sees are university leaders who are hostage to the righteous insanities of the day. . . .

So far, the university has mustered no more than the usual anodyne response, complete with the promise of a task force to explore the "complex" issues of academic expression. In the meantime, the underlying rot goes unaddressed.

*(Globe & Mail, Nov. 20, 2017)*



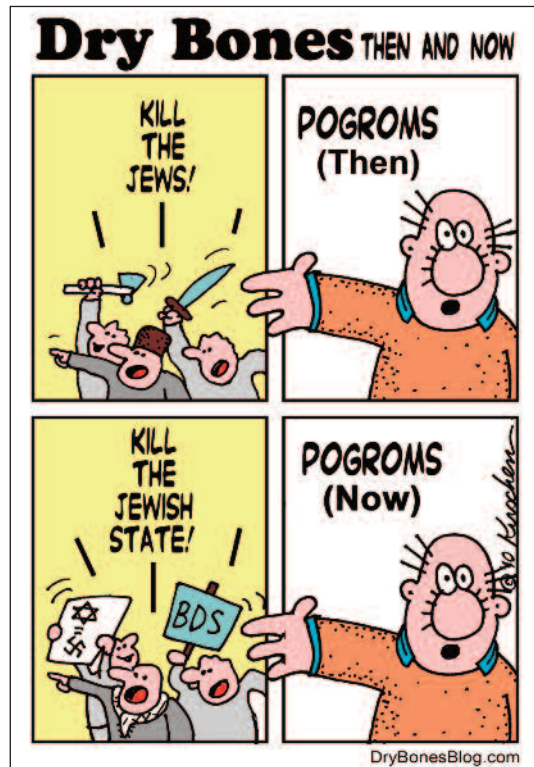
## New Report Details Links Between Georgetown University's Islamic Studies Department and Radical Islam

Nicholas Elliot

...A (new) report from academic watchdog *Campus Watch*, a project of the *Middle East Forum*...details troubling financial and ideological connections between Georgetown's various Middle East studies faculty and Islamism, anti-Western scholarship, and anti-Semitism dating back to the 1970s.

Entitled "Islamists, Apologists, and Fellow Travelers: Middle East Studies Faculty at Georgetown," the report segments the professors at the center of the *Campus Watch* investigation into two categories, the "old" and "new" guard, and illustrates the questionable ideological and political affiliations of the field's most prominent staff.

Among these employees is John Esposito, the founding director of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU). According to *Campus Watch*, Esposito began the program's transition to radicalism. For example, in 2005, Esposito secured a \$20 million gift from Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal to support and expand the Center's mission. Since this donation, ACMCU has been criticized as a "magnet for Arab and Muslim money," as the Center developed ties to individuals and organizations directly involved in Islamic terrorism. These include convicted Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Sami Al-Arian, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the Muslim



Brotherhood and Hamas Operative Azzam Tamimi and his Institute for Islamic Political Thought, and Hamas Spokesman Ahmad Yusuf.

Fast forward to today and the current director, Jonathan Brown, has not simply cemented Esposito's poisonous legacy, but extended it. Our readers might remember Jonathan Brown as the professor who defended Islamic slavery and rape in early 2017. Brown is also a signatory to the Religious Studies Scholars Statement of Solidarity with the Palestinians BDS Movement and the 2014 Academic Boycott of Israel letter.

The report argues that this increasingly biased focus contradicts the Center's mission of creating a free and open dialogue between faiths. In order to remedy this polarization and to combat anti-Semitic tendencies, *Campus Watch* calls for Georgetown University to adhere to academic integrity with the presentation of rigorously derived, unbiased information to its students; the certainty that funds given to the Middle East studies departments are promoting non-partisan scholarship; and a reining in of anti-Semitic and anti-American ideologies.

(*Georgetown Review*, Dec. 4, 2017)

### Editorial

## The New School's Fake Panel 'to Combat Anti-Semitism'

It's the very definition of Orwellian: a panel titled "Anti-Semitism and the Struggle for Justice" that's actually meant to promote Israel-bashing. Co-sponsored by The New School's Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism program, the Nov. 28 event bill(ed) itself as "a discussion on how to combat anti-Semitism." But it quickly reveals its true goal.

"When anti-Semitism is redefined as criticism of Israel," reads the description, "critics of Israeli policy become accused and targeted more than the growing far-right." Translation: Pretend you merely hate Israel — and not Jews per se — and you can't be called an anti-Semite. Huh? How's that a way to "combat anti-Semitism"?

Let's be honest: Attacking Israel is often little more than a cover for Jew-hating, a point the State Department makes in its official definition of anti-Semitism. And look who the panel is featuring — starting with Linda Sarsour, the former executive director of the Arab-American Association of New York and anti-Israel firebrand.

Never mind that her crudeness (she has tweeted such helpful

comments as women's-rights activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is asking "4 an a\$\$whippin' ") and her implicit support for terrorists make her an odd choice for a college-sponsored forum. She has also made common cause with noted anti-Semite Louis Farrakhan, claims "nothing is creepier than Zionism" and objects to Jews (as opposed to other people) having a homeland. She's the choice to co-lead a panel on anti-Semitism?

Meanwhile, Sarsour's co-panelist, Re-becca Vilkomerson, who heads Jewish Voice for Peace, is also a revealing choice: The Anti-Defamation League says JVP uses its Jewish identity to shield the anti-Israel crowd from charges of anti-Semitism and to "provide the movement with a veneer of legitimacy." As ADL National Director Jonathan Greenblatt recently tweeted: "Having Linda Sarsour & head of JVP leading a panel on #antisemitism is like Oscar Meyer leading a panel on vegetarianism."

Yet, most telling is the lack of any real anti-Semitism experts on the panel — or for that matter, even any moderates or conservatives. No, this Israel-bash fest won't "combat" anti-Semitism but only inflame it. And shame The New School for sponsoring it.

(*New York Post*, November 19, 2017)

## Editorial

### New Peace Initiatives

We are living in remarkable times. Never before in Israel's short history has there been such a striking convergence of interests between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbors. Iran and Islamic State have become unparalleled unifying forces, pushing Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Jordan and Egypt into the same camp with Israel. All these countries share the desire to stop Iranian expansion in the region. They are united in their opposition to Iran's proxies – Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. They view Islamist extremism as an existential threat, and are acutely aware that without Israeli cooperation, an anti-Iranian, anti-ISIS front would lack much of its effectiveness.

This paradigm shift in relations between Israel and its Sunni neighbors has already had a direct impact on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to the benefit of both Israelis and Palestinians. According to a report by *The New York Times*, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman presented a peace initiative to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas when he visited Riyadh last month. According to the plan, Palestinians would have to settle for less than a full-fledged state of their own, which would be established on noncontiguous patches of land in the West Bank connected by roads, bridges and underpasses. The vast majority of Jewish communities would stay put.

Jerusalem would remain the capital of Israel, while the Palestinians would make Abu Dis, a neighborhood adjacent to Jerusalem, the capital of their new state. And Palestinian refugees who left Israel during and immediately after the 1948 War of In-

dependence and their descendants would not be granted the right of return to Israel proper.

Both Saudi Arabia and the PA have officially denied the plan was presented at the Salman-Abbas meeting, but the idea is now out there in the Arab world. Even if this initiative is Salman's idea and does not have the official support of the Saudi government, it is a remarkable breakthrough that reflects a sincere desire on the part of the Saudis to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to remove a major obstacle to full and open cooperation between Jerusalem and Riyadh.

In the past, Saudi Arabia and other Sunni countries had less of an incentive to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In fact, the opposite was true. Israel was often demonized by autocratic regimes to deflect criticism from themselves. The plight of the Palestinians was a rallying cry shared by all Arabs. The 2002 Arab Peace Initiative was a product of this geopolitical reality. It affirmed the right of return, insisted on a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and recognized Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

Fifteen years later, it is clear from Salman's plan that the goal is not to perpetuate the conflict but to bring about a workable compromise so that cooperation with Israel on what really matters to the Saudis – confronting Iran and ISIS – is made possible... We are living in an era in which Sunni states, such as Saudi Arabia, have a vested interest in solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And, for the first time, there are indications that instead of backing Palestinians' unrealistic demands and repeating empty mantras such as a full return to pre-1967 borders and a full right of return for Palestinian refugees, they are now pressuring the Palestinians to adopt a more pragmatic approach to Palestinian autonomy...

*(Jerusalem Post, Dec. 4, 2017)*

### The Saudis and Israel

Elliott Abrams

This past week the Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Force gave an interview to a Saudi news site, *Elaph*, and said Israel would be ready to share intelligence about Iran with Saudi Arabia. "We're willing to exchange information with the moderate Arab nations, including intelligence, in order to deal with Iran. We're willing to share information if the need arises. There are many shared interests between us and Saudi Arabia," said Gen. Gadi Eizenkot.

*Elaph* has been open to Israeli officials for several years, including interviews with generals, foreign ministry officials, and cabinet members. Still, no chief of staff of the army had ever spoken to them—and thus directly addressed Saudi readers.

This event is a step forward in Israeli/Saudi relations, and the public discussion of intelligence sharing (which may be taking place in secret) is also an important step. The tone of Saudi official comments on Israel has certainly changed. Once upon a time Israel was the "Zionist entity" whose name was not even spoken. Now, the Saudi news station *Al Arabiya* handles Israel straightforwardly: for example, on November 15 it carried a Reuters story about Israel's offer of help to earthquake victims in Iran.

But let's not go too far in interpreting what all this means. The Trump administration's efforts to "fast-forward" Israeli/Saudi relations have not succeeded. As part of its efforts to promote an

Israeli/Palestinian peace plan, there are reports that the administration asked the Saudis to do things like permitting overflights of Saudi Arabia by El Al and having some public meetings with Israeli officials. Israel would make concessions to the Palestinian Authority and freeze some settlement activity in exchange.

The problem here is that the Saudis are right now getting the military and intelligence cooperation they appear to want from Israel—in secret. Public collaboration with Israel or concessions to it would be politically dangerous for the Saudi government, at a moment when to say the very least its plate is full. The last thing it would appear to need is more political controversy stirring up internal criticism and opposition.

So the cooperation between Israel and Saudi Arabia will likely continue, and deepen, and signs of it will emerge from time to time—signs like the Eizenkot interview in *Elaph*. A great leap forward such as the groundbreaking Sadat visit to Jerusalem is highly unlikely, as are most public displays of official contacts. *Elaph*, after all, is a private news site; no Israeli officials have been interviewed by *Al Arabiya*. And flights from Israel to Asia continue to take long routes that must skirt Saudi air space. The Trump administration was counting on Saudi and pan-Arab desire to help the Palestinians and help the "peace process" to overcome Arab desires to avoid political danger, but that was an over-estimation of the degree of Arab official concern about the Palestinians. Arab regimes do care about the Palestinians, but they care about themselves and their own political health far more.

*(Council on Foreign Relations, Nov. 19, 2017)*



**Nitsana Darshan-Leitner & Samuel M. Katz. *Harpoon: Inside the Covert War Against Terrorism's Money Masters*. New York: Hachette Books, 2017**

By Bradley Martin

After signing the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, Palestinian leadership under Yasser Arafat promised an end to their terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians. In exchange, Arafat was granted a significant degree of autonomous rule in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, which would serve as the prototype for a future Palestinian Arab state living alongside Israel.

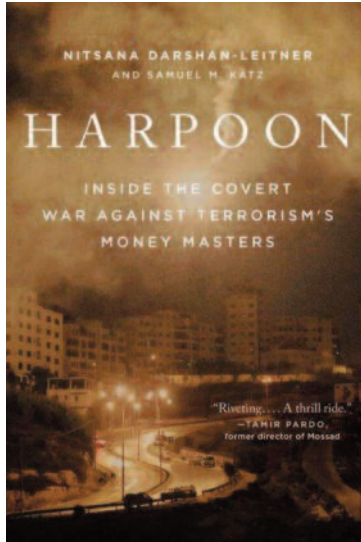
Yet what followed was years of Palestinian terrorist attacks following the Oslo Accords, which included such gruesome methods as shootings, stabbings against Israeli civilians, and suicide bombing attacks as the Sbarro Restaurant Massacre, in which 15 civilians were killed, including 7 children and a pregnant woman. Over one thousand Israelis were murdered during the Second Intifada, while thousands more were injured.

Israel responded with military force, however it would not be enough to stop this reign of terror. What needed to be done was to stop the flow of money which financed Palestinian terror networks. Nitsana Darshan-Leitner and Samuel M. Katz tell the story of how Meir Dagan, a man who would be appointed as the head of Israel's Mossad, created "Harpoon," a task force which coordinated efforts to end the funding of terrorism. In doing so, the State of Israel taught the world that in order to effectively undermine terrorists, you had to hit it where it hurt: their wallets.

In detailing the extraordinary life of Dagan and key figures which made up his team of spies and commandos, *Harpoon* reads like a fast-paced thriller novel. However, this does not take away from the book's value as a serious work in the history of counter-terrorism.

*Harpoon* traces the extensive financial networks that keeps anti-Israel terrorism a lucrative business. Encompassing Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Palestinian expatriate communities in the United States, as well as a number of Islamic charities, this network is responsible for making sure that the families of dead terrorists are well-supported financially. *Harpoon* also shatters the long-held myth in intelligence circles that the suicide bomber is nothing more than "a poor-man's cruise missile," detailing the lengthy and expensive process in how the incendiary devices are manufactured and how a prospective terrorist is psychologically screened.

What is also striking about *Harpoon* is how it challenges the preconceived notion that terrorists are poor and illiterate fanatics. Islamic terrorists are often found to be considerably wealthy and



highly educated. Such is exemplified in the cases of Abd al-Rahman Mustafa al-Qaduli, a physics teacher from Mosul who would later become ISIS's finance minister. There is also the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which was founded in Gaza in 1981 by a pediatrician. The current leader of the PIJ, Ramadan Abdullah Shalah, earned his PhD in banking and economics from the University of Durham. Shalah actually planned violent operations against Israelis, earmarking cash and making political decisions, as he marked school papers while working as a professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

*Harpoon* is a superb book that outlines how Israel became the preeminent authority when it comes to fighting terrorism by attacking its sources of income. Through cloak and dagger methods as well as the use of "lawfare," where law firms such as Darshan-Leitner's *Shurat HaDin*, sue banks, individuals and organizations on behalf of victims of terror, Israel has dealt a significant blow against the lifeblood of terrorism. In the case of Iraq and Syria, U.S policy is increasingly emulating Israeli methods when it comes to defeating ISIS.

*Harpoon* does not merely list historical events as they occur, but effectively grips the reader into the narrative while developing a personal relationship with the figures who make up Dagan's team. This book must be considered required reading for anyone considering a career in counter-terrorism.

*(Bradley Martin is Deputy Editor for the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and Senior Fellow with the news and public policy group Haym Salomon)*

**Recent Books**

Allen, Jonathan & Parnes, Amie. *Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign*. New York: Crown Publishing Group, 2017

Aviv, Efrat (Ed.). *Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in Turkey: From Ottoman Rule to AKP*. New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2017

Gewirtz, Jason. *Israel's Edge: The Story of the IDF's Most Elite Unit – Talpiot*. New York: Gefen Publishing House, 2016

Gingrich, Newt. *Understanding Trump*. New York: Center Street Publishing, 2017

McDermott, Gerald R. (Ed.). *The New Christian Zionism: Fresh Perspectives on Israel & The Land*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016

Weitzman, Steven. *The Origin of the Jews: The Quest for Roots in a Rootless Age*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017

*CIJR invites all readers to consult its Research Library and extensive Israel DataBank in person and online.*



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## EXTRA! EXTRA!

## From the Chairman

Dear friends and supporters,

The mostly untold story of Jewish Refugees from Arab Lands gathered momentum recently with the announcement of a collaborative effort between Prof. Uzi Rabi, Director of the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University and Prof. Henry Green, the executive director of the Sephardi Voices project, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Miami.

They are attempting to record and archive the personal stories of surviving Jewish expelled from the lands of Islam. Though this effort is about 50 years late, hopefully the world community will get at least some benefit from testimonials that would otherwise have gone untold.

Jews have lived in North Africa, the Middle East, and Iran for millennia. In the aftermath of World War Two and the founding of the State of Israel, Jews were expelled from their native lands and scattered throughout the world. Their experience was rarely documented, their plight ignored, and their heritage overlooked. Before Israel's 1948 War of Independence there were ca. 946,000 Jews in 10 Islamic countries in North Africa and the Middle East, including Iran. Today 14,500 are left, most in Iran and Morocco.

On the other hand, the narrative of being victimized refugees put the Palestinians on a pedestal, with plenty of media and political attention, despite—or because of—incessant terrorism gaining them international “notoriety”. The number of their refugees in 1948, due to a war they initiated, was far below the number of Jewish refugees expelled from Arab and Muslim lands. Yet through UNRWA and other UN and NGO's aid programs the Palestinians have been turned into poor “eternal” refugees, “victims” of “Israeli Occupation and Oppression”. Meanwhile, the unheralded Jewish refugees from Arab lands were integrated into Israeli society, with the full range of democratic rights.

Israeli authorities, and we, have to insure that the story and plight of Jewish refugees from Arab lands, and restitution for their suffering, must be an inseparable part of any “peace process” negotiations.

Meanwhile, rejoicing at the U.S.'s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, we at CIJR are busy with 2018 Montreal and Toronto program activities, working on the opening of the American branch, AIJR, in D.C., and organizing the special 30th Anniversary Gala (tentatively for early May, 2018). Many thanks as always to Yunna Shapira, Rob Coles, and the wonderful CIJR staff, headed by the indefatigable Prof. Krantz and wife Lenore, to our beloved Research Chair, Baruch Cohen (98 this year!), and his dear wife Sonia, and to our dedicated Board and Academic Council members. Good health and a Happy Hanukkah and joyous holiday season to all our readers, members, students and their families.

Jack Kincler, *National Board Chairman*

## From the Toronto Chapter

A panel, titled, “Free Speech and the Anti-Israel Mob” was held in August, organized by CIJR Toronto and Hasbara Canada, at the Zionist Centre. Keynoter was Hen Mazzig, Israeli writer and activist. *Toronto Sun* columnist Sue-Ann Levy, student activist Aedan O'Connor, and Conservative organizer Ben Dichter also spoke. Moderator was CIJR's Alan Herman.

*Reservists on Duty* is a new organization, established last year by IDF reserve combat soldiers and officers, dedicated to exposing the new antisemitic and BDS movements erupting on Canadian and U.S. college campuses. ROD also reveals the real agenda of non-governmental organizations in Israel like *Breaking the Silence* and *B'Tzelem*. These remarkable young people are presently touring Canada and the US. CIJR actively assisted Hasbara Canada, and hosted ROD at Toronto's Village Shul in October.

In this era of escalating antisemitic menace, especially in universities, Dr. Lawrence Hart, a practicing physician on McMaster Medical School's faculty, has been on the front lines of combat for over 15 years. In an incisive lecture, “Lessons Learned from 15 Years of Pro-Israel Advocacy on a University Campus: the McMaster Experience”, Dr. Hart drew on his experience in defending, and supporting, our students against antisemitism, old and new.

An overflow crowd greeted Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, founder of *Shurat Hadin Israel Law Centre*, November 23, speaking on social media within the framework of her ongoing anti-terrorist “lawfare” work. She also discussed her new book, *Harpoon: Inside the Covert War Against Terrorism's Money Masters*, the first account of Israel's top-secret targeting of terror organizations' financing.

(Alan Herman and Doris Epstein are Co-Chairs of CIJR's Toronto Chapter)