

**ISRAEL NEWS**  
*A collection of the week's news from Israel*  
*A service of the Bet El Twinning Committee of*  
*Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

## Quotes...

### Netanyahu's Resignation Letter

*The following is an unofficial translation of Bibi's letter to PM Sharon*  
Mr. Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister, Jerusalem, Sir;

From the first conversation when you presented your plan to me, I told you that I oppose unilateral withdrawal without anything in return, that in my estimation will strengthen the forces of terror. As a minimum I asked for the inclusion of the settlement blocs within the security fence before the beginning of the withdrawal and the holding of the Philadelpi Corridor in our hands. In this way we would be neutralizing the impression that we are running away from terror and instead shows that we are choosing a new defense line in accordance with our national interests. In addition, we set that after then the Government would be able to consider if to decide on the evacuation in light of the reality developing in the area.

To my sorrow, the security fence has not been completed around the settlement blocs, the Philadelpi Corridor will be handed over to the Palestinians, and worse than that, we will allow the Palestinians to open a sea port that will be open to the terror boats.

To my disappointment, the Government ignores reality. As I warned, the Hamas is strengthening, the terror continues, the firing of rockets and mortars on our communities has not ended, and terror elements proclaim that they will move the rockets that drove us out of the Gaza Strip to Judea and Samaria, and from there will operate them until "the complete liberation of Palestine."

I do not know when the terror will break out in full force. It is possible that it will take a month or two or a year or two. It is possible that the terror will first break out in Judea and Samaria. I hope that it won't break out at all. But just as I warned in 1993 that the Oslo Agreement will bring attacks from Judea and Samaria and rockets from Gaza, so I unfortunately am convinced today that the current move will bring in the course of time to an increase in terror rather than a decrease. As you know full well, security officials also confirm that in the wake of the unilateral withdrawal they expect an increase in terror in the mid-run.

In summary: it is becoming increasingly clear that the unilateral withdrawal under fire doesn't give us anything. The opposite; it endangers the security of Israel, divides the Nation, and sets the principle of withdrawal to the '67 lines that are not defensible.

This is not the way to achieve peace.

I always thought that the withdrawal from Gaza is possible in an agreement or for a reasonable consideration. That is not the case now. Therefore, what are we receiving in return for the withdrawal? What are we receiving for uprooting families with their children, their homes, their graves! We will receive an Islamic terror base.

After the terror attacks in New York, Washington, London and Sinai, the world begins to understand that it is necessary to fight terror and not make compromises. The international community understands more and more that it is impossible to fight terror by running away from it, because the accumulating experience shows that the terror only strengthens and pursues us. And yet Israel, which showed the world the way to fight terror, now, goes in the completely opposite direction.

In recent months I hoped that the Government would open its eyes against this clear reality and change direction. But the opposite happened. A balanced Government that reflected the will of the People in the last elections has turned into a Government that carries out automatically policies that oppose the principles of the Likud and the mandate that we received from our voters.

Mister Prime Minister, you could have kept a balanced National Government. You could have prevented the splitting of the Nation. Over the course of months I asked for a national referendum that would maintain unity in the Government and the Nation. To my sorrow, you chose to oppose it, as before you chose to ignore the referendum of the Likud members that you initiated and whose results you promised to honor. Now, in these hard days before us, the need for reserve, control and responsibility from all parts of the Nation and the Government is greater than ever.

All this time I remained in the Government despite my growing opposition to the withdrawal given the developments. I did this as an attempt to minimize the dangers and damages resulting from the unilateral withdrawal. An attempt that to my sorrow has been exhausted. And I did it out of responsibility to my position as minister of the treasury. We are in the middle

of carrying out a ט"ב  
revolution of reforms and privatizations unprecedented in the market, which will strengthen the State of Israel and its economy. These days I completed the two last reforms, in banks and reducing taxes, and I prepared a responsible State budget that I developed in complete coordination with you.

When I entered my position two and a half years ago, the Israeli economy was on the edge of collapse. Today this economy is healthy, growing and vibrant. If the economic policies that I led are not changed, the growth will continue and reach all parts of the Nation.

Today we reached the moment of truth. There is a way to reach peace and security. Unilateral withdrawal under fire without compensation is not the way. I am not prepared to be a partner to a step that ignores reality and blindly advances the establishment of an Islamic terror base that will threaten the State. I am not prepared to be a partner to an irresponsible move that endanger the security of Israel, divides the Nation, sets the principle of withdrawal to the '67 lines, and in the future even endangers the unity of Jerusalem.

Therefore I advise today of my resignation from the Government.  
Best regards, Binyamin Netanyahu (IMRA Aug 7)

### PA Terrorists: "We will move our cells to the West Bank"

The Popular Resistance Committees, an alliance of various armed militias in the Gaza Strip, announced on Sunday that it would start operating in the West Bank immediately after the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. "We will move our cells to the West Bank," said Jamal Abu Samhadaneh, commander of the Popular Resistance Committees, which has been behind many of the attacks on IDF soldiers and settlers in the Gaza Strip over the past four and a half years. "We won't sit on the side and watch Israel as it perpetrates massacres in the West Bank. We will start operating there, too." He said that after the Israeli pullout, his group would employ the same "fighting tactics" used in the Gaza Strip in the West Bank. "We will focus on the West Bank," he said. "We will transfer all our fighting methods and capabilities to the West Bank. The withdrawal will not be complete without the West Bank and Jerusalem, which is even more precious to us than the West Bank."

The Popular Resistance Committees, which consists mainly of disgruntled gunmen belonging to the ruling Fatah party and dissident members of the PA security forces, had claimed responsibility for the October 2003 attack on a US diplomatic convoy in the northern Gaza Strip. Three US security officers were killed when a roadside bomb went off near their vehicles. Abu Samhadaneh, who is wanted by Israel for his role in a series of terror attacks, revealed that the Palestinian Authority recently offered him a senior position in its Military Intelligence Force and that he was positively weighing the offer.

The Popular Resistance Committees was established in the Gaza Strip shortly after the beginning of the intifada in 2000. Its founders said then that they had been deeply influenced by the "great victory" achieved by Hizbullah following Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

According to Abu Samhadaneh, the Israeli pullout from Lebanon "enhanced our belief that the option of resistance can succeed, especially through qualitative operations against the occupation."

The "qualitative operations" are a reference to suicide bombings, rocket attacks and drive-by shootings used by Hizbullah against IDF troops. "This was our model," Abu Samhadaneh explained.

"We learned from Hizbullah and started establishing armed cells that have carried out special operations against settlements and the Israeli army together with other Palestinian groups. Thank God, the withdrawal [from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank] has been achieved through the blood of our martyrs and the sacrifices of the wounded and prisoners."

Abu Samhadaneh said he and his cohorts viewed the disengagement as an Israeli "surrender" to the will, determination and resistance of the Palestinians. "When [Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon came to power, he had a plan to eliminate the intifada within 100 days," he added.

"Now, a few years later, he is admitting defeat in the face of the Palestinians' determination to pursue the resistance. By God's will, after the withdrawal we will celebrate and we will send a message to the martyrs and the wounded that their blood was not shed in vain."

Abu Samhadaneh said his group is planning to participate in the celebrations organized by the PA after disengagement. "Like the rest of the Palestinian groups, the Popular Resistance Committees will go to the settlements immediately after the withdrawal to participate in the

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celebrations," he said. "We will go very close to the settlements despite the risks and even if the Palestinian Authority closes the area. We have already seen how the Lebanese people celebrated their victory and we want to do the same. This is a beautiful victory." He said his group would continue to launch attacks on Israel after the disengagement "to liberate the remaining Palestinian lands." The Palestinian armed groups, he said, were not established only to liberate the Gaza Strip. "Our goal is to liberate all Palestinian lands," he added. "That's why military operations will continue in the West Bank and other parts of the Palestinian lands."

Abu Samhadaneh disclosed that at least 500 members of his group have been recruited to the PA security forces since PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas was elected in January. "We are entering the Palestinian security forces as soldiers to defend our people," he said. (Jerusalem Post Aug 8)

## Commentary...

**Sharing the Pain** By Jonathan Rosenblum

Agudath Israel of America published last week "A Call to Share the Pain of Acheinu Bais Yisrael," which called on all Jews "to pause and share in the pain of our Jewish brethren in Gaza." The statement went on to describe those about to be evicted from Gaza as "idealistic, dedicated Jews, [who] are being forced by circumstances entirely beyond their control to give up their homes, their yeshivos, their shuls and their cemeteries, to be relocated abruptly to new surroundings."

As one of the great Torah leaders of American Jewry told me recently, even if one were to believe that the Gaza withdrawal is the correct course for the long-range security of the Jews of Israel, those being uprooted from Gaza are still in the role of Yitzchak Avinu on the way to the Akeidah.

The statement of Agudath Israel of America came to be seen as a response to those who have complained about what they perceive as the apathy of the chareidi world to the fate of the residents of Gaza. Whether a statement which maintains studied neutrality as to whether the "imminent withdrawal" is "politically or militarily correct" will alleviate that pain remains to be seen. As someone wrote in response to a recent piece of mine on the subject, "There is no greater chutzpa that to support the harm that is being done to a person and to simultaneously express sympathy for that harm."

As a logical matter that is surely untrue. Even the most popular government decisions often have a harsh impact on many innocent individuals, and there is nothing inconsistent about supporting the decision and sympathizing with those individuals who suffer as a consequence of that decision. But we are dealing here in the realm of emotions, and some very raw emotions at that.

Much of the chareidi press has been filled with stories about the disengagement. No Israeli paper, for instance, has devoted as much space to security concerns raised by the disengagement as the English HaModia. And there is widespread sympathy for the plight of those about to be uprooted from their homes in the chareidi community.

But it must also be admitted that there is apathy as well. It is hard to imagine that there would not be more concern if a much smaller number of chareidi families were being evicted from their homes in a similar fashion.

A good friend visiting from the States last week confided to me that he "went ballistic" when one of his daughters complained that she did not know where she would now get bug-free vegetables. He asked her to imagine how she would feel if Lakewood decided to use its power of eminent domain (under the recent Supreme Court decision on the subject) to raze Lakewood Yeshiva and all the houses of yeshivaleit nearby, in order to build a huge shopping mall and upscale apartment buildings. Would her primary concern then be the quality of her lettuce?

Those of us who do not have close friends or relatives in Gush Katif have to combat this apathy and to ponder the tragedy that is taking place, as the statement of Agudath Israel of America urges. The human tragedy of what is likely to befall more than 8,000 residents of Gush Katif is very great indeed. Rarely has a democratic government willfully inflicted such deep harm on a certain segment of the population.

A leading American Rosh Yeshiva recently spoke to me with great animation of a visit he made to Gush Katif a few years ago. He was overwhelmed by the beauty of the communities built there by Jews who are careful about mitzvos - kala k'chamura. Indeed, it would be hard to find many other such idyllic communities as those in Gush Katif in Israel, and it is almost impossible to imagine that this verdant landscape and thriving agriculture was wrested over the last three decades from unpromising sand dunes.

Residents will be moving from 400 square meter, two-floor houses, surrounded by large yards and gardens, to metal caravans of about quarter that size. And those are the lucky ones who even know where they will be going in another two weeks. Those being evicted from their homes can only take with them the possessions that will fit in two containers, and those containers will be stored, perhaps for years, on sweltering Negev army bases, where the heat inside the containers will exceed 194 degrees Fahrenheit.

Except for the smallest of the tight-knit Gaza communities, the residents will not be able to move together with their friends, or even their children and grandchildren, who today live in adjacent homes. The thriving Gazan agricultural sector, which produces \$100,000,000 in exports a year will be largely destroyed. Even those farmers who reestablish their hothouses in the Negev will lose two growing seasons, and many say that they no longer have the strength rebuild today what they built twenty or thirty years ago.

The compensation offered by the government will not allow the residents to purchase homes remotely comparable to those in which they currently reside. Nor will the growers be compensated for their losses from the move or provided with compensation adequate to cover the costs of starting anew. Even Ha'aretz admitted this week, "The state is not ready to absorb the disengagement evacuees, despite all the efforts made thus far. . . . [S]olutions, if they do exist, are very partial."

The suffering of the Gaza residents is only part of the tragedy. Another aspect is the sustained assault on civil liberties resulting from the disengagement. For me, the wakeup call an Email from the father of Chaya Belogorodsky, 13. She is charged with insulting a police officer, after she refused to leave a sidewalk, adjacent to where her friends were blocking the street. Though the maximum penalty for her crime is a monetary fine, she was placed in solitary confinement for a week after her arrest, denied kosher food, her siddur taken away. She is allowed to speak to her parents for only half an hour weekly. She remains in prison pending trial - an order upheld by Supreme Court Justice Ayala Procaccia.

Despite the general solicitude for youthful offenders, this is not the first time a Supreme Court justice has taken a particularly harsh stance towards religious youth. Justice Dalia Dorner once upheld the pre-trial incarceration of a 13-year-old accused of throwing stones during a demonstration on Bar Ilan, though he denied the charge and had no criminal record. At the same time, police did not even request the pre-trial detention of a 17-year-old accused of assaulting a yeshiva student, who had a previous conviction for assault with a deadly weapon.

The law enforcement system is being used as a blunt instrument against a particular religious ideology, and without any of the usual democratic safeguards. The state prosecutor in the Chaya Belogorodsky case told the Supreme Court that house arrest was inadequate in her case because she might talk to others and encourage them to participate in illegal demonstrations. Compare the harshness shown towards Chaya with the general leniency towards other young offenders. The teenage killers of cabdriver Derek Roth, were granted furloughs a few years after their convictions, which they promptly took advantage of to engage in an armed robbery. On their next furlough, they skipped the country.

In this week's Jewish Week, editor Gary Rosenblatt, describes the case of Asher Vodka, a Bat Yam yeshiva student, rousted from his bed at 3:00 a.m. by eight secret service agents, who proceeded to confiscate his and his wife's cell phones and computers before dragging him off to jail. He is charged with "right wing ideology in opposition to the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and suspected of thinking of or planning to obstruct roads, an act which could lead to endangering lives" (emphasis added). He was brought to his initial hearing in leg irons and handcuffs, forbidden from even looking at his wife, and remanded for 7 days of interrogations. That remand order has been renewed twice. Those remand orders can only be described as preventive detention.

The Orthodox Union, which has as a matter of policy refrained from taking any position on the Gaza withdrawal, nevertheless went public last week with a letter to Israel's ambassador to the United States Danny Ayalon, in which the organization accused the security forces of "stopping, questioning, and in some instances detaining persons traveling in both public and private vehicles solely because those persons wore kippot." The letter cited an incident in which a bus traveling from Maaleh Adumim to Jerusalem was stopped and passengers wearing kippot were removed. It went on to complain of house arrest and administrative detention being used against those advocating positions at odds with government policy, the baseless confiscation of drivers' licenses, and threats and coercions against persons exercising their right of lawful travel and free association.

The list of horror stories could be multiplied greatly - e.g. demonstrators already in handcuffs being brutally beaten by police (with the major news outlets expressing no interest in the photographs of the beating), a resident of Gush Katif placed under house arrest in Beersheba and barred from his home - he asked to keep his car air-conditioning on while presenting his I.D. card at a checkpoint, of police blocking a bus of settlers en route to canvass residents of Netanya last March.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, best known for its representation of Palestinians, foreign workers, and the heterodox movements, last week protested to the police commissioner the "use of extreme and unauthorized measures to thwart a demonstration - even an illegal demonstration," which the statement said is "reminiscent of regimes we would not want to resemble." And the head of the Hebrew University's legal aid clinic wrote to Justice Minister Tzippi Livni about "the fatal blow against the fundamental rights of opponents of disengagement."

Besides the suffering of the Gaza residents and the trampling of civil liberties, there is one other aspect of the disengagement that should particularly concern us, as we approach Tisha B'Av. "Hashem is taking back the Land," in the words of one of our generation's leading ba'alei hashkafa.

We often see most clearly the Divine Hashgacha in the way Hashem turns the hearts of leaders: "Like streams of water is the heart of a king in the hand of Hashem, wherever He wished, so He directs it" (Mishlei 21:1). If today we witness a prime minister, who is considered the father of the settlement movement, and who less than two years ago proclaimed his commitment to the Gaza settlement of Netzarim to be no less than that to Jerusalem, ramming through the withdrawal from a part of the Land, with the scantest of national debate, there must be a message there for all of us.

(Hamodia Aug 5)

## Israel Shows Weakness in Gaza By Daniel Pipes

Are Israel's critics correct? Does the "occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza cause the Palestinians' anti-Semitism, their suicide factories and their terrorism? And is it true these horrors will end only when Israeli civilians and troops leave the territories?

The answer is coming soon. Starting on August 15 the Israeli government will evict some 8,000 Israelis from Gaza and turn their land over to the Palestinian Authority. In addition to being a unique event in modern history (no other democracy has forcibly uprooted thousands of its own citizens of one religion from their lawful homes), it also offers a rare, live, social-science experiment.

We stand at an interpretive divide. If Israel's critics are right, the Gaza withdrawal will improve Palestinian attitudes toward Israel, leading to an end of incitement and a steep drop in attempted violence, followed by a renewal of negotiations and a full settlement. Logic requires, after all, that if "occupation" is the problem, ending it, even partially, will lead to a solution.

But I forecast a very different outcome. Given that some 80 percent of Palestinians continue to reject Israel's very existence, signs of Israeli weakness, such as the forthcoming Gaza withdrawal, will instead inspire heightened Palestinian irredentism. Absorbing their new gift without gratitude, Palestinians will focus on those territories Israelis have not evacuated. (This is what happened after Israeli forces fled Lebanon.)

The retreat will inspire not comity but a new rejectionist exhilaration, a greater frenzy of anti-Zionist anger, and a surge in anti-Israel violence.

Palestinians themselves are openly saying as much. Ahmed al-Bahar, a top Hamas figure in Gaza, says that "Israel has never been in such a state of retreat and weakness as it is today following more than four years of the intifada. Hamas's heroic attacks exposed the weakness and volatility of the impotent Zionist security establishment. The withdrawal marks the end of the Zionist dream and is a sign of the moral and psychological decline of the Jewish state. We believe that the resistance is the only way to pressure the Jews."

Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, says likewise that the withdrawal is "due to the Palestinian resistance operations... and we will continue our resistance."

Others are more specific. At a mass rally in Gaza City last Thursday, some 10,000 Palestinians danced, sang and chanted, "Today Gaza, tomorrow Jerusalem." Jamal Abu Samhadneh, commander of Gaza's Popular Resistance Committees, announced on Sunday, "We will move our cells to the West Bank" and warned that "The withdrawal will not be complete without the West Bank and Jerusalem." The Palestinian Authority's Ahmed Qurei also asserts, "Our march will stop only in Jerusalem."

Palestinian intentions worry even Israeli leftists. Danny Rubinstein, Arab affairs specialist for Haaretz, notes that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decided to leave Gaza only after anti-Israel carnage there had escalated. "Even if these attacks were not the reason why Sharon came up with the idea of disengagement, the Palestinians are certain that that is the case, and this has reinforced their belief that Israel only understands the language of terror attacks and violence." Arutz-7 has collected other leftist comments:

o Yossi Beilin, former justice minister and chairman of the Yahad/Meretz Party: "There is a concrete danger that following the disengagement the violence will greatly increase in the West Bank in order to achieve the same thing as was achieved in Gaza."

o Shlomo Ben-Ami, former foreign minister, Labor Party: "A unilateral retreat perpetuates Israel's image as a country that runs away under pressure... In Fatah and Hamas they will assume that they must prepare for their third intifada - this time in [the West Bank]."

o Ami Ayalon, former Shin Bet chief: "Retreat without getting anything in return is liable to be interpreted by some of the Palestinians as surrender.... There is a high chance that shortly after the disengagement the violence will be renewed."

o Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, former Air Force commander: "There is no chance that the disengagement will guarantee long-term stability. The plan as it stands can only lead to a renewal of terrorism."

Events, I predict, will prove Israel's critics totally wrong, but they will learn no lessons. Untroubled by facts, they will demand further Israeli withdrawals. Israel's one-car crash is dismally preparing the way for more disasters.

*The writer is director of the Middle East Forum. (Jerusalem Post Aug 10)*

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## Mugged by Reality By Frank J. Gaffney, Jr.

In announcing last week a sweeping crackdown in Britain on the "evil ideology" of coming to be known as Islamofascism, Prime Minister Tony Blair declared that "the rules of the game have changed." So, it would appear has he.

In fact, Mr. Blair has become an exemplar of the old adage that a "conservative is a liberal who has been mugged." The two bombing attacks on London's mass-transit systems, perpetrated mostly by home-grown Islamist suicide bombers (actual or would-be), not only mugged Britain's recently reelected leader, but his country, as well.

As a result, Tony Blair appears to have broad popular support for abandoning his past, disastrous political correctness - a stance he had clung to even after the September 11th hijackers mugged a great many American liberals (at least temporarily). Gone was his previous commitment to allow Islamist communities to operate impunity in Britain, even those that made no secret of their sympathies with and support for terror. (The extent to which Islamofascists cynically took advantage of this tolerant attitude was evident in an undercover journalist's chilling account published on August 7 by the

Sunday Times of London under the headline "While London reeled under attack, the teachers of extremism were celebrating - and a Sunday Times reporter was recording every word.")

By contrast, on August 5, the Prime Minister announced that he was "absolutely and completely committed" to ensuring that those foreign clerics and others who come to Britain and condone, glorify or justify terrorism are deported. Ditto those "actively engaged" with websites, bookshops, networks and organizations considered to be inciting hatred. Two such organizations, the radical Islamofascist Al Mujahiroun and its successor, Hizb-ut-Tahira, were proscribed. Mosques where such activities are allowed to take place will be shut down. Asylum will no longer be granted terrorists or their sympathizers. And British nationals engaging in speech that promotes terror risk being stripped of their citizenship and deported or incarcerated.

Suffice it to say, Tony Blair's mugged-liberal response to terror attacks in the United Kingdom makes the USA Patriot Act look like the ACLU's fondest dream. It is also a reminder of the sorts of infringements on civil liberties that may be demanded by Americans if the Patriot Act were not to be renewed and/or terrorists succeed in attacking this country again with devastating effect.

Unfortunately, if Mr. Blair has had an epiphany about the gravity of his past underestimation of the danger posed by Islamofascism at home, he seems as yet unwilling (or perhaps, given his domestic preoccupations at the moment, simply unable) to recognize the ominous implications of the errors of his ways abroad. Specifically, even as the Prime Minister is trying to shut down the safe haven for terror he and his predecessors have permitted in Britain, he continues to insist that a new safe haven be afforded them in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Indeed, Tony Blair's fixation with the creation of a Palestinian state that will, inevitably, become an Islamofascist breeding ground and base of operations is of a piece with the political and strategic miscalculations that animated his indulgence of Islamists in the UK. To demonstrate that he was not George Bush's "poodle" on foreign policy, to appease his party's vehemently anti-Iraq leftist majority and to pander to anti-West Muslims in places like Leeds, London, Birmingham and overseas, Mr. Blair has insisted on the early establishment of a sovereign "Palestine."

The Prime Minister evidently remains untroubled that the bitter fruit of his efforts in the so-called Quartet - the diplomatic equivalent of gang rape involving the European Union, the United Nations, Russia and the United States teamed up to stick it to Israel - will be the creation of yet another Islamofascist state-sponsor of terror in the Middle East.

For example, Mr. Blair has insisted that the "Road Map" be followed to create a Palestinian state, with none of the caveats or safeguards President Bush enunciated in June 2002. At the Gleneagles G-8 meeting last month, Mr. Blair also forced through a multinational commitment to provide \$3 billion to the Palestinian Authority (PA). And British pressure is at work in the U.S. government's insistence that Israel provide arms to the PA - even though the U.S. envoy in charge of this project, Army Lieutenant Gen. William Ward, admitted to Congress in July that he had no idea what had happened to the thousands of M-16s Israel had previously given the Palestinian pursuant to the Oslo Accords. (At Gen. Ward's hearing before the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Rep. Mark Kirk, Republican of Illinois, noted sarcastically, "Imagine how we felt a year later when we saw Palestinian policemen using those M-16s to shoot Israelis.")

The evidence is now unmistakable. Tony Blair is as wrong about the foreseeable prospects for Palestine as he was, pre-mugging, about the wisdom of ignoring Islamofascism in Britain. Islamists will soon hold unchallenged sway over Gaza and parts of the West Bank, rightly claiming that their terror forced Israel to withdraw and that its continuation will result, in due course, in the "liberation" of the rest of the "occupied" territory (meaning all of Israel).

Mr. Blair has long been courageous and visionary on Iraq and Afghanistan. Lately, he has become so with respect to the terrorist footprint in Britain. It is in the interest of all freedom-loving people that he and President Bush act now to prevent a worse "mugging" by far and encourage Israel to suspend its impending, ominous retreat in the face of Palestinian terror. (Jewish World Review Aug 9)

*The writer heads the Center for Security Policy.*

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## When an Israeli Terrorizes By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen

*"Man bites dog" is indeed news. But leaving out pertinent context and perspective is unquestionably bias*

Has anyone besides me noticed any difference between the way the terrible recent shooting of Israeli Arabs on a bus is being portrayed in the press and the way similar situations are portrayed when the terrorists are Palestinians?

In the stories coming out about this shooting, it is noted that this is the third attack by individual Jews against Arab civilians since 1990. The third. I guess that's why it's such big news. By comparison, the Palestinians shoot, stab, blow up and otherwise kill Jewish civilians so regularly that no reporter even tries to enumerate the attacks any more. The story on this shooting is replete with descriptions of the bus' shattered glass, of blood on the seats, of sad images of the victims' memorials.

There was a terrorist murder/suicide in Natanya a couple weeks ago that killed four Israelis and wounded many others. Did you hear about it? Read

anything about the victims, their families, the bloody scene? The community's response? Their funerals? Didn't think so.

The Aug. 5 Associated Press story about the shooting described how "an enraged mob beat (the gunman) Natan-Zada, to death and prevented police from removing his body from the bus for hours." It's a natural response by angry bystanders, I guess, yet had the roles been reversed, righteously indignant mobs worldwide would have flooded the streets in protest.

Also in stark contrast is the reaction of Israelis to the atrocity committed by the 19-year-old AWOL private who killed four and wounded more than 20.

For instance, the report says, "Natan-Zada's body was being held at a morgue after the military, his hometown of Rishon LeTzion and the extremist settlement where he recently moved refused to bury him," because what he did was repulsive, reprehensible and unjustifiable by Jewish law. The story notes that Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon issued a statement condemning the attack as "a despicable act by a bloodthirsty terrorist."

Compare this to the typical Palestinian response to terrorist killers, who are routinely lauded as heroes, their images immortalized in posters and videos. Candy is distributed in their honor. There is dancing in the streets. In fact, this story notes that "dozens of women in the march chanted mournfully, 'Some day we hope to die this way as martyrs, as martyrs.'"

The gunman, the story says, was living in a settlement dominated by followers of the late U.S.-born Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was widely perceived as a fascist nut for "advocating expelling Arabs from Israel and the West Bank" - in other words, for suggesting for Arabs living in Israel, pretty much what everyone seems to think is perfectly natural for any Jews living in the Palestinian-controlled territories.

The story notes that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called on Israel to prevent Jewish settlers from carrying weapons, "because they are dangerous to the security and peace between the two people." Hilarious.

The story also notes that "Israeli Arabs make up about 20 percent of Israel's population of 6.9 million. Though they are full citizens, they have suffered from discrimination by Jewish-dominated governments."

Let's examine that. The Israeli Arabs are full citizens of Israel. They vote. They serve in the parliament. They are doctors and patients in Israeli hospitals. They're students in Israeli universities. Anyone know how many Jewish doctors or patients there are in Palestinian hospitals, or Jewish students in Palestinian schools, or Jewish members of the Palestinian Authority? Not only is such a suggestion laughable, as noted previously, most of the world believes any Palestinian area must be "Jew free."

Many Israeli Arabs who recall the times before Israel was declared a state - when the region was ruled by Britain or before that, by the Turks - who would suggest that their lot under the Jews has been Eden-like by comparison. So to suggest, as this AP writer opines in her story, that "they have suffered from discrimination by Jewish-dominated governments," is disingenuous and even worse when one considers the fact that Israeli Jews can't even safely venture into Palestinian areas. That the bus passengers didn't immediately panic when an Israeli military deserter in uniform entered the bus, says the Jews don't normally pose a threat.

The opposite cannot be said. (Jewish World Review Aug 8)

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### Tisha B'Av 5765 By Larry Zeifman

This Sunday marks the saddest day on the Jewish calendar: Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the month of Av. The tragic events of that day are shockingly numerous: The destruction of the Bet HaMikdash - both Holy Temples - of Jerusalem, the fall of Betar, the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290, the expulsion of the Jews of Spain in 1492, the implementation of the Nazis' Final Solution in 1941, and the expulsion of the last residents of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942.

All my life I have wondered at this tragic seeming coincidence. How could it be that all of these infamous events would have occurred on the same day in the calendar? While a faithful Jew who sees G-d's hand in all, I nevertheless found it difficult to believe that virtually all of the most tragic events to befall the Jewish People would share one day in common. Perhaps the historians had used poetic license to link each of these events to Tisha B'Av.

But I no longer feel that way. We are witnessing such a seeming coincidence this year and I cannot any longer doubt the accuracy of the historians. I can also no longer doubt the immense tragedy about to be inflicted on the Jewish People by our own.

The Jewish residents of Gaza today (Tuesday) received an eviction notice that advises them that they must be out of their homes by Tisha B'Av. How can it be that of all the 355 (384 this year, a leap year) days of the Jewish calendar, this is the date chosen for their eviction?

I believe we must at this point react with the immense sadness and tragedy that bespeaks this day. We must put aside our ideological differences and come together to recognize the darkness of this terrible decree? And we must throw aside any reservations we in the Diaspora may have about criticizing a decision of the Israeli Government and speak out loud and in unison: Stop this now!?

It is all too clear. The history books will be edited to include this year's Tisha B'Av with those others: *In 5765 a Jewish Government, in the first such act in history, expelled 10,000 Jews from their homes in part of the Land of Israel - because they were Jews - and dumped many of them homeless in the desert, destroying their synagogues, yeshivot, businesses and flourishing communities, uprooting their graves, and transferring the land to blood-thirsty terrorists that had massacred over 1,000 Jews in the previous five*

*years. The terrorists celebrated the Jewish retreat with gunshots, mortar attacks and a conviction to fight on until the rest of the Jews of the Land of Israel were expelled as well.*

What are we to tell our children and grandchildren when they ask about our reaction to the one (and hopefully the last) tragic Tisha B'Av event that we witnessed in our lifetimes? Will we be able to say: We opposed it and did what we could to speak against it and to mourn it; or are we doomed to tell them that we did nothing, we even missed the opportunity to criticize it? All out of an illusionary lack of authority to defend our brothers and sisters in Israel who are being kicked out of their homes *on Tisha B'Av*?

Our sages teach us that each of the subsequent tragedies of the Jewish People evolves from the first, the destruction of the Bet HaMikdash. We must recognize this year's epic tragedy as an extension of that as well, and respectfully express our grief and criticism loud and clear.

This is it, my friends, we are facing history - *Jewish history* - being made as we speak. Are we still mute? Have we learned so little from history?

*The writer is the editor and publisher of Israel News.*

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### The End of Israel? By Cal Thomas

In the H.G Wells novel and subsequent film, "The Invisible Man," the main character takes a dangerous drug and slowly disappears.

That is a metaphor for what is happening to Israel as it plans its latest unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, which it once "occupied" for security purposes. Israel is slowly disappearing, and the twin drugs of appeasement and self-delusion are responsible.

The "disengagement" later this month (which is actually a retreat and is seen that way by Israel's enemies) will not be the end, anymore than previous retreats, concessions, "good will" gestures and written documents have produced security or peace in the region.

Only after Israel is destroyed will the West realize what it did and failed to do, but it will find convenient and comforting explanations to absolve itself from any blame. Jews, you see, are always responsible not only for the world's problems, but for bringing destruction upon themselves by virtue of their being Jews.

Some Israelis are placing faith in a formal "letter of assurance" that President Bush addressed to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on April 14, 2004, in which the president assured Sharon that the United States would back Israel's claim for defensible borders, which Israelis take to mean the West Bank. The Palestinian and Arab sides have not agreed to any borders.

Israel trusts the word of the president, even as the State Department continues its pro-Arab ways and pressures Israel into real concessions while accepting as gospel empty promises from the Palestinian side, a side that has lived up to only one pledge: to eradicate the Jewish state.

Does anyone doubt that the moment (or even before the moment) the last Jewish "settler" is dislodged from Gaza and the last thriving business closed, that Hamas and its legion of demons will rush into Gaza, expand their terror operation and begin close-up attacks on Israel?

Who will stop them? It won't be the Europeans, or the Palestinians, or any Arab state that helps subsidize them. When the next formal war is launched against Israel, will the United States send troops and planes? With so little land left to defend, it is likely such a war will be over soon after it starts with Israeli cities reduced to rubble and casualties running to perhaps tens of thousands, or more.

No responsible business owner would give something to his customers without receiving something in return, or he would not remain in business for long. Why should Israel be required to do all the giving and none of the receiving?

Have we forgotten what produced the Israeli "occupation" of the Gaza Strip? In May, 1967, the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria gathered on Israel's borders in another attempt to eradicate Israel. These armies enjoyed backing from several other Arab countries, much as Hitler's "final solution" enjoyed similar support from some of the same Arab states. Israel's pre-emptive strike allowed it to gain control of Gaza and the West Bank.

Has anything changed in the Palestinian and Arab world? Has the rhetoric in mosques, schools and media cooled toward Israel or the objective of eliminating it? It has not. If anything, the rhetoric has become even more volatile. The Israelis are held in such contempt that they must dig up their dead from cemeteries in Gush Katif, including six graves of area residents murdered by terrorists, to avoid the desecration they've experienced in the past. Not a single Jew, living or dead, will be allowed to remain.

Based on past performance, once Israel's retreat is finished, the Palestinian-Arab side may digest its latest prey like a giant boa constrictor swallowing a large mouse. But after swallowing, it will want more. Look for another intifada and then look for the State Department and the rest of the administration to again pressure Israel to "do more."

The formula is wrong. Just as the character in "The Invisible Man" was unable to find an antidote and restore what he had lost, Israel's slow disappearance from the region cannot now be reversed. Assurances, agreements, promises and documents will not be able to bring her back.

The West, having failed 60 years ago to save millions of Jews from the murderous ways of the Third Reich, will have new blood on its hands which history will not, and should not, allow it ever to wipe clean. (Aug 4)

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